



Women's Environment & Development Organization

Women's multiple roles as forest users, managers, conservation stewards and farmers make women major stakeholders in REDD+ policy design. REDD+ programs – as well as governments and implementing institutions – must take into account gender considerations¹, actively promote gender equality and the advancement of women's rights, and implement gender-specific safeguards to prevent harmful outcomes and ensure effective, equitable, sustainable and just results.

Safeguards and information systems will not work in an already unequal society. Gender blind implementation could jeopardize the achievement of safeguard goals related to land and natural resource use; full and effective consultation and participation; fair access to information, education to enable decision-making and consent; and equitable distribution of benefits.

WHY ARE GENDER CRITERIA IMPORTANT IN GOVERNANCE AND SAFEGUARDS?

REDD+ mechanisms and policies must be consistent with, and not undermine, international human rights law. In The Universal Declaration of Human Rights countries of the United Nations affirm equal rights of men and women. The United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous peoples (UNDRIP) acknowledges that states pay particular attention to the rights and special needs of indigenous women when taking effective measures to ensure the improvement of economic and social conditions²; and when implementing the Declaration³. UNDRIP proclaims that states shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination⁴. The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) calls for the elimination of discrimination in all its forms by any person, organization or enterprise and contains references to women's rights to *inter alia* decision-making, access to information, participation, land and natural resources, and the right to the use, management and conservation of these resources.

The following are recommendations for gender-sensitive safeguards for consideration as Parties decide how safeguards in REDD+ are measured and addressed in accordance with the draft decision contained in FCCC/SBSTA/2011/L.14.

Right to Land and Natural Resources

Principle: The REDD+ Programme should ensure women's rights own or inherit land, including through individual titling or co-titling as appropriate, for all forest, agricultural, wastelands and other relevant lands. Where forestland ownership rights for women are not an option or not appropriate, then communal rights of both men and women should be ensured⁵.

Criteria: The REDD+ Programme should encourage the implementation of all appropriate measures, including legislation, to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs and practices which constitute discrimination against women's rights to land and natural resource access⁶.

¹ As mandated by decision FCCC/CP/2010/7/Add.1 decision 1/CP.16 paragraph 72.

² Recalling UNDRIP Art 21

³ Recalling UNDRIP Art 22.1

⁴ Recalling UNDRIP Art 22.2

⁵ Recalling CEDAW Art 14.2

⁶ Recalling CEDAW Art 2 (f)



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Criteria: The REDD+ Programme should encourage the implementation all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in all matters relating to marriage and family relations and in particular shall ensure the same rights for both spouses in respect of the ownership, acquisition, management, administration, enjoyment and disposition of property, whether free of charge or for a valuable consideration⁷

Right to access to information, education to enable decision-making

Principle: The REDD+ Programme must ensure that women receive information and proper trainings related to all REDD+ activities. Women should have the tools and knowledge needed to engage in the identification of gender specific risks, opportunities and challenges and the assessment of technical knowledge and skills they will need to participate in all REDD+ activities. Women will require this capacity building and analysis in order to be part of decision-making processes.

Criteria: The REDD+ Programme should take all appropriate measures to ensure that women have equal rights in the field of education and access to specific educational information to help to ensure the health and well-being of families⁸.

Criteria: The REDD+ Programme should ensure that rural women have options to obtain all types of training and education, formal and non-formal in order to increase their technical proficiency⁹.

Right to Full and Effective Consultation and Participation

Principle: Guarantee the full and effective participation of women, as primary stakeholders, before and during the design, planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of all REDD+ activities. Define stakeholders to specifically include women.

Criteria: The REDD+ Programme should be designed in ways that enable women's participation, taking into account their work load, schedules and social and cultural roles that often inhibit their participation¹⁰, and ensure they have equal and timely access to information and sufficient time for discussion on REDD+ policies, processes, risks and benefits.

Criteria: The REDD+ Programme should ensure the participation of women in the elaboration and implementation of development planning at all levels¹¹; and in all community activities¹²

Criteria: The REDD+ Programme should take all appropriate measure to ensure women participate in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof¹³ and in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the project¹⁴

⁷ Recalling CEDAW Art 16 (h)

⁸ Recalling CEDAW Art 10

⁹ Recalling CEDAW Art 14.2 (d)

¹⁰ Based on CEDAW Art 15

¹¹ Recalling CEDAW Art 14.2 (a)

¹² Recalling CEDAW Art 14.2 (f)

¹³ Recalling CEDAW Art 7 (b)

¹⁴ Based on CEDAW Art 7 (c)



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Right To Fair and Equitable Distribution of Benefits

Principle: Ensure that women—both on their own and as members of indigenous and forest-dependent communities—are provided fair and appropriate compensation, incentives, benefits and revenues generated by REDD+ activities. A gender sensitive, transparent and participatory process for revenue distribution should be established

Criteria: The REDD+ Programme shall take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women in economic fields, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men¹⁵

Criteria: The REDD+ Programme should support women access to agricultural credit and loans, marketing facilities, appropriate technology and equal treatment in land and agrarian reform as well as in land resettlement schemes¹⁶

Criteria: The REDD+ Programme should support options to organize self-help groups and co-operatives in order to obtain equal access to economic opportunities through employment or self-employment¹⁷

¹⁵ Recalling CEDAW Art 3

¹⁶ Recalling CEDAW Art 14.2 (g)

¹⁷ Recalling CEDAW Art 14.2 (e)