



PROFOR

# IN BRIEF

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## GENDER IN FOREST LANDSCAPE PROJECTS— ACTIONS AND INDICATORS

### Why gender and forests?

Including gender considerations in projects and programs aimed at forest landscape restoration can enhance their effectiveness in maintaining forest cover and ecosystem services and well-being of both men and women. Reaching, benefiting and empowering both men and women who plant, use and protect trees and forests will be necessary for achieving these outcomes (Figure 1).

**FIGURE 1: GENDER-RESPONSIVE OUTCOME PATHWAY**



**Source:** Theis, Sophie; Meinzen-Dick, Ruth. 2016. "Reach, benefit, or empower: Clarifying gender strategies of development projects." IFPRI (Blog), December 16. <https://www.ifpri.org/blog/reach-benefit-or-empower-clarifying-gender-strategies-development-projects>

The Program on Forests (PROFOR) multi-donor partnership generates innovative, cutting-edge knowledge and tools to advance sustainable management of forests for poverty reduction, economic growth, climate mitigation and adaptation, and conservation benefits. Through its programs, PROFOR is advancing forest-smart development, which recognizes forests' significance for sustaining growth across many sectors, including agriculture, energy, infrastructure, and water.



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## How can forest investments become gender-responsive?

The World Bank Group's new gender strategy identifies 3 key steps for gender-responsive project development (Figure 2; <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/23425>). These are: 1) identify and prioritize key gender gaps (i.e. any disproportionate difference or disparity between the sexes) related to the initiative; 2) design activities/actions/interventions that address those gaps; and 3) develop indicators that will measure progress towards closing the identified gender gaps.

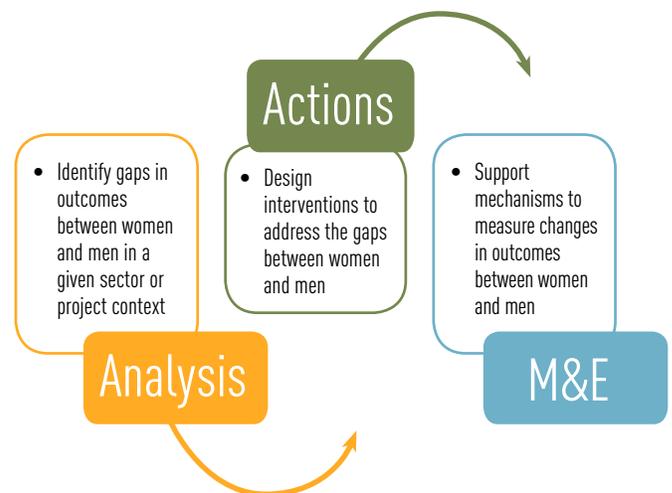
### Actions

What are potential gender-responsive forest landscape project or program activities? These can be designed or targeted at different levels, including individuals, groups, communities, local governments, sub-national governments, national governments, regional organizations and international entities. Table 1 includes examples of gender-responsive forest landscape actions, activities, actions, strategies and policies at these various levels, grouped by key areas where there are opportunities to address common gender gaps holding back progress in forest landscape-related initiatives.

### M&E

The use of *gender indicators* is key for efforts aimed at closing gap(s) between women and men. The intention is not to rate or score projects, but to identify the contributions made and to use indicators to inform design of projects. These include indicators that capture closing of the gap directly, and/or steps towards closing it. The following illustrative list of indicators is arranged according to the Theory of Change (i.e. what activities are expected to lead to what outputs, short-term and medium-term outcomes?). Working backwards from desired outcomes and how they will be measured is a useful exercise, as it ensures that the needed activities and actions (and it is often more than one) are in

FIGURE 2. WORLD BANK GROUP GENDER STRATEGY GUIDANCE



place to actually achieve them. These examples have been grouped by key forest-gender gap areas for targeting, relating to benefits, participation and empowerment, at various levels (e.g. local to national) (Table 2).

