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The Power of Gender: New Generation of REDD+ Action in the LAC Region

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About UN-REDD

The UN-REDD Programme is the United Nations Collaborative initiative on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) in developing countries. It is also the United Nations knowledge and advisory platform on forest solutions to the climate crisis. It supports nationally-led REDD+ processes and promotes the informed and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples and local communities, to mobilize finance and implement REDD+ activities agreed under the UNFCCC. UN-REDD+ builds on the convening capacity and technical expertise of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNDP and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), serving 65 partner countries. UN-REDD+ is made possible through support from the European Commission and the governments of Denmark, Luxembourg, Norway, Japan, Republic of Korea, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

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Acronym List

CONAF	Chile's National Forestry Corporation
CONAREDD+	Brazil's National Commission for REDD+
CREF	Forest Emission Reduction Contracts
ENBCS	Paraguay's National Forest Strategy for Sustainable Growth
ENCCRV	National Strategy on Climate Change and Vegetation Resources
ENREDD+	Brazil's National REDD+ Strategy
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FONAFIFO	Costa Rica's National Fund for Forest Finance
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Fund
LAC	Latin American and Caribbean
MAATE	Ecuador's Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition
MAG	Ecuador's Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
MMA	Brazil's Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
PAC	Project Advisory Committee
PAFT	Environmental, Forest and Territorial Plan
PES	Payment for Environmental Services
PNMF	Costa Rica's National Fire Management Programme
PPCDAm	Prevention and Control of Deforestation in the Legal Amazon
PSB	Socio Bosque Program
PSLD	Deforestation-Free Sustainable Production
REM	REDD+ Early Movers
RBP	Results Based Payments
REDD+	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation
SEAH	Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment
SINAC	Costa Rica's National System of Conservation Areas
SIS	Safeguards Information System
SISREDD+	REDD+ Safeguards Information System
SOI REDD+	Safeguards Summary of Information
UIG	Unit for Gender Equality
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme





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Introduction

Countries are charting a new path forward through transformative REDD+ initiatives that promote gender-responsive approaches¹ to project design, implementation and decision-making processes and tackle larger systematic gender inequalities within complex sectors. With support from a range of entities, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and UN-REDD Programme and its partner organizations [e.g. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)], REDD+ countries, such as Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Paraguay are promoting transformational change and sustainable and gender-responsive climate action results that benefit women. **Acknowledging these achievements, the UN-REDD Programme is supporting efforts to document and share good practices for replication and to demonstrate the catalytic power that gender equality and women's empowerment can have in achieving effective and sustainable REDD+ action.**

This publication addresses the global need to continue supporting efforts to design and implement gender-responsive REDD+ actions. In doing so, it also contributes to mounting evidence that the initiatives with the highest environmental performance are often those that fully integrate gender perspectives, actively promote the participation of women and encourage women's leadership.² Its five case studies (Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Paraguay) notably present new information supporting the premise that forest-related projects that include a gender approach tend to also achieve greater success in forest conservation and sustainable use and also improve the well-being of women and their communities.³

Furthermore, these five case studies showcase the value of women's environmental stewardship and the multiplier effect of their contributions to forest conservation and sustainable management. They present additional evidence to the effect that women's and men's differentiated roles and their use and knowledge of forests are critical elements that shape their unique contributions to forest conservation and sustainable use, which in turn then shape the long-term success of climate action on the ground, including REDD+.⁴ Hence, the publication reaffirms that promoting women's environmental stewardship and leadership is a catalyst for more effective, efficient, equitable and sustainable actions to reduce deforestation and forest degradation.

1 See Box 1 for common gender terms

2 CSW 66.2022. [Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes](#); CBD. [Addressing Gender Issues and Actions in Biodiversity Objectives](#); UNDP. 2019. [Women as Environmental Stewards – The Experience of the Small Grants Programme](#).

3 Nathan J. Cook & Tara Grillos & Krister P. Andersson, 2019. [‘Gender quotas increase the equality and effectiveness of climate policy interventions’](#). *Nature Climate Change*, *Nature*, vol. 9(4), pages 330–334, April.

4 UN-REDD Programme. (2011). [The Business Case for Mainstreaming Gender in REDD+](#); Larson et al. 2015. [The role of women in early REDD+ implementation: lessons for future engagement](#). *International Forestry Review* Vol.17 (1); United Nations (2019). Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. [‘Analytical study on gender-responsive climate action for the full and effective enjoyment of the rights of women: report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights’](#).



