

UN-REDD Programme

Civil Society Representative Nomination Form

1. Name of the candidate:

Jeannette D. Gurung, PhD (MSc in Forestry, PhD in Gender and Development)

2. Name of organization or network:

Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN)

3. Title : Executive Director

4. Country: USA

6. Language(s) spoken:

English, Nepali

7. Please describe the primary interests and functions of the organization and community/constituency that the candidate represents and what countries the organization is active in.

WOCAN is a women-led global network of over 800 women and men professionals engaged in and committed to gender equity within the agriculture and natural resource management sectors, in order to assure rural women's leadership and their enhanced benefits from programmes in these fields.

WOCAN is active in both capacity building for women's leadership and gender and organizational change with partners in Sub Saharan Africa and South Asia (including the Forestry Commission of Ghana and the Dept. of Forests in Nepal), and in advocating for more opportunities and resources for rural women within national, regional and global fora such as the UNFCCC, the UN Forum on Forests, the Commission for Sustainable Development, the Committee for Food Security of the FAO, and The Forest Dialogue.

WOCAN has offices in Cameroon (for West/Central Africa), Nepal and South Africa, and an extensive network of women (who form 88% of WOCAN's members) in 84 countries - the large majority of members are from Sub Saharan Africa and Asia. WOCAN members are particularly active in Cameroon, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, India, Nepal, the Philippines and Italy.

8. Describe briefly the organization's experience gathering and representing the diverse viewpoints of a range of communities or organizations, and disseminating and coordinating information and communications among a network of communities or organizations.

WOCAN was the Organizing Partner for the Major Group WOMEN in the CSD 16th and 17th sessions, where it partnered with several other women's organisations to assure a maximum level of inputs from women into the CSD discussions on agriculture, drought and desertification and Africa. WOCAN has been the lead organization for Major Group WOMEN at the UN Forum on Forests since 2005. In both

cases, WOCAN has disseminated information to the larger networks of women, sought their inputs for the preparation of Discussion Papers, and brought several women from the South to participate in the sessions. In all cases, WOCAN has sought to privilege the voices of rural women farmers and environmental managers themselves in these global fora.

9. Describe briefly your organization's background and experience with multilateral agency programs, social and environmental issues related to forests, and the role of forests in response to climate change, including REDD.

As described above, WOCAN has led a process of trying to incorporate women's and gender issues within the global forest dialogues and fora for many years, most notably within the UN Forum on Forests, but also within the World Bank's Forest Investment Program Design phase, and within The Forest Dialogue (where the WOCAN Director has been appointed to the Steering Committee). The Director - as a forester herself - was also appointed to the Advisory Team of the World Forestry Congress, and has long been involved with the IUFRO Gender Group. WOCAN is a member of the Global Gender and Climate Alliance, which is led by UNDP, UNEP, IUCN, and WEDO. WOCAN's engages regularly with the GGCA network, which consists of 12 UN agencies (including FAO, UNIFEM, and UNICEF), and 25 civil society organizations. WOCAN will participate with other civil society organizations in the GGCA Advocacy Team, particularly following the REDD negotiations under the UNFCCC.

Most recently, the Director prepared a paper for CARE Denmark entitled "**Gender-differentiated Impacts of REDD to be Addressed in REDD Social Standards**". WOCAN also conducted a 2 day workshop on "**Engendering REDD**" in collaboration with IUCN and the GGCA. These publications can be found on the WOCAN website, www.wocan.org. WOCAN has developed a proposal for a pilot project for a Payment for Environmental Services scheme to be implemented with women's groups engaged in forest management in 2-3 countries of South Asia and Africa, that it plans to implement within the coming months. Plans are also underfoot to engage with the carbon voluntary markets to sell carbon offsets from women and return profits to them.

10. Describe the financial, technical and/or advisory arrangements your organization has with the UN-REDD Programme, as well as the governments of the UN-REDD pilot countries, NGOs, or private sector organizations as they pertain to the UN-REDD process.

No formal arrangements exist with the UN REDD programme to date. WOCAN has members in many of the UN REDD countries, but has not worked with the governments of those countries as it has with the Forestry Commission of Ghana to mainstream gender into their structures and programmes.