




# The End of Business as Usual

Mainstreaming Gender  
in Jurisdictional REDD+ Approaches

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# Key Messages

**01**

Early investment in gender improves results, particularly when matched with consistent and continued gender support and resources, such as gender experts and champions, as well as sufficient budget and capacity on gender in project teams and government partners.

**02**

Understanding women's and men's roles in forest management and forest-related value chains is critical to ensuring project interventions are effectively designed and implemented in a way that equitably involves and benefits women, men and youth.

**03**

Providing safe spaces for women to equitably and actively participate in actions and influence and inform project interventions results in more gender-responsive outcomes.

**04**

Women's equitable and active involvement, including in leadership roles and decision-making processes, builds support for gender-responsive approaches and policy making.

**05**

Involving men in gender activities and incorporating men as well as women into discussions on gender benefits everyone.

**06**

Collection of gender data paired with gender-responsive monitoring and reporting frameworks ensures that gender results are effectively and sufficiently captured.

**07**

Multiple social identities interact and intersect in ways that can compound discrimination for already marginalized groups, such as women, and need to be considered as part of a gender approach.

# Background



Launched in 2009, the Governors' Climate and Forest Task Force (GCFTF) is a unique, subnational collaboration of 38 states and provinces from ten countries working to build robust, jurisdiction-wide programs for REDD+ and low-emissions development and to connect these programs with public and private finance. More than one-third of the world's tropical forests are in GCFTF member states and provinces, including the vast majority of the Brazilian and Peruvian Amazon and more than 60% of Indonesia and Mexico's tropical forests.

In 2014, GCFTF Governors adopted the Rio Branco Declaration, committing their states and provinces to reducing deforestation by 80% by 2020, signaling to the world that they are ready to do more than their fair share in the effort to fight climate change, protect forests, and enhance livelihoods.<sup>1</sup> To support innovative GCFTF tropical forest states and provinces in their plans to implement this Declaration, the Government of Norway made a pledge in 2015 of NOK 200 million (approx. USD 24 million) to the GCFTF to be distributed under two funding windows: the first round of funding was designed to support the 35 GCFTF states and provinces to develop jurisdictional REDD+ strategies and investment plans; the second is currently supporting pioneering jurisdictions to develop innovative approaches to REDD+ implementation.

With implementation and management support provided from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 35 GCFTF states and provinces received funding between 2018 – 2020 under the first funding round. By the time this funding drew to a close, 19 states and provinces had made progress towards developing a new REDD+ strategy or framework, while a further 12 made important improvements to existing policies. In addition, 12 GCFTF members developed a costed, time-bound investment plan to finance their REDD+ actions. Many jurisdictions also made important steps in creating jurisdictional REDD+ systems, such as drafting new REDD+ and climate laws and regulations, reviving stakeholder forums, and developing safeguards frameworks.

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<sup>1</sup> Progress towards the Rio Branco Declaration has been mixed, in part due to limited funding by donors other than the Government of Norway. See C. Stickler, O. David, C. Chan, J.P. Ardila, T. Bezerra, 'The Rio Branco Declaration: Assessing Progress Toward a Near-Term Voluntary Deforestation Reduction Target in Subnational Jurisdictions Across the Tropics'. *Front. For. Glob. Change*, 26 June 2020, available at <https://doi.org/10.3389/ffgc.2020.00050>

# Gender Approach to Jurisdictional REDD+ Funding

It is widely held that gender equality and women's inclusion is not only crucial for accelerating sustainable development and climate action but is also smart business<sup>2</sup> and can bridge the gap between the promise and shortfalls of REDD+. While both women and men living in and around forests hold a wealth of knowledge of forest landscapes, there is considerable evidence that existing socio-economic, cultural, and political inequalities and capacity gaps often prevent marginalized groups, such as Indigenous Peoples, women, and youth, from fully and equitably informing, participating in, and benefiting from forest-based climate action.

This situation can exacerbate gender inequalities and undermine both the efficiency and sustainability of climate actions. In response, it is crucial that deliberate and meaningful efforts are taken to ensure forest-based climate action is inclusive, fair, and mainstreams gender both in policy and in practice. Doing so will not only help to advance gender equality and women's empowerment but also amplify the overall performance and sustainability of forest-based climate action.

Acknowledging these gaps and the critical linkage between gender equality and sustainable and effective REDD+ action, a gender approach was fully integrated into the requirements to access and implement funding under the GCFTF grant. In this process, jurisdictions were also supported by UNDP to effectively integrate a gender perspective and promote women's empowerment within their forest-based climate initiatives.