Lastly, the publication emphasizes that recognizing the differentiated roles of women and men in REDD+ is just the beginning. REDD+ actions themselves can also be a catalyst for the transformation of gender inequalities and social norms. When designed and implemented from a gender-responsive perspective, REDD+ actions can actively challenge and shift discriminatory social norms, promote more inclusive education and decision-making processes and help dismantle legal and structural barriers restricting women's access to land, capital, markets and climate-related forest finance.⁵ In doing so, REDD+ has become a platform not only for forest conservation, but also for advancing gender equality and inclusive development. Gender-responsive REDD+ efforts, such as those presented in this publication, have demonstrated this: when efforts are taken to actively reduce gender inequalities that limit women's livelihoods, this decreases their vulnerability, increases their resilience and results in win-win situations with better environmental and social outcomes.

As the world faces unprecedented planetary and social crises caused by nature loss and climate change, REDD+ can catalyse social and environmental transformations, including greater gender equality. **The aim of this publication is to inspire and inform this next generation of climate and biodiversity action. As countries increase their climate and biodiversity commitments and ambitions, an opportunity arises to propose a new generation of innovative gender-responsive REDD+ actions** that go beyond data collection and participation to:

- » Address ongoing, deep-rooted gender barriers and inequalities.
- » Equitably increase women's and men's access to resources and power of decisions regarding them.
- » Recognize and engage relevant actors fully and equitably across all genders in all actions.
- » Value the unique and complementary knowledge and skills of women and men.
- » Improve women's livelihoods and economic empowerment.
- » Generate new sustainable livelihood, productive and economic opportunities for women in the forestry, agriculture and land-use sectors.

⁵ Elias, M et al. (2024) Toward Gender Equality in Forestry, Fisheries, Aquaculture and Livestock Development. *Global Food Security* 41; Gurung, J., Giri, K., Setyawati, A., & Lebow, E. (2011). *Getting REDD+ right for women: An analysis of the barriers and opportunities for women's participation in the REDD+ sector in Asia*. Washington DC: USAID; United Nations (2019). Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. 'Analytical study on gender-responsive climate action for the full and effective enjoyment of the rights of women: report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights'.

Box 1:

Common gender terms

Women's empowerment: the ability and agency of every woman to shape her own destiny, exercise her rights and make her own choices. Women's empowerment has five components: women's sense of self-worth; their right to have and to determine choices; their right to have access to opportunities and resources; their right to have power to control their own lives, both within and outside the home; and their ability to influence the direction of social change to create a more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally.⁶

Gender mainstreaming: (also referred to as gender integration, integrating a gender perspective or a gender approach): the process of assessing and integrating the implications for women and men of any planned action, as well as including specific provisions for gender equality, including in legislation, policies and programmes. It is a systematic approach to ensuring that the concerns and experiences of women and men are an integral part 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 goal of gender mainstreaming is ultimately to accelerate the achievement of gender equality.⁷ The degree of gender mainstreaming within an action can vary (see the definitions of 'gender-sensitive', 'gender-responsive' and 'gender transformative' below).

Gender-sensitive: involving understanding and consideration of the sociocultural factors underlying gender-based discrimination when attempting to redress existing gender inequalities. In practice, gender sensitivity entails: differentiating between the capacities, needs and priorities of women and men and ensuring that the views and ideas of both are taken seriously; considering the implications of decisions on the situation of women relative to men; and taking action to address inequalities or imbalances between women and men. In practice, using a gender-sensitive approach has come to mean 'do no harm'.⁸

Gender-responsive: describes actions taken to address gender gaps and overcome historical gender biases in policies and interventions that are proactively identified, understood and implemented. In practice, using a gender-responsive approach entails attempting to redefine women's and men's gender roles and relations and proactively and intentionally contributing to the advancement of gender equality. More than 'do no harm', a gender-responsive policy, programme, plan or project aims to 'do better'.⁹

Gender-transformative: describes actions taken to transform unequal gender relations to promote shared power, control of resources, decision-making and support for women's empowerment. It challenges the root causes of gender discrimination that create and reinforce gender inequalities and requires going beyond capacity strengthening and internal organizational learning, to changing mindsets, shifting mental models, values and beliefs.¹⁰

Gender gaps: the differences between women, men, or other genders in any areas. in terms of the outcomes they experience and their levels of participation, access, rights, remuneration, or benefits.¹¹

⁶ European Institute for Gender Equality. Glossary. 'Empowerment of Women'.

