**Sample Gender Checklist for a National REDD+ Strategy**

This checklist was developed to provide guidance on possible ways gender equality and women’s empowerment considerations could be promoted within the development of a national REDD+ strategy. This checklist is not meant to be prescriptive, but rather serve as a tool to help guide the review and development of a national REDD+ strategy. The noted sections below are often general common topics discussed in a national REDD+ strategy, but as the scope of each country’s national REDD+ strategy can and often does differ, the topics below might not all be relevant and/or applicable.

This checklist is a living document that can also be adapted and modified for further use as a national REDD+ strategy becomes more defined.

**Discussion on** **objectives of a national REDD+ strategy**

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| **[ ]**  | If mission statement, vision and/or principles are discussed, are concepts of gender equality, gender equity, gender sensitivity and/or women’s empowerment also explicitly highlighted? (Definitions for these gender terms are provided in Annex 1 of this checklist.) |
| **[ ]**  | If targets are discussed, do any of them include explicit gender sensitive information, such as explicit acknowledgement of:1. The role of inclusive and meaningful stakeholder engagement (including with youth, disabled, women, the poor, etc.) from a wide range of entities (including government, civil society, NGOs, and indigenous peoples, and women’s and gender-focused organizations and groups) in achieving REDD+ targets and/or sustainable forest management?
2. The linkages and evidence, which show that integrating gender equality concepts and gender responsive action into programs can help promote successful REDD+ action and larger sustainable development goals?

*Tip: Some evidences in relation to (b) above include:** *Greater involvement of women in decision-making has resulted in improved forest protection and better management of environmental resources in a number of countries. (UNDP, “2011 Human Development Report” available* [*here*](http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2011/)*)*
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**Discussion on background**

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| **[ ]**  | Does the background section provide socio-economic information or situational analysis relating to REDD+ action? If so, does it provide explicit information on the different social, economic, cultural and political conditions that women and men face in the country as well as their roles and relationships with forests?  |
| **[ ]**  | If information is given on legal frameworks, existing strategies, policies, etc., are connections and linkages noted with such frameworks, strategies and policies which support gender equality in forestry and REDD+ in the country? |
| **[ ]**  | Does discussion on the legal frameworks highlight connections to the UNFCCC Cancun Agreements, which were created and agreed upon during the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP-16)? If so, this agreement encourages Parties to develop REDD+ policy approaches and positive incentives, including guidance on activities and safeguards to be promoted and supported. In this text, direct reference to the need of including gender considerations in this process is made. Does this legal and policy framework include gender considerations?*Reference: "UNFCCC Cancun agreements, Paragraph 72: ‘Also requests developing country Parties, when developing and implementing their national strategies or action plans, to address, inter alia, the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, land tenure issues, forest governance issues,* ***gender considerations*** *and the safeguards identified in paragraph 2 of appendix I to this decision, ensuring the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, inter alia indigenous peoples and local communities’." UNFCCC Cancun Agreements (Decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 72), available* [*here*](http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/cop16/eng/07a01.pdf#page=2) |

**Discussion on institutional arrangements**

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| **[ ]**  | Do the institutional arrangements promote the participation of government ministries responsible for women’s empowerment & gender issues as well as women’s and youth organizations? |
| [ ]  | Is explicit mention of promoting both women and men’s role in the institutional arrangements for the national REDD+ strategy provided? If so, is there acknowledgement of how women’s participation in decision-making and senior management positions would be promoted [i.e. through capacity building, leadership training, quotas (example: 30% women), etc.]? |

**Discussion on policies and measures to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation**

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| **[ ]**  | Is the need to look at the gender dimensions of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation highlighted? (Example: Given women’s role in many communities, they are also involved in slash and burn, fuel wood collection both for commercial purpose and for household use, non-timber forest harvesting, etc.) Other aspects /statements which could be explicitly acknowledged to help bring gender considerations into such a discussion are:1. Women’s subsistence activities and knowledge of the forest can also contribute positively to the sustainable management of forests or enhancement of forest carbon stocks.
2. Women can actively help address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and contribute to sustainable forest management.
3. Understanding the varying roles played by men and women can enable a more accurate analysis of the problem — who is driving deforestation, where and how — and also help identify potential solutions and allows interventions be applicable and relevant.
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| **[ ]**  | Are efforts to 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 these drivers of deforestation and forest degradation explicitly noted?   |

