



Workshop Summary Report



Asia-Pacific Workshop on Women's Inclusion for Sustainable Forests and Climate: What Works?

*March 26-27, 2014
Bangkok, Thailand*

Note

The *Asia-Pacific Workshop on Women's Inclusion for Sustainable Forests and Climate: What Works?* was led and organized by USAID LEAF in collaboration with the UN-REDD Programme and WOCAN. For further correspondence and information, please contact Kalpana Giri, (kalpana@winrock.org).

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This workshop was organized as part of The *Regional Joint Initiative* started in 2011 by USAID LEAF, the UN-REDD Programme, and WOCAN to help guide countries in the region on the importance of integrating gender perspectives and promoting women's inclusion in the forestry sector, including REDD+.

We would like to express gratitude towards all who contributed to the *Joint Initiative*. In particular, we would like to recognize Dr. Kalpana Giri, Ms. Tong Chantheang, Ms. Anoja Wickramasinghe and Dr. Nayna Jhaveri for their work in the *Joint Initiative*. We would like to acknowledge the work of The Forest Dialogue that supported the initial dialogue on the *Exclusion and Inclusion of Women in the Forest Sector* held in Kathmandu, Nepal in September 2012. We would like to recognize the commitment and collaboration of several organizations working on REDD+, forestry, environment, gender in Sri Lanka, Cambodia and the Philippines for their engagement in the country-specific research and dialogues.

In addition, we would like to thank all the participants of the *Asia-Pacific Workshop on Women's Inclusion for Sustainable Forests and Climate: What Works?* for their interest and active participation. Our thanks to all the others who have enriched the efforts of the Joint Initiative through their insights and discussion, from far and close. These include Ms. Natalie Elwell, Senior Advisor for Gender and Environment, Office of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, USAID; Dr. Suphasuk Pradubsuk, Program Development Specialist, Regional Development Mission in Asia, USAID; and Ms. Elizabeth Eggerts from United Nations Development Programme.



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Workshop Summary

1. KEY MESSAGES

During the two-day workshop, participants deliberated on evidence, gaps and strategies to address gender gaps in REDD+. This rich discussion resulted in identification of the following key lessons:

1. The Asia-Pacific region has made remarkable progress towards addressing gender equality in REDD+ in recent years. Nonetheless, several challenges persist, requiring better synergies, adequate investments and dedicated persistence more than ever.
2. The region should learn from its stock of lessons that it witnessed from women's inclusion in sustainable forest management and promote those in the context of REDD+.
3. Now is the time to develop a coherent long-term regional vision and strategy in the Asia-Pacific region in the form of regional roadmaps, which can further inform and backstop greater integration of gender perspectives and women's inclusion in forestry and REDD+ programs at national and sub-national levels.
4. Addressing gender gaps in REDD+ requires integration of practical and strategic needs of women into REDD+ activities at the operational level of subnational planning and broader sustainable development and poverty strategies.
5. Current initiatives to address gender gaps in REDD+ are largely limited to awareness raising and capacity-building but lack inbuilt financial resources and expertise for enforcement. Increased institutional responsiveness should be the key loci of gender integration efforts to promote enforcement in the region.
6. Evidence shows that a tailored capacity building process that fosters south-south collaboration and exchange promotes mutual learning and replication in the region.

2. OVERVIEW

While the United Nations Framework for Climate Change recognizes the need to address gender considerations while developing and implementing national strategies and action plans related to climate change and Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), a number of key questions remain, including:

- To what extent do the REDD+ policies and programming in the Asia-Pacific region actually address gender gaps and promote women's inclusion in early REDD+ initiatives?
- What lessons can be learned from existing programs, projects and good practices from forestry and other land-use sectors for better addressing gender issues in forestry and REDD+?

In order to seek answers to these key questions, over 60 foresters, gender and REDD+ experts, and representatives from private sector, women's organizations, and other civil society groups from 16 countries in the Asia-Pacific region deliberated during the *Asia-Pacific Workshop on Women's Inclusion for Sustainable Forests and Climate: What Works?* held 26-27 March 2014, in Bangkok, Thailand. The two-day workshop provided participants a unique opportunity to share,

reflect and learn from diverse initiatives in the region, including *the Regional Joint Initiative for Women's Inclusion in REDD+*.

This workshop was organized as part of The *Regional Joint Initiative* started in 2011 by USAID LEAF, the UN-REDD Programme, and WOCAN to help guide countries in the region on the importance of integrating gender perspectives and promoting women's inclusion in the forest sector, including REDD+. The purpose of the workshop were as follows:

- Promote **common understanding of the linkages** between integration of gender perspectives and women's inclusion in the forestry sector within the emerging framework of climate change and REDD+.
- **Share existing evidence** and best practices that enhance women's inclusion and integrate gender perspectives in forestry sector.
- **Review the challenges and opportunities** for gender integration in the forestry sector as it relates to climate change and REDD+.
- **Generate shared commitment** to women's inclusion and gender equality as a key mechanism for sustaining forestry sectors, climate change and REDD+ activities.
- **Identify and document regional capacity needs** for greater integration of gender perspectives and women's inclusion in forest sectors, climate change and REDD+.

Prior to this workshop, and through this Regional Joint Initiative, two main activities took place as preliminary steps in this Initiative:

1. A regional expert dialogue was held to identify key barriers to women's inclusion in the forest sector, and
2. A series of regional and national-level studies were carried out to identify practical entry points for women's inclusion and integration of gender perspectives in REDD+ in Asia-Pacific¹.

Findings from the regional and national-level studies mentioned above were presented and discussed during this workshop. Government representatives from Cambodia, Sri Lanka and the Philippines, where country-level studies were conducted, described how they plan to use the studies' recommendations to integrate gender perspectives and promote women's inclusion into REDD+. The participants also exchanged good practices, lessons learned, tools, innovations and ideas for women's inclusion in natural resources sectors. Building upon evidence-based research and innovative examples to address gender equality around the region, countries were asked to identify their existing status and capacity needs to better address gender equality in climate change and REDD+ initiatives.