⁷ United Nations Economic and Social Council Agreed Conclusions, 1997/2.

⁸ Adapted from the UN Women Gender Equality; Aguilar, L., Granat, M., & Owren, C. (2015). *Roots for the future: The landscape and way forward on gender and climate change*. Washington, D.C.: International Union for Conservation of Nature and Global Gender and Climate Alliance; and REDD+ Social & Environmental Standards and Women's Environment and Development Organization (2013), 'From research to action, leaf by leaf: Getting gender right in the REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards', Booklet 1.

⁹ Adapted from the UN Women Gender Equality Glossary, op. cit., and Aguilar, L., Granat, M., & Owren, C., op. cit.

¹⁰ UN Women Gender Equality Glossary and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) *Joint Programme on Gender Transformative Approaches for Food Security and Nutrition*.

¹¹ Adapted from the European Institute of Gender Equality *Gender Mainstreaming Glossary*.

Publication details

Objective and rationale

The Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region has been the pioneer in forging comprehensive, high-ambition gender-responsive REDD+ action. Countries like [Brazil](#), [Chile](#), [Costa Rica](#), [Ecuador](#) and [Paraguay](#) are among those in which REDD+ action has successfully promoted gender equality and women's empowerment as a key element to achieve their climate goals related to forest conservation and sustainable use.

The objective of this publication is to spotlight the good practices from innovative REDD+ actions in LAC that have successfully placed gender equality and women's empowerment at the heart of the design and implementation of their REDD+ action. The publication includes in-depth case studies from five Latin American countries – Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Paraguay, which show how the countries have integrated innovative gender actions into REDD+ initiatives and how implementing these gender-responsive actions has led to greater social and environmental impacts as well as positive climate outcomes.

This publication emerged from the discussions, lessons learned and good practices shared through the UN-REDD LAC Gender and REDD+ Platform (created in 2021 by UNDP with three countries and later expanded in 2023 to include all interested UN-REDD LAC countries) and supports the systematization of good practices to promote gender equality in REDD+ actions. Over the years, it has served as an online knowledge-sharing working group that provided country teams with capacity-building, knowledge exchange and technical support to fully integrate a gender approach within GCF-funded REDD+ projects in the LAC region. Members of the platform include UNDP, FAO and UNEP gender focal points and gender specialists, as well as staff/consultants hired by the Project Management Units to assist with gender-related issues in the projects. Government counterparts have also been invited to join sessions relevant to their ongoing country work.



Promoting South-South cooperation and peer learning directly between countries, the UN-REDD LAC Gender and REDD+ Platform also facilitates countries that have more experience on certain issues – like women’s empowerment – to lead discussions and exchange good practices and lessons learned. For example, during the 66th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in 2022, a [UN-REDD side event on Gender and Climate Finance](#) brought together Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Indonesia and Ghana to share their experiences on how forest-related climate finance is contributing to 1) addressing prevalent gender inequalities; 2) increasing the recognition of women’s environmental stewardship; and 3) improving women’s leadership and empowerment in REDD+. In 2023, the UN-REDD LAC Gender and REDD+ Platform¹² organized its first in-person meeting in 2023 as part of the larger [UN-REDD Regional Exchange Event on Climate Finance and Forests](#) held in Costa Rica from 28 August to 1 September. With the objective of promoting a discussion on how to advance gender-transformative strategies and actions in the forestry sector, the first in-person platform meeting also served as a space for the countries to present the way in which they are promoting gender equality through their REDD+ projects or environmental initiatives. It was during this event that participants of the platform expressed their interest in developing a publication to systemize their good practices.

Seeing this ongoing need and request to document how countries are charting a new path forward in undertaking innovative gender-responsive REDD+ action, **the UN-REDD Programme has developed this publication to help systematize these good practices, encourage replication and showcase how these five LAC countries are tackling larger systematic gender inequalities across complex thematic areas** such as land tenure, fire management and control and sustainable forestry and agriculture value chains.

Case Study Organization

To help organize the good practices from the five countries featured in this publication, the country case studies follow a similar scope and format. **Each case study provides 1) a brief overview of how gender has been mainstreamed in the national REDD+ process; 2) a description of the scope of the project; 3) a detailed description of the gender actions implemented; concluding with 4) results and impacts to date associated with these gender actions.** Case studies can be found in [Annex 1](#).

