



Mainstreaming Gender into Forest Policies

BACKGROUND



Collection of forest resources is part of their daily routine

It has been proven time and again that integration of gender issues into forestry policies and practices by addressing women's roles and needs is central to the sustainable management, conservation and governance of forests. In the Asia-Pacific region alone, there are about 450 million people who rely on forests for their livelihoods and 50% of them are women.

Gender has received considerable attention in forestry during the last few decades and there have been many instances of women playing critical roles in conservation and management of forests and forest resources¹.

Though climate change, Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), energy and food security have been the overarching issues that contributed to a renewed focus on the world's forests, many forest dependent communities, particularly women, are facing emerging challenges in adopting new roles in resource management mainly due to changing demography and male migration.



Selling forest products in a local market

Hence, if gender considerations are taken as a weak link in designing national forest policies and investments, there is danger of not only pushing women further into poverty, insecurity and despair, but also of the forest policies and investment framework failing to deliver.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Target Countries: Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines, Fiji, India and Nepal



Mushrooms harvested from forest for household consumption

Mainstreaming gender into forest policies of developing Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) member countries is a one year project funded by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO-RAP) and implemented by RECOFTC-The Center for People and Forests with the objective of promoting gender equality in the national forest policies of eight countries, including strengthening the capacities of policy makers and relevant stakeholders in mainstreaming gender issues in national forest policies.

Project activities include assessing the integration of gender into national forest policies, providing policy recommendations, and producing knowledge and materials for the development of training materials for mainstreaming gender. Enhancing the capacity of policy makers on gender mainstreaming through a regional workshop, communications and dissemination of the assessment findings are other activities, as are policy briefs focusing on specific country cases and learning.

¹ Forests and gender in a changing environment, Asia-Pacific Forests and Forestry to 2020, Forest Policy Brief 08