

Summary of Gender Sessions at FIP-FCPF Knowledge Day

Sept 28, 2017

Luang Prabang, Laos

The joint FIP-FCPF Knowledge Day brought together some 150 participants from over 40 countries in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR on Sept 28, 2017 in conjunction with FIP and FCPF pilot country and country participant reporting and planning meetings. This event focused on knowledge sharing and joint learning on a wide range of topics such as engaging private sector in landscape programs, SME financing for sustainable forest management, successes and challenges in combating illegal logging, and communicating on REDD+. Three gender knowledge sessions focused on sharing lessons and examples of gender-responsive practices, activities, policies, strategies and actions in relation to initiatives in forest landscapes. Motivated by a widespread desire to take more actions in forest projects to address gender constraints and opportunities in a manner that is project-specific, appropriate, and actionable, these learning-based sessions addressed strategies and approaches for gender-responsive project design, implementation and monitoring.

In the first session, 'Inclusive and sustainable forest management', Anne Kuriakose, a Senior Social Development Specialist with the Climate Investment Funds (CIF), introduced key gender challenges in the forest sector, gender-specific risks and gaps posed by climate change, and why gender equality is central to the goals of ending extreme poverty and boosting prosperity. She outlined what social and gender analysis in the context of forestry entails and how issues of land and tree tenure, governance and participation, equitable economic and non-economic benefits, value chain development and capacity building are key for sustainable forest management. She highlighted FIP's 'Dedicated Grant Mechanism' (DGM) designed to assure the participation of women, indigenous peoples, and local communities in REDD+ and FIP processes related to the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of activities aimed at supporting their tenure rights, forest stewardship roles, and traditional forest management systems. Examples of such DGM projects in Peru, Burkina Faso, DRC and Brazil were highlighted. Tools and approaches available for those wishing to incorporate gender in their forest projects and programs were shared along with examples of indicators for measuring progress towards desired gender outcomes.

Next, Kinnalone Phommasack, the Deputy Director of the Laos Department of Forestry shared Laos' experience in incorporating gender into forest-related initiatives. Gender challenges in Laos, with 49 major ethnic groups and over 200 sub-groups loom large, with women and girls disadvantaged in education levels, participation in public decision-making and development projects, including forestry projects. She described how women play an important role in collecting and processing non-timber forest products. Women and girls have equal rights under the Lao Constitution, and they have a National Committee for the Advancement of Women (NCAW), with branches in all Ministries to work on gender issues. The Lao Women's Union (LWU) is a mass organization that supports women's participation in development and forestry activities. A FIP-

supported project, the Sustainable Forestry for Rural Development – Scaling Up (SUFORD-SU) has used LWU and sub-CAW to work with women, as well as men, at village level in 13 provinces on forestry, agriculture, village development, weaving, and other alternative livelihood issues. They collect sex-disaggregated data, for example through village-level focal groups, and do gender analysis on access to and use of natural resources. This contributes to participatory forest management plans and village livelihood development plans. A key strategy in forest projects and REDD+ consultations in Lao PDR has been the inclusion of female facilitators with local language skills as part of project extension and livelihood teams, especially in minority ethnic group communities. At the national level, there are few women foresters, but in the national REDD+ program, the Lao Women's Union and Lao Front for National Construction (ethnic languages) are engaged in the Safeguards and Stakeholder Participation Technical Working Group, and eight out of 36 participants in the six Technical Working Groups have been women.

We then heard lessons from more than a decade of international gender and forests research from Thuy Thu Pham, Scientist and Country Representative for the International Center for Research on Forestry in Vietnam. She summarized gender actions and approaches being tried in many countries and what kind of outcomes they are seeing. CIFOR research shows that there are at least eight reasons that gender matters to people and forests, relating to: livelihoods, tenure, governance, migration, conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and land investments. Global research efforts show significant gender differentiations in the collection and use of forest products, with men generating more income and being more specialized in cash products (particularly in Asia and Latin America), while women were more involved in collecting products for household subsistence needs. They also show that men play a much more important and diverse role in the contribution of forest products to rural livelihoods than is often reported. A key gender-forests 'myth' that harvesting of forest products is mainly undertaken by women was only found to hold in Africa, in relation to unprocessed products, but it does not hold anywhere for processed products.

