



## Gender and Social Aspects in Forest Governance

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- Why Gender Equality: Concepts
- Gender in Forest governance : V4MF
- Entry-points to approach gender in FLEGT VPA

### Why Gender Equality?

- Gender is smart economics
  - Women and men as viable production force for sustainable business.

Goldman Sachs April 2013 report:

- *In a growth and resource-constrained world...the potential in the female half of the world's population is a solution that could prove very expensive to ignore.*
- *For countries to succeed and sustain success, it is essential that they build institutions that are inclusive.*

### Why Gender Equality?

- Gender equality as a human right
- They could be vulnerable if their needs and priorities are not accounted.

*"As long as women are bound by poverty and as long as they are looked down upon, human rights will lack substance.... As long as the nation refused to acknowledge the equal role of more than half of itself, it is doomed to failure."*

- Nelson Mandela

### GENDER as a concept

SEX	GENDER
Biological	Socially defined roles, responsibilities, and behaviours
Born with	Learned
Unvarying across cultures and through time	Culturally specific Changes over time

Our understanding of gender starts with "Sex": A biological thing (male, female, others)

Our experience of what it means to be male, female, others: **Gender- A social construction**

Experience of gender starts with **one's sex, and intersects** with other forms of social categories: class, education, ethnicity, religion etc.  
*Different type of men and women have different opportunities*

Together, these create mechanisms that affect individual's **opportunities** (rights, resources, benefits).

- ### What does the opportunities look like?
- Economic advancement – increased income and return on labor
  - Access to opportunities and life chances such as skills development or job openings
  - Access to assets, services, and needed supports to advance economically
  - Decision-making authority and influence in different systems and sub-systems, including household finances

## Women lack opportunities?

Female farmers receive only **5%** of all agricultural extension services from 97 countries

**Only 10%** of total aid for agriculture, forestry and fishing goes to women.

**Only 15%** of the world's extension agents are women



Source: FAO (2010)

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## Big Picture: Forest Governance

Forest governance: “**How**” to govern forests in ways that it is productive, sustainable and meets the needs of society.

VPA: A bilateral trade agreement between timber export country and EU. A trade deal that also allows to maintain a coherent governance mechanisms.

The role of community engagement in forest governance cannot be neglected.

- Women, ethnic communities contribution in forest conservation owning to their traditional knowledge has been well documented.
- **BUT are they (legally) recognized (and governed) as key players in policy, institutional mechanisms and in supply chain!**

## Big Picture: VPA's Context for Gender

- The FLEGT Action Plan (2003) and the EU VPA Policy (2007) also go beyond the focus on legality to refer to loftier ambitions of good governance, sustainable development, and ethical forestry.
- The Action Plan states, "...the EU's wider objective is to encourage sustainable forest management. Since in many countries forest legislation is based on the premise of sustainable forest management, better law enforcement will in general lead to more sustainable forest management. Where this is not the case the EU should encourage a review of the legal framework. **Better forest governance is therefore an important step on the path to sustainable development**" (EC, 2003, 5).
- The Plan also refers to land tenure and access rights for marginalized rural communities and indigenous peoples, stating, "**Efforts will be focused on promoting equitable and just solutions to the illegal logging problem which do not have an adverse impact on poor people**" (EC, 2003, 3). The FLEGT VPA policy references internationally recognized principles of sustainability, including participatory processes and the safeguarding of ethnic and minority populations (Rutt et al. 2018)

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## GENDER in Forest Governance

- **Women and men as viable change agents** for sustainable forest management, but they could be **vulnerable** if their needs and priorities are taken into forest policies, processes, and programs
- **Access, Control (Decisions), Benefits that meets their needs**
- **Exclusion** can stem from various **norms and power structures** operating **within and outside the community**, affecting men and women in different and distinct ways.
- Gender provides an **analytical entry-point** to address sexism and other causes of social exclusion.

