



Internal CEESP NRGF Background Brief #6

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Gender – What are the gendered aspects of NRGF and how can the design of NRGF tools and knowledge reinforce progress in gender concern integration?

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Gendered aspects of NRGF

- Women everywhere are less involved in formal governance than men, with the result that their interests, goals, and capabilities are under-represented and under-utilized
- Women, because of their different day to day activities, have a different basket of knowledge about natural resources from men; this knowledge has under-recognized value for good governance/management.
- Women's domestic activities---which are in fact vital for human life---have been under-recognized in attempts at natural resource governance. Because of the systemic nature of human life and ecology, these reproductive functions need to be incorporated into our efforts to govern more effectively. This may include job-sharing and/or complementary responsibilities and better inter-gender communication/understanding.
- Population issues, taboo for decades now, need to be addressed, both for environmental reasons and, equally importantly, for enhancing women's abilities to function outside the home. Birth control access (**not** coercion) is vital for women to take an equitable place in governance (and education, income generation, self actualization, etc.).

How can the design of NRGF tools and knowledge reinforce progress in gender concern integration?

- We need to look at the power dynamics between men and women, rather than just documenting men's and women's respective roles. We are seeking transformative change.
- We also need to pay attention to men's concerns, as they have formal power; we ignore them (as we have done, so far) at our peril.

- Changing attitudes works best using ‘person-to-person’ communication strategies---and changing attitudes is an important part of what needs to be done. This takes time and skill at facilitation (**not** ‘facipulation’---the tempting combination of facilitation and manipulation).
- We will need to take a ‘process’ approach, in which we implement an adaptive and collaborative strategy---building on what exists, and working with communities to move in directions they find acceptable, interesting and feasible (see Annexure). We will have to develop governance strategies that appeal to local women and men.
- We may be able to use indicators (such as those we recently developed for Indonesia (Colfer et al., 2013 (in press)); or an adapted version of WEAI [Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (Alkire et al., 2012)], in supplementary fashion.
- Caveat: addressing gender concerns will take time, and that needs to be structured into projects. We will not be able to address gender power dynamics----critical to gender in governance---quickly or easily.

Possibly useful references:

ALKIRE, S., MEINZEN-DICK, R., PETERMAN, A., QUISUMBING, A. R., SEYMOUR, G. & VAZ, A. 2012. The Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index. *IFPRI Discussion Paper* 01240, 72.

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- KUSUMANTO, T., YULIANI, L., MACOUN, P., INDRIATMOKO, Y. & ADNAN, H. 2005. *Learning to Adapt: Managing Forests Together in Indonesia*, Bogor, Indonesia, CIFOR.
- MCDUGALL, C., OJHA, H., BANJADE, M., PANDIT, B. H., BHATTARAI, T., MAHARJAN, M. & RANA, S. 2010. *Forests of Learning: Experiences from Research on an Adaptive Collaborative Approach to Community Forestry in Nepal*, Bogor, Indonesia, CIFOR.
- MCDUGALL, C., PANDIT, B. H., BANJADE, M. R., PAUDEL, K. P., OJHA, H., MAHARJAN, M., RANA, S., BHATTARAI, T. & DANGOL, S. 2009. *Facilitating Forests of Learning: Enabling an Adaptive Collaborative Approach in Community Forest User Groups, a Guidebook* Bogor, Indonesia, Center for International Forestry Research.
- NEMARUNDWE, N., DEJONG, W. & CRONKLETON, P. 2003. *Future Scenarios as an Instrument for Forest Management: Manual for training facilitators of Future Scenarios*, Bogor, Indonesia, CIFOR.
- OJHA, H., HALL, A. & SULAIMAN V, R. (eds.) 2013. *Adaptive Collaborative Approaches in Natural Resource governance: Rethinking Participation, Learning and Innovation*, London: Earthscan/Routledge.

Annexure

CIFOR and its collaborators have developed and shared a lot of tools/approaches, many of which are available on CIFOR's website, <http://www.cifor.org/acm/---as> have others. A few are listed here:

- HARTANTO, H., LORENZO, C., VALMORES, C., ARDA-MINAS, L. & BURTON, E. M. 2003. *Adaptive Collaborative Management: Enhancing Community Forestry in the Philippines*, Bogor, Indonesia, CIFOR.
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- COLFER, C. J. P., ANDRIAMAMPANDRY, E., ASAHA, S., LYIMO, E., MARTINI, E., PFUND, J. L. & WATTS, J. 2011. Participatory Action Research for Catalyzing Adaptive Management: Analysis of a 'Fits and Starts' Process *Journal of Environmental Science and Engineering*;
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- OJHA, H., HALL, A. & SULAIMAN V, R. (eds.) 2013. *Adaptive Collaborative Approaches in Natural Resource governance: Rethinking Participation, Learning and Innovation*, London: Earthscan/Routledge.