Lesson Learnt: Mainstreaming Gender in KNOWFOR PROGRAMME

In last quarter of 2014, gender mainstreaming in KNOWFOR programme focused on preliminary steps for inclusion of gender considerations into Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) and on developing and disseminating real examples of the role of women in forest landscape restoration through a dedicated gender blog. Additional resources provided during 2015-2016 of KNOWFOR project, allowed IUCN to shift focus to Gender Responsive ROAM implementation and documenting the role of women and girls and benefits from forest landscape restoration initiatives at the national, sub-national and local level. Although fully integration took longer in order to reflect on transformational change, yet, the gender mainstreaming activities have created the platform to increase the interaction and more deliberate learning on gender and FLR between practitioners, regional and country personnel engaged in FLR processes as well as policy makers at international and (sub)national level. Some of the examples of gender responsive FLR processes and/or knowledge-use are:

Capacity Building: “Defining the Path” on Gender and FLR
IUCN is providing technical assistance to 23 countries to conduct national, subnational or district level forest landscape restoration opportunity assessment. As part of KNOWFOR programme support to country’s FLR assessment process, IUCN provided capacity building on Gender Responsive ROAM implementation to country, implementing partners, government and other stakeholders. This included the technical assistance to identify gender considerations and developing a gender-responsive FLR implementation strategy and/or action plan, which promotes women’s engagement and empowerment and enhances gender equality. The participants usually included the country and partner organization personnel, government representatives (ex. focal points within the ministry, gender specialist, department of forestry and etc), local women’s organizations and networks, and practitioners implementing restoration activities. As part of the capacity building and training the Gender Plan of Action (tailor made, suitable to country context) was developed for each country including a list of “Gender Golden Procedures,” which are, global and widely applicable best practices for mainstreaming gender in FLR. The results that were validated through stakeholder consultations, then, were either part of government owned document that includes assessment outcomes and recommendation for implementing FLR or were integrated in mechanisms such as monitoring, (sub) national policy, (sub) national strategy and action plans.

Outcome: KNOWFOR funded gender-responsive FLR processes are ensuring women are active participants of the restoration agenda in Brazil, Honduras, Burundi, and Malawi. In fact, it has revealed that “women are often more willing than their male counterparts to engage in restoration activities and take on new risks within their regular activities, and thus, should be targeted to lead and initiate FLR efforts for enhanced impact.”

Brazil: Enhanced the understanding of gender issues relevant to FLR and how to address them; incorporated activities and processes to address relevant gender issues in work programs at the country-level; provided technical assistance to country teams to effectively implement and monitor activities to address gender issues within FLR assessments. Please see the example capacity building case-lessons learned Brazil. Key outcomes are as follows:

1. Mainstreaming of gender considerations into the Brazilian National Biodiversity Strategies Action Plan (NBSAP). The final approved version (2016) has 37 references, all as a product catalyzed by the process conducted under KNOWFOR. The importance of women’s participation is stated as one of the objectives of the NBSAP, alongside the inclusion of sex-disaggregated data and development of gender indicators. The incorporation of the national and international legal framework
for the support of gender equality in the NBSAP is a step forward to mainstreaming gender across sectors. A representative from the government of Brazil presented its official NBSAP during the CBD COP 13 in Cancun. The publication is available on public domain but also see attached PDF. Here is the link on CBD website for NBSAP v.3 in Portuguese https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/br/br-nbsap-v3-pt.pdf and in English https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/br/br-nbsap-v3-en.pdf.

See Brazil NBSAP case-lessons learned

2. Mainstreaming gender into The Atlantic Forest Restoration Pact (PACTO) Monitoring Protocol for Forest Restoration. As the result of technical support from KNOWFOR programme, the two socioeconomic indicators were selected for inclusion in the Monitoring Protocol:

- Number of women and men with jobs created by the implementation of restoration activities
- Increase of income for women and men farmers (e.g., timber, NTFP, agroforestry)

The protocol is available online. This has been also reflected in Evans, K.; Guariguata, M.R. Success from the ground up: Participatory monitoring and forest restoration (2016); appendix 1: Cases and Examples http://www.cifor.org/library/6284/success-from-the-ground-up-participatory-monitoring-and-forest-restoration/

See Brazil PACTO case-lessons learned

3. Documenting Gender responsive FLR experiences. The Vice-Minister of Gender for Brazilian state of Espírito Santo, was positively impacted by her participation in some of the workshops and capacity building sessions saying, “Usually we have to convince and chase our colleagues in different government offices... this was a surprise, they asked us to come.” Video ‘Building Sustainable Landscapes through Gender-Responsive Restoration in Brazil” is now publicly available and can be viewed here: http://genderandenvironment.org/resource/building-sustainable-landscapes-gender-responsive-restoration-brazil/.

