

Informing gender-responsive climate policy and action

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RESEARCH
PROGRAM ON
Forests, Trees and
Agroforestry

GENDER, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTS

- AFOLU sector is responsible for roughly a quarter of global GHG emissions, half of which results from deforestation and forest degradation (IPCC 2014)
- Forest- and tree-based landscapes are critical for mitigation and adaptation



GENDER, CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTS

- Unequal gender norms (Sunderland et al 2014), access and control over productive assets (Jost et al 2016), decision-making power (Evans et al 2017) etc.
 - Translate into differentiated knowledge and experiences (Mathez et al 2016), vulnerabilities and adaptive capacities (Djoudi and Brockhaus 2011)
- Gender norms and relations are not static or universal
- Gender intersects with other factors of social differentiation
- **Continuous, nuanced and context-specific data is critical for informing effective, equitable and sustainable climate change policy and action**



8 reasons why gender matters to people and forests

1 Livelihoods
People often assume that women are the main collectors and gatherers of forest products. Yet a global comparative study found that men play a much more important and diverse role in the contribution of forests for livelihoods than previously reported, with strong differences across Asia, Africa and Latin America.

2 Tenure
In Nicaragua, national laws promote gender equity, but they do not extend to forests because they are still seen as men's area. While in Uganda where there are efforts to include women in forest management, women are still shut out of decision-making and rarely have ownership of land or resources.

3 Governance
Across the world, education, inclusive institutions and lower income inequality helps increase women's participation in forestry institutions. Where women's participation was higher institutions had less conflict. However more involvement of women did not lead to much change in user groups' perceptions of fairness of the rules and penalties.

4 Migration
In Nepal, the impact of male out-migration on women who are being left behind can be dramatically different depending on what forest management institutions and social structures they have in their communities.

5 Conservation
A global study found that where women are the majority, forest management institutions have stronger implementation of rules. This has an impact on the forests, as institutions where women had a majority also had forests with higher density of trees remaining.

6 Climate change adaptation
In Mali, male out-migration was a strategy to adapt to the changing climate. But this left women less able to adapt—as women lacked secure tenure and command over financial resources. Women's workloads also increased significantly in male absence.

7 Climate change mitigation
Research in 77 villages, 20 REDD+ sites across six countries found participation of women in REDD+ processes is often nominal and limited. However pushing for increased participation of women in REDD+ is not enough to protect women's interests and needs.

8 Land investments
Though a major driver of deforestation, the social and economic benefits of oil palm investments in Indonesia is real. But only certain social groups benefit. Landless women are particularly worse off as they are only able to get work in plantations with low wages, job insecurity and poor working conditions.

SDD AND FOREST POLICY

- Increase in research on gender and forests, trees and agroforestry
- Lack of systematic and comprehensive data sets on national level
- While many countries have forest-related mitigation and adaptation targets (WWF), attention to gender often absent in policy making (e.g. Arwida et al 2017)
- E.g. land-use change: accurate cost-benefit analyses need intra-HH level data on e.g. **tenure security and resources** (Quisumbing et al 2014); **land use** (Tovar-Restrepo et al 2017); **division of labor** (Kitptot et al 2017); **decision making** (Larson et al 2015); **preferred benefits** (Pham et al 2016)
- Gender-blind policies and actions risk efficiency and long-term sustainability, while jeopardizing gender equality and women's wellbeing





- CIFOR global comparative study on REDD+ found significant gaps in women's awareness of and participation in pilot projects. 3 years later, women's FGs in REDD+ sites reported 17% net decline in subjective wellbeing relative to male-dominated FGs and control groups (Larson et al 2018).
 - Failing to address gender issues in project design and implementation can have detrimental impacts
 - Gender-specific targets and indicators, continuous monitoring and adaptive learning are critical