## Project Design & Implementation

During the design phase, GCFTF jurisdictions applying for the first round of funding were asked to demonstrate how they would integrate gender throughout the project, including in design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. More specifically, proposals needed to undertake the following:

1. Provide information on the different social, economic, cultural, and political conditions that both women and men (and youth, girls, and boys when applicable) face within the jurisdiction, as well as identify any potential opportunities, barriers, and inequalities among these groups.

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<sup>2</sup> Various studies have been undertaken in recent years to demonstrate the financial benefits of integrating a gender approach into business processes and operations. For example, McKinsey, in its study *Diversity Matters* (2015), found that companies in the top quartile for gender or racial and ethnic diversity are more likely to have financial returns above their national industry medians. For more information, please visit: <https://www.mckinsey.com/business-functions/people-and-organizational-performance/our-insights/why-diversity-matters>

2. Integrate gender considerations and women's empowerment principles within the proposal's objectives and expected results, project activities and implementation plan
3. Identify risks related to gender issues and women within the project's risk analysis.
4. Allocate sufficient budget to assist in the implementation of the gender-related activities of the project.
5. Include gender-sensitive indicators and related targets on gender as well as collect sex-disaggregated data within the project's monitoring framework.

Through the proposal drafting process, GCFTF members jurisdictions were encouraged to utilize a gender specialist to help them integrate gender aspects into their proposals and projects and provide training to relevant civil society partners. In addition, UNDP gender experts guided and advised GCFTF states and provinces on how to integrate these gender elements into the proposals.

The five gender requirements noted above were the same gender criteria used for project appraisal. A GCFTF member state or province was granted funding once the above requirements were met.

## Reporting

Once project implementation was underway, GCFTF member states and provinces were requested to provide information on any progress made in annual and final reports. Reporting guidance on this topic requested specifically that jurisdictions provide gender-disaggregated data that demonstrated the frequency and type of participation by women and men in activities, including qualitative information on whether women's participation was active and influential. Jurisdictions were also asked to describe actions / achievements relevant to gender equality and gender mainstreaming, and / or how women benefited from / participated in the project. Achievements could include evidence of gender considerations in any policy documents developed, such as REDD+ strategies and investment plans, or evidence of women's participation in decision-making spaces, such as through the development of gender quotas for REDD+ or climate change technical committees. A checklist was provided to help guide responses and obtain additional information.

While the details on gender progress disclosed through these reporting processes varied across jurisdictions, as highlighted in more detail below, it did reveal how and to what extent GCFTF members were integrating a gender approach as well as allowed for follow-up action. It also helped to identify lessons learned and good practices for replication, as can be seen in the following examples.

Figure 1: GCFTF Gender Approach

# 01 Design and Implementation



- .....  
Include relevant social, economic & cultural context in project design
- .....  
Integrate gender principles in objectives & implementation plan
- .....  
Identify risks related to gender issues & women
- .....  
Allocate sufficient budget
- .....  
Include gender indicators & targets & collect sex-disaggregated data

# 02 Reporting



- .....  
Ensure gender-based indicators are monitored regularly
- .....  
Include sex-disaggregated data
- .....  
Include quantitative & qualitative data on type of participation by women & men
- .....  
Adaptive management when gender targets unmet