In relation to women's participation in national REDD+ decision-making, Dr. Pham cautioned that a strong legal framework for gender equality does not necessarily result in women's participation. CIFOR research shows that laws and regulations on gender and on forests are reasonably comprehensive when considered separately, but when considered together, there are inconsistencies, and that technical capacity to bridge this gap is currently lacking in many countries. Women's participation in REDD+ decision-making structures is not yet resulting in an equal influence on decisions on REDD+ interventions. Dr. Pham concluded that mainstreaming gender into forestry policies requires not only a policy on gender equity in place, but also political will and sufficient capacity of government agencies at various levels of governance. Thus capacity strengthening at all levels of government, and processes that include men and boys in the dialogue are essential. She also described shared publications and a wide range of available resources.

Next, Patti Kristjanson, gender advisor for the Program on Forests (PROFOR) at the World Bank led a participatory exercise with the group, focused on forest-gender gaps and project activities and actions aimed at addressing them. She shared a table with a wide range of examples of the types of gender gaps that are typically found in forest landscapes in many countries, and gender-targeted activities and actions that project teams, governments, NGOs and communities are implementing in order to address them. In small groups, participants shared some of their experiences dealing with forest-gender gaps in their own countries and some of the project activities they were involved in, or were planning, to tackle them.

The second session, 'Strategic Alignment and Policy Engagement: What works to make it more inclusive?', featured global and national representatives sharing their experiences in the policy-programming interface in gender and forests, and the ways in which institutions and policy approaches can be supported over time to increase attention to gender integration.

In introducing the session, Anne Kuriakose, a Senior Social Development Specialist with the Climate Investment Funds (CIF), outlined key institutional levers for gender and forests. She summarized the role of national gender strategies, identified key gender gaps in sustainable forest management and project experience and existing institutional mechanisms in addressing them. She highlighted the importance of working both from the top-down approaches, through mandates, requirements, M&E, capacity-building, policy reform, as well as bottom-up approaches, such as social organizing, private sector. She identified key challenges, and the need for re-focusing the emphasis on social, institutional and legal change.

The FIP 'Forests and Climate Change' project in Mexico was highlighted for its success in mainstreaming gender in National Forestry Commission planning, budgeting and monitoring processes. This project is working with women foresters and women forest producers to share experiences, expand training and research, and promote leadership exchanges. It is enhancing women's role in formal forest governance in *ejidos*, including non-timber forest production and management, and advancing integrated forest policy that considers these uses. It is also pursuing joint action on policy to address land rights of rural women.

Ms. Kuriakose described the importance of looking at forest investment plans in terms of investments 'in what, for whom, and to what end?' Specific attention to gender, procedures and remedial measures, and monitoring needs to be mainstreamed across all stages of projects. A key forests-gender outcome indicator is "People in targeted forest and adjacent communities with increased monetary or non-monetary benefits from forests (number) (% of which female)". Both men and women need to actively participate in project and program decision-making. Key policies to consider include national gender policies, INDC's, FIP Investment Plans; and policy actors such as Gender Committees in Ministries, or a Ministry for Promotion of Women, for example. Partners and allies to consider include local CSOs, global NGOs and networks such as IUCN, with a regional, global gender presence, and international research bodies

(CIFOR and ICRAF), and CIF's Gender Program.

Key gender challenges in the forest sector, gender-specific risks and gaps posed by climate change, and why gender equality is central to the WBG's twin goals of ending extreme poverty and boosting prosperity were highlighted. The challenge of moving from 'mainstreaming gender' to achieving more transformative, institutional change with women's formal roles in natural resource governance significantly increased was explored.

Margaux Granat, Climate Policy Advisor with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) next summarized the global policy context and lessons from the preparation of gender-focused REDD+ Roadmaps within several countries that IUCN has been actively supporting in collaboration with the WBG. She described how gender became incorporated in UNFCCC decisions, such that women are not only recognized as victims, but as agents of change for effective climate actions. Gender-responsive approaches were defined as those that identify, reflect, and implement needed interventions to address gender gaps and overcome historical gender biases in policies and interventions—contributing to the advancement of gender equality with an idea to 'do better'. Importantly, gender-responsiveness means going beyond actions that focus solely on women's participation. She outlined the steps involved in developing national climate change and REDD+ gender action plans:

1. Taking Stock

- Analysis of country's legislative and policy framework and institutional initiatives on gender and climate change
- Mapping of stakeholders
- Interviews with key stakeholders and potential champions
- Assessment of technical capacities

2. Leveling the playing field

- Training for women and women's organizations
- Establishment of women's priorities in relation to gender and climate change

3. Capturing diverse voices

- Multi-stakeholder workshop(s) with government, civil society, international institutions, academia, etc.
- Assessment of gender and climate change in-country, and development of action steps across priority sectors