LEVERAGE SYNERGIES AND RECONCILE TENSIONS

- Gender-responsive climate policy and action can address and transform material and cultural gender inequalities (e.g. Mukasa et al 2017, Peach Brown 2011, Bernier et al)
- Gender-equitable policies and projects are also likely to demonstrate better institutional and environmental performance (Coleman and Mwangi 2013, Agarwal 2010), Leisher et al 2016)
 - Synergies should not be assumed, but built on robust data and gender analysis (Arora-Jonsson 2010)
 - Trade-offs may exist between different objectives: SDD is critical for identifying and addressing potential tensions (Brockhaus et al 2013)
 - Policies and initiatives that build on existing local knowledge can allow for enhanced efficiency while ensuring appropriate benefits (Mathez et al 2016)

TIPS FOR COLLECTING SEX-DISAGGREGATED DATA

- Collect intra-household –level data
- Capture intersecting factors of social differentiation
- Collect data on the full spectrum of gender equality
 - Seek to align with global commitments, e.g. SDGs
- Conduct ex ante gender analyses, define gender-specific targets and indicators, monitor progress and allow for adaptive learning
- You're not alone!
 - Forge partnerships with national and international research institutions, NGOs, academia:
 - Leverage on existing capacities for enhanced methodologies, data collection, analysis, validation of results, policy recommendations

Practical Tips

for conducting gender-responsive data collection

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N.B. These practical tips are meant to be general, but gender norms are context-specific. It is the researcher's responsibility to ensure that he or she respects local norms while carrying out gender-responsive research*. It is advisable to seek the guidance of local contacts and of community members with whom you (or your local contacts) have a good relationship before beginning your data collection.

Preliminary research

Selecting appropriate participants for a study and asking relevant questions requires a good prior knowledge of people in places and local realities. This knowledge can be strengthened by exploring the existing literature—including published articles, grey literature, statistics, etc. about the regional context where you work—having a keen sense of observation when in the field, and carrying out in-depth interviews** with key informants*** (can be informal) when fieldwork experience in a given context is limited.

1 Establish mixed-gender field teams

Field teams should consist of both women and men. Women facilitators or interviewers frequently have better access to women study participants, and in many contexts women feel more comfortable opening up to other women than to men. Accordingly, it generally is advisable to have women interview women. Note, however, that women facilitators or interviewers and participants may come from different socio-economic, ethnic, etc. backgrounds, which can also make it difficult for them to relate to each other.

can be harder to identify—but they exist—so make sure that their perspectives are included. However care needs to be taken to ensure that men's opinion doesn't influence that of women and vice versa. As a result, separate interview situations and focus groups will need to be organized for women and men.

3 Capture other forms of social difference

Since 'women' and 'men' are not homogenous categories, we have to dig deeper and examine how gender is cross-cut by many other forms of social difference: wealth status, age, ethnicity, caste, and migrant or indigenous status, among others. To ensure that we work with people from the range of social groups relevant to the topic at hand, participant selection should include members of the most salient local socio-economic categories. These categories can be identified through discussions with key informants and community members in the study area (see preliminary research, above). If participants from different socio-economic, generational, ethnic, etc. backgrounds will not speak openly in each other's presence, separate focus groups may be required, all the while maintaining emphasis on gender-segregated groups (meaning that more focus group discussions will need to be held).

2 Collect sex-disaggregated data

To paint a holistic picture of the communities in which we work, it is important to recognize and involve the diversity of people who constitute these communities in our research. Hence, **both men and women** should participate in our studies, and data should be disaggregated by gender (collected and presented separately on men and women). This applies not only to the individual and household-level interviews, surveys and focus groups we carry out, but also to interviews with experts (local or not), village leaders, etc. Women leaders and experts

* Research that is responsive to the roles, responsibilities and priorities of both men and women, and intentionally designed to reach and benefit both women and men.

** An in-depth interview is an open-ended method that allows the interviewer to explore the interviewee's perspectives on a given topic. These interviews can be carried out using structured or semi-structured interview guides or simply following a list of themes the interviewer wants to enquire about in a flexible manner. In-depth interviews can generate rich background information that can shape subsequent questions relevant to the topic.

*** Key informants are people whose social positions give them extensive, specialist knowledge about other people or processes under study, and who are therefore valuable sources of information to a researcher.



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