→ Gender Actions

To guide systematization of the gender actions and corresponding good practices included in these five country case studies, the following classifications have been used to categorize the scope and focus of each:



Gender-disaggregated data collection and baselines



Gender capacity-building



Gender-equitable benefit-sharing distribution



Gender expertise integration



Women’s equitable inclusion in project capacity-building



Gender-responsive communication



Gender-responsive monitoring and reporting



Women’s equitable access to finance



Addressing risk of gender-based violence (GBV) / sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH)



Equitable and effective participation of women



Women’s equitable inclusion in leadership and decision-making

¹² The Platform now comprises 10 countries – Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Paraguay, and UN REDD partner organizations – UNDP, UNEP and FAO.

→ Results and impacts

The case studies highlight not only the gender actions undertaken but also their social and environmental results. To support analysis, the results are grouped into thematic categories that go beyond traditional participation metrics. These categories illustrate the broader multiplier effects of REDD+ projects—improving women’s livelihoods, promoting environmental leadership, strengthening climate outcomes and addressing prevalent inequalities, particularly in relation to care and gender-based violence (GBV). The gender results included in the case studies are:



Improved sustainable livelihoods for women and youth



Improved income and resources for women



Increased opportunities for women's environmental stewardship, forest management/conservation



Improved time savings and care responsibilities for women



Reduction of GBV/SEAH

The publication has also compiled a best practices checklist based on the case studies and other experiences from UN-REDD projects in [Annex 2](#). The tables in Annex 2 include a summary of examples of gender impacts related to the REDD+ projects included in the current publication or observed in REDD+ actions implemented in other countries. They can assist future projects as guidelines of potential gender activities and indicators that can be incorporated into a project to achieve specific gender actions and results.

Case study methodology

The participating countries in this publication are all members of the UN-REDD LAC Gender and REDD+ Platform, and all are implementing GCF-funded REDD+ results-based payments (RBPs) in partnership with an UN-REDD agency. The case studies were developed in a large, collaborative effort between the facilitators and members of the UN-REDD LAC Gender and REDD+ Platform, country project teams (e.g. Project Management Units (PMU), country gender staff/focal points, etc.) and the gender focal points and regional technical advisors/country focal points of the UN-REDD agencies (UNDP, FAO and UNEP). The scope of the case studies is focused on gender-related efforts that have been undertaken within these GCF-funded REDD+ RBP projects.

As illustrated in Figure 1 below, the elements to be included within the country case studies were first defined. These elements were discussed with UN-REDD LAC Gender and REDD+ Platform country team members (via email and online meetings). Based on these discussions, the UN-REDD LAC Gender and REDD+ Platform facilitators proposed a draft structure, which was shared for feedback with platform members. Once the members had provided their input, a meeting of the platform was organized to validate the final structure and define the information that the projects needed to share to develop the country case studies.

As development of the country case studies required the active involvement of country counterparts through information-sharing, review and validation, country inclusion in this publication was on a voluntary basis. To support a bottom-up approach, participating countries were heavily involved in the identification of specific gender good practices to be showcased from their respective countries. As all the participating countries had multiple good practices on gender, selection prioritized three to four of the most innovative gender-related actions per country. Consequently, not all the gender-related activities of the GCF projects could be included.

Figure 1.
Steps taken to develop country case studies



The background materials supplied for each of the case studies come from a range of GCF project information, such as a) project funding proposals and their gender action plans; b) GCF annual performance reports; and c) associated gender-specific knowledge products developed. This information was complemented by a general search of news articles or websites mentioning the projects and the results of their gender activities. Additionally, a brief gender analysis of REDD+ policy and actions was conducted for each country. The draft case studies were shared with the country teams for review, validation and additional input. Based on feedback received, the UN-REDD LAC Gender and REDD+ Platform facilitators then updated the case studies, and the final draft was sent to the country teams (including project teams and applicable government institutions) for final clearance.





The power of a gender approach: a brief history of integrating gender into REDD+ action

Throughout the evolution of REDD+ policies and actions, gender equality and women's empowerment have contributed to successful forest conservation and sustainable use. REDD+ action has evolved over the years. In the 2000s, REDD+ pilot projects helped set the stage for the development and implementation of REDD+ subnational and national level strategies in the 2010s, which in turn led to the implementation of larger results-based payment projects in the 2020s. Each of these stages was accompanied by efforts to understand the gender differentiated impacts of REDD+ initiatives and the opportunities that REDD+ initiatives offered to address the gender inequalities prevalent in the forest sector.