**Discussion on safeguards and grievance mechanisms**

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| **[ ]**  | Is there explicit mention that both women and men will be taken into account during all phases of the national safeguards approach and/or framework - that is in design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation? |
| **[ ]**  | Within possible discussion of safeguards’ principles, criteria, and indicators, are any gender sensitive considerations taken into account within them?  |
| **[ ]**  | Is there explicit text which notes that when addressing safeguards, gender equality and the rights of vulnerable groups, including women, indigenous people, poor, etc. to participate equally in REDD+ implementation will be assured?  |
| **[ ]**  | When describing consultation processes on safeguards and grievance mechanisms with stakeholders, does the chapter then further define in more detail who these ‘stakeholders’ are? For example, does it use phrases such as “…with all relevant stakeholders, including women and other vulnerable groups such as indigenous people, poor, youth, and elderly”? |
| **[ ]**  | Is there explicit acknowledgement that a fair and accessible system for both women and men, as well as those from vulnerable groups, will be developed to address grievances and conflict? |
| **[ ]**  | Does the grievance mechanism provide special provisions for women and youth, particularly in terms of capacity building?  |

**Discussion on benefit sharing and/or allocation of incentives**

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| **[ ]**  | Does text on benefit sharing (or allocation of incentives) discuss and promote that benefits derived from REDD+ will be distributed effectively, efficiently and equitably between women, men, youth, elderly, disabled, and other marginalized groups?  |
| **[ ]**  | Are both women’s and men’s role, involvement and priorities explicitly taken into account when defining, developing and designing the REDD+ benefit sharing (or allocation of incentives) mechanism/system? For example, when/if discussing how to incentivize REDD+ action though the benefit sharing system, is there explicit mention that both women and men are involved as equal stakeholders in this process and within any potential consultations on this topic?  |
| **[ ]**  | If/when defining beneficiaries, are formal and informal land tenure, forest use and access to resources taken into account? (Formal land tenure and resource use systems within communities are not often equitable between women and men. Thus, if only formal land tenure and land use aspects are considered, women will often then be left out and excluded from the process.) |

**Discussion on national forest monitoring system (NFMS)**

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| **[ ]**  | In discussion of forest monitoring activities, is there discussion of whether this work should be done in a gender sensitive manner and include indigenous peoples and local communities (both women and men), as well as take into account their perspectives and roles in relation to forests? |
| **[ ]**  | If capacity strengthening or building on forest monitoring is noted, are gender sensitive aspects taken into account in this process? Such gender sensitive aspects could include explicit reference of: 1. Engaging and involving both women and men in the capacity building workshops/meetings;
2. Designing meetings (time, location, group arrangement, such as mixed groups, and/or women’s and men’s only meetings) to encourage women’s and men’s equitable and meaningful participation and involvement;
3. Including gender focal points from relevant ministries, representatives from women’s or gender ministries, representatives from women’s groups and unions, and women’s or gender focused CSOs/NGOs, etc.
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| **[ ]**  | Are explicit efforts noted of promoting women’s role and other vulnerable groups in forest monitoring, such as through their involvement in decision-making bodies and processes as well as through educational programs? |

**Discussion on national FREL/FRL**

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| **[ ]**  | When discussing the implementing and monitoring of national FREL/FRL, are aspects on awareness raising discussed? If so, is there acknowledgement of involving a wide range of stakeholders in this process (including women and indigenous people)? |

**Discussion on national system to report on GHGs**

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| **[ ]**  | Are aspects on capacity building discussed? If so, is there acknowledgement of involving a wide range of stakeholders in this process (including women and indigenous people)? Such aspects again could include explicit reference of: 1. Engaging and involving both women and men in the capacity building workshops/meetings;
2. Designing meetings (time, location, group arrangement, such as mixed groups, and/or women’s and men’s only meetings) to encourage women’s and men’s equitable and meaningful participation and involvement;
3. Including gender focal points from applicable ministries, representatives from women’s or gender ministries, representatives from women’s groups and unions, and women’s or gender focused CSOs/NGOs, etc.
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| **[ ]**  | Is the national system to report on GHGs going to be made available and accessible to stakeholders? If so, are specific actions noted and/or will be taken to ensure that such accessibility of information will be made known to a wide range of stakeholders and in an equitable and transparent manner (including to those who live in more remote areas)? |

**Discussion on possible role for sub-national implementation in a national REDD+ strategy**

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| **[ ]**  | Is there discussion on how local level needs would be taken into account in sub-national implementation? If so, is there acknowledgement that constraints, which could limit the success of REDD+, need be addressed so that all stakeholders are involved and benefit from REDD+ in an equitable and transparent manner? Also, are stakeholders further defined to include vulnerable groups such as women, the poor, youth, indigenous people, etc.? |

