

Cross-cutting

Capacity Building

Actively promote and build capacity of women in leadership and management roles in REDD+. Use REDD+ management as an example and model for broader REDD+ participants to emulate.

Collaboration

REDD+ Programs and agencies should link to appropriate existing women's and youth groups and organizations, particularly any of those also focused on natural resource management sectors.

Leverage

Where organizations (e.g. CCDA, etc.) that oversee projects or supply funding for REDD+ activities, use that leverage on contracted parties to require inclusion of women and other marginalized groups and comply with REDD+ gender policies.

Data Collection and Analysis

Develop a central database for REDD+ activities that includes provisions for storage and easy access to sex disaggregated data. Ensure data is easily accessible to anyone involved in REDD+ programs, REDD+ management, other government agencies, and anyone undertaking independent or external review of REDD+.

Collect sex disaggregated data (presence/absence) on participation in all REDD+ activities (meetings, outreach activities, training, employment, etc.). Record not only how many women and men participated, but also how many were invited to participate. Also collect data on age, home province, level of participation, etc. Store data on hard copy and transfer to a digital database promptly.

Operations and Policy

As policies are developed, incorporate mechanisms that facilitate feedback and communication between women's groups and grassroots women and policymakers and program implementers (e.g., regularly-scheduled discussion forums for women and REDD+ representatives).

Use social and gender criteria in decision making about where to establish REDD+ pilot and full projects. This increases the chances of success and enables chosen sites to serve as models for other communities. Criteria (demonstrated performance standards) should include the treatment and equality of women in communities.

Consider gender specific requirements when planning activities, e.g. timing, location, etc., so women can participate equally with men.

Ensure women are compensated directly at equal pay as men for comparable positions/work.

As new committees are set up, a place should be reserved for at least one women representative, ideally one already active in an existing women's and/or gender focused organization.

Include and encourage active participation by women in all stages of REDD+ activities and on equal footing as men. Ensure gender-sensitive, socially inclusive and participatory processes are integrated into such activities as well.

Outreach

Promote the overall priority of women's issues in REDD+ and endeavor to change perceptions about gender roles and capabilities with all the communities and stakeholders involved in REDD+.

Developing REDD+ in Papua New Guinea Briefing Series

This brief is part of a series of briefing documents to help inform key stakeholders and decision makers of the issues and options for REDD+ development in PNG and to facilitate the decision making processes that are required to develop a National REDD+ Strategy.



Improving gender inclusiveness and participation in PNG's REDD+ strategy and policies

GENDER INCLUSIVENESS and STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

This brief provides an overview of general findings and recommendations outlined in the 2016 report, 'Situational Analysis for improving Gender Inclusiveness and Participation in Papua New Guinea's REDD+ strategy and policies'.

Careful consideration of gender issues and stakeholder engagement during the development and implementation of PNG's REDD+ Strategy can help contribute to Papua New Guinea's (PNG) goals for greater social inclusion and gender equality.

It is important to integrate a gender perspective early in the process of developing PNG's national REDD+ Strategy and policies because the REDD+ Strategy will influence subsequent elements of REDD+.¹ Gender considerations and full and effective stakeholder engagement practices should be developed in tandem with the primary REDD+ objectives to meet PNG's targets for GHG emissions reduction and goals for sustainability.

To help in this process, a situation analysis on improving gender inclusiveness and stakeholder participation in PNG's national REDD+ Strategy and policies was undertaken in order to identify gaps, needs and corresponding recommendations for consideration by the architects of the REDD+ Strategy and policies. A general summary of these findings are outlined in this brief.

General Findings

The empowerment of women and gender equality are core issues for PNG's development.

In PNG women are generally underrepresented as decision makers and in positions of power but they play key roles in the economy and resource management and often significantly impacted by any changes in resource management policies. Women rank well below men in almost all measures of health, education, employment, access to economic resources, political voice and decision-making. The Gender Development Index has regressed since 2000. In PNG natural resource use is a gendered practice. Women are often mostly responsible for specific subsistence needs of the family. Over 80% of PNG's food is produced by women and women contribute more than 60% of the effort involved in the country's food production. Since REDD+ directly links to forest use and local food production in PNG, the importance and roles of women in REDD+ must be emphasized.

'...in terms of gender and stakeholder participation, REDD+ in PNG cannot follow business-as-usual and expect to comply with established international standards and criteria for REDD+.'

1. Forest Reference Emission Levels (FREL), National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), Safeguards Information System (SIS)



For more information on development of REDD+ Safeguards in PNG see brief (5), 'REDD+ Safeguards in Papua New Guinea', in the series.