4. Prioritizing actions

- Validation process
- Formalize and publish
- Development of projects
- Inclusion in national strategies

IUCN's global gender teams has been working with REDD+ country teams on gender-transformative change, including the following examples:

- Ghana-working with chiefs' wives and mothers
- Ecuador- Community "lawyers"
- Peru-MRV indigenous women
- Cameroon-REFACOF forest and land tenure law reform
- Uganda/Mexico-concessions of land to women (Trees for Global Benefits)

Tomas Bastique, with the national development fund at the Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development in Mozambique presented how gender is incorporated in their integrated landscape management programs. He described how women in Mozambique tend to work in the agricultural, informal sectors and low-paid occupations while men move to pursue higher earnings in other sectors. Research has found that women are less likely than men to grow tradable crops because they concentrate on basic foods to feed their family. However, there is evidence that with education, women do move into commercial agriculture and as such may be interested in service provision. In Mozambique, women are responsible for most of the collection of biomass fuels and cooking. As part of agroforestry and afforestation efforts, women can also plant trees that not only sequester carbon but also produce crops which may provide them with an alternative source of income, or have distinctive co-benefits, such as assisting in disaster risk management, and alternative household energy.

Mr. Bastique explained how integrated landscape programs in 3 regions have included women in their consultations. The Mozambique Forest Investment Project (MOZFIP), supported by the World Bank includes gender actions in several areas:

- 1) Land Tenure – by promoting systematic community land delimitation and individual titling that is gender-responsive. Both husbands' and wives' names will be registered and listed on land documents.
- 2) Agroforestry – by promoting Agro-Forestry Systems (AFSs) schemes, with a targeted proportion of women, and will give priority to AFSs with species that are mostly grown by women such as legumes.

There is also a Planted Forests Grant Scheme being implemented in partnership with Portucel to supply eucalyptus for pulp and paper. The paper company promotes women's employment and has childcare facilities. The nursery staff is 65% female.

He also described the Mozambique Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Local Communities (MozDGM). There is a National Steering Committee which has 25 members, of whom 4 are women, including the Vice-President. The Mozambican Rural Women's Movement (MMMR) is represented. This project will promote small-scale agriculture, forest and fishing enterprises. Community projects supported under MozDGM will require at least 40% women participation.

There is also a Zambézia Sustainable Development Platform, which strongly encourages and promotes women as key stakeholders. A Gender thematic group has been established to ensure that women are involved in all processes, and a similar group will be encouraged in the Cabo Delgado Platform.

In summary, Mr. Bastique said that while Mozambique is characterized by the provision of a legal framework favorable to women's human rights and gender equality, including sectorial gender strategies, and has made significant progress towards gender equality in areas such as Political, Education and Health representation, there remain major challenges related to the poor

implementation and monitoring of approved instruments, reduced resources, poor interpretability of laws, or lack of sensitivity of the people responsible for implementation.

Next, Jacobo Cotto, Head of Climate Change, National Institute of Forests (INAB), presented FIP's gender initiatives in Guatemala. Results from 2 forest incentives programs showed 135,000 beneficiaries, 57% of whom are indigenous peoples, with 31% female, from the PINPEP program from 2007 to 2015. And the PINFOR program (1998-2015) had 4.1 million beneficiaries, 30% of whom were women. The new POBOSQUE program that started in 2017 targets 1.5million beneficiary households, and 30% women. They have mainstreamed gender in the REDD+ processes, with a gender and REDD+ roadmap that is integrated in national gender policies and strategies. The gender roadmap promotes: access and equitable land tenure rights for women and men; improvements to women's livelihoods and well-being; improvements in biodiversity and environmental services for equitable benefit of women and men; relevant and equitable access to information by women and men; equitable distribution of benefits; good governance, with women's leadership and empowerment in decision-making; full and effective participation of women and men; and compliance with local, national and international laws, treaties and conventions on women's rights. In the Roadmap process, women defined strategic actions for mainstreaming gender considerations throughout the 3 REDD+ phases. They identified training needs related to weather, climate change, GHG, REDD+, related policy framework, gender consideration, safeguards and National REDD+ Strategy. Government gender experts are leading the process in 4 forest-related agencies: MARN, MAGA, INAB, and CONAP, along with the support of an MDB gender specialist.

