

From research to  
action, leaf by leaf:

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**getting gender  
right in the  
REDD+ Social and  
Environmental  
Standards**



Lessons from Action Research  
BOOKLET 1

# Credits

The Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) and the REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards (SES) Secretariat have produced this publication.

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Countries, policymakers, program officers and practitioners are encouraged to use the action checklists and may request extra guidance and support from [wedo@wedo.org](mailto:wedo@wedo.org).

Any person or entity using the publication, including the action checklists, must acknowledge WEDO and the REDD+ SES in all communications and documentation.

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# FOREWORD

The international agreement reached at the 2010 UNFCCC Conference of Parties in Cancun on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) requests countries “to address, *inter alia*, drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, land tenure issues, forest governance issues, gender considerations and the safeguards.” In 2012, WEDO in partnership with the REDD+ SES initiative set out to fully unpack and address the links between gender, safeguards and standards in REDD+. The intention was to move beyond the conceptual level and generate suggestions for strengthening REDD+ from in-country research based on the lives of women and men in forest communities. We are delighted to share the results of this effort in the pages ahead.

Comprised of action research across four REDD+ SES countries, this project has sought to move ‘from words to action’ – finding ways to implement the mandate for including ‘gender considerations’ agreed at global level – a critical piece to safeguarding the rights and promoting the livelihoods of people living in forests, particularly women. Each country presented its own set of unique challenges and enabling conditions; each country demonstrated that political will is alive but that technical guidance is welcomed and invaluable. One of the most important lessons learned – which will fuel our work for years to come – has been that women in forest communities are eager for information, capable of engaging and are often leading the way already, in spite of very real and persistent barriers. Every recommendation in this publication is drawn directly from their experiences, insights and ideas shared during participatory workshop

processes. These also shaped the revision of the REDD+ SES (Second Version), into a much more gender responsive set of standards, and which are now supported by the action checklists included herein.

It is our hope that this publication serves a number of purposes, helping to guide countries conceptually, methodologically and practically in addressing the gender considerations of REDD+ through the use of social and environmental safeguards and standards. We envision the information and recommendations presented herein as useful examples for other safeguards and standards initiatives, not only specific to REDD+ but also to other environmental programs, climate change initiatives and broader sustainable development efforts. Ultimately, we anticipate that this effort might contribute to a transformation in how forest and forest-related programs support and propel the achievement of gender equality and women’s rights. We are grateful to Norad and the Ford Foundation, for providing the funding that has made this project possible, and we thank all the local research associates, workshop participants and practitioners for their invaluable contributions to this effort. We are especially appreciative of the REDD+ SES country facilitation teams who welcomed us and remain committed to this process – step by step contributing toward a just world that promotes and protects human rights, gender equality and the integrity of the environment, especially for the women and men living in forests from the Amazon to the Himalayas and everywhere in between.

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## Acronyms

<b>ANSAB</b>	Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources
<b>AWG-LCA</b>	Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action under the Convention
<b>BeRT</b>	Benefit and Risks Tool (of UN-REDD)
<b>CARE HIMA</b>	Hifadhi ya Misit'u ya Asili Piloting REDD in Zanzibar through Community Forest Management
<b>CBD</b>	Convention on Biological Diversity
<b>CCBA</b>	Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
<b>CF</b>	Carbon Fund
<b>CI</b>	Conservation International
<b>CIEL</b>	Center for International Environmental Law
<b>CIF</b>	Climate Investment Funds
<b>COP</b>	Conference of the Parties
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>ER</b>	Emission Reduction
<b>ES</b>	Ecosystem Service
<b>ESIA</b>	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
<b>ESMF</b>	Environmental and Social Management Framework (of FCPF)
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization (UN)
<b>FCPF</b>	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
<b>FECOFUN</b>	The Federation of Community Forest Users Nepal
<b>FIP</b>	Forest Investment Program
<b>FPIC</b>	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
<b>FPICon</b>	Free, Prior and Informed Consultation
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility
<b>GGCA</b>	Global Gender and Climate Alliance
<b>IAG</b>	Independent Advisory Group on Rights, Forests and Climate Change (of UN-REDD)
<b>ICIMOD</b>	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
<b>IP</b>	Indigenous Peoples
<b>IMC</b>	Institute for Climate Change (State of Acre)
<b>INSTRAW</b>	United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for Conservation of Nature
<b>HIMAWANTI</b>	Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resource Management Association
<b>MAE</b>	Ministry of the Environment of Ecuador
<b>MDB</b>	Multilateral Development Bank
<b>MDG</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>MEA</b>	Multilateral Environment Agreements

<b>MRV</b>	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
<b>NORAD</b>	Norwegian Development Agency
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental Organization
<b>NTFP</b>	Non-Timber Forest Products
<b>OP</b>	Operational Policy
<b>PCI</b>	REDD+ SES Principles, Criteria, and Indicators
<b>PES</b>	Payments for Environmental/Ecosystems Services
<b>PESACRE</b>	Grupo de Pesquisa e Extensão em Sistemas Agroflorestais do Acre
<b>PGA</b>	Participatory Governance Assessment (of UN-REDD)
<b>REDD+</b>	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, plus the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
<b>REDD+ SES</b>	REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards
<b>RAMH</b>	Rede Acreana de Mulheres e Homens
<b>R-PIN</b>	REDD+ Proposal Idea Note
<b>R-PP</b>	Readiness Preparation Proposal
<b>SBSTA</b>	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
<b>SEPC</b>	Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria (of UN-REDD)
<b>SESA</b>	Social and Environmental Strategic Assessment (of FCPF)
<b>SFM</b>	Sustainable Forest Management
<b>SIS</b>	Safeguards Information System(s)
<b>SISA</b>	System of Incentives for Environmental Services of the State of Acre
<b>TaTEDO</b>	Tanzania Traditional Energy Development and Environment Organization
<b>TFCG</b>	Tanzania Forests Conservation Group
<b>TOR</b>	Terms of Reference
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNCCD</b>	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Program
<b>UNDRIP</b>	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Program
<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>UN-REDD</b>	United Nations Collaborative Programme on REDD
<b>UN Women</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>WB</b>	World Bank
<b>WEDO</b>	Women's Environment and Development Organization
<b>WLCN</b>	Women Leading for Change in Natural Resources
<b>WOCAN</b>	Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management



# Introduction









# Introduction

From early 2012 through early 2013, the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) has partnered with the REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards Initiative (REDD+ SES) on an action research project related to gender equality and REDD+ in four countries using REDD+ SES. WEDO and the REDD+ SES Secretariat sought to better understand and document the gender considerations of REDD+, in order to analyze and apply lessons to strengthen the REDD+ SES content and process. It is the partners' hope that the action research process, outcomes and related practical tools will be useful to key REDD+ actors, including policymakers, program developers and all levels of practitioners. The primary goal of this publication is to transform how REDD+ programs are developed so that they specifically contribute to the advancement of gender equality while safeguarding women's rights. An additional goal is to guide REDD+ programs and any future forest initiatives into becoming development initiatives that **recognize and incorporate the social value of the forest and deliver social, environmental and climate co-benefits that will contribute to a healthy, sustainable and just world – in which gender equality is a reality.**

## Purpose of the publication

The purpose of this publication is to describe the action research and its outcomes (Booklet 1), as well as provide tools to guide the development of a gender sensitive process for the use of REDD+ SES at country level (Booklet 2). The booklets work together to tell a complete narrative; however, Booklet 2 has also been designed to stand alone as an accessible checklist tool for policymakers and practitioners.



**Booklet 1** describes the development of the action research project, the methodology and process of the action research, the baselines developed in each of the 4 countries, the steps to design a gender sensitive strategy or program, and the research outcomes that informed the action checklists in Booklet 2.



**Booklet 2** summarizes the action research, and contains three distinct action checklists: (1) Essential actions to develop a gender sensitive REDD+ Program (to be followed in all REDD+ phases); (2) Actions to address the gender components of the REDD+ SES Principles, Criteria, and Indicators (PCI); and (3) Actions to develop a gender responsive country-level interpretation of Indicators.





State of Acre, Brazil

Photo: Andrea Quesada-Aguilar



Ecuador

Photo: Andrea Quesada-Aguilar



Nepal

Photo: Andrea Quesada-Aguilar








Tanzania

Photo: Andrea Quesada-Aguilar

## Steps to capture the gender dimension in a REDD+ program

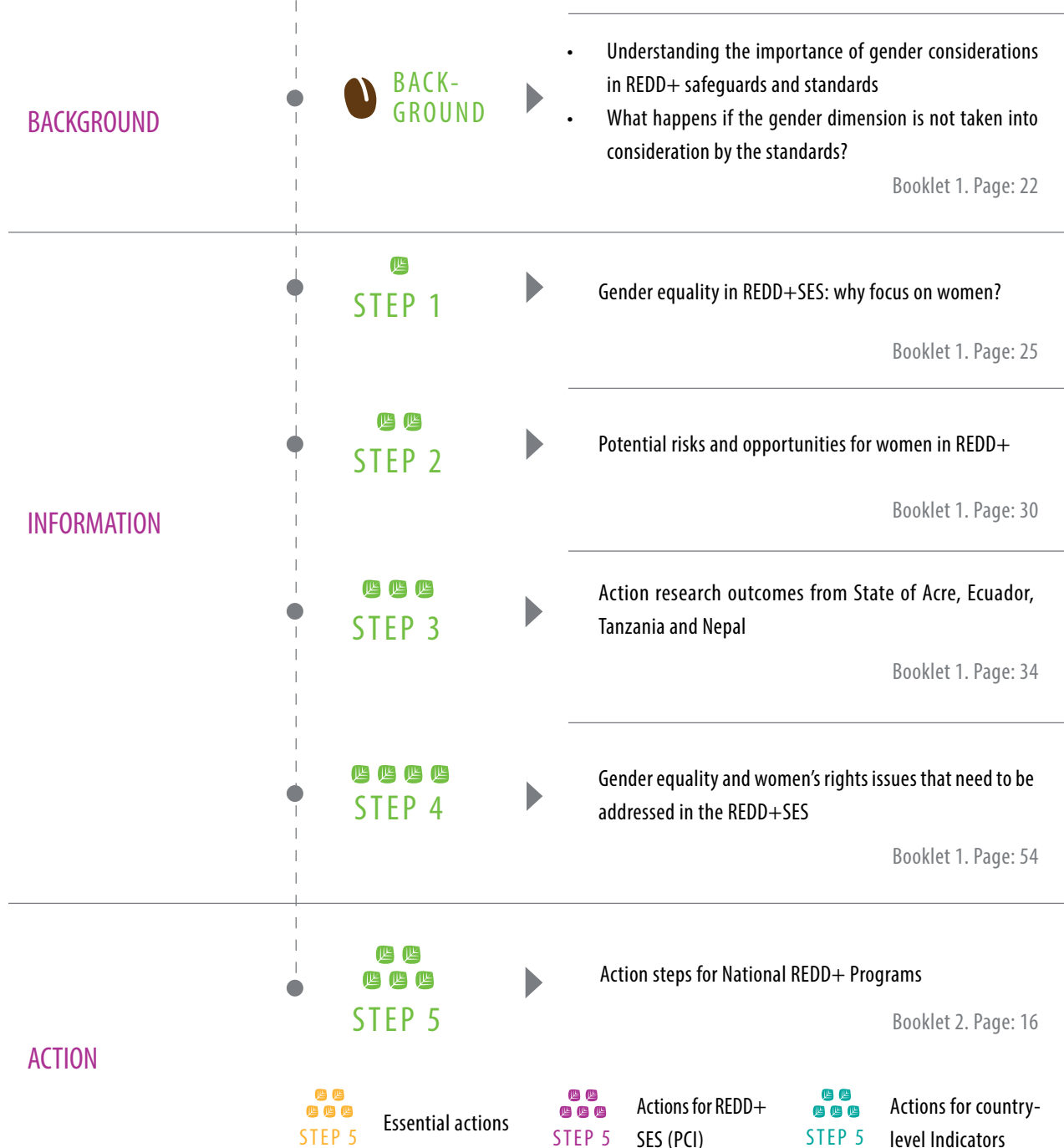
In designing a gender sensitive strategy or program for REDD+, it is crucial to include gender sensitive standards and safeguards. To do so, countries must “connect the dots” between gender, forests and REDD+ and obtain information baselines that will allow the program developers to identify the gender considerations that REDD+ can address. The action research described herein reveals that the development of a gender sensitive process requires a step wise method that first understands and identifies the gender considerations and obtains baseline information (steps 1-4) and then effectively incorporates them into the program or strategy design (step 5). The main steps include:

- 
**STEP 1** | Conduct an analysis of the gender differentiated use, access to and control of forest resources, and of the gender inequities that are observed in many forest-related processes (e.g., participation, transparency, distribution of benefits, etc).
- 
**STEP 2** | Carry out a gender differentiated analysis of the potential positive and negative social impacts – the risks and opportunities – associated with a gender-blind (compared to a gender responsive) REDD+ program.
- 
**STEP 3** | Understand the current situation of the country with regards to policies (environmental, gender, sustainable development), climate change initiatives, forestry programs, gender equality, enabling conditions that address gender issues, etc.
- 
**STEP 4** | Identify gender equality and women’s rights issues that should be included in a REDD+ program, including a gap and opportunity analysis.
- 
**STEP 5** | Propose concrete suggestions to address gender equality and women’s rights in the REDD+ program, particularly in the safeguards and standards.

Capturing the gender dimension in a REDD+ program is a process, and it is key to a gender transformation of the forest sector. But it is not the end goal. Rather, the end goal is to successfully implement the program and have a positive impact on gender equality. To be able to effectively implement gender sensitive policies it is crucial to engage in a comprehensive process that first identifies and strengthens in-country enabling conditions, next develops an overall strategic action plan to carry out a gender responsive country process of interpretation and implementation of the policies, and then proposes a series of on-ground efforts such as projects to implement the strategic action plan.

## DIAGRAM: HOW TO READ THIS PUBLICATION

A guide to “connect the leaves” and provide an overview of the contents of both booklets



# Background









## Background

### REDD+ Social & Environmental Standards (REDD+ SES)

The REDD+ SES initiative aims to define and build support for a higher level of social and environmental performance from REDD+ programs. The standards were developed through a participatory and inclusive process and provide a comprehensive framework of key issues and elements that can be used consistently across countries while also enabling countries to tailor the standards to their specific national and local-level contexts (Box 1). State of Acre (Brazil), Province of Central Kalimantan (Indonesia), Ecuador, Tanzania and Nepal started using the standards in 2010 following a multi-stakeholder process. Feedback from these countries and other stakeholders led to a full revision of these standards and of the guidelines for their use at country level that included two public comment periods and led to publication of REDD+ SES Version 2 in September 2012. State of Amazonas (Brazil), Province of East Kalimantan (Indonesia), Guatemala, Liberia, Mexico and the Region of San Martin (Peru) all started using the standards in 2012.