# 03 Results

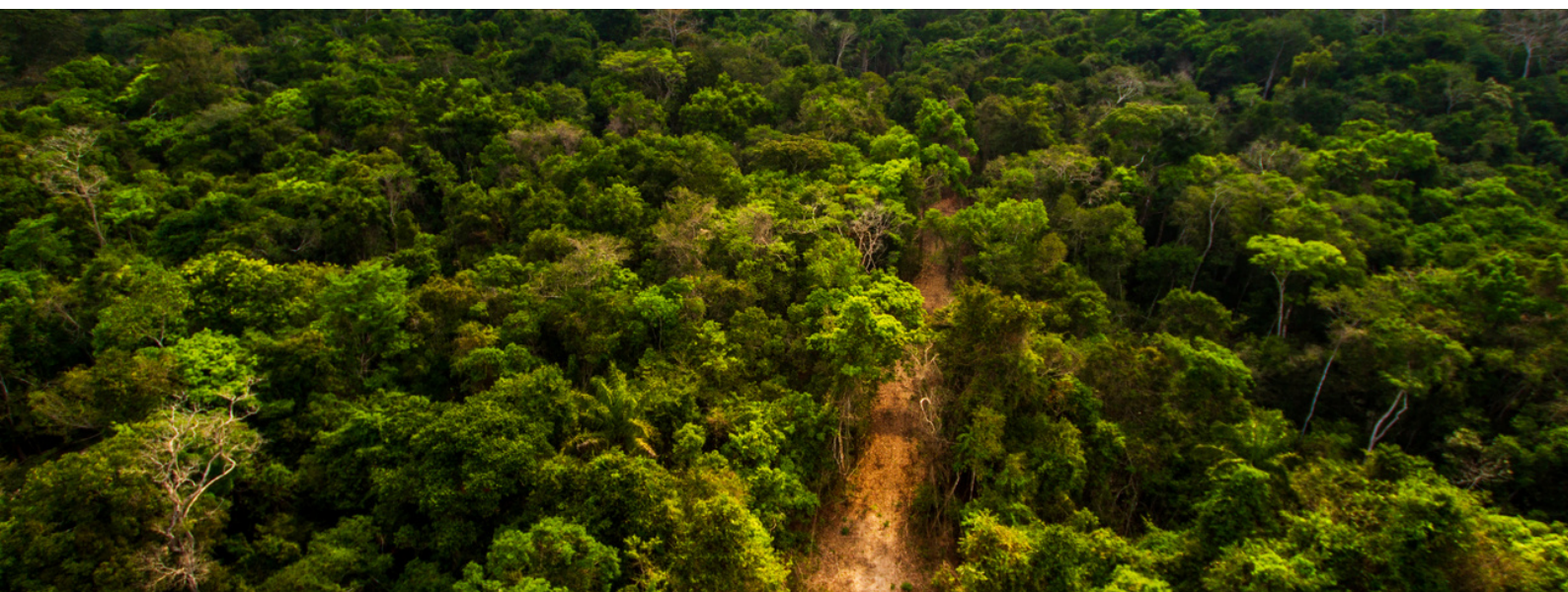


- .....  
Women & men equitably involved & benefit from project
- .....  
Identify gender gaps & undertake corrective measures
- .....  
Identify best practices & lessons learned
- .....  
Identify gender challenges & solutions for future interventions
- .....  
Disseminate & share knowledge

# Good Practices

The application of a gender approach in support to developing jurisdictional REDD+ strategies and investment plans generated a range of good practices. Many jurisdictions invested the time, resources and expertise required to integrate a gender perspective and promote women's empowerment in a meaningful manner across various REDD+ thematic areas and activities. In other instances, jurisdictions took initial steps to incorporate gender, but additional effort was and is still needed to ensure gender is further integrated in a meaningful way and to move from theory to action.

The good practices below illustrate the breadth of these experiences and actions for replication by jurisdictions to integrate gender into their efforts on REDD+ and low-emissions development under GCFTF.<sup>3</sup>



## Undertaking a gender assessment

Undertaking a gender assessment, either as a standalone study or as part of a larger socio-economic analysis, can help establish a gender baseline and identify areas for improvement in REDD+ policies and programmes and where gender equality and women's empowerment can be promoted. Such analyses provide information on the different social, economic, and political conditions that both women and men (and youth, girls, and boys when applicable) face in a specific context, as well as help identify potential opportunities, barriers and risks associated with REDD+ processes.

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<sup>3</sup> These examples were compiled through a desk review of existing reporting data (quarterly, final and evaluation reports) provided to UNDP by the GCFTF jurisdictions participating in the first round of funding.



In undertaking gender assessments, various jurisdictions carried out specific activities and field work to add to the depth and robustness of the analyses. To illustrate, East Kalimantan in Indonesia collected data within five villages in three districts on women's participation and gender divisions of labour in meetings and decision-making processes at the village and household levels. With this data, the project was able to produce a baseline and then design its stakeholder engagement activities so that women's participation was encouraged and enhanced. Further details of the positive impact of this analysis on women's equitable and active involvement is provided below under "monitoring quality of women's participation".

The gender assessment carried out in Amapá, Brazil also demonstrates an effective approach in how to develop and undertake a gender analysis within the REDD+ context. Using a participatory approach, the analysis involved both a desk review of the gender context and gender- and women-focused policies and projects within Amapá, as well as collection of primary data on government staff's capacity and knowledge on gender in public policies. This dual-pronged approach resulted in comprehensive recommendations for actions and mechanisms to promote inclusive and effective participation of women in the State System for Climate and Incentives for Environmental Services of Amapá (SECISA).

## Promoting women's active and equitable participation in decision-making and stakeholder consultations

Ensuring that REDD+ decision-making and stakeholder consultations equitably involve women and men as well as equitably take their perspectives into account is part of a gender-responsive and socially-inclusive policy process. However, as women often face socio-economic, cultural, and political barriers within developing countries, explicit and deliberate action needs to be taken to ensure women, in addition to men, are equitably and meaningfully involved.