**Discussion on REDD+ financing options or another approach to implement the REDD+ strategy**

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| **[ ]**  | In monitoring of financial management, is the participation of government ministries responsible for women’s empowerment and gender issues as well as women’s organizations noted? |
| **[ ]**  | If estimated up-front financial needs to implement the national REDD+ strategy are discussed, are the financial requirements to implement the REDD+ Strategy in a gender sensitive manner also stated (wherein for example, there is an explicit budget line(s) for gender work)? If such a gender budget exists, is it sufficient?  |
| **[ ]**  | Are concepts for gender responsive budgeting applied in the National REDD+ funding approach?*Tip: UN Women has undertaken various activities and developed multiple tools to help governments to create gender-responsive budgets. Such resources can be helpful tools for the National REDD+ Strategy and its implementation as well. For more information, visit the following UN-Women’s website: [UN Women’s Financing for Gender Equality website](http://gender-financing.unwomen.org/en)* |
| **[ ]**  | Are any indicators on performance-based payments in terms of fund distribution listed? If so, are they gender sensitive? For example, do they 1) measure the gender equitable disbursement of funds, in both monetary and non-monetary terms; 2) explicitly account for women and other vulnerable groups; 3) request that data be disaggregated by sex; and/or 4) apply to stakeholders who are not formal land owners, but who, for example, are forest users? |

**Annex 1: Gender Terminology**

**Gender**

Refers to the social attributes and opportunities associated with being male and female and the relationships between women and men and girls and boys, as well as the relations between women and those between men. These attributes, opportunities and relationships are socially constructed and are learned through socialization processes. They are context/ time -specific and changeable.

*Source: UN Women Concepts and Definitions on Gender Mainstreaming*, available at: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/conceptsandefinitions.htm>

**Gender Equality**

The equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women and men and girls and boys. Equality does not mean that women and men will become the same but that women’s and men’s rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born male or female. Gender equality implies that the interests, needs and priorities of both women and men are taken into consideration, recognizing the diversity of different groups of women and men. Gender equality is not a women’s issue but should concern and fully engage men as well as women.

*Source: UN Women Concepts and Definitions on Gender Mainstreaming*, available at: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/conceptsandefinitions.htm>

**Gender Equity**

Gender equity is the process of being fair to women and men. To ensure fairness, strategies and measures must often be available to compensate for women’s historical and social disadvantages that prevent women and men from otherwise operating on a level playing field. Equity leads to equality.

Source: CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security, 2014, “Gender and Inclusion Toolbox: Participatory Research in Climate Change and Agriculture”, available [here](https://cgspace.cgiar.org/bitstream/handle/10568/45955/CCAFS_Gender_Toolbox.pdf?sequence=7)

**Gender sensitive**

A gender sensitive approach understands and considers socio-cultural factors underlying gender-based discrimination to attempt to redress existing gender inequalities. Gender sensitivity in application differentiates between the capacities, needs and priorities of women and men; ensures that the views and ideas of both women and men are taken seriously; considers the implications of decisions on the situation of women relative to men; and takes actions to address inequalities or imbalance between women and men. In application, gender sensitive has come to mean ‘do no harm’.

Source: Owren, C. (2015). *Roots for the future: The landscape and way forward on gender and climate change.* Washington, DC: IUCN & GGCA, available at <http://bit.ly/1mCIb9b>; and REDD+ SES & WEDO (2013), “From research to action, leaf by leaf: Getting gender right in the REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards”, Booklet 1, available at <http://bit.ly/214xPyo>.

**Gender responsive**

A gender responsive approach proactively identifies, understands, and implements interventions to address gender gaps and overcome historical gender biases in policies and interventions. Gender responsiveness in application attempts to re-define women and men’s gender roles and relations and contributes pro-actively and intentionally to the advancement of gender equality. More than ‘doing no harm’, a gender-responsive policy, programme, plan or project aims to ‘do better’.

Source: Adapted from UN Women’s Glossary of terms, available at: <http://bit.ly/1TiNHKZ>; Aguilar, L., Granat, M., & Owren, C. (2015). *Roots for the future: The landscape and way forward on gender and climate change.* Washington, DC: IUCN & GGCA, available at <http://bit.ly/1mCIb9b>.

**Gender Mainstreaming**

The process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality.

*Source: United Nations Economic and Social Council Agreed Conclusions, 1997/2*, available at: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/intergovernmentalmandates.htm#ecosoc>

**Women’s Empowerment**

The concept of empowerment is related to gender equality but distinct from it. The core of empowerment lies in the ability of a woman to control her own destiny. This implies that to be empowered women must not only have equal capabilities (such as education and health) and equal access to resources and opportunities (such as land and employment), they must also have the agency to use those rights, capabilities, resources and opportunities to make strategic choices and decisions (such as are provided through leadership opportunities and participation in political institutions. And to exercise agency, women must live without the fear of coercion and violence.

*Source: Millennium Project Task Force on Education and Gender Equality, 2005, Taking action: achieving gender equality and empowering women,* available at: http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/documents/Gender-complete.pdf