The two-day workshop ended with participating countries identifying context-specific action plans for further ensuring the integration of gender considerations and inclusion of women as a critical part of their REDD+ readiness process, especially as one of the key aspects of REDD+ safeguards. In addition to their individual plans, countries also expressed the need for continued regional support from the *Joint Regional Initiative* to provide technical backstopping and south-south exchange opportunities, as well as to help coordinate and harmonize support across

¹ Read more in the upcoming *REDD+ and Gender Issue Brief 1: Findings and Lessons-Learned: Barriers and Entry Points for Women's Inclusion in REDD+ in Asia-Pacific*; available at www.leafasia.org.

development partners on gender and REDD+. The capacity needs included in this report are an outcome of the collective effort of the participants representing 16 countries in the Asia-Pacific.

In response to this, the *Joint Regional Initiative* will develop a roadmap describing how country-level actions and needs across the region can be strategically supported by the current partnership between the USAID LEAF, WOCAN and the UN-REDD Programme. The partnership will look for additional partners to join hands in this effort.

3. REFLECTIONS

The following is a narrative content of the workshop sessions, preceded by the reflection of the participants of the two-day workshop.

1. What did the workshop contribute to?

- Established understanding on how gender connects to REDD+ and climate change.
- Equipped more knowledge on how to integrate gender in a more effective way when running REDD+ projects/initiatives in the field.
- Provided better linkages of gender issues and status of gender issues in practice.
- Provided in-depth perspectives on key gender issues that implementers of REDD+ project/programs easily neglect.
- Helped design long-term strategic plan on gender intervention on the national resource management sectors.
- Provided learning on existing best practices to address gender issues in forestry, and REDD+.
- Provided learning that (participants') organizations could adopt to promote gender-friendly measures.
- Helped to build networks and learn from each other on different techniques, strategies employed at regional, national and community levels.
- Triggered a feeling of commitment to better address gender issues.
- Learned about various methods of presentation to tell gender stories.
- Provided good variation of interventions to address gender issues at policy level (UNREDD) and all projects in small scale.
- Helped identifying the persistent challenges to address gender-gaps in REDD+.
- Documented national capacity needs for gender equality.

2. What additional support is required?

- Many initiatives with different strategies and approaches need to be collected so it will be accessible for anyone who is searching for best practices; and all this examples should be scaled up into higher level.
- Mass movements that recognize men and women's differentiated contribution and vulnerabilities in climate change and REDD+.
- Measures that redefine the strict classified tasks between man and woman to avoid additional work-burden.
- Efforts to address issues of gender violence in natural resource management.
- Efforts to establish regional networks to continue with sharing and learning.

- Efforts to ensure the sustainability of the projects on long-term basis.
- Efforts to measure the outputs and impacts of projects in gender-sensitive manner.
- Scaling up of best practices to national and regional level REDD+ activities.
- Design REDD+ projects to provide alternative livelihood and women's empowerment.
- All initiatives from the market can be collected as a collection of examples.
- Extend regional efforts such as the *Regional Joint Initiative* to provide back-stopping, foster south-south exchange opportunities and synergize regional support.

3. How could we improve the workshop?

- More time for sharing and replication, especially during the market place session.
- More engagement with men and women.
- Involvement with private sector.

Workshop Proceedings

4. WORKSHOP SESSION SUMMARIES

4.1 Opening Session

Ms. Natalie Elwell, Senior Advisor for Gender and Environment, Office of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment of USAID, Dr. Jeannette Gurung, Executive Director of WOCAN, and Ms. Elizabeth Eggerts, UNDP welcomed the participants to the workshop. Ms. Rattana Lukanawarakul, Director, Forest Environment Division, Department of National Parks, Wildlife & Plant Conservation provided opening remarks and encouraged to have a productive dialogue during the workshop.



Ms. Natalie Elwell (right), highlighted USAID's efforts to address gender issues in REDD+ in the region as well as the achievements and the remaining gaps that needs to be addressed.



Dr. Jeannette Gurung (left), stressed the efforts made in the region through *the Regional Joint Initiative* for Women's Inclusion in REDD+ and called for greater solidarity and efforts from all the stakeholders in the region.

Ms. Elizabeth Eggerts underscored women's inclusion as a part of REDD+ human rights. She also introduced *on Gender-Sensitive REDD+* as one of employed in REDD+.



the importance of treating safeguard that promotes *UN-REDD's Guidance Note* the key tools to be



In her opening remarks, Ms. Rattana Lukanawarakul (left) stressed the need for participatory approaches and planning to include the voices of forest-dependent people including women. She also noted the need to acknowledge the contribution and vulnerabilities of women and men in their various capacities as directors, planners, capacity development experts, community members at regional, national and community levels.

All the speakers presented inter-linkages between women's inclusion and forestry, and underscored the need to address gender considerations in forestry, climate change and REDD+ activities. The key points that emerged from the opening session were as follows:

- The region has made commendable progress to address gender equality since 2011 and yet, there are formidable challenges to fully integrate gender into REDD+ activities.
- Gender perspectives & women's Inclusion matters to the efficiency and sustainability of forestry and climate change.
- Women's inclusion is a key safeguard issue to be integrated into REDD+ readiness and implementation.
- There is a need to acknowledge the contribution and vulnerabilities of women and men in their various capacities across scales.
- International community, donor agencies, women's organizations are putting concerted efforts towards addressing gender issues in REDD+.

4.2 Background and Introductions

Following participant's introduction, Dr. Kalpana Giri, REDD+ and Gender Expert from USAID LEAF provided an overview of the two-day workshop. This was followed through participatory exercise that mapped participant's expectations from the workshop. The expectations were within the scope of the workshop's objectives.

