

**Example on gender-sensitive approaches and tools, including good practices for the application of these approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change<sup>1</sup>**

**Inputs provided by:**

United Nations Development Programme

**Title of practice/tool**

Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative (COMDEKS)

**Description of practice/tool**

As part of the baseline assessment and community consultation process taking place in COMDEKS Project sites, COMDEKS is currently piloting a set of Indicators for Resilience in Socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (SEPLS), developed by IPSI members Bioversity International and UNU-IAS in collaboration with UNDP. The SEPLS indicators were developed under the premise that gender inequality, social exclusion and marginalization can hinder the ability of women, indigenous and other groups to strengthen resilience. Women, youth and the elderly hold specific knowledge and skills related to biodiversity.

In each participating country, the landscape-wide baseline assessment was conducted by measuring elements of SEPLS resilience along four interrelated dimensions (ecosystems protection and the maintenance of biodiversity; agricultural biodiversity; knowledge learning and innovation; and social equity and infrastructure), taking into account the gender dimension. In particular, during the consultation process, communities were asked to assign a score and a trend to the following questions: “Are women involved in decision-making and communication with outsiders? Do women have access to resources, education, information and opportunities for innovation?”

The SEPLS indicators piloting exercise, and its gender analysis, has enabled the development of participatory strategies that reflect priorities negotiated among representatives from local communities, the government, the academia and the private sector. To date, the community consultation process and the practical application of SEPLS indicators have led to the formulation and approval of COMDEKS Country programme Landscape Strategies in Ethiopia, Ghana, Turkey, Nepal and Slovakia. All COMDEKS Strategies include gender sensitive criteria and indicators in order to incorporate a gender perspective when designing and implementing community based projects, creating equal opportunities for both genders to participate in the process of project preparation, implementation and monitoring.

**Gender**

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<sup>1</sup> Please use this template for providing inputs related with one example. If you have more than one example, please provide them in separate files using this template.

- ☐ Was there any special participation by women (i.e. participation in the baseline assessment workshop, participation in the scoring exercise)? If yes, how vital was their participation in the project's success?
- ☐ Please provide any statistics on the number of women involved in the baseline assessment.
- ☐ Were actions taken to overcome gender barriers ensuring equal gender participation during the baseline assessment?
- ☐ Was it necessary to make any specific arrangements (i.e. to speak to women and men separately; have focus groups for women and focus groups for men before gathering them together to ensure their meaningful participation; adapting timing schedule to men's and women's working schedules)?

### Region

- *Global*

COMDEKS is currently implemented in 20 countries: Bhutan, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Kyrgyzstan, India, Indonesia, Malawi, Mongolia, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Slovakia and Turkey.

### Country

To date, the community consultation process and the practical application of SEPLS indicators have led to the formulation and approval of COMDEKS Country programme Landscape Strategies in Cambodia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Fiji, India, Malawi, Nepal, Turkey, and Slovakia. All COMDEKS Strategies include gender sensitive criteria and indicators in order to incorporate a gender perspective when designing and implementing community based projects, creating equal opportunities for both genders to participate in the process of project preparation, implementation and monitoring.

In **Nepal**, in order to assess the status of the selected socio-ecological landscape, an area comprising 10 Village Development Committees of the north-west Makawanpur district, additional gender based radar diagrams were completed to depict the communities' perspective on the resilience of the target landscape. As a result of the community consultation, Nepal Country Programme Landscape Strategy recognizes the following; Gender and Social Inclusion: Women are globally regarded as the best conservers of the resources. In Nepal, they play a crucial role in agriculture production, resource management and food security. Despite their longer hours of work in farm and household, they are not getting their fair share in decision-making and control over resources. The COMDEKS project will be attentive of this reality and will work towards developing their skills appropriately so that they will have greater exposure and involvement in the community affairs. Project will favor women's participation because women play a major role in producing, harvesting and marketing of several crops and livestock. In the project, women will be the special targets of promotional and awareness-raising campaigns. Special efforts will also be made to identify and link women's group to credit sources in order to overcome the financial constraints that many female-headed households are confronted with. Activities, among others, will include; 1. Organize and

conduct training programs and planning workshops on gender issues at the district level particularly for female members of farmer's group. 2. Conduct field analysis of gender issues as they relate to the selected production pocket areas and in compiling the findings in the project reports. 3. Include women in trainings and workshops on business practices. 4. Provide guidance for periodic field assessments based on consultations with women and men farmers and field teams.