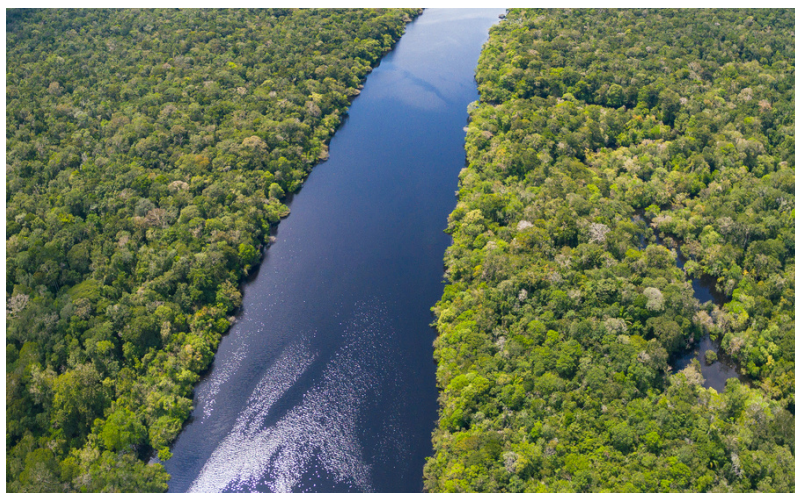
Acknowledging this reality, jurisdictions took a variety of steps to ensure their GCFTF-funded projects promoted women's meaningful and equitable participation in decision-making and stakeholder consultations. Some of the good practices implemented included: 1) separate discussion groups for men and women; 2) providing childcare spaces for participants; 3) speaking to women instead of requesting written feedback; 4) providing local male and female interpreters and facilitators to bridge linguistic and cultural barriers; 5) and ensuring times and days of meetings convenient for women with family responsibilities.

The effects in practice were seen in Aceh, Indonesia, where, after the first round of workshops, organisers noted that only nine women had participated, of which only two spoke during the meetings and only one was recorded as having any impact on the outcome or decision-making of the meeting. As a result, they organised separate meetings for women around thematic areas, which increased women's participation to approximately 36% overall. While this is lower than the province's target of 50%, it was much higher than the baseline, emphasising the importance of measuring baselines at the outset to be able to measure progress and make adjustments as necessary. In addition, gender mainstreaming was mandated into a regional policy within the province through a 2019 Governor's Decree (95/2019), which makes it compulsory to consult both women and men in all regional planning processes. This outcome was a result of a decade-long effort that began with the creation of a women's working group in the province in 2010.

In Ucayali, Peru, efforts included having meeting invitation letters request the participation of women, using local facilitators and translators to build trust with the leaders in focus groups and workshops, and organizing focus groups of mestizo and Indigenous women on deforestation processes in Ucayali and proposals to mitigate them. The minutes of the participatory workshops included the registration of participants by gender and ethnicity, where applicable, as well as their contributions to the process. Key to note, prior to this initiative, gender and Indigenous issues were not usually incorporated into project implementation efforts, partly due to the limited participation of women and Indigenous Peoples in certain production activities and the government's view on their role in forests and deforestation. These activities helped to make visible the role and contribution of Indigenous and rural women in Ucayali.

# Case Study 1:

Mainstreaming gender in REDD+ policy in Amazonas, Brazil



The GCFTF project in Amazonas, Brazil provides a good practice example of how multiple actions on gender can be integrated across the various thematic areas of REDD+, including stakeholder participation, safeguards, REDD+ strategies, financing, and monitoring, to promote a gender-responsive approach.

To illustrate, the first step to ensuring gender was taken into consideration in the development of a jurisdictional REDD+ system was to establish that a gender expert was available to accompany all actions. Second, Amazonas undertook a review of existing policies to understand the gender gaps. The analysis identified gaps, in particular with regard to the integration of women from Indigenous and local communities, and highlighted ways to increase gender representation in the policy-making process without increasing costs.

This included disaggregation of data in baselines and monitoring based on data disaggregated by sex and community.

They emphasised the need for inclusive language in examining the roles and contributions of both women and men in agriculture and small businesses, and recommended that sustainable production and business projects guarantee at least 30% of beneficiaries are women. They also emphasised the need to include gender in fundraising and financing strategies.

The analysis identified gaps, in particular with regard to the integration of women from Indigenous and local communities.