Considering the diverse nature of participants and varying level of knowledge on gender and REDD+, women's inclusion in REDD+ was introduced as a key means for REDD+ safeguards and performance as follows:

- Women's inclusion is **a means to achieve gender equality** in sustainable management of forests and REDD+.
- Women's inclusion in REDD+ denotes to their **meaningful participation** that goes beyond the number of men and women and addresses the gender-gaps for them to have opportunities and choices.
- Gender equality is important in REDD+ for both **performance and safeguard reasons**.

Against this background, existing interventions and the *regional Joint Initiative*, its purpose and country's experiences was introduced.

4.3 Setting the Stage: Why Integration of Gender Perspectives and Women's Inclusion matters in Forestry and Climate Change?

Climate Change Consequences and Coping: Experience & Lessons Learned on Improved Cooking Stove Model by Con Cuong Women's Union in Vietnam

Ms. Li Thi Ha, Head of Women's Union of Con Cuong District and Ms. Nguyen Thi Khanh Van, USAID LEAF Field Coordinator of Nghe An District provided an overview of climate change and the impact of deforestation on natural disasters such as flash foods, hurricane and storm on Con Cuong district. The recurring prevalence of such disasters urged local women to cope up with the adverse effects of climate change. They collaborated with the USAID LEAF program by identifying their priorities to establish improved cooking stoves (ICS). USAID LEAF established a participatory approach that involved local people in the design, planning and implementation of ICS to enhance their active roles, and promote ownership among local partners in the area. Local women union was involved since the design and were encouraged to play the coordinating roles in all ICS activities including social preference survey, baseline survey, selection of ICS households and conducting workshops to raise awareness about the protection of forest resources. Strategic skills were also provided to the local women union members to improve their leadership skills. The benefits were multifold. ICS model was highly valued by local people, especially women for its attributes related to energy saving, less smoke, fast cooking, safe and more leisure time. As cooking is traditionally considered women's responsibility, women definitely benefitted due to better cooking conditions through ICS. Additionally, women's leadership and active participation in ICS is recognized by their communities and the forestry department agencies.

An Overview USAID LEAF/WOCAN/UN-REDD's Regional Joint Initiative for Greater Women's Inclusion and Integration of Gender Perspectives in Forestry and Climate Change

Dr Jeannette Gurung presented the UN-REDD, WOCAN, and USAID LEAF's *Regional Joint Initiative* that aimed to identify practical entry points for women's inclusion and gender perspectives in REDD+ in Asia-Pacific. This involved further examination of specific challenges and barriers that prevent the integration of gender perspectives; collating relevant evidence of good practices of women's inclusion in forest and other land use sectors; and knowledge sharing for replication of successful practices. The initiative involved a regional series of assessment, stakeholder dialogues, policy assessments in Sri Lanka, Cambodia and the Philippines. The lessons captured were shared through this workshop (see Figure 1 below).

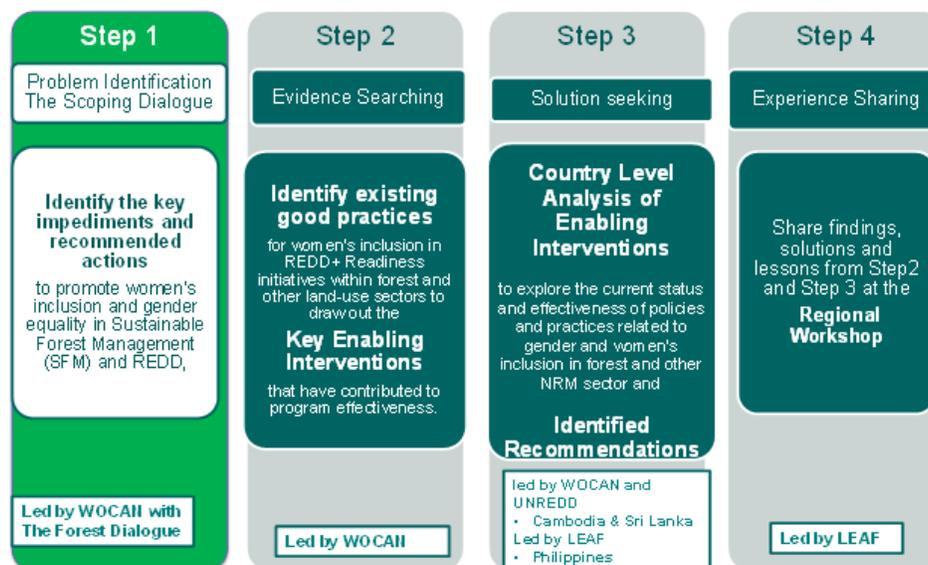


Figure 1 : The Regional Joint Initiative and its Key Activities

Key outputs that were developed out of the Joint Initiative includes Regional Scoping Report, three country reports on Sri Lanka, Cambodia and the Philippines; two issues briefs on REDD+ and Gender as well as the workshop summary report.

Country's Experiences on Joint Initiative

Mr. Mahinda S.A.M. Senevirathna, Senior Deputy Conservator of Forests, Environment Management, Forest Department and Mr Prasad Ranjan Attygalle, Technical Advisor UN-REDD Programme, Sri Lanka; Mr Chhun Delux, Deputy Chief of Forest Carbon Credits and Climate Change, Forestry Administration, Cambodia; and Mr. Mark De Claro, Forest Management Bureau, Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources, The Philippines described their experiences with the *Regional Joint Initiative* and described how they plan to use the studies' recommendations to integrate gender perspectives and promote women's inclusion into REDD+. Countries indicated the most important barriers as well as identified priority recommendations for actions at community and institutional/policy levels.