### Incorporating gender equality and women's rights into REDD+ SES

The REDD+ SES initiative has been developed and reviewed in phases. Since the beginning, gender issues have been recognized as an important component of the standards. However, incorporating the gender dimension proved to be a challenging task both from a technical perspective in terms of determining the best way to do so, and from a political perspective in terms of maintaining the broad ownership of REDD+ SES across the full spectrum of REDD+ stakeholders

#### BOX 1: What is the REDD+ Social & Environmental Standards initiative (REDD+ SES)?

The REDD+ Social & Environmental Standards initiative aims to build support for government-led REDD+ programs that make a significant contribution to human rights, poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation. Recognizing that REDD+ has the potential for serious risks to Indigenous Peoples, local communities and women, along with the potential for social and environmental co-benefits, REDD+ SES is a comprehensive framework of key issues to address the social and environmental performance of a REDD+ program.

REDD+ SES is intended for use by governments, NGOs, financing agencies and other stakeholders to support the design and implementation of government-led REDD+ programs implemented at national or state/provincial/regional level and for all forms of fund-based or market-based financing. The standards provide guidance in designing REDD+ programs using a multi-stakeholder approach and also provide a mechanism for reporting on the social and environmental performance of REDD+ programs.

REDD+ SES consists of Principles, Criteria and Indicators (PCI). While the Principles and Criteria are consistent across countries, the Indicators are adaptable at country-level. The process for using REDD+ SES is informed by "Guidelines for the use of REDD+ SES at Country Level".

The Climate, Community & Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) and CARE International serve as the international secretariat of the REDD+ SES initiative with technical support from the Proforest Initiative. Countries currently participating in the REDD+ SES initiative include Brazil (State of Acre), Ecuador, Indonesia (Central Kalimantan), Nepal and Tanzania since 2010, and Guatemala, Liberia, Mexico, Indonesia (East Kalimantan), Peru (Region of San Martin) and Brazil (State of Amazonas) since 2012.

For more information, visit [www.redd-standards.org](http://www.redd-standards.org)

that the REDD+ SES initiative currently enjoys. The first workshop of the REDD+ SES initiative, which produced the first draft of Principles and Criteria, included a session on gender and REDD+. The session's goal was to enhance participants' awareness and understanding of the gender dimension of REDD+ and of the concepts of gender equality and women's rights in the context of REDD+. However, the general analysis did not address issues of gender differentiated roles, responsibilities, interests and rights at community level to the necessary extent. As a consequence, the first version of REDD+ SES Principles, Criteria and Indicators (PCI) released in June 2010, and the guidelines for using REDD+ SES at country level, were weak with respect to gender.

In February 2012, the REDD+ SES initiative began a comprehensive process of reviewing the REDD+ SES Principles, Criteria and Indicators (the content) and the guidelines for using REDD+ SES at country level (the process). This provided an excellent opportunity to strengthen the gender dimension of these two key elements of REDD+ SES: the content and the process. This led to a partnership between the REDD+ SES Secretariat and the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) to undertake a year-long action research project in four countries using REDD+ SES: State of Acre in Brazil, Ecuador, Nepal and Tanzania.

The partners identified in-depth country research as a necessary tool to understand context-specific issues that could form the basis of the recommendations to strengthen the gender dimension of the PCI and the guidelines. The partners also recognized that linking capacity building processes to the research would provide an opportunity to enhance the understanding and skills of the country-level facilitation teams to address gender considerations.

In addition to strengthening REDD+ SES, the information and learning generated by the action research ignited the development of practical guidance on how REDD+ programs could effectively address gender equality and the advancement of women's rights, primarily through the use of REDD+ SES. Further, the action research produced rich context-specific information that enhances a knowledge base that could lead to gender transformation within the forest sector, and provide lessons beyond it.

## **Gender and REDD+ SES action research methodology**

To further strengthen the gender dimension in the second version of the REDD+ SES, the partners identified an action research approach to move beyond conceptual discussions of gender equality issues and REDD+ and to focus specifically on elaborating the elements addressed in the standards.<sup>1</sup> Four main research questions drove the project:

- What are the barriers to women's full and effective participation in REDD+ governance/decision-making, and how might these be, or have these been, overcome?
- What are the potential positive and negative social impacts of REDD+ on interests/rights of women in the country?
- How is gender being addressed in the REDD+ national process in particular with respect to governance and social impacts?
- How is gender being addressed in forest-related projects in the country, in particular with respect to governance and social impacts, taking 1-2 projects as examples?

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<sup>1</sup>Rights to land and resources; equitable benefit-sharing; healthy livelihoods; good governance; enhanced biodiversity; full and effective participation; compliance with applicable laws and agreements

Between March and July 2012, the action research was conducted in four countries:<sup>2</sup> State of Acre in Brazil, Ecuador, Nepal and Tanzania. To address the questions in each country selected, WEDO and the REDD+ SES Secretariat implemented the following activities in collaboration with local partners, research associates and REDD+SES country facilitation teams:

- 3-day workshop with representatives from national and local women's organizations. One of the workshop's objectives was to identify gender differentiated access to and control of forest resources, traditional gender inequalities, and positive and negative impacts that REDD+ might have on the interests/rights of women. Using this baseline information, participants then identified gender specific issues that should be addressed by REDD+ SES.
- 1-day workshop with policy makers, and 2-3 representatives from the previous workshop, to present results from the 3-day workshop and expand the discussion on how to properly address the risks/opportunities for women in REDD+ in the country. This workshop also served to establish or further strengthen dialogue between policymakers and representatives from women's organizations.
- Site visits and stakeholder interviews in 1-2 communities where forestry projects or pilot programs have been developed. The interviews served to document grassroots women's perspectives on gender differentiated access and control of forest resources and traditional gender inequalities/discriminations they face, explore actions taken to address gender considerations in other projects, determine specific risks/opportunities for women in forest related (or REDD+) projects, and discuss actions they would like to see in future projects.

- Interviews with focal points such as government officials, major stakeholders, implementing partners and donors to determine the extent to which the gender dimension has been incorporated in initiatives at the national and local level.

While sharing a common methodology, the action research process in-country was tailored to each country's specific conditions for two important reasons. First, each country is in a different stage in their REDD+ process, and second, each country has different strengths and challenges related to the integration of gender equality and women's rights issues into their REDD+ processes. The end result of this tailoring of methodology was rich context-specific information, as WEDO obtained the information baselines for gender differentiated use and control of forest resources (Table 1); gender inequalities women face in issues related to forest conservation strategies (Table 2); and risks and opportunities for women in REDD+ (Table 3), and was then able to develop suggestions to address the gender dimension in each country's REDD+ SES process.



# Actions

**Build + Strengthen  
♀'s leadership +  
networks.**

STRENGTHEN WOMEN'S  
NETWORK

महिलाहरूको संजाल  
बालियो बनाउने

# Gender and REDD+







शक्ति का	१२ का	१	रुद्राक्ष	६ वटा
शक्ति का	१२ का	२	विट्ठल	४ का
शक्ति का	१२ का	३	कुवाडी रुद्राक्ष	२ वटा
शक्ति का	१२ का	४	सुन्दरी	३ वटा
शक्ति का	१२ का	५	मन्त्रादे	४ वटा
शक्ति का	१२ का	६	मन्त्रा	३ वटा
शक्ति का	१२ का	७	मन्त्रा	१ वटा
शक्ति का	१२ का	८	मन्त्रा	१ वटा



## Gender and REDD+

### Understanding the importance of gender considerations in REDD+ safeguards and standards







Safeguards and standards are critical for REDD+. Safeguards are generally created to protect against social and environmental damage or harm; hence gender sensitive safeguards are meant to avoid actions that would increase the gender gap or create new inequalities. In particular, these gender sensitive safeguards are meant to prevent situations that reinforce negative gender dynamics and norms and guard against new practices that may worsen relations between women and men, limit women's fulfillment and enjoyment of their rights, marginalize women or place them in a vulnerable position (for a definition of gender sensitive, see Box 2).

The REDD+ SES go a step further as they not only aim to protect from harm but also to enhance potential social and environmental benefits. REDD+ programs that follow gender sensitive standards will promote positive gender practices that can begin to influence attitudes and behaviors about women's and men's roles, rights and responsibilities and promote gender equality.

#### BOX 2: Gender sensitive: a definition

To be 'gender sensitive' is to understand and give consideration to socio-cultural norms and discriminations in order to acknowledge the different rights, roles and responsibilities of women and men in the community and the relationships between them. Gender sensitive policy, program, administrative and financial activities, and organizational procedures will: differentiate between the capacities, needs and priorities of women and men; ensure that the views and ideas of both women and men are taken seriously; consider the implications of decisions on the situation of women relative to men; and take actions to address inequalities or imbalance between women and men. (Definition provided by WEDO for Version 2 of the REDD+SES)

Gender sensitive standards should aim to:

-  Highlight both women's and men's unique role as forest stakeholders;
-  Improve how culture or society defines rights, responsibilities, and gender identities in relation to one another;
-  Promote changes in policies to address gender equality and women's rights;
-  Identify and modify decision-making structures to ensure that both women and men can fully and effectively participate;
-  Promote the development of sustainable projects that improve the livelihoods of both women and men;
-  Pay special attention to and address discrimination and gender inequalities at every stage to ensure that both women and men can realize and enjoy their political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights.

## What happens if the gender dimension is not taken into consideration by the standards?

A key approach to understanding the action research and, thus, this publication is to ask the question, “What happens if the gender dimension is not taken into consideration by the standards and safeguard systems and addressed by REDD+ programs?” The action research specifically addressed the question in the context of the REDD+ SES, and the question has two types of answers. First, any REDD+ program will not only face many challenges to success but will also exacerbate social, gender and economic inequalities if gender is not considered fully in all phases of planning and implementation. Second, countries will not fulfill commitments to international agreements that mandate the inclusion of gender in national programs, including REDD+. While implementation of these legal and normative frameworks may be slow, they do exist and must be upheld.<sup>3</sup>

### *Challenges to success*

In a gender-blind initiative, the gender dimension is not considered, leading to an incomplete picture of the situation being addressed and, consequently, to failure.<sup>4</sup> In a gender-blind REDD+ program it is likely that women are not recognized as major forest stakeholders, and as a result, the program will likely ignore women’s livelihoods, knowledge, needs and preferences and reinforce inequalities that prevent them from fully and effectively participating in the decision-making, design or implementation of the program.

### BOX 3: Possible negative outcomes of gender-blind REDD+ programs

A gender-blind program might:

- Negatively impact the livelihoods of women and their families by ignoring or undervaluing women as major forest stakeholders who manage, use, and benefit from the forest
- Contribute to marginalization of women’s expertise by failing to include, respond to and build upon women’s extensive knowledge of agroforestry practices, forest management and conservation techniques
- Miss out on diverse community forest management methods proven to be more effective than other management methods
- Increase the gender gap in forest communities and the forest sector, which is likely to have a negative impact on lives and livelihoods and lead to rejection and criticism of the program by both women and men
- Reinforce traditional inequalities identified in many communities, including access to and control of land and economic resources, and participation and influence in decision-making
- Worsen relationships between men and women particularly when benefits (social and economic) are not distributed equitably among all members of the community
- Lead to unsuccessful programs/projects and wasted/inefficient resources and/or investments

<sup>3</sup>A list of key agreements can be found in Module 2 of the GGCA Training Manual on Gender and Climate Change ([http://www.gender-climate.org/Content/Docs/Publications/A11\\_ggca\\_TrainingManualonGenderandClimateChange.pdf](http://www.gender-climate.org/Content/Docs/Publications/A11_ggca_TrainingManualonGenderandClimateChange.pdf)); list of CEDAW’s articles relevant to REDD+ can be found in IUCN-WEDO Forest and Gender Book (<http://www.wedo.org/library/new-publication-forests-and-gender>).

<sup>4</sup>Definition of gender-blind provided in decision (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/INF/12/Rev.1) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

If gender is not explicitly addressed in REDD+ programs, those programs will miss the opportunity to fully engage all stakeholders and fully benefit from and build on the existing knowledge base on forest issues. Programs that are gender-blind will also risk increasing gender inequalities, including those related to land/property ownership, tenure and rights; recognition of women as land users; full and effective participation, particularly in decision-making; receipt of benefits; and access and/or control of benefits. They also risk doing harm through funding decisions, project activities and norm-setting that do not recognize gender-differentiated use, access to and control of forest resources (see Box 3). The range of challenges will be explored in this publication, and practical suggestions to overcome or prevent them are presented in a set of checklists designed to aid implementation of REDD+ SES and other safeguards/standards systems (see Booklet 2).

### ***International legal instruments***

Countries have signed on to numerous multilateral environmental agreements in which gender equality has been recognized as a crucial crosscutting issue. From the Earth Summit in 1992, where Chapter 24 of Agenda 21<sup>5</sup> focused on women and sustainable development to the three Rio Conventions (Convention on Biodiversity (CBD)<sup>6</sup>, the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)<sup>7</sup>, and the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)<sup>8</sup>) there is a strong normative framework that promotes gender equality and women's rights in environmental/sustainable development issues. These conventions have recognized that the integration of gender into actions addressing biodiversity loss, climate change impacts and desertification maximizes the efficiency and effectiveness of interventions, efforts and resources spent and leads to gender sensitive policymaking with optimal outcomes. In the case of the UNFCCC, since 2009, there is a growing recognition by Parties from all regions that solutions to climate change require gender sensitive policies and programs. Recent decisions have incorporated the gender dimension, including sections on REDD+, in both the 2010 Cancun Agreements and the 2011 Durban Outcomes (Box 4). To complement the UNFCCC decisions, countries have committed to numerous agreements and declarations on gender equality and human rights.

#### **BOX 4 UNFCCC decisions that encourage Parties to address gender considerations in REDD+**

##### **In the 2010 Cancun Agreement (FCCC/CP/2010/7/Add.1**

##### **decision 1/CP.16 paragraph 72)**

"Also requests developing country Parties, when developing and implementing their national strategies or action plans, to address, inter alia, drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, land tenure issues, forest governance issues, **gender considerations** and the safeguards identified in paragraph 2 of annex I to this decision, ensuring the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, inter alia, indigenous peoples and local communities."