## Challenges going forward

A portfolio review of WBG forest projects from FY11-16 identified the gender dimensions in analyses of gaps, project activities to address them, and indicators for monitoring performance. The review revealed that while progress is being made to include gender throughout forest project cycles, disconnects and missed opportunities remain. In particular, going beyond participation, as in 'numbers of women on committees', remains a challenge. More experimentation and learning what works in terms of gender-responsive actions in the context of forest landscape interventions is needed. We will also need sex-disaggregated baseline data if we are to actually measure indicators such as the number of project participants with increased income, and the percentage of those that are female. Much remains to be done.

For more resources, see: <https://www.profor.info/knowledge/catalyzing-gender-forests-actions>.

**TABLE 1. ILLUSTRATIVE GENDER-RESPONSIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE ACTIONS, ACTIVITIES, APPROACHES, POLICIES**

GENDER GAP ADDRESSED	TYPE OF INTERVENTION	EXAMPLES OF FOREST LANDSCAPE ACTIONS, ACTIVITIES, APPROACHES, POLICIES
<p>Women participate in forest policy decision-making proportionally less than men and have fewer rights</p>	<p><b>Forest sector laws, strategies and policies</b> developed with <i>inclusive, co-development approaches</i> that increase women's participation and strengthen their rights</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National and sub-national forest sector policies and programs that incorporate gender considerations</li> <li>• A legal framework that reflects forests' multiple uses and diverse users' rights</li> <li>• Contracts (e.g. related to concessions, PES schemes, REDD+ efforts, etc) signed by both spouses</li> <li>• An inclusive institutional framework for engagement and participation in forest policies by IP's, CSO's, NGOs, private sector</li> </ul>
<p>Women are not benefitting equally from forest programs, policies and interventions</p>	<p><b>Forest agency capacity</b> to develop programs with <b>equitable benefits</b> enhanced through participatory, <i>inclusive approaches</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest product certification schemes that benefit women</li> <li>• Equitable Payment for Ecosystem Services and REDD+ initiatives</li> <li>• Schemes for financial market/private sector investment in reduced deforestation efforts benefitting women</li> <li>• Transparent and publicly available information on forest-related revenues collection, distribution and management</li> </ul>
<p>Women are not receiving forest landscape-related information and skills enhancement opportunities as much as men</p>	<p><b>Community forest management capacity</b> strengthened through <i>approaches that include and empower marginalized people</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equitable training of community members or women's forest user groups in forest management, monitoring, etc</li> <li>• Establishment of village-level demonstration plots with tree species that meet different needs</li> <li>• Knowledge exchange workshops and south-south visits among women's and mixed forest-related groups</li> <li>• Provisioning community tree nurseries with seeds and seedlings targeted to women's and men's needs</li> <li>• Training of women, youths, IPs in forest product processing technologies related to non-commercial NTFP's – grasses, teas, herbs, cosmetics, medicinals, aromatic plants, sustainable charcoal, honey</li> </ul>
<p>Women have less access to credit for forest-related enterprises than do men</p>	<p><b>Strengthening equitable access to credit for forest-related enterprises</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeted credit or grants to women-led NTFP-related enterprises</li> <li>• Loans or subsidies to tree nurseries created and run by women</li> </ul>
<p>Women receive less technical and market-related information and advice than do men</p>	<p><b>Strengthening equitable access to information, knowledge and skills, such as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest technologies</li> <li>• Agroforestry Techniques</li> <li>• NTFP Market-oriented opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equitable and accessible (language, location, timing, methods appropriate for women) technical training opportunities aimed at meeting diverse needs and constraints (e.g. agroforestry techniques, beekeeping, business skills development)</li> <li>• Inclusive market-oriented activities such as quality improvement campaigns, networking with traders, trade fairs, etc.</li> <li>• Awareness campaigns highlighting women's and men's forest-related opportunities (e.g. through social media, radio, TV)</li> <li>• Interventions introducing labour-saving technologies that free up women's time (e.g. nut cracking machines, trees for fodder and woodfuel, energy efficient stoves, biogas plants)</li> <li>• Targeted training of female forest advisory services/extension personnel</li> <li>• Training of female 'lead' forest advisors/facilitators</li> <li>• Funding forest and agroforestry-related rural 'edutainment' TV, radio shows, media campaigns that highlight women's key role in reforestation, agroforestry, land restoration, tree-planting, and climate change mitigation efforts</li> </ul>