- At the community level: In all countries, the participants prioritized **skill building, including income-generating interventions and women's leadership and gender champions**, to address the primary barriers of **ideological and cultural factors**, and **women's inadequate participation in decision making**.
- At the institutional/policy level: In all countries, the priority recommendations were for **women's leadership and gender champions, gender analysis and planning, and skills building interventions** to address the primary barriers of **Ideological and gender norms and the lack of women's organizations**. Particularly for Philippines, priority recommendations also included **institutionalizing gender equality in key forestry and REDD+ implementing state institutions**.

Following key messages emerged from the session:

- Men and women have differentiated contribution and vulnerabilities to climate change.

- Activities to address REDD+ can vary from improved cooking stoves at sub-national level to strategic backstopping from regional level.
- The key is to plan mitigation activities such that they promote conservation of carbon stocks and empower women.
- The region has initiated a comprehensive effort towards creating a regional cohesive approach, called the *Regional Joint Initiative*. There are concrete evidences at regional and national level that work towards addressing gender gaps in REDD+.

4.4 Evidence Mapping: How Gender Concerns and Women’s Inclusion Have Been Implemented in Practice?

Using a panel group discussion with gender and REDD+ experts from the region, this session reflected key achievements and persistent challenges to better implement gender equality in practice, particularly in the context of forestry and REDD+. Key experts included Mr. Mark de Claro, Forest Management Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, The Philippines; Ms. Anoja Wickramasinghe, Emeritus Professor of Geography, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka; Ms. Tong Chantheang, Senior Program Officer, CEDAC Cambodia, Ms. Sikha Shrestha, Gender & Social Inclusion Coordinator, Hariyo Ban Programme, Nepal and Mr. Rith Bunroeun, Executive Director, Action for Development, Cambodia. Dr. Kalpana Giri moderated the discussion that focused on following questions.



Figure 2: Experts discuss about integration of gender perspectives and women’s inclusion in forestry, climate change and REDD+

1. Why are women not included in forestry, climate change and REDD+ interventions in the region?

- Forestry and REDD+ is still limited with its territorial practice of strict forest conservation that does not allow proper linkages with social and gender issues. There is a need to

situate forestry, climate change and REDD+ for community development and make demand to engage all sectors.

- In their day to day lives, people appreciate women's work in forestry activities. In Sri Lanka, people commonly identify women's work in home gardens. However, forestry policies fail to identify women as key change agents for its management. The further challenge is opening avenues in forestry, climate change and REDD+ in a way that the policies acknowledge women's contribution in sustainable forest management.
- Women's groups lack capacities and technical skills to strongly assert their claims to recognition, decision-making and benefit-sharing in forestry and REDD+.
- It is important to understand the wider socio-political processes and how REDD+ fits into those processes. There is a need to better understand policy making processes and its limitation, before thinking of ways to integrate gender.

2. Despite having excellent policies, why are women not involved, and even with involvement, why do they not receive fair benefits? Where are the gaps?

- Recently, there are efforts at the policy level to engage women in climate change and REDD+ but the implementation is rare. Policy to practice is a huge gap.
- Most often, institutions are not capable to include gender in their activity due to limited technical expertise and financial resources.
- Even at the community level, strategic capacity building strategy that combines livelihood activities and women's empowerment are lacking.
- Very small percentage of woman are policy makers.
- Gender budgeting is inadequate and not properly monitored.
- Limited practice and attention for effective enforcement and accountability.
- Lack of women's leadership and gender champions in forestry and REDD+.

3. How can we promote institutional responsiveness?

- Develop guided protocols from central to local level to mandate enforcement and periodic monitoring of gender policies into practice.
- Mandate gender budgeting and gender analysis and planning of REDD+ programs and activities.
- Promote awareness, dissemination and enforcement of existing gender laws, policies and strategies.
- Provide adequate spaces for men and women, as a gender constituency, to raise, advocate and table issues related to gender equality in policies, programs, and consultations.
- Capacity building strategies should focus on changing the organizational culture of key gender and REDD+ implementing institutions.
- Foster mass dialogues to promote wider acceptance and values to shifting roles of men and women.

4. What is the realistic way to move forward? Given the challenges, how can efforts to achieve gender equality be tailored, whilst also creating a safer environment that values women's perspectives in decision-making?

- Establish a regional foundation that engages with national government, build their capacity, including their soft skills to be able to encourage deliberation on new social identities and gender roles.
- Build networks and group as communication platform both at the region and within countries. Call for gender equality invokes risk and thus, it is important to schedule regular meeting to share the feeling of achievement and struggles that comes with gender integration. Regular mentoring and coaching is required to improve knowledge, skills and perseverance of women leaders and gender champions.
- Link REDD+ work with existing rural development programs and provide equal opportunity for women through self-help and credit groups
- Scale the project's level lessons to link with national level REDD+ activities. Project often address specific gender gaps and devise indicators measuring the results. If scaled up, project's level successes can potentially be tied to the REDD+ safeguard information systems.
- Foster safe negotiating spaces for dialogue and reconstruction of gender narratives in forestry sector.
- Empower women and men for their transformation of gender identities and claims.

Key messages that surfaced from the Panel Group Discussions include:

- Gender in REDD+ have made considerable progress in the region.
- The region requires some shift in the fundamental ways REDD+ is perceived and practiced with a limited focus on conservation only. There is need to reconstruct and situate forestry as a sector that values conservation but also provides sustainable management and livelihood options to both men and women.
- There is an imminent need of support mechanisms that promote institutional response, mandate enforcement of gender policies in practice; whilst also allow for safer negotiating spaces for dialogue and reconstruction of gender narratives in forestry sector.
- Comprehensive capacity building approaches are to be designed and delivered to ensure institutional buy-in and support for gender equality in key forestry and REDD+ implementing institutions whilst strengthening the skills and capacities of selected leaders and gender champions.

4.5 Market Place Innovations: Showcasing Good Practices, Tools, Programs for Greater Women’s Inclusion in Forestry and Climate Change

The market place helped map out innovative activities on gender integration and women’s inclusion in forestry and REDD+. It provided spaces for governments, civil society organizations and donors to showcase and share the tools/standards/innovations that are proven useful to address gender issues.