##### **In 2011 Durban Outcomes (FCCC/CP/2011/9/Add.2)**

"Agrees that systems for providing information on how the safeguards referred to in appendix I to decision 1/CP.16 are addressed and respected should, taking into account national circumstances and respective capabilities, and recognizing national sovereignty and legislation, and relevant international obligations and agreements, and respecting **gender considerations: (...)**"

<sup>5</sup>Full text of Agenda 21 can be found at <http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?documentid=52>

<sup>6</sup>Full text of CBD can be found at <http://www.cbd.int>

<sup>7</sup>Full text of UNFCCC can be found at <http://www.unfccc.int>

<sup>8</sup>Full text of UNCCD can be found at <http://www.unccd.int>



## Gender equality in REDD+SES: why focus on women?

Gender equality is achieved by promoting actions that provide equal rights, voice, responsibilities and opportunities for men and women across all aspects of life, in society, at work and in the home. Gender equality is an issue concerning both women and men, and engagement of both is integral to its achievement. Women are often the focus, including in this action research, for two primary reasons: (1) women have context-specific roles<sup>9</sup> as forest managers and practitioners that contribute to mitigation and adaption activities in their households, workplaces, communities and countries, and that tend to be overlooked by gender-blind initiatives, and (2) persistent and structural inequalities prevent women from full and effective involvement in forest programs.

### *The role of women in forest conservation and management*

Addressing conservation and sustainable use of forests requires a central focus on gender equality and the interlinked issues of biodiversity, sustainable development and climate change. Worldwide, both women and men are forest managers and primary users of forest biodiversity. Their unique knowledge, experience and leadership, both formal and informal, contribute to the management and conservation of forest ecosystems. Often as a result of cultural norms and social roles, women's lives and livelihoods can be highly dependent on and impacted by the health of their local ecosystems. This can lead to gender differentiated relationships to forests, for example:

- 🌿 Women and men's livelihood dependence on forests is different;
- 🌿 Women and men obtain different products and receive different benefits from forests;
- 🌿 Women and men have different knowledge, access to and control of forests; and
- 🌿 Women and men contribute in different ways to forest conservation and management.

Information from the action research (Table 1) and from several case studies<sup>10</sup> shows that women are important forest stakeholders that contribute to the success of forest-related initiatives with specific perspectives, knowledge and skills. Gender-blind initiatives that do not recognize this reality will continue reinforcing inequalities and will not achieve social, development or environmental benefits, especially at community level.



Photo: Andrea Quesada-Aguilar

<sup>9</sup>These roles are often as a result of socially constructed gender roles and expectations

<sup>10</sup>For more information see Aguilar, Quesada-Aguilar and Shaw. 2011. *Gender and Forests Book* (IUCN and WEDO)



**Table 1. Examples of the gender differentiated relationship with forests**

	State of Acre (Brazil)	Ecuador	Nepal	Tanzania
Gender differentiated activities in forests	<b>Women and men:</b> many activities are similar, but specific roles may differ: e.g., in brazil nut extraction, men collect nuts and women crack them	<b>Women:</b> activities related to maintaining households <b>Men:</b> labor intensive activities and forest monitoring	<b>Women:</b> forest product collection for household needs <b>Men:</b> logging, making decisions about forest activities and technical work	<b>Women and men:</b> many activities are similar, but <b>Women:</b> collect water and fuel wood <b>Men:</b> collect timber wood
Gender differentiated products obtained from forests	<b>Women:</b> medicinal plants used for home births <b>Men:</b> wood and game (from hunting)	<b>Women and men:</b> many products obtained are similar, but <b>Women:</b> seeds for handcrafts and non-forest timber products (NFTP) <b>Men:</b> wood	<b>Women:</b> NFTP for household needs <b>Men:</b> NFTP to sell, and game (from hunting)	<b>Women:</b> products for household use <b>Men:</b> products to use in economic activities
Gender differentiated benefits (cash and non cash) obtained from the forest	<b>Women and men:</b> receive cash and non-cash benefits from product exchanges <b>Men:</b> control the financial returns	<b>Women and men:</b> extract local products to sell <b>Women:</b> obtain non-cash benefits to improve their families' livelihoods <b>Men:</b> tend to sell and control money	<b>Women and men:</b> products sold for cash differ <b>Women:</b> responsible for agriculture and receive more benefits when water sources increase	<b>Women and men:</b> receive non-cash benefits <b>Women:</b> receive little money from selling products <b>Men:</b> receive money from selling products
Gender differentiated impact of forest loss	<b>Women and men:</b> impacts both but it has a different impact depending on resource <b>Women:</b> collect water, thus water loss affects them more	<b>Women and men:</b> effects include loss of resources (including NFTP), lack of work sources, loss of traditional medicine, and loss of family unity <b>Women:</b> increase in household labor requirements, lack of food security, and longer distances to collect water <b>Men:</b> lack of animals for hunting, and migration	<b>Women:</b> domestic work becomes time intensive, decrease in water resources, and reduced crop and other food production, including cattle <b>Men:</b> time intensive collection of products, limits employment opportunities from forest, migration of men in search of employment, and increased alcohol use/dependence due to stress from unemployment	<b>Women:</b> walk longer distance to fetch water and firewood, and lose areas to collect fruits and vegetables <b>Men:</b> no production of timber, firewood, honey, medicine, and log extraction, which decreases their income
Gender differentiated effects of forest conservation	<b>Women and men:</b> positive impact as it secures natural resources access, increases income, and improves quality of life	<b>Women and men:</b> can have a negative effect if it affects income <b>Women:</b> can have a negative effect on agricultural practices, food security and family welfare	<b>Women and men:</b> increased food security <b>Women:</b> breaking traditional boundaries and personal development <b>Men:</b> increased income generation opportunities	N/A (not discussed)

Examples are outcomes of a discussion session held during workshops from March to July 2012.



## Gender Inequalities

Discrimination and inequalities exist in all countries and communities. Inequalities are based on age, ethnicity, geography, ability, socio-economic status, among others, and the nature of and strength of the impact of a particular inequality on a person further depends on various factors, *including gender*. Inequalities are rarely singular and often build on each other. It is crucial for environmental programs to recognize and take steps to address the compounding nature of inequalities.

Gender inequalities are an important aspect of these social inequalities, and millions of women around the world live in societies that impose barriers to the full realization and enjoyment of their rights. These issues are not new, and environmental initiatives have long recognized that if gender inequalities are not properly addressed at the beginning and at every stage, the success and sustainability of the initiative can be jeopardized. REDD+ national programs, strategies and projects are no exception. REDD+ cannot effectively address all existing gender inequalities, but all inequalities need to be identified from the beginning. REDD+ program designers and program implementers must evaluate the country- and context-specific situations to determine which gender and other inequalities are most relevant to the process and which can be addressed. The action research identified some key gender inequalities relevant to REDD+ (Box 5).

Gender inequalities impact societies, populations, communities and individuals; decision makers need to pay special attention to how these inequalities affect women. Table 2 shows the results of a detailed analysis of the barriers women face in terms of access to and control over forest-related resources in the four action research countries. These barriers need to be acknowledged and addressed by the REDD+ process in each country and serve as guidance to other countries as they identify specific barriers in their own context.

### BOX 5: Gender inequalities relevant to REDD+

Women tend to lack or have less:

- Land/property ownership, tenure and rights
- Recognition as forest stakeholders and land users
- Full and effective participation, particularly in decision-making
- Receipt of benefits
- Access to and/or control of benefits



Photo: Andrea Quesada-Aguilar


**Table 2. Inequalities in terms of women's access to and control over forest-related resources**

"Do women have . . ."	State of Acre (Brazil)	Ecuador	Nepal	Tanzania
Access to forest resources ?	<b>YES:</b> rely on it for survival	<b>YES:</b> to support their families and communities	<b>YES:</b> extract many resources	<b>YES:</b> collect many products
Control over cash generated by activities in the forest?	<b>NO:</b> sales and financial management done by men	<b>YES:</b> as long as cash comes from sale of products or handcrafts <b>NO:</b> (larger-scale) sales and financial management done by men <b>NO:</b> in benefit-sharing schemes, such as PES, it has been documented that in both private and community modalities payments are made to men	<b>NO:</b> men tend to make decisions about cash	<b>VARIES:</b> based on location: in some villages women control cash from resources they sell; in others men control cash
Opportunity to own land or forests?	<b>YES:</b> when sufficient financial resources	<b>NO:</b> because they do not receive inheritance according to traditional community governance systems; few exceptions	<b>YES:</b> can own private lands and Forest Act gives women user rights	<b>NO:</b> face many challenges to owning land
Access to and control over tools and equipment?	<b>YES:</b> simple tools, but not specialized or mechanized equipment	<b>NO:</b> tools and equipment are used for men's work	<b>YES:</b> simple tools but not machines or vehicles	<b>YES:</b> can use all tools
Access to and control over new technologies?	<b>NO:</b> have limited technology	<b>NO:</b> men have access to training and formal education; most men control internet and cell phones	<b>YES:</b> local technologies available for rural areas <b>NO:</b> high tech instruments	<b>YES:</b> in urban areas but limited in rural areas <b>NO:</b> they do not have control of phones
Access to and control over credit?	<b>NO:</b> law that confers credit rights is recent and needs to be enforced	<b>YES:</b> through development banks <b>NO:</b> complicated through traditional bank system	<b>YES:</b> can obtain credit without mortgage <b>NO:</b> not involved in decision-making	<b>YES:</b> access to some loans <b>NO:</b> limiting conditions imposed by income generating institutions
Opportunities to participate in forest related activities?	<b>YES:</b> as part of community organizations <b>NO:</b> many cannot go to the city for meetings regarding forest programs/ projects	<b>YES:</b> can be involved in some activities and serve on the boards, but their family support influences the degree greatly	<b>YES:</b> spend most of their time in the forest	<b>NO:</b> some activities are difficult for women, but it depends on the activities



**Table 2. Inequalities in terms of women's access to and control over forest-related resources (continued)**

"Do women have..."	State of Acre (Brazil)	Ecuador	Nepal	Tanzania
Invitations to participate in forest projects?	<b>YES:</b> to communal organizations	<b>YES:</b> involved, but usually when there are no monetary benefits	<b>YES:</b> but only sometimes, especially when there is no cash remuneration; women-led organizations are neglected	<b>YES:</b> some women are in the natural resource committee
Opportunity and time to participate in forest projects?	<b>YES:</b> when projects are undertaken in the communities	<b>NO:</b> because of many daily chores, they cannot participate	<b>NO:</b> economic problems, lack education and skills, and there are social restrictions	<b>YES:</b> because they arrange time for it

Information provided by participants during workshops held in the four countries between March and July 2012.

A primary goal in making the REDD+ process gender sensitive is to decrease the gender gap: transforming gender stereotypes, especially as they pervade the forestry sector; empowering local women as decision-makers and rights-holders and contributing to the enhancement of local livelihoods. Policymakers and program/project designers and implementers should recognize and take this goal into account.

The rights of indigenous communities, local forest dwellers, and women deeply dependent upon forests for their lives and livelihoods must be not only safeguarded – but championed. Particularly from a gender perspective, REDD+ safeguards and standards must rigorously identify, analyze and pose solutions for empowering women and upholding international and national-level mandates for gender equality and human rights (Box 6). It is important to consider and address potential conflicts that may be perceived, e.g., between the enforcement of women's rights

and other rights or between interests of women and other groups that may marginalize women's needs and preferences. Without doing so, REDD+ schemes will not only fail, but they will do far more harm than good.

Booklet 2 provides a checklist of "essential actions" for REDD+ programs to effectively meet the standards and champion gender issues. These core actions are divided into two categories: those designed to help understand the importance of the gender dimension and those intended to create a gender sensitive process. However, in order for a REDD+ program to be considered gender transformative,<sup>11</sup> it must not only incorporate the core actions but also consider specific issues relevant to safeguards and standards, for example land tenure, benefit-sharing mechanisms or livelihood security.

<sup>11</sup>A gender transformative framework will recognize that gender is central to promoting equality and achieving positive development outcomes. It takes on the task of transforming unequal gender relations to promote shared power, control of resources, decision-making, and support for women's empowerment (Adapted from Eckman, A, 2002 by United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women [INSTRAW])

## Box 6. Human Rights

The REDD+ SES defines “rights holders” in the context of REDD+: “Rights holders are those whose rights are potentially affected by the REDD+ program, including holders of individual rights and Indigenous Peoples and others who hold collective rights.” In relation to rights holders are duty bearers, who “have an obligation to ensure respect, protection and fulfillment of rights.” In a human rights-based approach, each human being is a rights holder whose universal human rights must be guaranteed; States are considered the principal duty bearers but non-state entities are also duty bearers. Human rights are civil, political, economic, social and cultural and are recognized in two legally binding Covenants: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), among others. Additional agreements - though not legally binding - form international customary law: inter alia, the Beijing Platform for Action, the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

The multiple conventions and agreements sometimes are seen as making competing demands on national capacity and priorities. The REDD+ SES and other programs can encourage policymakers and implementers to view policies and initiatives through an intersectional gender lens when addressing distinct rights, which helps to understand the role of women within cultures and as rights holders in their varied communities.

## Potential risks and opportunities for women in REDD+

Through each of the phases of the REDD+, both positive and negative social impacts could occur. As part of the action research, a workshop exercise provided participants with information on the potential phases of the REDD+ process – Readiness, Policies and Measures, and Implementation – and asked them to identify probable gender differentiated risks and opportunities in each phase. Table 3 shows a summary of the information obtained in each of the countries.<sup>12</sup>

*Participants in all countries recognized the changing nature of risks and opportunities. They acknowledged that if REDD+ programs are well-designed to include the gender dimension, then risks can sometimes transform into opportunities and contribute to a more sustainable program; however, participants were also concerned that potential benefits could quickly revert into risks if the plans, policies and actions associated with the REDD+ program are gender-blind and not inclusive, transparent or gender responsive.*



**Table 3<sup>13</sup>. Risks (if program is not gender sensitive) and Opportunities (if program is gender sensitive) in 3 phases of REDD+ Program, as identified in State of Acre, Brazil (A); Ecuador (E); Nepal (N) and Tanzania (T).**

**Readiness Phase**

A	E	N	T		Risks	Opportunities	A	E	N	T
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Lack of capacity and knowledge about REDD+	Capacity building	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		No participation of women or ineffective participation	Availability of resources and services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Lack of confidence and support to get involved in activities	Alternative income generating opportunities for women's groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Lack of resources (poverty, technology)	Communication strategies incorporate language used by women	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Discriminatory traditions and customs	Establish women's network	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Weak women's networks	Empowerment and leadership development of women	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Lack of information (e.g., dissemination methods that are not gender sensitive)	Participation of women in design, structure and processes of REDD+ strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Women's traditional knowledge not taken into account	Incorporate gender into strategies and processes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Women excluded from planning and consultations	Build institutional capacity to work with gender issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Women not recognized as a forest stakeholder	Evaluation of REDD+ activities from a gender perspective	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Gender sensitive policies, or policies that ensure women's rights, are not implemented	Gender analysis of national capacities related to forests	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Women lack time	Women recognized as forest stakeholders	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Processes occur quickly and do not incorporate gender dimension					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Few empowered women and many activities and meetings they need to attend					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		No dialogue between rural women and indigenous peoples					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Lack of sex disaggregated data to inform readiness					

Information provided by participants during workshops held between March and July 2012.