Recommendations

A main enabling driver to help promote participatory and gender-sensitive stakeholder engagement in REDD+ will be partnering with a wide range of stakeholders, including existing gender-oriented organizations, during the development of PNG's REDD+ Strategy. Guidance that is particularly relevant for the development of national REDD+ Strategy, and corresponding REDD+ policies, is available from many sources compiled in the main analysis² of the report, 'Situational Analysis for improving Gender Inclusiveness and Participation in Papua New Guinea's REDD+ strategy and policies'.

The recommendations presented in this brief represent the high priority recommendations presented in the study (Study available upon request from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility REDD+ Readiness Project Unit). These recommendations are grouped in six different categories to help show generally how the recommendations would fit with broader activities and goals within REDD+. These categories include: capacity building, collaboration, data analysis and collection, leverage, operations and policy and outreach. To help guide the timing and execution across the REDD+ policy cycle, the recommendations are further broken out into three categories, which include REDD+ development, REDD+ implementation, and cross-cutting recommendations which should be applied in both development and implementation.

Recommendations are grouped into three categories

Development

Implementation

Cross-cutting

However, gender-sensitive participatory approaches in REDD+, and natural resource management in general, have often been lacking for various reasons including: poor policy, underfunding, cultural inertia, insufficient data, lack of political will, corruption, inadequate technical capacity, poor access to information, and lack of inter-agency coordination. Thus, in terms of gender and stakeholder participation, REDD+ in PNG cannot follow business-as-usual and expect to comply with established international standards and criteria for REDD+.

The analysis revealed that the majority of REDD+ actors do not have gender responsive stakeholder consultations adequately captured in guidelines or policies. It was also found that cultural familiarity and experience can help bridge the gap between policy development and implementation.

Within the country Technical Working Groups (TWGs) have been the foundation for stakeholder engagement working with the Climate Change and Development Authority (CCDA) in the early formulation of the national REDD+ Strategy and corresponding policies. However, to date, composition of participants within these TWGs has been about 20% female. The study also revealed that fundamental levels of capacity building are needed in PNG. Women interviewed had the least understanding of REDD+, and male leaders had the best.

When assessing the current status of gender sensitivity, fairness and effectiveness around stakeholder participation is in part hindered by lack of sex disaggregated data and mechanisms to analyze such data. Additionally, in the interviews that were carried out, most participants felt that stakeholder consultations (at the national and community level) had minimal to no youth involvement.

2. A database of over 200 documents was prepared and delivered to CCDA as part of the review and is available upon request until such information is made freely available on line.

Moving forward, implementing REDD+ will require better outreach and participation than has been seen in past conservation and payment-for-ecosystem-services projects within the country. Success of REDD+ in PNG depends upon greater inclusion of women, as well as men and youths, from planning through implementation.

Development

Capacity Building

Develop a gender issues training module mandatory for REDD+ program managers.

Data Collection and Analysis

Identify and build a database of women's groups and networks as well as other organizations which represent marginalized groups in communities and provinces that can play roles in leading REDD+ activities and support for REDD+ activities.

Outreach

Gender mainstreaming should be conducted in close coordination with the Papua New Guinea National Policy for Women and Gender Equality and identify opportunities for coordination between the various policies and institutions including the National Council of Women.

Operations and Policy

Create a gender/social TWG with representatives from Office for the Development of Women (ODW), National Council of Women (NCW), etc.

Technical Review Panels administered by CCDA have 10 members representing "all stakeholders" that review REDD+ projects. These panels are not stipulated to include women; this should be changed.

National REDD+ policy could require, or at least encourage, women representation on Provincial Forest Management Committees (PFMCs) developing provincial REDD+ activities.

The CCDA is piloting the establishment of Provincial Climate Change Committees (PCCC) and these committees will work on developing the policies and plans that the other sectors can adopt. The CCDA should stipulate and encourage strong representation by women and consideration of gender issues as it establishes the PCCCs.

Policy development agencies should explicitly state a policy to establish a target which states that women, at a minimum, should at least make up 30% of staff teams (e.g. M&E field teams) and any decision-making body, committee, workshop, etc.

Implementation

Capacity Building

Provide support for female staff in REDD+ programs to attend conferences and participate in capacity building and networking activities outside the office and their normal routine.

Data Collection and Analysis

Strengthen capacities to interpret and utilize sex disaggregated data to improve gender-responsive REDD+ policies and activities by hiring or training staff on gender-sensitive data analysis.

Operations and Policy

A GESI toolkit for gender equity and inclusion is in preparation that can be expected to facilitate context-specific guidelines and support material for mainstreaming gender in REDD+ within PNG.

Ensure that REDD+ activities, particularly benefit sharing, include a range of activities and benefits that reach women and take into account their roles and perspectives and any barriers they face.

Outreach

During planning, outreach, and participation utilize gender specific focused groups and/or one-on-one woman to woman interviews of stakeholders.

The architects of the National REDD+ Strategy should identify those recommendations they feel are most feasible and relevant, then prioritize them accordingly as the REDD+ Strategy, needs and capacities evolve.