From here, they developed a gender action plan to mainstream gender in the REDD+ strategy, which highlighted the principles of transparency and inclusiveness, including the need for both women and men to be involved in any Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes. In developing and implementing this strategy, they noted the importance of raising the capacity of project implementors who may not have the requisite knowledge and understanding of gender issues.

In the six safeguards workshops carried out across the state, 44% of participants were women (292 people in total). One of the many reasons they were able to guarantee women's participation was because they provided childcare for participants. Organisers also conducted semi-structured interviews with participants after the workshops after noticing that their literacy levels made written surveys difficult to complete. They also found that it allowed them to create trust with participants, who were more willing to share their opinions in spoken form.

In a state such as Amazonas, with a large population represented by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, they adopted an intersectional approach to gender to ensure that these additional inequalities were also taken into account.

Find more information on incorporating gender in Amazonas' REDD+ strategy in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [Portuguese](#).

## Monitoring the quality of women's participation

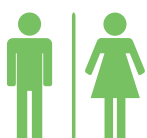
Monitoring the quality of participation of women and men means ensuring they are not just present in a room, but also feel they are capable and able to share their perspective, as well as have those perspectives taken into account. Despite being key agents of change, whose knowledge and experiences are crucial to forest management and conservation, more marginalized groups such as women, youth, Indigenous People, and rural communities face additional hurdles limiting their active participation (e.g. capacity limitations, cultural norms, legal restrictions, language barriers, etc.). Their engagement and the quality of their participation is often not monitored, which in turn limits the ability to ensure both equitable and meaningful engagement.

In response, East Kalimantan in Indonesia undertook specific efforts to track women's participation in project activities as well as their involvement in decision making processes. They encouraged women to participate in different project activities, share their opinions, and be involved in decision-making processes. They then collected data to monitor and report on the number of women involved in the activities and consultations that took place, as well as established a target to guide this work. To illustrate, the project measured three key aspects of women's participation: 1) number of women attending meetings; 2) number of women who express their opinion in meetings; and 3) number of women who propose ideas that were then agreed upon. This data reveals how women participated and influenced decision-making on the project. By the end of the project, 45% of participants in meetings were women, and 30% of what was agreed upon were ideas from women. These results are revealing and, while both are above their baselines (20%), they demonstrate a continued need to study women's influence in decision-making.

## Box 1: Summary of demonstrated good practices in promoting women's active and equitable engagement



Ensure times and days of meetings are convenient for women with family responsibilities



Host separate discussion groups for men and women



Provide childcare spaces for participants



Speak to women instead of requesting written feedback



Provide local male and female interpreters and facilitators to bridge linguistic and cultural barriers



Develop and approve policies that require both women and men to be involved in consultation processes



Disaggregate participation data by gender and ethnicity, including for baseline and implementation



Establish quotas/targets for women's attendance as well as active participation



Measure varied aspects of women's participation including:

- Number of women attending meetings
- Number of women who express their opinion in meetings
- Number of women who propose ideas that were then agreed upon

## Integrating gender into REDD+ and low emission development strategies

To ensure REDD+ systems and programmes are socially-inclusive and gender-responsive, particular attention must be paid to the specific roles, requirements, and contributions of women and men at every stage of policy and programme development, from design through implementation and evaluation. Integrating a gender perspective into any REDD+ action or strategy is key in the process, helping to also ensure that REDD+ and low emission development strategies will contribute effectively and sustainably to REDD+ processes and outcomes.

In Pará, Brazil, the project helped to support the integration of a gender perspective into the analysis and recommendations within the State Policy on Climate Change (PEMC), the Policy for Integrated Action of Sustainable Territories and the Amazônia Agora State Plan (PEAA). For example, the PEAA included specific provisions regarding the vulnerability of women and girls to climate change and specific actions and targets to promote gender equality.

In Mato Grosso, a REDD+ pioneer in Brazil, gender was established as one of the five objectives of the newly-developed Indigenous REDD+ strategy. The objective proposed to “support specific demands of women, indigenous youth, and traditional leaders, aiming at improving their quality of life”. This strategy aims to address a lack of social inclusion in the state’s REDD+ work, according to the findings of an evaluation by the REDD+ Early Movers Program, through which the state has received results-based payments.

In Cross River State, Nigeria, gender equality is one of the seven guiding principles of REDD+ implementation, and was reflected in the investment plan developed with this jurisdictional REDD+ funding. Women are recognised as a forest stakeholder group that should benefit from the investment plan. They were also involved in the design and validation of the plan and have been an important force in technical committees and community-based REDD+ projects in the jurisdiction.