<sup>13</sup>Participants in the women's workshops in each country themselves identified the risks and opportunities presented here, in Table 3. The specific risk or opportunity was generated within each country; therefore, if a country lacks an 'x', it only indicates that participants did not generate the idea.



## Policies and Measures Phase

A E N T				Risks	Opportunities	A E N T			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	New polices and laws that are not gender sensitive and do not advance gender equality	Inclusion of women in decision-making positions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Conflicts between laws	Creation of a women's development fund or option for women to receive funds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Distribution of benefits is gender blind and women do not receive benefits	Laws and policies on land rights and use benefit both men and women	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Women are not aware of polices and laws related to their rights	Review of laws related to REDD+ to ensure they are gender sensitive	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gender equality and gender sensitive policies are not properly implemented	Possibility for women to acquire new skills and technologies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Women's limited involvement in policy making	Promote women's awareness of payment for environmental services (PES)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Women continue without land ownership and/or unrecognized user's rights	Women become involved in carbon trade	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Increased workload for women	Women become aware of rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
					Involvement of women and men in design of benefit distribution system	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
					Design a gender sensitive benefit distribution system	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
					Recognize and value women's household work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
					Gender budgeting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Information provided by participants during workshops held between March and July 2012.





## Implementation Phase

A	E	N	T		Risks		Opportunities		A	E	N	T
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Benefit distribution system does not reach women		Capacity building and awareness raising for women		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Poor community support for women to be involved		Alternative energy forms available to women		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Women are not motivated to participate		Knowledge and skills acquired by next generation (girls)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Women cannot access forest resources		Increased sources of income and improved livelihoods		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Changes in land tenure negatively affect women's use or rights		Measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) ensures at least 50% women's participation and involvement		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Structure of community does not allow for the enjoyment of women's rights		More employment opportunities for women in technical fields		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		No possibility for women to sell products from their activities related to REDD+		Recognition of women's contribution to forest conservation and sustainable use		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Women do not have access to professional training or technical positions							
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Displacement of women							
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Women uninformed about measurement, reporting and verification (MRV)							
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Gender sensitive policies or gender equality policies are not implemented							
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Women are not in key posts in committees							

Information provided by participants during workshops held between March and July 2012.

## Action research outcomes from State of Acre, Ecuador, Tanzania and Nepal

As described earlier, the action research aimed to answer four key questions related to REDD+ SES: what are the barriers to women's participation; what are the potential positive and negative social impacts on interests/rights of women; how is gender being addressed in terms of governance in the national process; and how is gender being addressed in forest-related projects? Answers to these questions formed the information baselines and guided the suggestions that action research participants put forth to address gender considerations in REDD+ and REDD+SES. Furthermore, this information was the foundation upon which WEDO based its recommendations to strengthen the gender dimension of the second version of the REDD+ SES.

### *Enabling conditions and the “triple yes”*

In the four countries, the suggestions to fully address the gender dimensions in REDD+ varied greatly. For example, in Nepal suggestions included how to mainstream gender in the national Indicators, while in the other countries, more general suggestions addressed how to include the gender dimension in the REDD+ national process (for details, see country information below). One of the key lessons learned from the action research was that the likelihood of achieving the implementation of gender sensitive policies – and sustainability of the process – was greater if the country possessed a specific combination of variables, or enabling conditions. The presence of the enabling conditions also corresponded to the level of sophistication of the action research outputs: from a basic identification of priority issues




to be reflected by the standards, to gender issues that need to be addressed under each principle, to specific gender sensitive country Indicators (Figure 1). The articulation of specific gender sensitive Indicators that will be included in the country REDD+ safeguard system is an unprecedented step – and a crucial one – to develop gender transformative REDD+ programs.

Based on the action research experience, WEDO identified three main enabling conditions necessary for the implementation of gender sensitive policies and the establishment of a transformative agenda to advance gender equality in the countries through climate change initiatives. WEDO calls this specific combination the **“triple yes.”**

The **“triple yes”** framework can be considered an initial step to assess enabling conditions for future implementation of gender sensitive policies. Assessing the **“triple yes”** can also serve as a gap analysis that can guide countries in their development efforts.

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### *The “triple yes” framework looks at the presence and strength of:*

-  Gender sensitive policies and political willingness;
  -  Women's networks (grassroots and professional);<sup>14</sup>
  -  Technical capacities and knowledge among government and key stakeholders.
-

The assessment of the “triple yes” that follows is based on the enabling conditions experienced and analyzed by the lead researcher in this project and the final action research outputs in the four countries. The analysis presented here is a snapshot of the country situation, as interpreted by the lead researcher and based on the action research methodology, with input from in-country colleagues.<sup>15</sup> This assessment primarily drew on information obtained from the interviews with government and civil society focal points and with women in rural areas where projects related to forest conservation were developed. Results of the workshops also supported these preliminary observations. Table 4 shows a comparison of the “triple yes” components with each of the four countries visited; and the individual case studies that follow give a more in-depth description of each country’s components.

As shown in Table 4 among the four countries, Nepal appears to be an exceptional case: it exhibits more than a “triple yes”. It not only has strong women’s

networks, but it also has a women’s network that specializes in natural resource management. In terms of policies, Nepal has strong gender policies, political willingness, gender plans of action for both the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, a gender and climate change national strategy and specific gender equality policies regarding community forests. Lastly, with regard to capacities and knowledge, the country has a tradition of exploring the links between gender and environment, to the point where both professional and grassroots women have knowledge of the gender considerations of forestry and REDD+. The end result was that, in Nepal, the action research produced specific suggestions to include the gender dimension in REDD+ SES country Indicators. It is important to mention that in other countries, inputs from the action research will be considered for mainstreaming and strengthening the gender dimension, as can be seen in Figure 1, but it was surprising that participants and researchers in Nepal were able to generate such specific suggestions in a limited timeframe.



**Table 4. Progress toward the “Triple Yes” in the action research countries. Countries that received X demonstrated characteristics that fulfilled the enabling condition. Countries that received XX demonstrated enabling conditions that include specific actions to link gender and environmental issues.**

Country	Women’s Networks	Policies and Political Willingness	Capacities and Knowledge
<b>State of Acre (Brazil)</b>	X	X	
<b>Ecuador</b>		X	X
<b>Nepal</b>	X X	X X	X X
<b>Tanzania</b>	X	X X	X

Evaluation of the “triple yes” was done by external observers and was based mainly on information obtained from interviews with government and civil society focal points and with women in rural areas where projects related to forest conservation were developed. Information from the workshops also supported these preliminary observations.

<sup>15</sup>Detailed country analysis can be found in the country reports that will be available online at [www.wedo.org](http://www.wedo.org).

Results from Nepal support the notion that investing in the **“triple yes,”** can help countries comply with mandates and ensure that their climate change policies and strategies, such as the REDD+ program, are gender sensitive. To achieve the “triple yes,” countries should first assess their national situation and then propose concrete ideas how to create these enabling conditions. By doing so, a country will facilitate successful implementation of gender sensitive international policies and commitments and engage in fundamental steps to ensure that gender equality becomes a lived reality for billions of women worldwide.

It is important to acknowledge that even though the “triple yes” can steer countries in the right direction, implementation gaps occur for a great variety of reasons. However, governments and civil society can turn good policy into practice if a comprehensive implementation process is carried out in country. This process should first focus on the existence of certain enabling conditions (**“triple yes”**). Once these conditions have been identified and strengthened, the next step is to propose a series of actions at different levels—from an overall strategic action plan to carry out a gender responsive country process of interpretation and implementation of the policies to a series of on ground efforts or projects to implement and achieve the goals identified in the strategic plan. The objective of the entire process is to lead to gender transformation of the forest sector.



Photo: Andrea Quesada-Aguilar

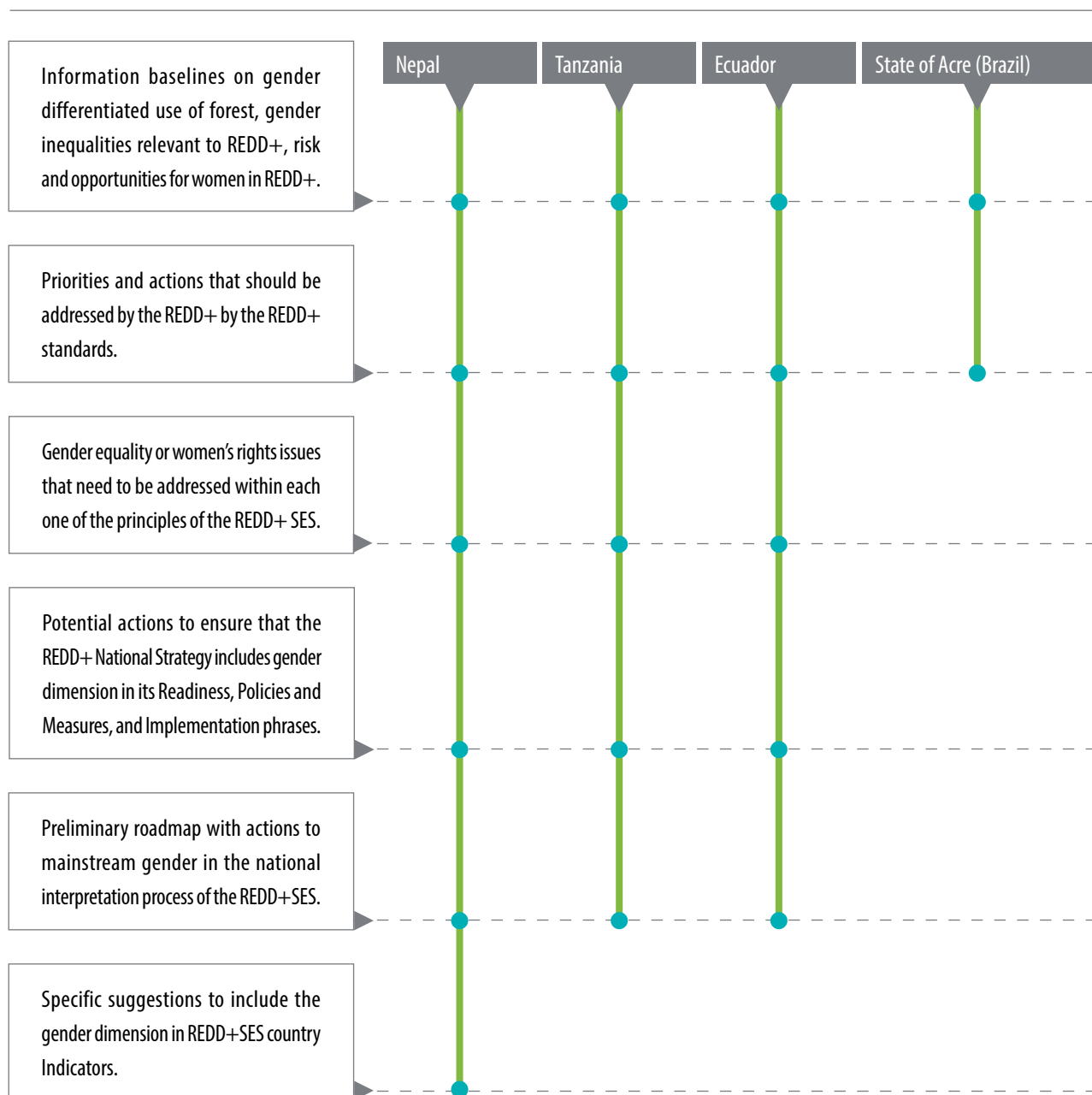


Photo: Andrea Quesada-Aguilar





**Figure 1. Main outcomes of the action research in the 4 countries. Outcomes are a combination of information obtained and actions and suggestions proposed to address gender considerations in the REDD+ program and the REDD+ SES.**



# Country Case Studies









## State of Acre, Brazil

### REDD+ and REDD+ SES Status<sup>16</sup>

The State of Acre is developing a REDD+ program under the System of Incentives for Environmental Services (SISA) that was established by state law in October 2010. The Institute for Climate Change (IMC) of the State Government of Acre is the government institution coordinating all efforts regarding the SISA and REDD+.

With regards to the REDD+ SES process, the State of Acre has developed its country specific Indicators, which were reviewed and approved by State Commission for Monitoring and Evaluation (CEVA), and has developed its monitoring plan for the assessment of the performance of the SISA Program, which will be reviewed by CEVA.

### Description of Action Research

The action research in Brazil was conducted in the State of Acre in collaboration with the IMC of the State Government of Acre. WEDO was supported by a local research associate, who is both coordinator of the Rede Acreana de Mulheres e Homens (RAMH) and State Coordinator for Validation and Monitoring SISA. In addition, representatives from CARE Brazil and the CARE HIMA pilot project in Tanzania, supported field visits and workshops.

#### **Activities:**

- 3-day technical workshop with 17 participants, including civil society and government professionals, researchers, grassroots and indigenous women and men

- Subsequent 1-day workshop with 25 participants, including 5 participants from previous workshop and representatives from government, civil society and academic institutions
- 11 interviews with grassroots women from Brasília, Nova Bonal and Cachoeira Reserve
- 7 interviews with representatives from the government, civil society, indigenous peoples and research institutions

### Key outcomes of the action research

- Suggestions and identification of potential actions to incorporate gender equality and women's rights in the REDD+ SES Principles, Criteria and Indicators, especially regarding land tenure, benefit distribution, women's livelihoods, biodiversity, participation and policies;
- Initial text edits to state Indicators, including, for example, using the term "both women and men" in Indicators.

### Gender Sensitive Policies and Political Willingness

#### **Gender Sensitive Policies**

Strong policies meant to advance gender equality and laws that promote and protect women's rights are found both at the national and state level. Since 2000, the country of Brazil has taken specific



measures to address gender inequalities through, for example, policies that address land tenure issues, rural women's rights, access to credit and domestic violence. At the state level, the State of Acre has engaged in these efforts and created a secretariat to work on policies for women, including a focal point to work on women's policies in several municipalities. The state has focused on domestic violence and also created an institution that promotes affirmative action for women of low income, offers courses for income generation and provides medical and psychological care to victims of violence.