Given the implications of REDD+ action on the livelihoods of women living in and around forests, thorough gender research has been developed at both global and national level (see [Annex 3](#)). Many of these publications have not only highlighted the links between gender equality, women's empowerment principles and REDD+ but have also provided practical guidance on how to identify and incorporate gender considerations in REDD+ actions. In 2011, UN-REDD's 'The Business Case for Mainstreaming Gender in REDD+'¹³ highlighted how mainstreaming gender in REDD+ initiatives could enhance development and climate and/or environmental outcomes. At the time, REDD+ was still in its early stages and few countries had strategies or REDD+ pilot projects in place and underway. Instead, arguments in favour of a gender-responsive approach to REDD+ were often based on case studies relating to the forest sector in general rather than specific REDD+ activities. Almost 15 years later, with experiences from around the globe, including within this publication, the evidence suggests that gender-responsive REDD+ action not only improves climate and environmental outcomes but also effects positive change in women and children's lives.

¹³ UN-REDD Programme. (2011). [The Business Case for Mainstreaming Gender in REDD+](#)



This growing body of research paired with country experiences (such as those featured in this publication) demonstrates the importance and power of promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment in REDD+ actions. A range of countries and organizations supporting the development and implementation of REDD+ action are advocating for REDD+ actions that do not reinforce or increase gender inequalities and which serve as a vehicle to recognize women as environmental stewards and increase their empowerment and leadership opportunities. Annex 3 outlines some of these key gender and REDD+ publications over the last 15 years. (To note, this list is not exhaustive but rather provides a snapshot of the evolution of gender and REDD+ research and guidance. There are also many publications examining country-specific gender and REDD+ initiatives which, for brevity purposes, are not included in this list.) This publication contributes to these efforts and helps serve as a tool for replication and capacity-building.

Box 2: **International context for gender in REDD+**

Gender has been central to the development of REDD+ actions guided by key decisions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In 2010, the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the UNFCCC adopted the Cancun Agreements which guided REDD+ countries that, when “developing and implementing their national strategies or action plans, to address, inter alia ... gender considerations and the safeguards” [[Decision 1/CP.16 \(Paragraph 72\)](#)]. This decision was reinforced by the Durban Outcomes [[Decision 12/CP.17](#)], which called for safeguard information systems to include gender-related considerations.

The implementation of these international gender commitments in REDD+ has also been supported by international, national and local REDD+ initiatives financed through funding mechanisms with strong gender commitments. Both the GCF and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) have dedicated Gender Policies that prioritize gender equality and support the systematic, substantive incorporation of gender perspectives into every project and programme. Additionally, the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) prioritizes gender equality and social inclusion in its climate finance investments, while the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) supports gender-responsive forest pilot projects at the country level.

This increased attention has resulted in the design, implementation and payment for results of gender-responsive REDD+ policies and actions in countries across Africa, Asia-Pacific and LAC.¹⁴

¹⁴ The following links provide examples of some gender-responsive REDD+ country experiences: [Argentina](#), [Brazil](#), [Cambodia](#), [Cameroon](#), [Chile](#), [Colombia](#), [Costa Rica](#), [Ecuador](#), [Ghana](#), [Indonesia](#), [Mexico](#), [Paraguay](#), [Peru](#), [Tanzania](#), [Uganda](#), [Viet Nam](#).



The power of a gender approach: REDD+ action that is more effective, efficient, equitable and sustainable

Over the past 10 years, REDD+ action in LAC has evolved from a ‘do no harm’ gender approach to more of a ‘do better’ approach that actively promotes gender equality and women’s empowerment and delivers a more equitable flow of benefits to women and female-headed households. Promoting gender equality is no longer only a requirement but has become a central contribution to the success of REDD+ projects, with greater impacts and results. The country case studies in this publication confirm that mainstreaming gender considerations into REDD+, results in the following:¹⁵

- » More effective interventions (defined here as actions that result in a greater reduction of greenhouse gas emissions);
- » More efficient interventions (defined here as actions that result in processes that require less effort, time, and resources);
- » More equitable interventions (defined here as actions that involve multiple stakeholders across genders which also respect their rights); and
- » More sustainable interventions (defined here as actions that increase appropriation and ensure permanence, thereby reducing the risk of reversals for public or private project investors).