In **Ethiopia**, during the baseline assessment of the selected landscape, the Gilgel Gibe-1 (GG1) catchment area, the community consultation and participatory assessment was conducted in the context of social conventions, with men separated from women, to enable an effective participation of women in the planning process and in the development of a resilience-strengthening strategy.

Interestingly, in **Ghana**, during the SEPLS indicators piloting exercise people opinions differed on gender inequality, social exclusion and marginalization. The community consultation process was held in the native language spoken in the target area, Ewe, in order to ensure maximum participation and involvement from all stakeholders, good understating of the issues, and eventually allowing for a more meaningful consultation process with local communities. The Ewes are mostly male dominated society and this usually hinders the ability of women, indigenous and other groups to participate in decision making processes. Although women hold specific knowledge and skills related to biodiversity, their role in biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation was not considered as very important and essential. As a result of these findings, in the COMDEKS Country Programme Landscape Strategy for Ghana among the criteria for selecting community based projects it was suggested that proposed projects should ensure that due emphasis is given to the role of gender in natural resource management and decision making.

#### **Gender dimensions in FIJI baseline assessment (source: [COMDEKS Newsletter](#))**

In Fiji, the baseline assessment and community consultation workshop aimed at piloting the Resilience Indicators and developing the landscape strategy for the Natewa-Tunuloa Peninsula took place at the end of January 2013. The Natewa-Tunuloa Peninsula was chosen as a target COMDEKS landscape for three reasons; the terrestrial and marine environment are considered global hotspots of biodiversity, efforts generated through COMDEKS can help provide viable income options for community livelihoods within the landscape, and finally, this landscape provides an opportunity to document and revive traditional practices used for proper land management and natural resource control.

The baseline assessment process in the Natewa-Tunuloa Peninsula illustrated that gender sensitivity and inclusivity is imperative for the COMDEKS initiative to meet its target goals. By providing opportunities to every community member, regardless of gender, the COMDEKS program can better promote sustainable use and management of natural resources in socio-ecological production landscapes with the aim of maintaining, rebuilding and revitalizing them.

While the scoping and baseline assessment meetings did not require the separation of the two genders, it was evident that the Peninsula still retains conservative traditional elements which place women in a subservient role within the communities. Decision-making and ownership of resources are inherited by men in the Natewa-Tunuloa Peninsula, but women, despite little access to

resources, have proven that they can greatly improve the livelihoods of their communities. More specifically, women exhibit a great talent in conserving community assets and natural resources for the next generation. The chief of the Karoko Village, in the Tunuloa district, suggested during the scoping exercise that COMDEKS projects for his village should be led by women in recognition of their successful use of land to support small scale cottage industries, such as bark cloth production and weaving.

Despite the patriarchal set up, gender integration in this pilot project should focus on strengthening women's capacities, leadership abilities, and helping to advance their involvement in governance and decision making processes. COMDEKS Fiji should support specific projects managed by women's groups within the landscape. An additional entry point is to ensure that women's participation is a criterion for community based institution strengthening, and that women are involved in any engagement with external partners and networks. Finally, it is essential that gender knowledge is captured and documented to improve the participation of women in future community programs.

#### Sector

- *Food security, agriculture and fisheries*
- *Forestry*
- *Mountains*
- *Water resources*

#### Name of implementing institution/s

Funded through the Japan Biodiversity Fund, the five-year project is implemented by UNDP in partnership with the Ministry of Environment of Japan, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS). The grant-making component of the project is delivered through the UNDP-implemented Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme.

#### Further information

[www.comdeksproject.com](http://www.comdeksproject.com)

[COMDEKS Newsletters: http://comdeksproject.com/knowledge-management-products/newsletter/](http://comdeksproject.com/knowledge-management-products/newsletter/)

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