Strategies being pursued under FIP and the Gender and REDD+ roadmap include:

- Institutional strengthening for effective user attention for the sustainable management of forest landscapes (indigenous peoples, women's groups, private and local communities)
- Linking forest-industry and markets
- Support to local actors (e.g. indigenous peoples, local communities, women's groups) to access to the forest incentive programs (PINPEP and PROBOSQUE)
- Development of financial mechanisms for local actors to access private banking resources (men and women)
- Capacity building on forest governance to public institutions, indigenous peoples, women's groups and local communities
- Consolidation and diversification of indigenous peoples', women's groups and local communities' livelihoods, through the promotion of productive models

This was followed by a presentation by Nacibe Chemor Salas, Chief of Financing for the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR) of the Government of Mexico.

She described CONAFOR's institutional program for the attention of indigenous peoples and how they are mainstreaming gender. They have created a gender unit in CONAFOR and are: carrying out studies to document women's status in the forest sector; promoting an institutional culture with a gender perspective; strengthening capacities of public personnel; applying a gender perspective in operational guidelines and special programs and projects; creating a gender network across CONAFOR areas and State offices. They are taking measures to enhance women's participation in forests by creating a program for women in the forest sector; strengthening the capacity of women who live in forest areas in participate in new initiatives, and promoting the sensitization of men in the forest sector. They are taking affirmative action and giving priority to project support requested by women or women's organizations. They have also created the first female fire protection brigade in Mexico.

Ms. Salas highlighted key lessons learnt in their gender mainstreaming process. These included: starting with sensitization and capacity development and openness to the subject; the need for a strong legal and normative framework; the need for updated diagnostics on the status of female participation in the forest sector as a basis for proposing affirmative actions promoting gender equality; and how political will and inter-institutional joint actions allow for the continuous generation and support of gender equality activities. They have found that operational staff can help generate key lessons on the ground that can foster the critical involvement of high ranking decision-makers. Their gender liaisons network is facilitating information sharing, contributing ideas and strengthening efforts in the mainstreaming of gender perspectives in all States. They have also found that continuous efforts in developing gender capacity within all projects and programs is needed.

Meerim Shakirova, an Operations Analyst with the Forest Investment Program (FIP), then facilitated a discussion with the session participants based on these presentations.

Session 3, 'Enhancing Equity in Community-Based Forestry' shared lessons from several observer organizations and CSOs active in several countries in the area of gender in community forest initiatives. The role of indigenous people's organizations in supporting women's participation in forestry was explored, as an example of enhancing voice and multi-stakeholder processes for sustainable forest management.

Anne Kuriakose, Senior Social Development Specialist, Climate Investment Funds and Haddy Sey, Senior Social Development Specialist, World Bank Group facilitated a panel discussion of experts focusing on a diverse range of country experiences regarding practical ways of integrating gender in community forest initiatives that included:

- Eleanor Dictaan-Bang-oa: Gender and Re-granting Program, Tebtebba - Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education) and FCPF Women's Observer designate

- Brigitte Acakop-Addra Tsonya, Director of Women's Environmental Program in Togo and President of the Women's REDD+ Consortium in Togo
- Dr. Sindhu Dhungana, Joint Secretary/Chief REDD Implementation Center-Nepal
- Esteban Morales, FIP Dedicated Grant Mechanism, Peru
- Luis Felipe Duchicela, Global Advisor for Indigenous Peoples, World Bank

Dr. Sindhu started off the dialogue by responding to a question regarding the best practices he has seen in Nepal regarding the role of women in enhancing sustainable forest management, given Nepal's long history of participatory forest management. He outlined what he termed '2nd generation' issues relating to governance, sustainable management, and livelihood benefits. Women have not been involved in decision-making processes, particularly at the management level, so the work now focuses on women's inclusion as part of the wider political process, including the new constitution with quotas for women parliamentarians. He described how each parish (50-100 households) has a forest user group that is governed by an elected committee, and there must be at least 50% women in that committee. But this is still not sufficient; it is now mandatory that either the VP or secretary must be female. For bank accounts, women and men must both be signatories. There is also a provision in each community parish – that benefits should be earmarked, e.g. 25% for forest management and 35% goes to the community, including women.

Esteban Morales described FIP's Dedicated Grant Mechanism (DGM) in Peru, with the funds going directly to women's organizations. He described the process whereby 31% of the total budget was dedicated exclusively to women's initiatives from the design stage. The Indigenous organizations they are working with are the ones that connect with the local communities. There are 9 women's (indigenous) projects focusing on agroforestry, e.g. improved cacao, strengthening capacities for integrated, more intensified farms, etc. These cover 8 regions in Peru and 30 indigenous communities. It is the members of these communities that are driving the process forward; participatory exercises with women and men identified the priority activities/initiatives undertaken.