Malawi: The national FLR assessment (NFLRA) in Malawi involved equal and active participation of stakeholders, both men and women, which helped to clarify gender-differentiated practices and knowledge in relation to natural resources. A Task Force (representatives from the multi-sectors) was organized to guide and support the national assessment process with the leadership of Department of Forestry and with the technical assistance from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), USAID funded project on Protecting Ecosystems and Restoring Forests in Malawi (PERFORM), World Resources Institute (WRI). The Task Force was divided into the three technical Working Groups overseeing the stocktaking and mapping, policy and institutional, and economic and financial analysis. Under the Task Force, a gender working group of representatives from the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare (MoGCCD), the Department of Forestry, gender specialists, and IUCN technical experts led gender-mainstreaming efforts in the NFLRA. Two focal points were assigned from each of the three NFLRA working groups (stocktaking and mapping, policy and institutional, and economic and financial analysis) to ensure the capacity built for technical leads and the gender issues were taken into consideration in each of their analysis. Through a series of workshops the gender working group with consultations from task force identified the actions needed to strengthen opportunities for gender integration and highlighted the enabling factors that could help mainstream gender. As the result, the working group generated a Gender Plan of Action to guide implementing partners in ensuring a gender-responsive NFLRA in Malawi. Some of the key outputs of these activities are as follows:
1. National Forest Landscape Restoration Assessment Report is Government owned report to be launched in April 2017. It will be available via government website and disseminated at high level ministerial meeting (SADC/AFR100). This report captures specific chapters on gender analysis and has integrated gender responsive recommendations for implementation.
   a. Gender Analysis - Technical leads from stocktaking and mapping, policy and institutional, and economic and financial working groups were consulted by Gender specialists, on selection of indicators for socio-economic and environment analysis. The gender working group also conducted gender analysis for which questionnaires were developed and applied at the district level by representatives from the MoGCCD and through consulting focal groups from the 14 districts.
   b. Policy - the gender working group identified the global, regional and national mandates and commitments on gender and environment in Malawi and listed key policies and institutions that are important for the implementation of FLR in Malawi.
   c. Recommendations – key takeaways were introduced to task force during the validation workshop where the results of gender analysis were validated. Based on the revisions and comments received, gender working group draw the recommendation for implementing NFLR in Malawi. The recommendations were integrated into the results of the other working groups (stocktaking and mapping, economics and finance, policy and institutions).

See Malawi case-lessons learned.

2. Knowledge generation and awareness. In Malawi, the Deputy Director of Department of Forestry reemphasized to working groups “the important role women play in all landscapes, and that they must not be left at the periphery of the decision making and implementation processes”. (Partners Report Available). In addition, to increase the active participation of women in FLR through featuring their voices, perspectives and concerns on FLR in farm radio broadcasts and providing them with increased access to FLR information that is critical to improving their livelihoods, Her Farm Radio initiative was developed (targeting at least 200,000 farmers in two districts). Her Farm Radio (Video) to be launched at high level ministerial meeting (SADC/AFR100) and available via public domain by May 2017. Case study on women’s FLR success stories to be published by July 2017.

Impact leveraged: Many lessons and opportunities came out from the capacity building and gender responsive ROAM implementation, which also opened doors for other gender mainstreaming actions:

1. IUCN has engaged with the other KNOWFOR partners to create a Gender Working Group (GWG) whereby the partners inform and collaborate to build on the broader FLR work, but specifically along the gender dimensions of FLR to strengthen activities and knowledge products to be gender responsive, and catalyse action with other institutions and projects. IUCN and PROFOR provided input and participated in a gender thematic panel at the FCPF 21st Meeting of the Participants Committee “Integrating Gender Dimensions into the work of the FCPF”. This session was moderated by PROFOR, began with a IUCN-created movie on the importance of women in REDD+, and panelists highlighted multiple initiatives of IUCN to support countries inclusion of gender into FLR and REDD+ policy, planning and implementation—with specific reference to the KNOWFOR project. The panel was lauded by several respondents at FCPF to be the best thematic panel of the meeting.

2. As a result of ongoing support to the Government of Rwanda, IUCN has reviewed the newly revised national Forestry Policy to ensure that women’s rights issues,
regarding access, use and control over resources and services were acknowledged, and with actions to empower them and improve their position in their lives and livelihoods toward enhanced gender equality. This policy revision is accompanied by the forestry indicators, which IUCN also reviewed and provided input on to ensure that the framework for monitoring and evaluating the new national policy would go beyond just counting women and men (i.e., collecting sex-disaggregated participation data) toward investigation and lessons learned on including activities that dissolve barriers and challenges to gender equality, and provide tangible opportunities to improve the lives and livelihoods of women and men. These two planning and policy documents are awaiting approval by the cabinet, but should promote the status of inclusion of gender in the final documents in early 2017. This will be available online but we don’t know the final status of the report.

See Rwanda case-lessons learned

3. Gender Responsive ROAM. In addition to the above, IUCN has provided capacity building and exchange learning (train the trainer) as well as technical support to ROAM processes in Honduras, Costa Rica, Burundi, and Mozambique. Some of the outcomes of these processes are as follows:

a. ROAM Gender Guidelines will be available via public domain in March 2017. The guideline will be used by practitioners, implementing partners and government entities involved in FLR assessment process. The Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) was developed initially as a ‘road-test’ version with an innovative approach of engaging a range of disciplines to identify, analyses, negotiate, and prioritize FLR opportunities. One of its hallmarks is a process of adaptive learning which helps to improve future versions of the methodology. As part of the effort to update the methodology, the present gender guidelines based from the ROAM processes taken place in various countries, were developed to ensure ROAM is more gender-responsive.

b. Gender Responsive ROAM experiences: IUCN Gender and FLR specialists have provided technical assistance and exchange learning (train the trainer) to women and women organizations, implementing partners, country/regional technical teams leading ROAM processes in Brazil, Malawi, Rwanda, Honduras, Mozambique, Burundi, DRC, Costa Rica. This experiences will be documented and published via IUCN formal processes.

See also Honduras case-lessons learned

The lessons learnt
Building capacity of technical teams leading the assessment and policy formulation has become KNOWFOR footprint in countries whereas such processes didn’t exist. Moreover, KNOWFOR led activities allowed programme to ensure ROAM is gender-responsive, but most importantly, so as the National Strategy and Action Plan for FLR implementation integrates the voices and needs of both women and men. Furthermore, this learning has been extremely valuable in improving quality and availability of information to farmers, but also finding the means for stocktaking of the local knowledge and women involvement in restoration; identifying approaches for monitoring progress in addressing gender considerations just to name the few.