30 YEARS  
OF  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## Reasons...

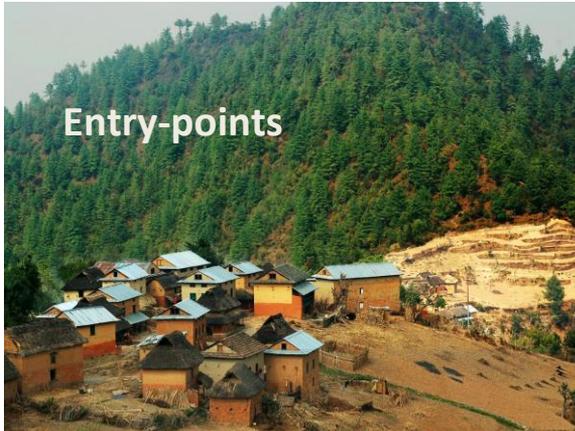
- Lack of recognition of women and their constituencies as legitimate stakeholders for sustainable forest management and governance processes.
- Women's lack of access and limited control in decision-making, especially in governing structures that manage forest and its resources.
- Women's lack of rights to fair benefit-sharing mechanisms from forest, forest products, and enterprises due to limited tenure access and rights.
- Lack of expertise and resources to build gender responsiveness in institutions that implement forest governance and related programs.
- Limited mechanisms to establish and encourage gender champions across forestry SA and NSAs to implement gender equality activities.

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## Gender Mainstreaming Strategy for V4MF

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**GENDER EQUITY STRATEGY:**  
Commitments to address exclusionary processes for women's empowerment in forest governance by the Forest for Making Forests (FFMF) Project



## 1. Unpacking Participation: Gender Analysis

Unpack “participation” from Gender and social aspects for governance:

- 1) Access
- 2) Control
- 3) Enabling Environment

Gender Analysis!

- Who does what?
- Who has what?
- Who gains?
- Who loses?
  - Which (type of) men?
  - Which (type of) women?
- Why? Why not?
- **What can be done about it?**

## 2. Gender-inclusive Stakeholder Engagement

Conduct gender and social inclusive stakeholder mapping

- Invite groups with different needs, priorities
- Identify women’s & men’s barriers to participation, & address such barriers in capacity building efforts
- Mobilize organizations & networks supporting women’s rights & gender in forestry & governance processes
- In management arrangements, involve gender expertise & national entities focused on gender
- Create indicators that measure the gender-sensitivity of activities.

## 3. Gender-inclusive Governance Mechanisms

What does this look like in practice?

- If revision of legal frameworks for FLEGT (e.g. land tenure), ensure it is gender sensitive
- Women actively involved in & can influence decision-making processes, & that their gendered roles, contributions & constraints are taken into account in consultations.
- Link up with & involve CSOs, government ministries responsible for women’s empowerment & gender issues as well as with women’s organizations
  - Provide them with capacity-building on FLEGT, if necessary

## 4. Incentives, Benefits, Structures

As women & men rely on forests, & engage in economic activities, consideration of gender when defining & sharing benefits is critical.

However, women and/or poor, ethnic men may be disadvantaged or marginalized in traditional or formal processes, particularly land tenure, which can lead to them:

- Having unequal access to information & legal processes
- Not being involved in decision-making processes on benefit sharing mechanisms & structures
- Being excluded from FLEGT benefits due to weak right to land & trees

## Incentives, Benefits, Structures

Some questions to ask, and help guide this work....

- Is the land tenure & resource use system equitable with regards to gender?
- Is there transparency with regards to financial transfers to & within communities?
- Is there a strong national law on gender in environmental impact assessments?
- Is there a fair & accessible system to address grievances & conflict?
- Do women have the same legal rights to resources as men?
- Is there a system that monitors these for future learning?

### Gender in FLEGT-VPA

- New programs/governance mechanisms means **both opportunities and risks**
- **Absolute necessity to involve local people: men and women across different groups**
- FLEGT-VPA can learn from REDD+
- Less work means more opportunities
- Inclusive engagement key to achieve equitable governance solutions



# THANK YOU

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