**TABLE 2. ILLUSTRATIVE GENDER INDICATORS IN FORESTRY PROJECT THEORIES OF CHANGE**

AIM: GENDER GAP TARGETED AND ACTIVITIES	INPUT INDICATORS	OUTPUT INDICATORS	SHORT-TERM OUTCOME INDICATORS	MEDIUM-TERM OUTCOME INDICATORS (E.G. END 5-YR PROJECT)
<p>REACH/PARTICIPATION typical activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness campaigns on women's forest rights and project benefits</li> <li>• Gender-specific forest management trainings</li> <li>• Inclusive, participatory community forest planning dialogues</li> <li>• Gender-focused review of all forest laws, by-laws, policies</li> </ul>	Women identified as target beneficiaries (yes/no)	Awareness campaigns on women's forest rights (no.)	Women reached in awareness campaigns (no.)	Share of targeted women with knowledge on their rights (%)
	Women on project implementing team (% , no.)	Gender-specific training completed (yes/no)	Forest policy that recognizes women's rights drafted (yes/no)	Share of forest area managed according to gender-informed management plans (%)
	Team includes social development or gender expert (yes/no)	Consultation process on forest management plan includes women's groups (yes/no)	Laws and by-laws that recognize women's rights drafted (yes/no)	Share of forestry operations that acknowledge rights of women (%)
	Share of project management team that is female (%)	Share of forest project managers receiving training that are female (% , no.)	Forest management plans endorsed by women's groups (no. , %)	Share of forest area community management plans developed with inclusive processes (ha)
<p>BENEFITS typical activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management info system with sex-disaggregated data</li> <li>• Dedicated women's fund for forest-related activities</li> <li>• Credit program targeted to female-led forest and agroforestry-related enterprises</li> </ul>	Share of project funding allocated to gender-focused actions (%)	Management info system with sex-disaggregated data designed (yes/no)	Annual budget guidelines include gender considerations (yes/no)	Share of those receiving direct benefits/income from project that are women (%)
	Gender monitoring system designed (yes/no)	Benefit-sharing mechanism with gender consideration in place (yes/no)	Women forest project beneficiaries being tracked (no.)	Share of project beneficiaries that are female (%)
	Women's groups supported with capacity building (number)	Share of women organized in forest-related associations (%)	Women's forest groups representatives in leadership positions in regional and national forest associations (no.)	Share of forest product output produced with women's group's active involvement (%)
	Targeted credit program for female-led forest enterprises implemented (yes/no)	Women and women's groups given access to forest enterprise-related credit (number)	Share of total forest-related credit going to female-led enterprises (%)	Share of overall forest enterprise earnings going to female-led enterprises (%)
<p>EMPOWERMENT typical activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeted technical and leadership training to women involved in forestry and agroforestry activities</li> <li>• Leadership training for women in forest-related associations</li> <li>• Funds dedicated to innovative communications efforts highlighting women's key role and best practices for forest landscape restoration</li> <li>• Forest agency budget specifies target percentage of funds to training women in forest production and value-added activities</li> </ul>	Women are signatories or co-signatories to forest-project related contracts (e.g. ecosystem payments, ecotourism, tree nurseries, etc) (yes/no)	Project activities include those that support women as role models to break through barriers, demonstrate by example, change mindsets and provide inspiration to others (yes/no)	Forest sector plans, strategies, policies incorporating gender considerations (%)	Share of women project participants rating 'satisfied' or above on gender-related interventions (%)
	Quota system for women in management roles (yes/no)	Project budget specifies target percentage to women-focused activities (yes/no)	Women receiving training in leadership, negotiation, business skills (no.)	Share of workers involved in forest production and value-added activities that are women (%)