There are no specific policies or a defined agenda to link gender, environmental, and climate change issues at the policy level.

### ***Political Willingness***

Interviews with representatives from both the women's rights and the environmental sector revealed that there is interest and willingness to explore the link between gender and environmental issues, particularly related to climate change. However, prior to the action research these two sectors had not formally collaborated, thus the action research provided an opportunity to highlight the importance of the gender dimension in the environmental sector, build capacities of both sectors and open a dialogue between the institutions. Several interviewees suggested that payment for environmental services initiatives should pay special attention to indigenous women's rights and outline actions to improve their livelihoods.

In the State of Acre, several important allies, such as the State Secretariat for Women's Policies and the Coordinating Body for Women (Secretaria de Estado de Políticas para Mulheres y Coordenadoria de la

Mulher,) are in place that can help to ensure the gender dimension is properly addressed, and efforts should involve the State of Acre's research institution, municipalities, rural syndicates and the indigenous people network.

### ***Gender and the REDD+ state process***

The State of Acre is developing a REDD+ program under the System of Incentives for Environmental Services (SISA). Links between gender and forests were not clear and the SISA process did not initially include gender dimension. The action research helped to initiate a relationship between the Institute for Climate Change and the Secretariat for Women's Policies to begin addressing gender issues in the SISA process.

### ***Women's Networks***

The State of Acre has a very strong women's network to address domestic violence and improve women's income generating activities. The network has a center that offers support to victims, with services including counseling, childcare and courses on income generating activities. An indigenous women's network focuses on indigenous women's rights and protecting and valuing their traditional knowledge and practices.

Although a women and environment network does not yet exist in the State of Acre, this type of platform could be easily formed building on the existing women's networks and Acre's consolidated research institute (Grupo de Pesquisa e Extensão em Sistemas Agroflorestais do Acre/PESACRE) that has worked with gender issues. Such a platform could also draw from its strong rural syndicates that have worked on land reform actions and environmental restoration and extractive reserves<sup>17</sup> run by cooperatives that include both women and men.

<sup>17</sup>Extractive Reserve: natural area used by traditional populations where they carry out activities that ensure the sustainable use of natural resources, such as the extraction of natural resources, subsistence agriculture and small animals rearing. Protected by the government, this conservation area allows public visitation and scientific research. Based on definition provided by the Ministry of Environment of Brazil: <http://www.mma.gov.br/areas-protegidas/unidades-de-conservacao/categorias>



Photo: Andrea Quesada-Aguilar

## Capacities and Knowledge

In terms of knowledge and capacities, the State of Acre has an advantage because its research institute (PESACRE) has successfully worked on natural resource management projects that include a gender perspective. PESACRE has a well-defined protocol that could serve as a model for future forest conservation/sustainable use projects.

To further build capacities and knowledge among local populations, civil society organizations, researchers and policymakers, future initiatives could provide capacity building options to increase local knowledge about the payment for environmental services system in Acre, as well as the link between gender and environmental issues. The state has professional and local experts on some of these topics, and the process could be easily fostered. It would require a formal process that not only brings

these experts together but also involves a facilitator that can guide the establishment of the links.

The action research demonstrated that in order to produce gender sensitive Indicators that could be included in the monitoring plan developed for the social and environmental standards for SISA, a comprehensive and continued capacity building process needs to be established. This capacity building process would require that knowledge on climate change, REDD+ and safeguards is consistently shared with the stakeholders so that they could start identifying the gender issues that need to be included in the standards. This capacity building process can be part of the assessment, demonstration and communication tool that has been developed to monitor social and environmental performance of SISA and its compliance with the REDD+ SES Principles and Criteria.



## Ecuador

### REDD+ and REDD+ SES Status<sup>18</sup>

The Ministry of the Environment (MAE) is leading the process to develop the National REDD+ Program. One of the cross-cutting components of the National REDD+ Program consists of ensuring additional social and environmental benefits in the implementation of the mechanism. Ecuador is a UN-REDD country that approved its REDD+ Joint National Plan in 2011.

Ecuador completed the development of country-specific Indicators and piloted the application of REDD+ SES to the Socio Bosque Program,<sup>19</sup> before scaling up to the REDD+ Program. The Indicators have been reviewed based on the comments received and a monitoring plan is being developed for the REDD+ Program.

### Description of Action Research

The action research in Ecuador was conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador (MAE), CARE Ecuador and Conservation International (CI) Ecuador. The representatives from each have been leading the REDD+ SES country process in Ecuador and supported the lead author throughout the project.

#### **Activities:**

- 3-day technical workshop with 29 participants, including civil society, United Nations and government professionals, and grassroots and indigenous women and men

- Subsequent 1-day stakeholders' workshop with 18 participants, including 5 participants from the previous workshop and representatives from government, civil society and academic institutions
- 8 interviews with grassroots women from Socio Bosque Program in Campo Cocha and Tamayura communities
- 9 interviews with representatives from the government, United Nations and civil society

### Key outcomes of the action research

- Identification of potential actions to ensure that the National REDD+ Program includes the gender dimension in its Readiness, Policies and Measures, and Implementation phases;
- Identification of gender equality or women's rights issues that need to be addressed within each one of the Principles of the REDD+ SES;
- A preliminary plan of action to address gender considerations in REDD+ SES;
- National dialogue on how to incorporate lessons learned from action research to address gender considerations in Ecuador National Safeguards Information System.

<sup>18</sup>Information about REDD+ status is time-sensitive and changes quickly.

<sup>19</sup>The Socio Bosque Program is an incentive-based policy for forest conservation led by the Ecuadorian government, and a component of the National REDD+ Program. For more information, visit [www.ambiente.gob.ec](http://www.ambiente.gob.ec)

## Gender Sensitive Policies and Political Willingness

### *Gender Sensitive Policies*

Ecuador has well-developed gender equality policies and measures promoting equity. These policies tend to focus on women's rights issues such as the care economy, recognition of women's labor, domestic violence and gender budgeting. The National Plan for Good Living (Plan Nacional para el Buen Vivir) includes a section that focuses on the improvement of sexual and reproductive health rights. Some initiatives make efforts to link gender and environmental issues, such as the, "Political Meeting of Diverse Rural Women for Good Living and Food Sovereignty", but at the moment Ecuador has no specific gender sensitive environmental policies.

Ecuador hosts the UN Women Andean Regional Office in Quito, and the Ministry of Environment has a gender focal point. The national women's mechanism is in transition, and the government has established a special commission called "Comisión de Transición hacia el Consejo de las Mujeres y la Igualdad de Género" as the main body to oversee the transition. During the project interviews, the commission expressed that it is planning to develop and broaden the agenda of the women's mechanism in the near future, which offers a window of opportunity to incorporate a focus on environmental issues.

### *Political Willingness*

Interviews with representatives from both the women's rights and the environmental sector revealed that there is interest and willingness to explore the link between gender and environmental issues, particularly related to climate change.

Going a step further, one of the government officials from the MAE interviewed expressed the desire for concrete guidance on how to effectively address the gender dimension in forest projects currently being developed in the country.

Overall, gender was regarded as an important issue, but proposals for concrete actions are necessary in order to address the gender dimension fully. Past experiences in the forest sector, particularly with the REDD+SES, have shown that while gender arose in discussions as an important crosscutting issue, the participatory process of interpretation of the Indicators did not mainstream gender because other issues were considered higher priority.

### *Gender and the REDD+ national process*

Initially, gender was identified as an important issue when developing the REDD+ SES country Indicators. The gender dimension was never properly addressed; however, due to an overload of topics that needed to be addressed. The action research helped highlight the importance of addressing the gender dimension in their National REDD+ Program and the REDD+ SES country Indicators and reinforced the relationship between the Ministry of Environment; Ministry of Agriculture; and the Secretariat of the Indigenous Peoples, Social Movements and Civil Society Organizations.



## Women's Networks

The country has developed strong policies regarding women's rights issues. Several NGOs in Ecuador have a long trajectory of working with gender and environmental issues, and some of these organizations are currently working with climate change and REDD+. These NGOs could be an important starting point for the establishment of a women and environment network that can be involved in climate change and forest policies, strategies and projects.

Interviews revealed that Ecuador has had a strong women's network on environmental issues, which was not only involved in activism but also published several academic papers on the issues. Any future efforts to strengthen women's networks to continue the work on environmental issues, particularly climate change and REDD+, should analyze the main challenges or barriers to the work and sustainability of these networks. Once these challenges are identified it would be important to establish a plan of support to ensure that the network has the appropriate resources to engage in a long-term process.

## Capacities and Knowledge

Ecuador is one of the countries with a relatively vast knowledge base on the link between gender and environmental issues. The country demonstrates a strong academic background in the subject and has developed several projects in natural resource management and conservation that have successfully mainstreamed gender. As a result, professionals and people in the communities visited have some level of both academic and field capacities and knowledge. One of the field sites visited included a conservation area in which women were actively involved in many non-traditional activities such as tourism, medicinal plant extraction, improvement of agricultural practices

and environmental education. Institutions that work with women's issues did not have a broad knowledge of environmental issues or climate change; however, they did express interest in building their capacities and becoming involved with the issues.

Ecuador has the potential to contribute best practices methodology to other countries as it has developed strong methodologies to ensure that the REDD+ SES processes were carried out using a participatory approach. Another potential contribution that Ecuador can provide is a platform to explore the gender issues within a multicultural society.



Photo: Andrea Quesada-Aguilar



## REDD+ and REDD+ SES Status<sup>20</sup>

In Nepal, the institution responsible for the REDD+ process is the Nepal REDD Cell of the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation. Nepal is implementing REDD+ through an engagement with the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), which began in 2008. The REDD Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) was assessed in July 2010, and a revised R-PP was then submitted to the FCPF in October 2010. Nepal is currently developing several strategies and is engaging in the implementation of strategies and investments through piloting REDD+ activities. Nepal does not have a National REDD+ Strategy to date; however, it will be developed over the next few years following its commission by a USAID-funded project, Hariyo Ban, and other relevant pilot projects on REDD+ at the sub-national scale. Nepal has also joined the UN-REDD Programme as an observer country.

Nepal developed its REDD+ SES country-specific Indicators and developed a monitoring plan that will be reviewed and approved by the REDD+ SES Standards Committee. The assessment will likely be carried out in the REDD+ Piloting Area.

### Description of Action Research

In Nepal, the work was done in close collaboration with the Nepal REDD Cell of the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation. The REDD Cell selected a government focal point to support the action research process, as well as a local research associate to provide logistical and field support. As Nepal has a history of strong women's networks, WEDO engaged

more deeply with a partner organization in the region, Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN), which has years of experience on gender and REDD+ issues. Given the advanced state of REDD+ in Nepal and the knowledge and networks of WOCAN and the research associate, the action research expanded its activities; it included more contact with grassroots women and the development and provision of concrete suggestions for the REDD+ SES country Indicators. Nepal is the first country to develop these gender sensitive Indicators for REDD+ standards.

#### *Activities:*

- 3-day technical workshop with 32 participants, including civil society, development partners and government professionals, researchers, grassroots and indigenous women and men
- Subsequent 1-day workshop with 18 participants, including 4 participants from the previous workshop and representatives from government, civil society and academic institutions
- 11 interviews with grassroots women from four community forests in Chitwan and Gorkha
- 8 interviews with representatives from government and civil society
- 3 sessions with Women Leading for Change in Natural Resources (WLCN), a professional women's network, to develop concrete suggestions for the REDD+ SES country Indicators

## Key outcomes of the action research

- Identification of potential actions to ensure that the REDD+ National Strategy includes the gender dimension in its Readiness, Policies and Measures, and Implementation phases;
- Identification of lessons learned: good practices and challenges faced by forest projects;
- Identification of gender equality or women's rights issues that need to be addressed within each one of the Principles of the REDD+ SES;
- A preliminary roadmap with actions to mainstream gender in the country-level interpretation of Indicators process of the REDD+SES;
- Specific suggestions to include the gender dimension in REDD+ SES country Indicators.

## Gender Sensitive Policies and Political Willingness

### *Gender Sensitive Policies*

Nepal has a series of laws and policies to promote women's rights and address gender inequalities, which include ensuring that women have land rights and opportunities to participate in decision-making, reducing gender-based violence, recognizing women's work and promoting economic empowerment. Nepal stands out among the four country cases due to its strong and specific gender sensitive environment and forestry laws, policies and commitments. For example, the Guidelines for Community Forestry Development Programme developed by the Government of Nepal, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation ensure 50% representation of women in all structures associated with community forests and also include an option for women-only community forests. The Federation of Community Forest Users (FECOFUN) has implemented this policy across all of the community forests. REDD+ Pilot Projects being implemented by the International Centre for Integrated

Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources (ANSAB) and FECOFUN, with financial support from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), have specific policies to ensure that women are receiving benefits. Lastly, the Social Welfare Council established the Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resource Management Association (HIMAWANTI) to create a platform that provides an opportunity for women from different districts to discuss resource management policies and practices, share their respective situations and evolve appropriate strategies.

The Ministry of Environment of Nepal has also developed a gender and climate change national strategy that includes a section on forests. However, while workshop participants acknowledged and appreciated Nepal's strong policies, they underscored that implementation is the greatest challenge and more research is needed to understand the barriers to this implementation.

### *Political Willingness*

The importance of addressing gender considerations in forest conservation and natural resource management has long been recognized in Nepal. Interviews with both government and civil society institutions working on environmental issues revealed a strong commitment to incorporate gender equality and women's rights in new initiatives. Likewise, institutions working with women's issues recognized the importance of working on environmental initiatives, particularly those regarding natural resource management and climate change. The challenge in Nepal is to transform this political willingness into a transparent and inclusive process with concrete actions to involve all of these institutions and networks, and to continue supporting gender mainstreaming in all national initiatives related to climate change, particularly the REDD+ Strategy.

## *Gender and the REDD+ national process*

Several of the women's networks have a long trajectory of advocating for the inclusion of the gender dimension in both the REDD+ National Strategy and the REDD+ SES country process. In the REDD+ SES process women were recognized as a separate stakeholder represented by HIMAWANTI. The action research built specific capacities and skills within women's networks, strengthened the relationship among them and improved their coordination with the REDD+ Cell.

### Women's Networks

Nepal has both professional and grassroots women's networks that focus on gender, women's rights and natural resource management. HIMAWANTI is an organization dedicated to strengthening grassroots level women's engagement in sustainable natural resource management, through consultation and networking among the grassroots women in Nepal. At a professional level, Nepal has the Women Leading for Change in Natural Resources (WLCN) network formed by professionals involved in the gender programs of different environmental or development institutions. These networks are also supported by decision makers, such as parliamentarians and the gender focal points of several of the ministries, particularly the Ministry of Environment.