Key messages from the Market Place included:

- There are efforts at regional, national, sub-national, community levels to address gender-gaps which can provide useful lessons to address gender issues in forestry and REDD+.
- There is need to develop mechanisms that connects these efforts, promote lessons learned and encourages replication in the region.
- Along with having safer dialogues, it is crucial to identify concrete steps for greater women’s inclusion & gender integration in forestry and climate change

Projects participating at market place were as follows:

SN	Presenter	Countries	Key Innovation for Gender Equality
1.	Ms. Vansy Senyavong	Lao PDR	<i>Giving Ethnic Women Influence - MHP in Lao PDR</i>
2.	Dr. Divi Sriram	India	<i>Technological Innovations in India with Reference to Time and Drudgery Saving for Women in Natural Resources Management Sector</i>
3.	Ms. Nani Sapitarani	Indonesia	<i>Women Field School: From Local Experience to National Lessons Learned</i>
4.	Ms. Bazar Chimed	Mongolia	<i>Gender Strategy of Ministry of Environment and Green Development in Mongolia</i>
5.	Ms. Elizzabeth Eggerts	UNDP	<i>UN-REDD Guidance Note on Gender Sensitive REDD+: How to Achieve Effective, Efficient and Sustainable REDD+ Processes and Outcomes</i>
6.	Ms. Madhu Ghimire	Nepal	<i>Gender Mainstreaming in Forestry Sector: Pioneer Initiation but Challenge for Implementation!</i>
7.	Ms. Renuka Badrakanthi	Sri Lanka	<i>Awareness Programs for Women: What do We Need?</i>
8.	Dr. Kinnalone Phommasack	Lao MAF	<i>The Role of The Advancement of Women of Division of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR</i>
9.	For. Mark De Claro	The Philippines	<i>Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines of Forest Management Bureau, The Philippines</i>
10.	Ms. La Thi Ha & Nguyen Thi Khanh Van	VietNam	<i>Women’s Union Experience with Improved Cook Stoves in Nghe An, Vietnam</i>
11.	Ms. Chehek Bilgi	India	<i>Conveying Gender Stories through Environment-focused Communication Tools</i>

12.	Ms. Sikha Shrestha	Nepal	<i>Gender Mainstreaming in Forestry Sector: It's Possible but Full of Challenges!</i>
13.	Dr. Kalpana Giri & Ms. Febyana Suryaningrum	USAID LEAF	<i>Learn Ways to Incorporate Gender Issues in your REDD+ projects</i>
14.	Dr. U. Sirita and team	Cambodia	<i>Livelihood Benefits and Women's Empowerment</i>
15.	Dr. Nisha Onta	WOCAN	<i>W+ Standard: Ensuring Benefits to Women</i>
16.	Ms. Diana Gultom	Indonesia	<i>Gender Perspective in Rights-based Safeguards</i>
17.	Dr.Chonchanok Viravan & Ms. Naphaphen Vejajiva	Thailand	<i>Outstanding Women Business Leaders for Green Growth Award in Thailand</i>

4.6 Identifying Concrete Steps for Greater Women's Inclusion and Gender Integration in Forestry and Climate Change

Using a participatory approach, this session captured country's specific needs to better address gender equality, subsequently indicating the need for a regional backstopping support and south-south exchange opportunities within the region. Ms. Natalie Elwell, and Dr. David Ganz, Chief of Party, USAID LEAF moderated the session. Participants were divided into break-out groups based on their countries and asked to report on following questions:

- What is the existing status and next steps to address gender equality in forestry and REDD+ in countries?
- What knowledge is missing? Gaps?
- What type of regional support do countries need?
- What types of regional synergies are emerging?

Consolidating the data captured through the discussions provided a regional roadmap that focuses on developing support mechanisms to better address gender issues and women's inclusion in REDD+ (see Table 1). While countries have similar challenges; they are at different stages to address gender issues in REDD+ and require a range of capacity-building activities. The regional support mechanism, thus, needs to be specific enough to provide to the body of knowledge that the countries can tap into and yet, let countries choose their own context-specific interventions to address the gender gaps.

During the discussions, participants stressed the need to have a concrete regional action for gender equality that benefits and inform activities at policy, institutional and community levels in the countries. All agreed that promoting collaboration and the dissemination of information and lessons learned between countries engaged in early gender integration in REDD+ activities is essential for the efficient evolution and expansion of gender equality efforts in REDD+.

Table 1: DRAFT REGIONAL ROADMAP for Gender Equality in REDD+ in Asia-Pacific

GOAL: Enhance the effectiveness of REDD+ through greater inclusion of women and gender perspectives in all relevant policies and practices.			
OBJECTIVES:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Examine specific challenges and barriers that prevent the integration of gender perspectives 2. Collating relevant evidence of good practices of women's inclusion in forest and other land use sectors; and 3. Knowledge sharing for replication of successful practices 			
REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES	NEEDS*	COUNTRY NEEDS**	ACTIONS ALREADY PLANNED/IN PLACE
Develop and prioritize a menu of types of practices/approaches that could be selected by REDD+ countries (based on JI Scoping study and case study examples) who are not aware of possible pathways to addressing gender in REDD+.	Capacity building (better knowledge of gender issues in CC/REDD+; recognition of women's contribution in SFM/REDD+; TOT for linking capacities at regional, national, community levels)	Capacity building Lao PDR	USAID LEAF is supporting 20 gender champions across Asia-Pacific (Cambodia, Vietnam, Lao, Thailand, Malaysia, PNG) over 2013-2015
Provide demand-based technical backstopping for gender equality to meet the country needs, within UN-REDD, FCPF and/or USAID mechanisms and sources of funding.	Women's Leadership (Leadership development of women's organizations, women entrepreneurs, gender focal points and champions)	Women's Leadership-Mongolia	WOCAN provides training for Women's Leadership.
South-south cooperation & learning by countries pursuing different approaches/developing different practices for lessons-learned and wider replication	Institutional innovation & implementation (assess gender-specific capacity/policy gaps; strengthen implementation mechanisms; develop regional/national gender expertise in CC/REDD+; strengthen women ministers and forest ministries for gender integration in CC/REDD+; support gender-integrated programming at organizations and within projects; promote institutional responsiveness and accountability)	Institutional innovation & implementation-Cambodia, Vietnam, Nepal, Philippines	USAID LEAF, WOCAN and UNREDD's Regional Joint Initiative provides south-south collaboration opportunities. UNREDD programs support countries to meet their plan on gender-responsive needs

