



A FAIR CLIMATE: Gender Equity in Forestry and REDD+

DISCUSSION GUIDE



USAID
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Discussion Guide: A Fair Climate: Gender Equity in Forestry and REDD+
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A FAIR CLIMATE: Gender Equity in Forestry and REDD+

ABOUT THE VIDEO

This training video highlights and emphasizes the importance of gender equity in all levels of decision-making, process design and practice for forest-based climate change mitigation. Specifically, it targets policy makers, advocates (including those from civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations) and practitioners, to build capacity needed to enable equitable and improved engagement in forest resource management and climate change mitigation.

Shot in Vientiane in Lao PDR and the Baan Thung Yao community forest in Thailand, the video captures grassroots communities¹ institutional knowledge of and experience with gender equity as it relates to forest governance as well as its integration into the forest management practices. The video is produced by the USAID-funded programs Grassroots Equity and Enhanced Networks in the Mekong (GREEN Mekong) and Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests (USAID LEAF).

¹Grassroots communities include forest dependent households, indigenous peoples, local forest managers, local government and forestry officials, civil society groups that work on forest management and local religious groups.

The best practices highlighted in the video are sourced from a joint study produced by Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN), the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests (USAID LEAF) project.

The video is also informed by a case study produced by RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests entitled *Gender and community forests in a changing landscape: Lessons from Ban Thung Yao, Thailand*

ABOUT THE GUIDE

This discussion guide is available for trainers and grassroots facilitators to delve deeper into the gender aspect of social equity in terms of forest-based climate change initiatives, including REDD+. The questions in the guide will help facilitate discussions concerning forest management practices and forest governance in the local and institutional contexts.

The questions are intended to help the facilitator to initiate discussions on the subject covered in the training video. They may be adapted or used as determined by the audience and the goals of the training or workshop. The questions are divided into two parts, with each addressing specific parts of the video. The questions may be combined or separated as needed.

KEY MESSAGES FROM THE VIDEO

1. Gender equity means fairness of treatment for women and men, according to their respective needs. This may include equal treatment or treatment that is different but which is considered equivalent in terms of rights, benefits, obligations and opportunities. Gender equity is a means to achieve gender equality.
2. Key aspects of gender equity that must be considered in any climate change initiative or project that focuses on forests, for sustainable forest management include: a) recognition of women and their constituencies as legitimate stakeholders in sustainable forest management, b) women's decision-making influence on forest policies and programs and c) equitable rights to fair benefit-sharing mechanisms from forest management and climate change initiatives.

3. It is possible to achieve gender equity, as shown through three best practices that supported integrating gender equity into forest management and climate change initiatives:
 - A. Developing capacities to improve women's engagement in decision making
 - B. Collecting and analyzing gender-disaggregated data to inform climate change initiatives
 - C. Clearly recognizing women's contribution and ensuring they receive matching benefits

PART ONE

Overview

1. What are the key messages in the video?
2. What is gender equity?
3. How is gender equity relevant to your field of work?
4. Why is gender equity important for REDD+ or other forest-based climate change initiatives?

Roles and responsibilities of women and men in forest management

1. Do men and women have different aspirations through the management of their forests? How do we know if they are the same or different?

2. Is there a difference between men's and women's roles and responsibilities in forest management and governance?
 - A. Are women's roles and responsibilities in forest management recognized?
 - B. Are men's roles and responsibilities in forest management recognized?
 - C. Are men's and women's needs from the forest the same?
 - D. What are the resources that local women and men use from the forests [in your local context]? Are they different between the two genders? Why?
 - E. How do local women and men manage their forests?
3. What are the climate change initiatives that you have worked with? Does it consider the different gender roles, responsibilities and needs? How?

PART TWO

Gender equity in forest management and governance

1. What are some examples of gender equity in a forest community?
2. Who are the stakeholders involved in national REDD+ consultation processes? Are the perspectives of local women and men represented?
3. How are women engaged in decision-making processes in your project or target area?