The links between the networks make up a multi-stakeholder platform that allows a rich information exchange, a broad and diverse support network, and the possibility to work with several environmental issues, including REDD+.

## Capacities and Knowledge

Nepal not only has capacities and knowledge on natural resource management and gender, but it has specifically developed its capacities and knowledge with regard to REDD+. In the women's workshop, many participants had a robust knowledge of the REDD+ national process, and several were involved in pilot projects through various implementing organizations. A unique factor in Nepal was that many of the participants were also working to ensure that policies, plans and activities related to the REDD+ strategy were gender sensitive. This strong background knowledge and capacity allowed for a rich capacity building session on the REDD+ SES that evolved into an in-depth discussion analyzing how the current REDD+ pilot projects have addressed gender issues (Table 5) and examining in detail where the REDD+ SES Principles, Criteria and Indicators need to address gender. As a result, the Nepal action research was the most sophisticated process developed in the four countries, and it resulted in specific recommendations to mainstream gender in the REDD+ SES country Indicators, as well as rationales to support the recommendations.

Nepal is an example of how 30 years of implementation of **"triple yes"** leads to real paradigm shifts in the forest sector, where several gender responsive actions are currently implemented. This **"triple yes"** allows for new subjects or initiatives to be easily analyzed through a gender lens and for concrete suggestions to emerge on how to develop these initiatives in a gender sensitive manner. The challenge for Nepal to further enhance the **"triple yes"** requires continued support, allocated resources, new and updated information and skills, and efforts to scale up nationally and internationally.





**Table 5. Pilot Projects in Nepal that have successfully addressed risks and maximized opportunities for women.**

Name of the Project	Objective	Initial Challenges	Good Practices Developed & Implemented
<b>Carbon Trust Fund Project</b>	<p>1. Pilot payment for REDD+ through sustainable forest management</p> <p><b>Location</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gorkha, Chitwan and Dolakha watershed areas</li> <li>Included 105 groups within three watershed areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women did not have sufficient knowledge about REDD+</li> <li>Carbon fund allotted 15% of fund to women, but provided a weak basis for claiming the funds because how and where women could invest was not specified</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interaction and workshop programs for the representatives of groups</li> <li>Women received credit, with minimal or no interest, for income generating activities such as farming and tailoring; the credit was provided based on economic status of the recipient</li> </ul>
<b>Annapurna Conservation Area (ACAP), Buffer Zone and Community Forest</b>	<p>1. Eco-tourism development 2. Sustainable development 3. Increase participation in conservation and development</p> <p><b>Location</b> Ghandruk, Annapurna Conservation Area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial participation of women was very low because men did not consider it important</li> <li>Men interfered in women's decision-making process; decisions made by women were rejected by men</li> </ul> <p><b>Examples:</b> Men decided placement of water tap, from which women fetched water</p> <p>Women had to request permission to leave home to attend meetings</p> <p>Women were generally underestimated, and their leadership was not accepted by society</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mothers' group was formed</li> <li>Opportunities opened for women in the community to attend meetings, listen, understand and discuss relevant information</li> <li>Women started planning and implementing</li> <li>Gender-specific training and education</li> <li>Men were given a space for working in women-led programs and were invited to attend meetings and programs organized by women</li> <li>Daycare center was established in 1992, which now has an endowment</li> <li>Noteworthy: ACAP received an international award, which helped men further acknowledge the importance of women's contributions in conservation and development</li> </ul>
<b>Training of Teachers for Indigenous People</b>	<p>1. Training of trainers (ToT), Indigenous Peoples and ethnic groups on climate change and REDD+</p> <p><b>Location</b> Bajakhet, Khasru, Lamjung</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women, indigenous, ethnic, group and Dalit had 15% quota for participation; however, the information was kept secret by chair and secretary of the group. When confronted, they responded that women also belong to ethnic, indigenous, poor groups and no distinction was necessary</li> <li>Men always participated even when mandatory participation of women was mentioned in formal letter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During the ToT, facilitators explicitly called upon women to actively participate to balance the degree of participation between women and men and minimize the opportunity for men to dominate</li> </ul>

Information obtained from workshop with women in Kathmandu, July 2012.



## Tanzania

### REDD+ and REDD+ SES Status<sup>21</sup>

Tanzania developed a second draft of its National REDD+ Strategy in June 2012 and a draft Action Plan in July 2012. Tanzania is also part of the FCPF and it submitted its Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN) in 2009, followed by the REDD Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) in 2010. Tanzania is supported by the UN-REDD Programme and the Royal Norwegian Government to prepare for REDD+ implementation.

Tanzania carried out capacity building workshops on REDD+ SES and safeguards and is currently carrying out a review of safeguard mechanisms to develop its national approach to safeguards.

### Description of Action Research

The action research in Tanzania had a different structure than in the other countries. It consisted of a 3-day workshop and an exchange visit with community members from three REDD+ Pilot Projects, a 1-day workshop with civil society representatives working on women's right or gender issues, a 1-day workshop with members of technical working groups that support the National REDD+ Task Force, and interviews with focal points. CARE Tanzania's gender focal point and independent local consultants supported the activities.

#### **Activities:**

- 3-day workshop with 19 participants from REDD+ Pilot projects of the Tanzania Forests Conservation Group (MJUMITA/ TFCG), Tanzania Traditional Energy Development and Environment Organisation

(TaTEDO), and CARE Hifadhi ya Misititu ya Asili (HIMA),<sup>22</sup> and women's NGOs from Morogoro

- Exchange visit with the participants from the 3-day workshop to share experiences with members of a community involved in a TFCG REDD+ Pilot Project that could not attend the workshop
- 1-day workshop with 19 participants from civil society
- 1-day workshop with 4 representatives from the 3 technical working groups that provide support to the REDD+ Task Force on specific issues
- 5 interviews with representatives from the government and civil society

### Key outcomes of the action research

- Identification of potential actions to ensure that the REDD+ National Strategy includes the gender dimension in its Readiness, Policies and Measures, and Implementation phases;
- Identification of opportunities and challenges faced by women in some activities associated with REDD+ Pilot projects;
- Identification of gender equality or women's rights issues that need to be addressed for some of the Principles of the REDD+ SES;
- A preliminary roadmap for the REDD+ Standards Technical Working Group, which included actions to mainstream gender in the national interpretation process of the REDD+SES.

<sup>21</sup>Information about REDD+ status is time-sensitive and changes quickly.

<sup>22</sup>Hifadhi ya Misititu ya Asili (HIMA) - Piloting REDD in Zanzibar through Community Forest Management - specifically aims at promoting a pro-poor gender-equitable approach to community forest management in Zanzibar, including piloting of carbon financing that provides forest-dependent communities with secure property rights, equitable rewards for providing ecosystem services and other livelihood benefits, and which informs the priorities of Zanzibar's national REDD strategy.

## Gender Sensitive Policies and Political Willingness

### *Gender Sensitive Policies*

Tanzania, like Nepal, has gender sensitive environmental policies. In Tanzania, these policies include the Environmental Policy, Forest Policy, Forest Act, Forest Programme, the Land Tenure Act and Land Policy. It also has policies such as the Women Development Policy that emphasizes gender mainstreaming in all sectors and promotes policies to protect women's rights, increase access to financial resources and empower women. The Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children provides oversight regarding gender equality. Similar to Nepal, interviewees considered that the full and effective implementation of these policies was one of the greatest challenges faced by the country, and that financial and capacity investment was necessary for implementation.

### *Political Willingness*

As in the other countries, interviews with representatives from both the women's rights and the environmental sector revealed that gender is regarded as a crucial crosscutting issue. The REDD+ Task Force has shown its commitment to the issues and appointed a gender focal point in the development of the national strategy. The REDD+ Task Force could build on and expand this commitment to the technical working groups by supporting a gender sensitive process that includes consultations with both women and men and with organizations that work on gender equality and women's rights; they could further develop a plan of action to address gender considerations in their national strategy with special attention to the REDD+ SES.

## *Gender and the REDD+ national process*

Both the REDD+ Task Force and the Standards Technical Working Group had gender experts among the professionals participating in the development of the REDD+ National Strategy and the REDD+ SES country interpretation process. The action research helped highlight the importance of including the gender dimension, compiled information from pilot projects, and provided information baselines and suggestions of issues that need to be addressed by the strategy and the standards. The action research ignited efforts to mainstream gender into the Tanzania REDD+ National Strategy and its standards.

### **Women's Networks**

Tanzania has well-developed women's networks. As part of the interviews, WEDO was able to visit representatives of two networks, one that focused on legal aid and advocacy and another that focused on raising awareness of their rights and gender sensitive communication strategies. Participants also described informal women's networks called Upatu that are established as a financial support system within communities. During discussions on benefit-sharing, the women mentioned these informal networks could be a means to distribute resources directly to women, so that women could have control of the money.

Tanzania also has specific women's networks that work with gender and REDD+; however, these grassroots networks are mainly supported by the REDD+ pilot projects. These existing networks could be the foundation for a future women and environment network that is made up of these grassroots women's networks as well as the government and development partner focal points.



Photo: Andrea Quesada-Aguilar

## Capacities and Knowledge

Action research in Tanzania included the unique opportunity for exchange visits with women and men from various REDD+ pilot projects of the MJUMITA/ TFCG, TaTEDO, and CARE HIMA, and women's NGOs from Morogoro. The workshop visit included a two-day capacity building session and field visit to one of the TFCG pilot sites. It allowed a unique interaction between women and men engaged in various REDD+ projects who could share knowledge about REDD+ and its specific activities. This experience demonstrated that knowledge about REDD+ and its gender considerations varies among the different projects. Each one of the projects had its unique components, the sharing of which contributed to the rich dialogue and information exchange (Table 6). Participants expressed desire for more capacity

building on gender and REDD+. Future efforts could capitalize on the knowledge that women from projects such as CARE HIMA in Zanzibar have about the importance of gender considerations in REDD+ and facilitate exchange visits and training sessions on the mainland.

During the session with organizations that work with gender equality and women's rights, only one of the participants was familiar with the links between gender and environment and the importance of addressing these links. These women's organizations have a vast knowledge of women's rights and gender inequalities and, after the workshop, they requested future orientation sessions to broaden their knowledge on crosscutting environmental issues.



**Table 6. Opportunities and challenges experienced by women involved in forest management activities, as part of REDD+ Pilot Projects in Tanzania.**

Activity	Challenges	Opportunities
Improved stoves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of monetary resources</li> <li>• Poor understanding within community on the importance of energy saving stoves</li> <li>• Low community knowledge of the use and availability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business opportunities (small scale bakeries)</li> <li>• Save money and time</li> <li>• Conserve the forest</li> <li>• Reduce workload and deforestation</li> </ul>
Butterfly breeding to sell chrysalis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficult to catch</li> <li>• Limited market available and hard work to build facilities</li> <li>• Shortage of resources</li> <li>• Shortage of butterflies in some seasons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Available market when support is offered</li> <li>• Increase income</li> <li>• Easy work once infrastructure is established</li> </ul>
Biogas production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low level of education about biogas production</li> <li>• Lack of resources</li> <li>• High costs to construct</li> <li>• Some areas are not keeping cattle</li> <li>• Shortage of cow dung</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce workload of women</li> <li>• Reduce forest destruction</li> <li>• Reduce energy and kerosene costs</li> <li>• Prevent health problems in women, such as eye problems</li> </ul>
Establishment of wood lots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pests and diseases</li> <li>• Involves extensive preparatory work on the land, including weeding</li> <li>• Lack of technical expertise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easy to obtain firewood</li> </ul>
Beekeeping for honey production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low level of education on beekeeping techniques</li> <li>• Limited market</li> <li>• Expensive to purchase beehives (especially the modern beehives recommended by REDD+)</li> <li>• Settlements can affect the establishment of beehives</li> <li>• Poor involvement of women in beekeeping</li> <li>• Lack of commitment by the community to engage in beekeeping activities</li> <li>• Lack of local experts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income-generating activities</li> <li>• Honey for food and medicine</li> <li>• Conserve the forest</li> <li>• Preserve biodiversity</li> </ul>

Based on information provided by women and men from MJUMITA/ TFCG, TaTEDO, and HIMA projects during workshops in May 2012.





## Gender equality and women's rights issues that need to be addressed in the REDD+SES

One of the patterns observed in the four countries is that despite many efforts, gender equality is not yet a reality, and there are significant differences between women's and men's regarding the full enjoyment of their rights. Gender norms and relations determined by social roles, discrimination and poverty, limit women's assets and often place them in a vulnerable position. As a result, women face conditions of inequity and inequality in decision-making, benefit distribution, access to and control of cash, benefit-sharing, land tenure, capacity building, access to information and access to justice.

Due to the prevalence of these inequalities and the interest to promote benefits for women, the action research included an exercise in each country to determine the gender equality issues that need to be addressed in each one of the Principles of the REDD+ SES. The objective of the activity was to integrate all of the information that had been revealed during the workshops under the REDD+ SES umbrella:<sup>23</sup> gender differentiation and gender inequalities in the forest sector (Tables 1,2); risks and opportunities of REDD+ programs (Table 3); and enabling conditions and country characteristics (Tables 4,5,6). These gender equality issues were crucial as they provided the framework that guided: a) suggestions by WEDO to strengthen the gender dimension in the second version of the REDD+ SES PCI, and b) the recommended actions included in Booklet 2.

The following graphics (Figures 2 - 7) compare and summarize the gender equality issues, as generated by participants in the four countries visited, that need to be considered under Principles 1 through 6 of the REDD+ SES.<sup>24</sup> In particular, the action research highlighted the need to:

- inform women about their rights;**
- respect and comply with women's rights;**
- determine barriers/inequalities that limit women's rights, access, control, etc.;**
- improve relations between women and men, especially in the forest sector;**
- include women in decision-making structures;**
- ensure full and effective participation of women at every stage of REDD+ initiatives.**

<sup>23</sup>To summarize information from the workshops, the principal researcher interpreted the written and recorded information provided during discussions.

<sup>24</sup>Issues generated were based on REDD+SES Version 1. Principle 7 issues were not elaborated in all of the countries, thus it is not included. Visit [www.redd-standards.org](http://www.redd-standards.org) for more information.