Leverage resources and investments at the regional level to garner seed money to fund demonstration activities on gender equality in the region	Harmonized tools & processes (gender tools for forestry/cc/REDD+ sector? What do rights mean in forestry sector? How should that be understood and applied in practice?)	Harmonized tools & processes-mainly for safeguard processes in all countries, The Philippines	USAID LEAF Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and Checklist; UNREDD's Guidance Note on Gender-Sensitive REDD+
Establish regional vision for gender and REDD+ work demonstrating where the region is now and where it would like to go	Policy support (regional level: south to south learning exchange; market places' national level: policy dialogues, seminars, dissemination workshops)	Policy support and gender analysis (Cambodia, Lao PDR)	USAID LEAF is supporting gender-reviews upon request from government. UN-REDD runs a regional capacity assessment with also include gender.
Creation of a regional hub/forum that addresses/networks for gender equality and provides services required	Gender integrated REDD+ programming (Back-stopping to key REDD+ projects for better integration of gender issues into their REDD+ projects safeguards; benefit-sharing mechanisms; accounting framework study)	Cambodia, Vietnam, Nepal Demonstration/pilot projects- Vietnam: PLUP, safeguards, benefit-sharing	The Joint Initiative regional workshop 2015 (by UNREDD, WOCAN, USAID LEAF)
Use of the W+ Standard to measure benefits to women and fulfill SES Requirements; also possible to tag onto carbon (Gold Standard, VCS, Social Carbon) and other certification systems (including FSC)	Guide gender and REDD+ efforts at the provincial and sub-nation level.	Cambodia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka	

<p>Promote demonstration activities to guide gender and REDD+ efforts at the provincial and subnational level, to show how local efforts can be scaled up</p>	<p>Demonstration/pilot projects (support national/sub-national demonstration activities with livelihood and skill-building components along with gender)</p> <p>Engagement with Private sectors (Link gender with their CSR policy)</p>	<p>All countries (Demonstration/pilot projects- Vietnam: PLUP, safeguards, benefit-sharing)</p>	<p>UN-REDD with GEF Small Grant Programme provides small grants to grassroots organizations in Sri Lanka and Cambodia to support national REDD+ readiness efforts.. UN-REDD also provide demand based support in various REDD+ relevant areas including gender to all its partner countries.</p>
	<p>Learning & outreach events at cross-national and regional levels</p>	<p>All countries</p>	
	<p>Engagement with men (in all the processes)</p>		
<p>* These needs are presented in the form of blocks, more details of these needs are available as specific country needs</p>			
<p>**Country needs are collated from the needs assessment at policy, institutional and community levels during the Asia-Pacific Workshop. More discussions need to be made with the respective countries to distill their priorities and identify exact support mechanisms.</p>			

ANNEXES

AGENDA

DAY 1 – WEDNESDAY, 26th MARCH, 2014

08:00 – 08:30	Registration and welcome coffee
09:00 – 09:30	<p>Opening session</p> <p>Welcome note from USAID Ms. Natalie Elwell, Senior Advisor for Gender and Environment, Office of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment of US Agency for International Development (USAID)</p> <p>Welcome note from WOCAN Dr. Jeannette Gurung, Executive Director</p> <p>Welcome note from UNREDD Ms. Elizabeth Eggerts, UNDP</p> <p>Opening remarks from Thailand Ms. Rattana Lukanawarakul, Director, Forest Environment Division, Department of National Parks, Wildlife & Plant Conservation</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Kalpana Giri, USAID LEAF Program</p>
09:30 – 10:05	<p>Background of the meeting & Introductions</p> <p>Speed introductions Structure, Expectations & Objective of the meeting Contract setting</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Kalpana Giri, USAID LEAF Program</p>
10:05 – 11:30	<p>Setting the stage- Why integration of gender perspectives & women's inclusion matters in forestry & Climate Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Climate change Consequences and Coping: Experience & Lessons Learned on Improved Cooking Stove Model by Con Cuong Women's Union in Vietnam</i>; Ms. La Thi Ha- Head of Con Cuong District Women's Union & Ms. Nguyen Thi Khanh Van- Field Coordinator Nghe An, USAID LEAF, Vietnam • <i>An overview of USAID LEAF/WOCAN/UN-REDD's Regional Joint Initiative for greater women's inclusion and integration of gender perspectives in forestry and climate change</i>; Dr. Jeannette Gurung, WOCAN • <i>Key recommendations from the Joint Initiative Process in Sri Lanka</i> Mr. Mahinda S.A.M. Senevirathna, Senior Deputy Conservator of Forests, Environment Management, Forest Department, Sri Lanka • <i>Key recommendations from the Joint Initiative Process in Philippines</i>