4. What are the consequences of not considering the perspectives of women in decision-making?
5. Is it important to develop the capacity of women to engage in decision-making processes? Why? What are their capacity needs?
6. Is it important to develop the capacity of men to engage in decision-making processes that leads to gender equality? Why? How should men be involved?

Best practices to adopt gender equitable approaches

1. What forest management practices can help to achieve gender equity?
2. Why do we need sex-disaggregated data for climate change initiatives?
3. What kind of data can help you identify the roles, responsibilities and needs of local men and women?
4. What are the benefits that women derive from the forest resources? What are the benefits that men derive from these resources?
5. What are the costs and benefits associated with their use of the forest? How are the costs and benefits distributed?
6. Are there benefit-sharing mechanisms in place that help with fair distribution of benefits between men and women?
7. What are the benefits of building the capacity of women? How does it help forest management?

FURTHER READING

1. Gurung, J., K. Giri and A. B. Setyowati. 2011. Getting REDD+ Right for Women: An analysis of the barriers and opportunities for women's participation in the REDD+ sector in Asia [pdf] Bangkok: USAID LEAF. Available at: www.leafasia.org/library/getting-redd-right-women-analysis-barriers-and-opportunities-womens-participation-redd
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5. Upadhyay, B., R. Arpornsilp and S. Soontornwong. 2013. Gender and community forests in a changing landscape: Lessons from Ban Thung Yao, Thailand. [pdf] Bangkok: RECOFTC. Available at: www.recoftc.org/policy-briefs/gender-and-community-forests-changing-landscape-lessons-ban-thung-yao-thailand
6. USAID LEAF. USAID LEAF Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and Checklist. 2012.[pdf] Bangkok: USAID LEAF. Available at: www.leafasia.org/tools/leaf-gender-mainstreaming-strategy-checklist
7. WOCAN. 2014. Findings and Lessons Learned: Barriers and Entry-points for Women's Inclusion in REDD+ in Asia-Pacific: REDD+ and Gender Policy Brief 1. [pdf] Bangkok: WOCAN. Available at: www.wocan.org/resources/barriers-and-entry-points-womens-inclusion-redd-asia-pacific
8. WOCAN. 2013 Scoping study of good practices for strengthening women's inclusion in forest and other natural resource management sectors. [pdf] Bangkok: WOCAN. Available at: www.wocan.org/resources/scoping-study-womens-inclusion-REDD

FURTHER INFORMATION

To learn more about social equity in forest management and governance contexts as well as other related work, please visit:

www.recoftc.org/project/green-mekong

www.recoftc.org/project/green-mekong/project/grassroots-equity-portal

www.usaid.gov/asia-regional

www.leafasia.org

ABOUT THE GREEN MEKONG PROGRAM

The Grassroots Equity and Enhanced Networks in the Mekong program (GREEN Mekong) aims to improve capacities of policymakers and grassroots stakeholders in the Lower Mekong region to promote equity in forest-based climate change mitigation policy and practice. The GREEN Mekong Program is funded by the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Regional Development Mission for Asia (RDMA) and implemented by RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests.

ABOUT USAID-LEAF

The USAID Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests (USAID LEAF) program employs a regional approach to work with governments, forestry and climate mitigation specialists and universities to help improve forest and land management. The program's goal is to strengthen the capacity of countries to achieve meaningful and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from the forestry-land use sector. USAID LEAF is funded by the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Regional Development Mission for Asia (RDMA).

RECOFTC's mission is to enhance capacities for stronger rights, improved governance and fairer benefits for local people in sustainable forested landscapes in the Asia and the Pacific region.

RECOFTC holds a unique and important place in the world of forestry. It is the only international not-for-profit organization that specializes in capacity development for community forestry. RECOFTC engages in strategic networks and effective partnerships with governments, nongovernmental organizations, civil society, the private sector, local people and research and educational institutes throughout the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. With over 25 years of international experience and a dynamic approach to capacity development — involving research and analysis, demonstration sites and training products — RECOFTC delivers innovative solutions for people and forests.

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