Eleanor Dictaan-Bang-oa, of the Tebtebba Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education, was asked to share her experiences in initiatives supporting women in SE Asia. She described how the REDD process has influenced their decision to take on community-based management. They have established partnerships with IP groups in 17 countries, and an IP sustainable and self-determined process (IPSS), that upholds the rights of IPs.

In Vietnam, for example, the Center for Upland Development is working on enhancing capacity and understanding of REDD+ (e.g. climate change, carbon payment concepts). In one community project, they undertook research and studies to understand policies on forests, rights of citizens, and development programs. This included analyses and community-based mapping activities and compiling biodiversity inventories. One common experience across these is that

the importance of women's knowledge is emerging through these mapping exercises. Forest management plans must be informed by traditional knowledge; through co-ops, they now have by-laws on forest use. They have found that livelihood choices have to be in line with conservation objectives. For example, organic farming is a good option; they have started producing and marketing organic fertilizers.

Brigitte Acakop-Addra Tsonya, Director of Women's Environmental Program in Togo and President of the Women's REDD+ Consortium in Togo, was asked about the role that she has played in facilitating women's programs and some of the lessons she can share. She described how various women's groups were integrated into the REDD+ national initiative in Togo. They work with many groups at the local level, and have created a platform linking them, called Femmes REDD+ Togo. It has been working well; they have created a Roadmap. It is hard for them to meet regularly as they are scattered across a large area, so they created a cellphone/text-based 'WhatsApp' group for group members to stay connected, and to link them to what is happening at the national level. She emphasized that forest dwellers need to be aware and their needs taken into account. They set up local demonstrations promoting the use of improved cookstoves that limit the use of charcoal. As most women have access to degraded lands, they are also training them in soil improvement techniques.

Dr. Sindhu was asked about a gender analysis in Nepal. He explained that the Emission Reduction Document (ERD) did not take into account gender, so they did a study aimed at adding a gender component to each of the 7 projects. The gender analysis found that women had access to forests, but less access to decision making regarding community forests. So improving community-based management means establishing rules that women must be represented on all committees. Indicators on women's empowerment need to be developed, e.g. health, education, etc. In forestry projects providing loans to forest enterprises, for example, 30% must go to women. Energy projects are key as charcoal badly affects health. Buffer zones around protected areas; eco-tourism efforts that include women are also opportunities.

Luis Felipe Duchicela, Global Advisor for Indigenous Peoples, World Bank suggested that he would like to be a little provocative. Stating that we tend to think of gender inclusion in terms of including participation; e.g. setting a X% target, he then asked the following:

- To what extent does inclusion of women fulfill the goals of gender equity?
- To what extent is it the only aspect, or even the main aspect?
- Do we have the illusion that this is enough? If we say, e.g. 40% of the projects funded have to be projects run by women, how far does that go in terms of actual gender inclusion?

He observed that in many projects, women are often artificially assigned roles; the bigger activities go to men (e.g. forest-based enterprises, agroforestry); the little things (handicrafts, etc) go to women. By artificially setting a target, are we reinforcing that behavior instead of transforming it?

He then pondered where culture comes into the picture? For example, in Dr. Kinnalane's Laos presentation in the earlier session highlighted how when working with ethnic minorities, they found that women hold the essence of culture in their societies. So the intersection of gender and the culture of indigenous peoples is quite strong. Thus perhaps the lens of gender and ethnic minority are very separate things?

Esteban Morales of Peru responded that there is a need to accept the reality that cultural change doesn't happen quickly. For example, in the Amazonian context, there are many teenage mothers, a very low education of women compared to men, and the situation is very harsh. Participation in processes is not enough; it must have a bonus to it; there must be economic development possibilities. Forest landscape-related activities such as hunting or fishing are typically male activities and do not generate year-round income, whereas crops do.

A participant from Sudan stressed the important role of gender-targeted communication efforts and developing key messages for all stakeholders, through social media, newspaper, in local languages. In Sudan, encouragingly, currently forestry science students are 65% female, and 25% of parliamentarians are women.

The issue of distinguishing rights holders vs. stakeholders was raised as being important, as well as the importance of norms. It is an issue of critical mass; start with low numbers being 'at the table'; over time this evolves to greater numbers; it takes private-public cooperation and dialogue.

In summary, the group was challenged to think about whether it is about women's participation? Or should the focus be on transforming institutions, laws, etc? Participation is an entry point that can start to change the attitudes of decision makers, but they need to take a hard look at their institutions and policies (systemic change), that leads to more meaningful impacts above and beyond equitable participation.