	<p>Mr. Mark de Claro, Forest Management Bureau, Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources, The Philippines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Key recommendations from the Joint Initiative Process in Cambodia;</i> Mr. Chhun Delux, Deputy Chief of Forest Carbon Credits and Climate Change, Forestry Administration, Cambodia <p>Method: Short Presentation Moderator: Dr. Kalpana Giri, USAID LEAF Program</p>
11:30 – 11:45	Group photograph & coffee break
11:45 – 13:15	<p>Evidence mapping on women’s inclusion in forestry and other land use sectors: How gender concerns and women’s inclusion have been implemented in practice?</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Mark de Claro, Forest Management Bureau, Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources, The Philippines • Ms. Anoja Wickramasinghe, Emeritus Professor of Geography, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka • Ms. Tong Chantheang, Senior Program Officer, CEDAC Cambodia • Ms. Sikha Shrestha, Gender & Social Inclusion Coordinator, Hariyo Ban Programme, Nepal • Mr. Rith Bunroeun, Executive Director, Action for Development, Cambodia <p>Method: Interactive interviews Moderator: Dr. Kalpana Giri, USAID LEAF Program</p>
13:30 – 15:00	Lunch
15:00 – 15:30	<p>Market Place for gender equality in forestry and climate change: Sharing information</p> <p>Overview of the Market Place Overview of the participating projects at the Market Place (Showcases Good practices, tools, programs for greater women’s inclusion in forestry and climate change)</p> <p>Method: Innovation Market Place Moderator: Mr. Akihito Kono, The UNREDD programme</p>

15:30 – 16:00	<p>Participating projects at the Market Place</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Vansy Senyavong, Director, MHP, Lao PDR <i>Giving ethnic women influence - MHP in in Lao PDR</i> 2. Dr. Divi Sriram, Assistant Professor, Dept of Public Policy and Public Administration, Pandit Deendayl Petroleum University, Gujarat, India <i>Technological innovations in India with reference to time and drudgery saving for women in Natural Resources Management Sector</i> 3. Ms. Nani Sapitarani, Indonesia <i>Women Field School: From Local Experience to National Lessons Learned</i> 4. Ms. Elizzabeth Eggerts, UNDP <i>UN-REDD Guidance Note on Gender Sensitive REDD+: How to achieve effective, efficient and sustainable REDD+ processes and outcomes</i> 5. Ms. Bazar Chimed, Mongolia <i>Gender Strategy of Ministry of Environment and Green Development in Mongolia</i> 6. Ms. Madhu Ghimire, Nepal <i>Gender mainstreaming in forestry sector: pioneer initiation but challenge for implementation!</i> 7. Ms. Renuka Badrakanthi, Sri Lanka <i>Awareness programs for women: What do we need?</i> 8. Dr. Kinnalone Phommasack, Lao MAF <i>The role of The Advancement of Women of Division of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR</i> 9. For. Mark De Claro, The Philippines <i>Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines of Forest Management Bureau, The Philippines</i> 10. Ms. La Thi Ha & Ms. Con Cuong Women's Union, Nghe An <i>Women's Union experience with Improved Cook stoves in Nghe An, Vietnam</i>
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee Break
16:30 – 17:30	<p>Market Place Continued</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Vansy Senyavong, Director, MHP, Lao PDR <i>Giving ethnic women influence - MHP in in Lao PDR</i>

	<p>2. Dr. Divi Sriram, Assistant Professor, Dept of Public Policy and Public Administration, Pandit Deendayl Petroleum University, Gujarat, India <i>Technological innovations in India with reference to time and drudgery saving for women in Natural Resources Management Sector</i></p> <p>3. Ms. Nani Sapitarani, Indonesia <i>Women Field School: From Local Experience to National Lessons Learned</i></p> <p>4. Ms. Elizzabeth Eggerts, UNDP <i>UN-REDD Guidance Note on Gender Sensitive REDD+: How to achieve effective, efficient and sustainable REDD+ processes and outcomes</i></p> <p>5. Ms. Bazar Chimed, Mongolia <i>Gender Strategy of Ministry of Environment and Green Development in Mongolia</i></p> <p>6. Ms. Madhu Ghimire, Nepal <i>Gender mainstreaming in forestry sector: pioneer initiation but challenge for implementation!</i></p> <p>7. Ms. Renuka Badrakanthi, Sri Lanka <i>Awareness programs for women: What do we need?</i></p> <p>8. Dr. Kinnalone Phommasack, Lao MAF <i>The role of The Advancement of Women of Division of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR</i></p> <p>9. For. Mark De Claro, The Philippines <i>Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines of Forest Management Bureau, The Philippines</i></p> <p>10. Ms. La Thi Ha & Ms. Con Cuong Women's Union, Nghe An <i>Women's Union experience with Improved Cook stoves in Nghe An, Vietnam</i></p>
17:30	End of Day
18:30 – 20:30	Welcome Dinner

DAY 2 – THURSDAY, 27th MARCH 2014

09:00 – 09:30	<p>Market Place for gender equality in forestry and climate change: Sharing information Overview of the participating projects at the knowledge platform</p>

09:30 – 11:00	<p>Participating projects at the Market Place</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Chehek Bilgi- India <i>Conveying gender stories through environment-focused communication tools</i> 2. Dr. Nisha Onta, WOCAN <i>W+ Standard: Ensuring Benefits to Women</i> 3. Ms. Sikha Shrestha, Gender & Social Inclusion Coordinator, USAID's Hariyo Ban Program- Nepal <i>Gender mainstreaming in forestry sector: it's possible but full of challenges!</i> 4. Ms. Naphaphen Vejjajiva, International Relations Chair, BPM Thailand & Ms. Sujata Ram, M&E Manager, USAID' LEAD program <i>Outstanding Women Business Leaders for Green Growth Award in Thailand</i> 5. Ms. Diana Gultom, debtWATCH Indonesia. <i>Gender Perspective in Rights based Safeguards</i> 6. Dr. Kalpana Giri, Gender and REDD+ Expert, USAID LEAF Program <i>Learn ways to incorporate gender issues in your REDD+ projects</i> 7. Dr. U. Sirita and team; Cambodia <i>Livelihood Benefits and Women's Empowerment</i>
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 – 12:30	Discussion & wrap up on Market Place: What have we learned? Mr Akihito Kono; The UNREDD programme
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Identifying concrete steps for greater women's inclusion & gender integration in forestry and climate change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the next steps in countries? • What type of regional support do countries need? <p>Method: Group discussions Moderators: Ms. Natalie Elwell, Senior Advisor for Gender and Environment, USAID & Dr. David Ganz, Chief of Party, USAID LEAF</p>
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 17:30	Reporting back to the plenary and group discussion Reflections
17:30 – 18:00	<p>Vote of thanks & closure</p> <p>Mr. Tim Boyle, The UNREDD programme Dr. Jeannette Gurung, Executive Director, WOCAN Dr. David Ganz, Chief of Party, USAID-funded LEAF program</p>