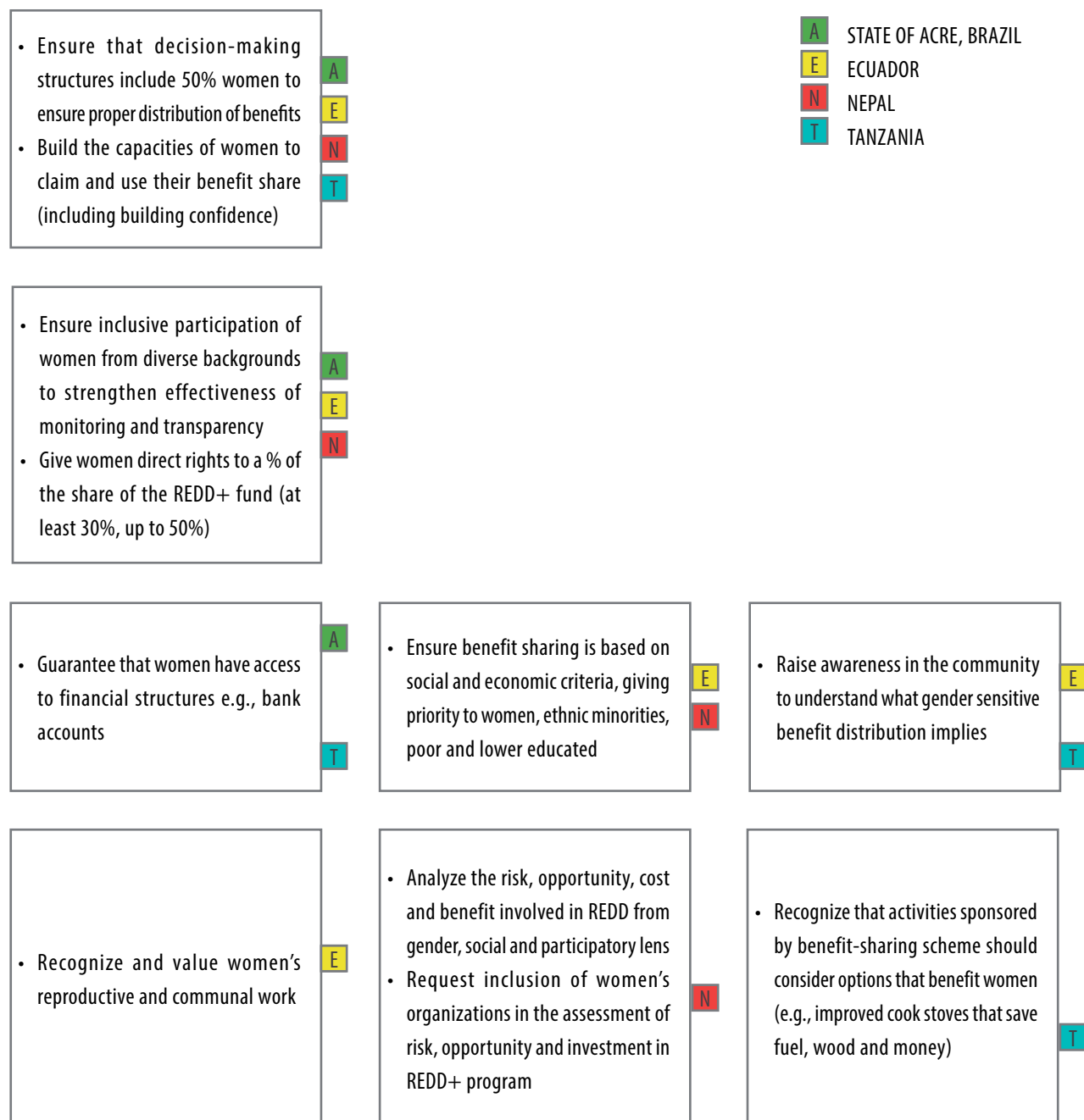


**Figure 2. Issues that need to be considered under Principle 1: The REDD+ program recognizes and respects rights to lands, territories and resources.**



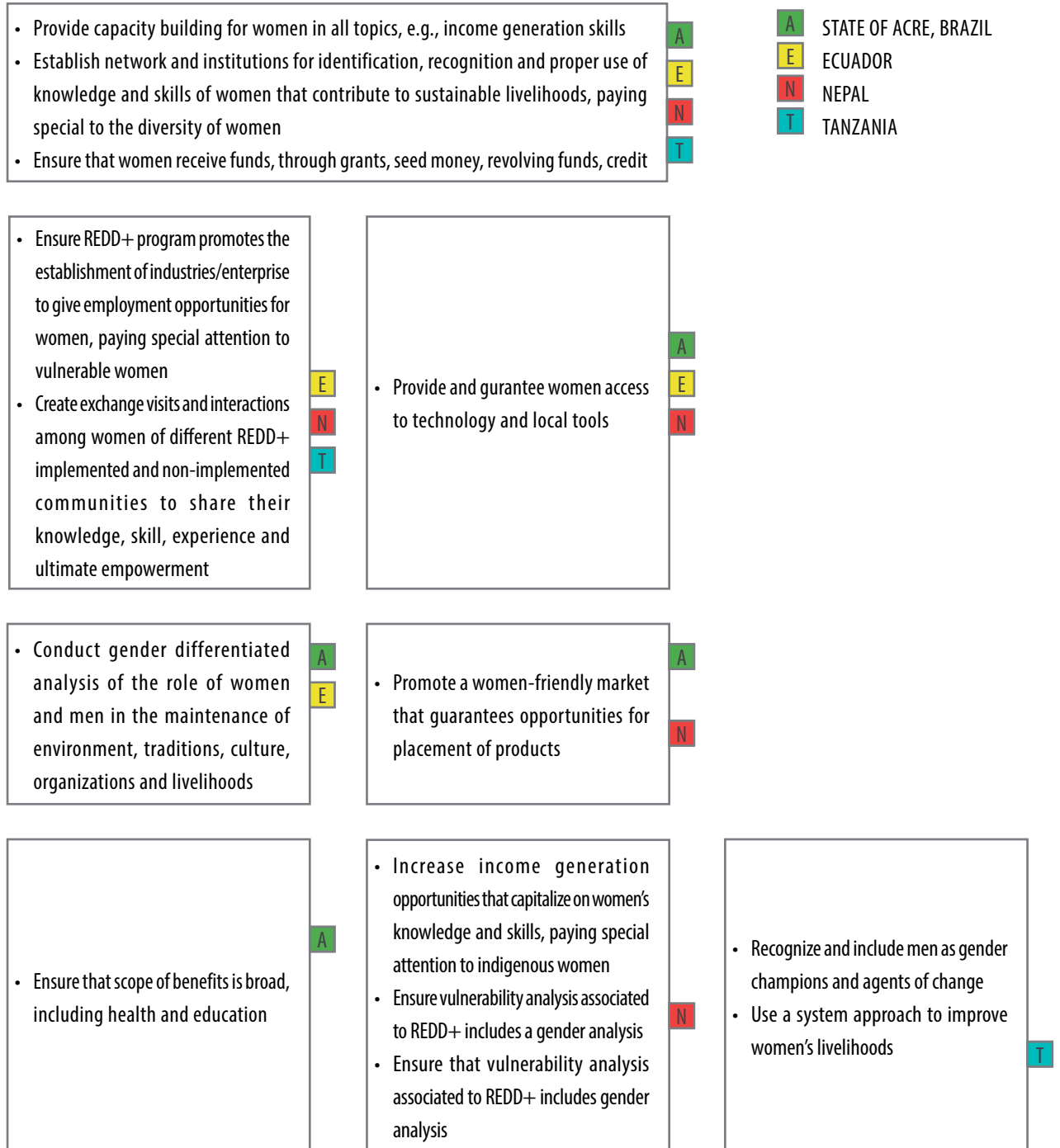


**Figure 3. Issues that need to be considered under Principle 2: The benefits of the REDD+ program are shared equitably among all relevant rights holder and stakeholders.**



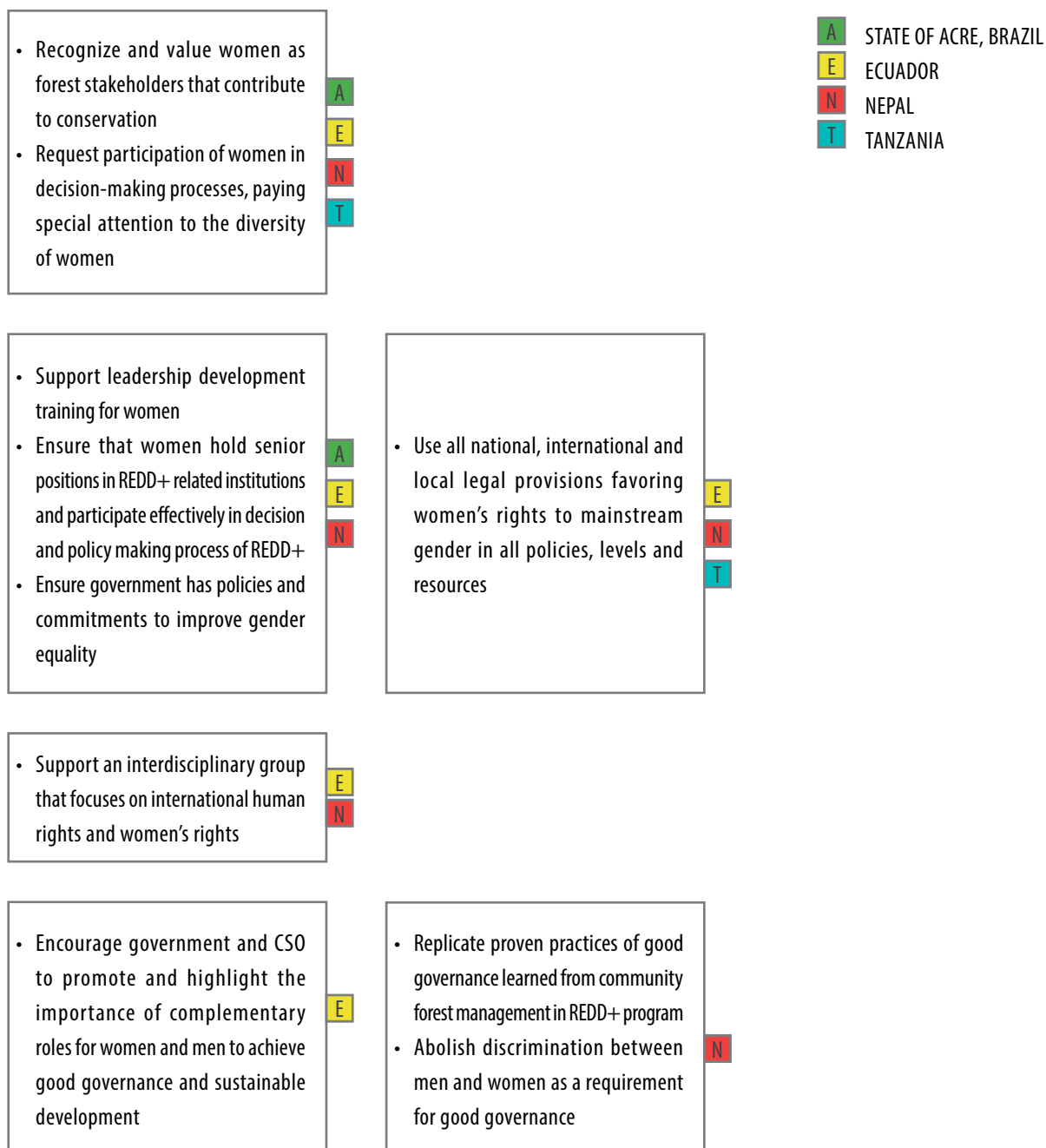


**Figure 4. Issues that need to be considered under Principle 3: The REDD+ program improves long-term livelihood security and well-being of Indigenous Peoples and local communities with special attention to women and the most marginalized and/or vulnerable people.**





**Figure 5. Issues that need to be considered under Principle 4: The REDD+ program contributes to good governance, to broader sustainable development and to social justice.**



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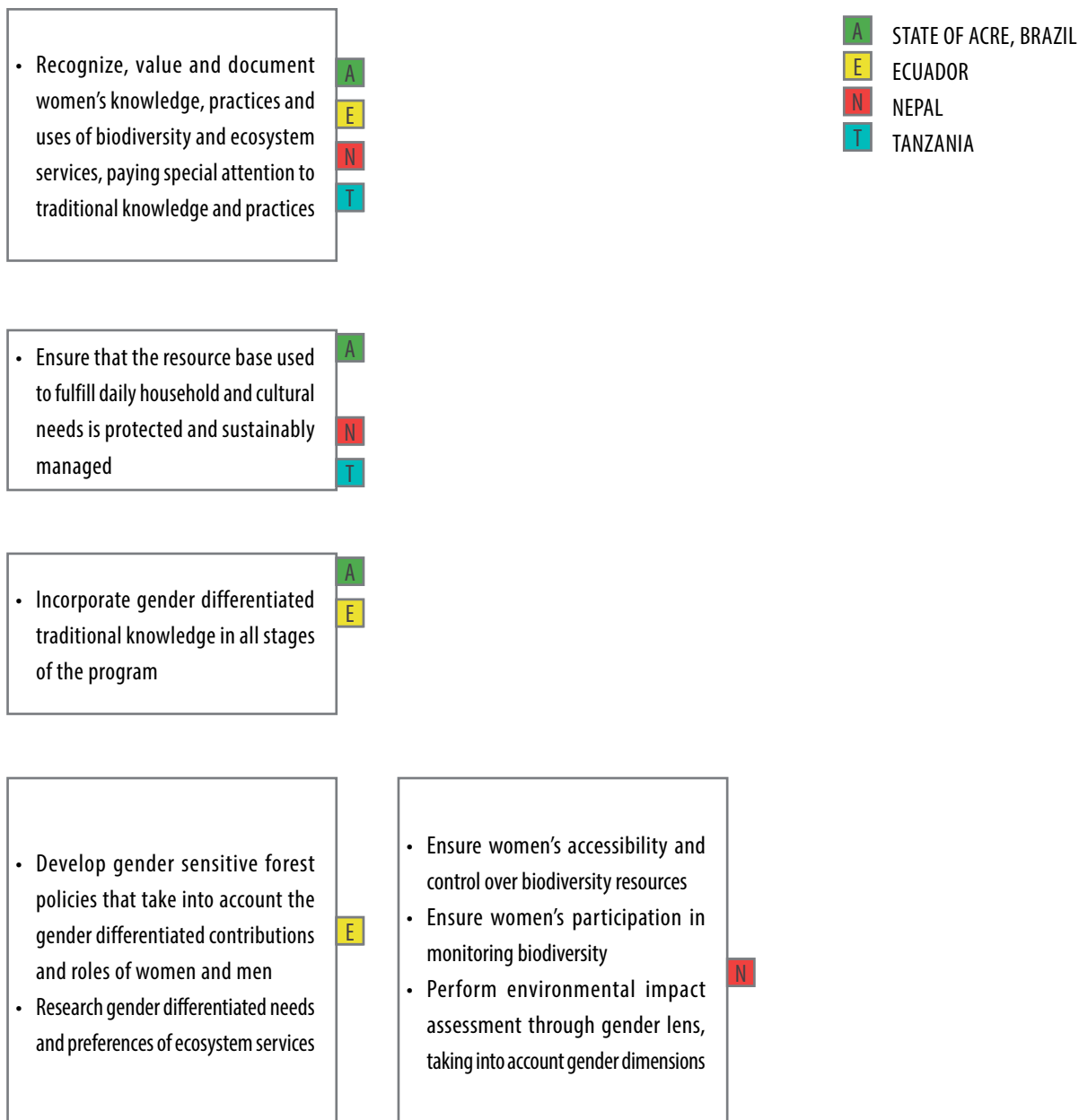
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**Figure 6. Issues that need to be considered under *Principle 5: The REDD+ program maintains and enhances biodiversity and ecosystem services.***