In Pastaza, Ecuador, the REDD+ strategy integrates gender throughout its implementation plan and recognises the contributions of women and men, as well as the need to consider women’s empowerment. Many of these considerations stem from the gender approach of the national REDD+ strategy and the reflection of national-level initiatives in Pastaza, such as the Premium & Sustainable program led by the Ministry for Agriculture and Livestock, which lists the empowerment of women and young people as one of its three main goals.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> The three goals of the Premium & Sustainable program are zero deforestation, empowerment of women and young people as one of its three main goals, and to improve productivity, quality, and traceability of agricultural products.

## Box 2: Entry points for integrating gender into REDD+ and low emission development strategies and investment plans

- ✓ Highlight concepts of gender equality, gender equity, gender sensitivity and/or women's empowerment in mission statement, vision and/or principles
- ✓ Establish linkages to any legal frameworks, strategies and policies which support gender equality in forestry and REDD+
- ✓ Outline the different social, economic, cultural and political conditions that women and men face as well as their roles and relationships with forests
- ✓ Promote the participation of organizations and government ministries/departments responsible for women's empowerment & gender issues as well as women in institutional arrangements
- ✓ Equitably involve women and other vulnerable groups, such as youth, elderly, and Indigenous People, in the design and implementation of policies and measures to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation
- ✓ Integrate gender considerations within discussion of safeguards' principles, criteria, and indicators
- ✓ Assure gender equality and the rights of vulnerable groups, including women, Indigenous People, poor, etc., to participate equitably in implementation of these strategies and investment plans
- ✓ Promote that benefits derived from REDD+ will be distributed in an effective, efficient and gender equitable manner
- ✓ Take into account formal and informal land tenure owners as well as informal forest users, including both women and men, when designing any benefit sharing arrangement
- ✓ Promote equitable involvement women and other marginalized groups in forest monitoring systems
- ✓ Apply gender-responsive budgeting applied in the REDD+ funding approach
- ✓ Integrate a gender approach into any performance-based payment arrangement



# Case Study 2:

Engaging women in value chain support



Strengthening sustainable forestry activities among local populations is a key factor to helping curb deforestation, particularly those actions associated with conversion of forests into farm and ranch land. However, women's and men's participation in these value chains is often unequal, and women face various barriers to access. These hurdles include disparities in forest use and income, limited land ownership and access to resources and credit, unrecognized labour in value chains, sociocultural norms, difficulty accessing transportation and/or working far from the home.<sup>5</sup>

Looking to help address these barriers and inequalities, in Tocantins, Brazil, the project undertook an assessment of the gender policies in the state as well as revised the gender goals and indicators of the Campo Sustentável (Sustainable Agriculture) project. Then, building on the results of this work, it prioritized rural properties led by women as well as the hiring of female technicians. As a result, two of the three farms involved in the pilot project were managed by women, and 50% of the project team was female. The project's trainings and workshops also integrated gender considerations.

Women's and men's participation in value chains is often unequal, and women face various barriers to access.

<sup>5</sup> <https://publications.iadb.org/publications/english/document/Gender-Forests-and-Climate-Change-.pdf>



In Caquetá, Colombia, within the commercialization phase of the project, a series of purchase agreements were made with the producers of rubber and cocoa value chains. Of the four agreements signed, two were signed with women's organisations (Chocoamazonic and ASMUCOCA). Within this work, 35 women from Chocoamazonic and 96 women from ASMUCOCA were involved. To illustrate the importance of women's involvement and engagement in forestry value chains, randomized surveys undertaken during the evaluation of the project found that 61.9% of respondents viewed women's participation as very important and the 38.1% viewed it as important. These results are particularly revealing given the fact that women only made up 43% of respondents.

## Promoting involvement of women leaders

As a wide range of evidence demonstrates, women as leaders and decision-makers at all levels are critical to advancing gender equality and women's empowerment, including economic, social, and political progress for the communities and countries they represent.<sup>6</sup> Their involvement in decision-making spheres and processes is crucial to ensuring climate-forest action is reflective of their experiences and priorities but also in promoting its sustainability and success as well.

Various jurisdictions demonstrated their commitment to women's leadership in REDD+. In West Kalimantan, Indonesia, the appointment of Ibu Yenny Almuthahar as Head of the Forestry Department and her leadership in the REDD+ Pokja (working group) was recognised as a factor in boosting the mainstreaming of gender in REDD+ action. In Rondônia, Brazil, of the six seats reserved for Indigenous People and local communities (IPLCs) on the climate change forum, three are occupied by Indigenous women.