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BIOS

A. Key Delegates at the Opening Session

Ms. Natalie Elwell is the Senior Advisor for Gender and Environment at USAID, working to build capacity within the Agency to advance and leverage women's empowerment and gender equality to enhance the outcomes of environment programming. Prior to joining USAID at the end of 2009, Natalie was the Associate Vice President for Gender Equity at World Neighbors where she served as a technical advisor to field teams in 18 countries throughout Africa, Asia and LAC, designing their gender approach and building local capacity to integrate gender into long-term rural community development programs. Natalie served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Moldova from 1994 to 1996, where she taught English and environmental education. Her work on gender issues began in Moldova where she initiated and led a "women in development" group. Natalie currently serves on the Board of Directors of Groundswell International, a partnership of local NGOs and resource people in Africa, Asia and LAC working to strengthen rural communities to build healthy farming and food systems from the bottom up. Natalie received her MA in Sustainable Development from the SIT Graduate Institute in Vermont.

Dr. Jeannette Gurung is a forester and gender and development expert whose career has focused on leading organizational change for gender equality within agriculture and natural resource management organizations in Asia and Africa. She is founder and director of WomenOrganizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN), a global network to support advocacy and capacity building for women's leadership through partnering women farmers with women professionals and decision makers, and through building men's support. Jeannette has a MSc in forestry from the University of Washington, and a PhD in Gender and Development from the University of East Anglia (UK) with a focus on organizational development and change for gender equality.

She has expertise in training/capacity building, action research, gender and organizational analysis, policy advocacy and network building, and has published numerous articles and books. She has served as Gender Expert of the Program Advisory Committee of the CGIAR Participatory Research and Gender Analysis Program, and member of the Steering Committee of The Forest Dialogue.

Ms. Elizabeth Eggerts has working been for UNDP, as a gender and climate finance specialist, since July 2012, assisting them in strengthening gender considerations within various climate finance mechanisms as well as in building gender expertise, awareness and capacity within environment and climate change policies and programs. She has previously worked at ICF International formulating and drafting environmental and social impact assessments for both public and private sector projects as well as worked with a grassroots organization, where she helped empower and build capacities of women to overcome homelessness.

Khun Ratana Lukanawarakul has been working with Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation for more than 30 years, providing her expertise in National Park Management and Planning, capacity building programs and joint management of protected areas involving community people's participation. She is also engaged in the Climate Change in Forest sector

and REDD+ implementation , which serves as the Secretariat of REDD+ Task Force from 2011 – at present. She has provided strategic guidance to better incorporate community participation in several forums, including tourism and the climate change and REDD+ negotiation sub-committee for Thailand.

B. Experts at Panel Group Discussion

Ms. Shikha Shrestha is the Gender and Social Inclusion Coordinator, at CARE Nepal and provides her expertise to integrate gender issues in the USAID-funded Hariyo Ban Program. Her area of expertise includes Gender, Knowledge Management, Advocacy. In her capacity, she has been working to contribute in empowerment of these marginalized groups as well as create favorable policy environment for enabling their leadership roles in the forestry sector. Besides, the program also aims in amplifying and addressing gender agenda in the forestry and climate change sector working with diverse stakeholders.

Mr. Rith Bun Roeun is the Executive Director of Natural Resource Environmental Management, good governance, secure livelihoods and DRR and CCA. ARD believes that women are the heart of development and only by engaging with women, meaningful community mobilization is possible. ARD is one of the implementing partners of the OXFAM-funded Transforming and Improving Rural Economic Livelihoods through CBNRM (TIREL) project in Cambodia. This is a NRM based project run by OXFAM GB with unique model of building household support and safe environment for women's active participation in NRM.

Mrs. Chantheang Tong has been working with a Cambodian NGO specializing in sustainable agriculture and rural development called CEDAC for more than 13 years and is currently coordinating CEDAC's Training and Research Program. She is a key person engaging in renewable energy, climate change and gender at CEDAC. In 2013, she involved in the national level study for the Joint Initiative Regional Study: Revealing Obstacles to Greater Integration of Gender Gender and Women's Perspectives in REDD+ Policies and Measures in Cambodia.

Dr. Anoja Wickramasinghe is an Emeritus Professor of Geography, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. Her research is focused on integrating forestry into environment, agriculture, rural and community development, and renewable energy. She is also a trainer in participatory planning, gender and forestry and environmental management. She is an avid writer and has written over 100 research articles and several books have been published by Anoja Wickramasinghe. In 2013, she provided her expertise on the national level study in Sri Lanka under the Joint Initiative Regional Study: Revealing Obstacles to Greater Integration of Gender and Women's Perspectives in REDD+ Policies and Measures in Sri Lanka.

Forester and Attorney Mark De Claro works as the Head of REDD+ unit in Forest Management Board Bureau of Department of Environment and Natural Resource. Claro often serves with the Philippines delegation and is an expert in international climate change and REDD+ negotiation. In his capacity as a forester and attorney, he negotiates with international communities to see REDD+ as a three tier framework of carbon, people and biodiversity. He is also one of the male gender champions in the DENR supportive of gender equality.