**Figure 7. Issues that need to be considered under Principle 6: All relevant rights holders and stakeholders participate fully and effectively in the REDD+ program.**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase educational and capacity building opportunities for women from grassroots to research level to increase women's participation at all levels of REDD+</li> <li>• Establish gender group at national and local level using existing women's organizations at local, national and international level</li> </ul>	A E N T	A E N T	STATE OF ACRE, BRAZIL ECUADOR NEPAL TANZANIA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop capacity building for women involved in natural resource management NGOs, gender champions, experts at local, sub-national and national level</li> <li>• Ensure that exchange of information, knowledge and technology is gender sensitive and recognizes the importance of exchange between women</li> <li>• Ensure that information flow and time and place of meetings and other activities are appropriate/comfortable for women, taking into account their workload and schedules</li> <li>• Develop a communication strategy that is gender sensitive</li> </ul>	E N T	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include equal number of men and women in all stages of REDD+, including decision making and monitoring, in order to avoid conflict</li> </ul>	A E N
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empower women so they can fully and effectively participate and disseminate information to their constituency</li> </ul>	A E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decentralize women-related workshops, conferences and trainings to get substantial participation from grassroots level</li> </ul>	A N T
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educate the community on the importance of women's participation in REDD+</li> <li>• Mobilize funds for information, education, knowledge, skill and capacity building to ensure meaningful participation of women in the preparatory investment</li> <li>• Address women's specific needs to enable them to participate in all activities of REDD+, e.g., daycare center establishment</li> </ul>	E N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve policies that clearly state and set mandatory participation level of women, e.g., 50 %</li> <li>• Recognize that women's participation will be meaningful only when they gain the status of both principle shareholder and rights holder</li> </ul>	A N
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish gender sensitive Monitoring and Evaluation and conflict resolution</li> <li>• Allow women to define participation mechanisms (consider separate meetings for women and men).</li> </ul>	E T
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognize that all women should have the opportunity to participate in all workshops to learn and raise voice regardless of their qualification level</li> <li>• Strengthen women's voice in REDD+ by conducting regular consultation meetings among women users group, civil society and media</li> <li>• Promote awareness and unity among women about needs and rights</li> </ul>			N



Photo: Andrea Quesada-Aguilar



Photo: Andrea Quesada-Aguilar



Photo: Andrea Quesada-Aguilar



Photo: Andrea Quesada-Aguilar



# Conclusion and Annex









## Conclusion

**Booklet 1** has provided an overview of the action research and the key results learned during the work on the ground. In the exploration of the four research questions, valuable insight was gained into the similarities and differences of experience, knowledge, willingness and capacity in each country related to gender equality issues and REDD+. One of the key lessons learned from the action research was the important role that enabling conditions play in the implementation of gender sensitive policies. The action research revealed that three particularly important enabling factors need special attention: **strong women's networks (grassroots and professional); gender sensitive policies and political willingness; and technical capacities and knowledge among government and key stakeholders.** The three together comprise a “triple yes” to support potentially gender transformative REDD+ – and broader climate change and sustainable development – initiatives.

A “triple yes” enabling environment could facilitate (though may not guarantee) implementation of gender sensitive policies. The implementation (flagged during the action research as a gap) of these policies will be a crucial step towards the inclusion of gender equality and women's rights within the REDD+ activities. However, as mentioned before, the implementation would require a comprehensive process that focuses on: enabling conditions, strategic action plan and on-ground efforts. Further research and follow-up is required to understand the complex implications and potential benefits and shortcomings of the “triple yes,” but WEDO proposes that this comprehensive framework could identify and support implementation gaps and strengthen what could be gender transformative approaches.

**Booklet 2** turns the raw data and analysis into a practical tool geared toward REDD+ teams that are involved in the design, implementation and monitoring of gender sensitive REDD+ national programs and as well as the country teams that are involved in the REDD+ SES country-level interpretation of Indicators. The tool is designed to provide guidance (for countries developing their REDD+ national programs) on how to ensure that their strategies address gender considerations and to take strides towards becoming gender transformative. It can be further adapted to review policies, design projects, and evaluate on-going initiatives. The tool is in three parts, each of which is presented in the form of a checklist: **(1) Essential actions for a gender sensitive REDD+ program (to be followed in all REDD+ phases); (2) Actions to address the gender components of the REDD+ SES Principles, Criteria, and Indicators (PCI); and (3) Actions for a gender responsive country-level interpretation of Indicators.**

The aim of providing the actions to address gender considerations in REDD+ is to encourage the design and implementation of development strategies that deliver multiple benefits, including – and especially – the promotion and realization of gender equality and women's rights. The ultimate goal is that these actions build a path that leads to a true transformation of social structures and conservation efforts.

## Gender related concepts and definitions

**Benefits, costs and risks** of the REDD+ program include those that are direct and indirect and include those related to social, cultural, environmental and economic aspects and to human rights and rights to lands territories and resources. Costs should include those related to responsibilities and also opportunity costs. All benefits, costs and risks should be relative to the reference scenario which is the most likely land-use scenario in the absence of the REDD+ program. Note that the term 'benefits' refers to positive impacts and the phrase 'costs and risks' equates with negative impacts. (Glossary REDD+ SES Version 2)

**Consent** refers to the decision made by Indigenous Peoples and other local communities reached through their customary decision-making process. The collective right to give or withhold consent applies to all projects, activities, legislative and administrative measures and policies (and their associated processes and phases) that directly impact the lands, territories, resources, and livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and other local communities. Consent must be sought and granted or withheld according to the unique formal or informal political-administrative dynamic of each community. (UN-REDD draft FPIC Guidelines)

**Customary rights** to lands and resources refers to patterns of long-standing community land and resource usage in accordance with Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' customary laws, values, customs, and traditions, including seasonal or cyclical use, rather than formal legal title to land and resources issued by the State. (World Bank, OP14, Indigenous Peoples)

**Duty bearers** have an obligation to ensure respect, protection and fulfillment of rights. (Glossary REDD+ SES Version 2)

**Empowerment** implies people - both women and men - taking control over their lives: setting their own agendas, gaining skills (or having their own skills and knowledge recognized), increasing self-confidence, solving problems, and developing self-reliance. It is both a process and an outcome (IDRC 1998). Empowerment implies an expansion in women's ability to make strategic life choices in a context where this ability was previously denied to them. (Kabeer, N. "Reflections on the Measurement of Women's Empowerment." In *Discussing Women's Empowerment: Theory and Practice*. Stockholm: Sida Studies No. 3, 2001)

**Equity** and **equitable** are defined as just, impartial and fair to all parties. (Glossary REDD+ SES Version 2)

**Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)** should promote respect for, and seek the full application of provisions of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Furthermore UNFCCC safeguards for REDD+, highlight the need to respect the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities, by taking into account relevant international obligations, national circumstances and laws, and noting that the United Nations General Assembly has adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. (FCCC/CP/2010/7/Add.1)



**Full and effective participation** means meaningful influence of all relevant rights holder and stakeholder groups who want to be involved throughout the process, and includes consultation and free, prior and informed consent. (Glossary REDD+ SES Version 2)

**Gender analysis** is a tool to assist in strengthening development planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and to make programmes and projects more efficient and relevant. Ignoring gender issues has resulted in gender blind development strategies that have caused many development programmes and projects to fail in reaching their principal goals and delivering the desired benefits to the target population and have sometimes led to unintended negative impacts. Within the United Nations system, gender analysis has been established as a basic requirement for the gender mainstreaming strategy. The current situation of rural women and men in relation to different issues and problems and the impact of agricultural and rural development policies, legislation, and projects and programmes on women and men respectively – and on the relations between them – should be analyzed before any decisions are made. (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/INF/12/Rev.1)

**Gender-blind** is when the gender dimension is not considered, although there is clear scope for such consideration in any approach/strategy/framework/programme. This is often as a result of lack of training in, knowledge of and sensitization to gender issues, leading to an incomplete picture of the situation being addressed and, consequently, to failure. (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/INF/12/Rev.1)

**Gender equality** refers to equal rights, voice, responsibilities and opportunities for men and women in society, at work and in the home. (UNDP. 2007. Gender Mainstreaming: a Key Driver of Development in Environment and Energy. USA: UNDP)

**Gender equity** refers to fairness between men and women in access to society's resources, including socially valued goods, rewards and opportunities. (UNDP. 2007. Gender Mainstreaming: a Key Driver of Development in Environment and Energy. USA: UNDP)

**Gender differentiated** refers to the way that women and men's specific roles, rights and responsibilities, as well as their particular use patterns and knowledge of forests, shape their experiences differently.

**Gender gaps** refer to societal differences between men and women that are felt to be undesirable. (UNDP. 2007. Gender Mainstreaming: a Key Driver of Development in Environment and Energy. USA: UNDP)

**Gender mainstreaming** is a strategy for making women's, as well as men's, concerns and experiences an integral dimension in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality. (ECOSOC Agreed Conclusions, resolution 1997/2)

### **Gender Mainstreaming Principles**

Gender mainstreaming means:

- forging and strengthening the political will to achieve gender equality and equity, at the local, national, regional and global levels;
- incorporating a gender perspective into the planning processes of all ministries and departments of government, particularly those concerned with macroeconomic and development planning, personnel policies and management, and legal affairs;



- integrating a gender perspective into all phases of sectoral planning cycles, including the analysis development, appraisal, implementation, monitoring and evaluation policies, programmes and projects;
- using sex-disaggregated data in statistical analysis to reveal how policies impact differently on women and men;
- increasing the numbers of women in decision-making positions in government and the private and public sectors;
- providing tools and training in gender awareness, gender analysis and gender planning to decision-makers, senior managers and other key personnel;
- forging linkages between governments, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders to ensure a better use of resources.

(Gender Equality and Equity: A summary review of UNESCO's accomplishments since the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing 1995). Geneva: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations, 2000)

**Gender-neutral** is when the human dimension is not relevant, and thus gender is not an implication in any approach/strategy/framework/programme. (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/INF/12/Rev.1)

**Gender responsive** approach/strategy/framework/programme will include planning, programming, and budgeting that contributes to the advancement of gender equality and the fulfillment of women's rights (UN Women). This advancement will involve changing gender norms, roles and access to resources a key component of project outcomes. (Adapted from Eckman, A, 2002 by United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement

of Women [INSTRAW])

**Gender responsive REDD+ stakeholder engagement strategy** recognizes the role of women as primary users of forest resources in REDD+ policy and programme design, implementation and evaluation. (UN-REDD. 2012. The business case for mainstreaming gender in REDD+)

**Gender sensitive** is to understand and give consideration to socio-cultural norms and discriminations in order to acknowledge the different rights, roles and responsibilities of women and men in the community and the relationships between them. Gender sensitive policy, program, administrative and financial activities, and organizational procedures will: differentiate between the capacities, needs and priorities of women and men; ensure that the views and ideas of both women and men are taken seriously; consider the implications of decisions on the situation of women relative to men; and take actions to address inequalities or imbalance between women and men. (Glossary REDD+ SES Version 2)

**Gender transformative** approach/strategy/framework/programme will recognize that gender is central to promoting gender equality and achieving positive development outcomes. It takes on the task of transforming unequal gender relations to promote shared power, control of resources, decision-making, and support for women's empowerment. (Adapted from Eckman, A, 2002 by United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women [INSTRAW])

**Good governance** is characterized by accountability, effectiveness, efficiency, fairness/equity, participation and transparency. (FAO, Framework for Assessing and

Monitoring Forest Governance, 2011)

**Human rights** are the fundamental rights and freedoms that belong to every person in the world, based on core principles like dignity, fairness, equality, respect and autonomy, including but not limited to the rights enshrined in relevant international treaties, conventions and other instruments. (Glossary REDD+ SES Version 2)

**Land tenure** is the relationship, whether legally or customarily defined, among people, as individuals or groups, with respect to land. Land tenure is an institution, i.e., rules invented by societies to regulate behaviour. Rules of tenure define how property rights to land are to be allocated within societies. They define how access is granted to rights to use, control, and transfer land, as well as associated responsibilities and restraints. In simple terms, land tenure systems determine who can use what resources for how long, and under what conditions. The right that a person has in an object such as land may be considered as property, in practice, multiple rights can be held by several different persons or groups (examples right to use the land, right to control how land will be used, right to protection from illegal expropriation of the land). (FAO definition)

**Livelihoods** can be defined by five capitals/assets: socio-political, cultural, human, financial, natural and physical. (Eldis, Sustainable Livelihood Approach, 2012).

**Marginalized people or groups** are those that normally have little or no influence over decision-making processes. Marginalization may be related to gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status, geographic location and/or religion. The REDD+ Social & Environmental Standards explicitly adopt a differentiated approach

that seeks to identify and address marginalization in all its forms. (Glossary REDD+ SES Version 2)

**Rights holders** are those whose rights are potentially affected by the REDD+ program, including holders of individual rights and Indigenous Peoples and others who hold collective rights. (Glossary REDD+ SES Version 2)

**Social justice** is understood to mean 'respect, protection and fulfillment of human rights'. (Glossary REDD+ SES Version 2)

**Socially differentiated** includes differentiated by gender, marginalization and vulnerability. (Glossary REDD+ SES Version 2)

**Vulnerable people or groups** are those with high exposure to external stresses and shocks (including climate change); and with high sensitivity and low adaptive capacity to adjust in response to actual or expected changes due to their lack of secure access to the assets on which secure livelihoods are built (socio-political, cultural, human, financial, natural and physical). Forest dependency may be an important factor affecting vulnerability particularly where the REDD+ program itself may change access to forest resources. In many situations marginalization exacerbates vulnerability, e.g., marginalization by gender. (Glossary REDD+ SES Version 2)