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<sup>6</sup> UN Women, 'Facts and figures: Women's leadership and political participation', available at <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/leadership-and-political-participation/facts-and-figures>

In Ucayali, Peru, efforts were made to promote women's leadership in stakeholder engagement activities. This work involved a multi-step approach of first identifying women leaders who should be invited to the workshops and telephoning them to confirm their attendance. There were also two focus groups for Indigenous and non-Indigenous women leaders, female representatives of production chains in the provinces of Atalaya and Padre Abad, and female public sector professionals.

Through monitoring in the region of Madre de Dios in Peru, women's participation was noted as being low. Corrective actions were taken to ensure higher participation of women, including reaching out to groups that work with forest users to identify women leaders to be invited to participate. As a result of these actions, they achieved a 43% women's participation rate overall.

In Papua, Indonesia, over 40% of participants across project activities were women, with some activities attracting over 50%. One of the reasons was the presence of women in important project management roles, which helped to ensure that enough women were invited to participate and that there was a safe space for consultations. Where gender targets were not met, the partners worked with government officials to reconsider their approach, including a target of having a minimum of 30% women invited to all meetings, big or small. The need to integrate a gender approach was explained to all consultants and staff hired by the project and reinforced during coordination meetings. This ensured that women and men across the project management structure understood the value and application of gender-sensitive and responsive actions, which in turn contributed to the results, such as the inclusion of gender considerations in the business plans developed for the forest management units.

## **Box 3: Common good practices to promote involvement of women leaders**

### **01**

**Undertake mapping to identify women leaders, including across the different stakeholder groups to help promote an intersectional approach**

### **02**

**Establish a quota for promoting women's involvement, particularly in terms of occupying leadership positions**

### **03**

**Train project staff on how to 1) promote women's active and equitable engagement and 2) mainstream gender into consultation and decision making spaces**

### **04**

**Use various communication tools to reach out to women (e.g. community networks, radio, telephone, etc.) to account for any accessibility and barrier issues women might face in participation**

### **05**

**Help address support needs women face in actively being involved (capacity gaps, logistical issues, safety concerns, etc.)**

# Lessons Learned

The gender approach and support to GCFTF partners and jurisdictions also yielded important lessons learned. The lessons detailed below are illustrative of the challenges of working in a subnational context, with varying capabilities of governments, partners, and stakeholders, as well as cultural and social norms that create barriers in designing, implementing, and monitoring gender-sensitive or gender-responsive actions.<sup>7</sup> These lessons are nonetheless vital in shaping how a gender approach can be fully integrated into GCFTF work moving forward, as well as informing recommendations for other organisations or governments working on REDD+ jurisdictional approaches.

## 01 — **Ensure gender expertise throughout the project cycle, especially during implementation:**

Although gender specialists were often brought on early to undertake gender assessments and make necessary revisions to project work plans, monitoring frameworks, etc., and integrate a gender approach, there was often limited or no follow-up action to ensure these considerations were followed through. These gender specialists were often only hired for a specific period of time, meaning gender expertise was not available for the lifespan of the projects. This resulted in activities not fully integrating gender, gender not being monitored throughout the project, and gender not being adequately reflected in many of the resulting strategies and action plans. Conversely, as illustrated by the good practices above, those jurisdictions that continued to monitor and support gender outcomes throughout the project cycle also tended to identify areas for improvement, take corrective action, and then achieve more gender-responsive results. In these cases, gender was also more likely to be reflected in the final results, including REDD+ strategies and investment plans.

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<sup>7</sup> These examples were compiled through a desk review of existing reporting data (quarterly, final and evaluation reports) provided to UNDP by the GCFTF jurisdictions participating in this first round of funding (known internally as 'Window A').

## 02 —

### **Intersectionality matters:**

Across the GCFTF network, multiple social identities interact and intersect in ways that can compound discrimination for already marginalized groups, such as women, and thus need to be considered as part of a gender approach. Intersectionality recognises the relationship between gender, race, and class. In all jurisdictions, rural women, Indigenous women and Quilombola (Brazilian Afrodescendant) women in particular experience additional forms of bias and discrimination that need to be addressed. In practice, this was often reflected in lower participation rates among women from these more marginalized groups and a lack of intersectional considerations in resulting policies.

The intersectionality of gender is an aspect that was relatively underexplored and under-reported during the implementation of activities. All 35 GCFTF jurisdictions have diverse populations, including Indigenous or other local and traditional communities, many of whom require a different approach. In Rondônia, Brazil, despite achieving 50% female participation in consultations on the draft environmental services law, they still struggled to include Indigenous and Quilombola women, particularly outside of specific safeguards workshops.

The Brazilian state of Mato Grosso increased women's participation from 27% - 50% in activities overall and as a result, gender was one of the nine central themes of the Indigenous REDD+ subprogram developed. However, the final evaluation noted that in workshops with Indigenous communities that were not about gender, women's participation dropped to 30%. This result was repeated across jurisdictions, at least in cases where adequate data was kept, noting that Indigenous women's participation was lower than non-Indigenous women's participation, meaning that even greater support is required to reach women in marginalised groups. REDD+ strategies and investment plans should also reflect these intersections of multiple forms of discrimination and their specific impact on women from marginalised groups.

## 03 —

### **Need to proactively build men's capacity on gender :**

Notably, workshops or capacity building on gender itself attracted the highest female participation, which skewed overall participation rates and was another important factor in limiting some of the gender responsiveness of REDD+ strategies. In Chiapas, for example, women's participation ranged from 13 – 38% in all meetings and workshops although in workshops on gender, two-thirds of participants were women. What this means is that men are not benefiting from a greater understanding of gender while women's participation is largely confined to discussions about gender rather than bringing their perspective to a broader discussion about the roles of women and men in forest conservation, sustainable production, REDD+ policies, or ensuring that women and men benefit equitably from any measures. This reality also limits the gender-responsiveness of REDD+ action at the jurisdictional level as well as men's understanding and support of gender mainstreaming across REDD+ activities, strategies, and plans.

## Recommendations

The funding for the GCFTF represents one of the most comprehensive financing pledges to date for jurisdictional REDD+ approaches in terms of geographic and thematic scope. While there are other subnational networks in existence, the GCFTF is the largest in terms of groups of states and provinces (one level down from national), meaning that this funding window offered a unique opportunity to apply a gender-responsive methodology in design and implementation, and to support jurisdictions in integrating a gender approach in their REDD+ strategies and investment plans.

This review has highlighted common themes across the successes and challenges in designing and implementing a gender approach in jurisdictional REDD+ approaches. It has also identified multiple good practices and lessons learned for such work moving forward. The resulting recommendations can inform the future actions of GCFTF jurisdictions, including those supported by UNDP, in a second funding round, as well as other jurisdictions (subnational or national) within or outside of the GCFTF network.

These recommendations are designed to be broad enough to be adapted to specific local social, economic, and political contexts, and to be used by a range of government and non-government actors to improve actions that will benefit both women and men.



### **Ensure early and consistent support on gender:**

Jurisdictional approaches should bring in gender expertise at the consultation and design phase and include broad awareness-raising and capacity building activities on gender-responsive policymaking and implementation. This expertise should be maintained (and monitored) throughout the project cycle, and be supported with adequate budget.

### **Recognise and understand both women's and men's roles in forest management and forest-related value chains:**

Identifying the different social, economic, and political conditions that women and men (and youth, girls, and boys when applicable) face as well as barriers and risks associated with REDD+ processes can help to promote that project interventions – including around forest-related value chains – are effectively designed and implemented in a way that equitably involves and benefits women, men, and youth.



### **Foster women's active and equitable participation in activities:**

All activities and consultations should ensure women can meaningfully and equitably participate. To foster such participation, projects should undertake a range of activities based on local context and realities, such as those noted in Box 1 above. Key in this process is providing safe spaces (e.g. close proximity to home, women's/men's only groups, local facilitators etc.) for women, in addition to men, to actively participate and for their opinions to be heard and incorporated. This is particularly crucial for women from marginalised groups, such as Indigenous Peoples and local communities.







### **Foster women’s leadership in decision-making:**

Jurisdictional approaches must find ways to promote women’s leadership roles outside of purely “gendered” spaces, which includes fostering champions across government sectors and in project management roles.



### **Incorporate men as well as women into discussions on gender:**

Gender capacity building and awareness raising in specific discussions on gender-responsive approaches and actions must actively and equitably engage men, as well as women, across all stakeholder groups, including from Indigenous communities.



### **Data is power!**

All interventions should begin by developing a gender baseline to be accompanied by effective and sufficient activities, indicators, and targets on gender in any reporting framework to ensure that progress on gender can be effectively monitored. Doing so can also help to identify whether actions or approaches should be adapted and/or if corrective actions need to be taken.



### **Integrate intersectionality considerations:**

Multiple social identities interact and intersect in ways that can compound discrimination for already marginalized groups, such as women, within REDD+ action. As such, jurisdictional REDD+ action should integrate intersectionality considerations into their gender approach so that these relationships between gender, race, and class are taken into account and REDD+ efforts reflect the multiple forms of discrimination and their specific impacts.

# Acknowledgements