The results from the five LAC country case studies featured in this publication unequivocally demonstrate the correlation between promoting gender equality and improved development and climate outcomes. The REDD+ actions from these countries comprise a diverse array of gender activities that go far beyond participation, resulting in greater and more diverse sustainable development impacts. The table below summarizes the evidence from these five country case studies to demonstrate how promoting a comprehensive gender approach contributes to more effective, efficient and sustainable REDD+ interventions. (For a more detailed description of the country specific gender actions, impacts and results, please review the complete country case studies found in [Annex 1](#) of this publication.)

¹⁵ Based on the definitions included in the UN-REDD Programme publication [The Business Case for Mainstreaming Gender in REDD+](#).

Table 1.

The power of gender-responsive action for better project design and outcomes: Specific examples from countries improving effectiveness, efficiency, equality and sustainability.

Gender actions Example(s) from country case studies	How gender actions increased effectiveness, efficiency, equality and sustainability of the REDD+ projects
 Collection of gender-disaggregated data and development of a gender baseline Brazil's GCF REDD+ RBP project developed methodology and tools to collect gender disaggregated data and establish gender baselines	Effectiveness: created a system to establish a gender baseline (which did not exist prior to the project) allowing for 1) the identification of a greater number and diversity of stakeholders, including from female-headed households, who could contribute to forest conservation and sustainable use and 2) the development of targeted project interventions to scale up and include women's contributions in the project. Efficiency: tailored interventions to be gender-responsive from the outset, mitigating the risk associated with inappropriate approaches and helping to ensure that all the relevant stakeholders, equitably including women, receive the necessary capacity-building and support across all modalities of the project. Equality: properly identified all relevant stakeholders, including women, and their differentiated roles, knowledge and contributions to REDD+ and forest conservation and sustainable use; thus, promoting local ownership of actions. Sustainability: considered a broad range of interventions that could be carried out equitably by female and male stakeholders which, in turn, led to greater project buy in and long-term appropriation of improved sustainable practices.
 Integration of gender expertise Brazil's GCF REDD+ RBP project hired a gender specialist to develop capacity building activities and materials on gender and REDD+ Paraguay's GCF REDD+ RBP project created a Technical Committee on Safeguards and Gender Equality	Effectiveness: identified, supported and scaled up projects' activities implemented by women, men and youth to contribute to forest conservation and sustainable use, thereby also improving project outcomes on REDD+. Efficiency: identified and addressed gender-related risks as they arose and improve processes implemented by the project to ensure female, male and youth (as applicable) stakeholders are equitably involved and can participate fully and effectively. Equality: assisted project staff in incorporating a gender approach and developing the capacity to properly identify, equitably and effectively support all relevant male, female and youth (as applicable) stakeholders. Sustainability: designed and implemented activities ensuring that women, men and youth (as applicable) could equitably receive support and resources to scale up and implement project activities to contribute to REDD+ and forest conservation and sustainable use.
 Use of gender-responsive communication Chile's GCF REDD+ RBP project's Communication Strategy integrated a gender perspective Paraguay's GCF REDD+ RBP project organized a gender workshop for communication officials from public institutions and agencies	Effectiveness: ensured that efforts and information reached a diversity of female, male and youth (as applicable) stakeholders to ensure that they had the proper information to implement, improve and scale up the activities to contribute to REDD+ and forest conservation and sustainable use. Efficiency: effectively reached female, male and youth (as applicable) stakeholders and delivered project information and messages that were easily digestible and understood by all affected women, men and youth across a range of different stakeholder groups. Equality: properly highlighted and value the contributions and equitable inclusion of female, male and youth (as applicable) stakeholders within project efforts on REDD+ and forest conservation and sustainable use. Sustainability: ensured that female, male and youth (as applicable) stakeholders were recognized and supported; ensured that stakeholders involved in the project recognized and supported the activities that other stakeholders implemented.





Integration of gender-responsive monitoring and reporting

Brazil's GCF REDD+ RBP project included gender indicators across project modalities to assess whether both women and men were actively engaging with and benefiting from the project

Chile's GCF REDD+ RBP project included targets to measure the integration of a gender approach and the gender related impacts of the project's activities

Effectiveness: monitored women's and men's contributions to REDD+ and forest conservation and sustainable use.

Efficiency: identified gender-related risks that could affect the implementation, effectiveness and sustainability of the projects.

Equality: documented the inclusion and full and effective participation of all relevant stakeholders, including women, men and youth (as applicable).

Sustainability: ensured that differentiated contributions of all project stakeholders were recognized and promoted.



Promotion of equitable and effective participation of women

Costa Rica's GCF REDD+ RBP project promoted the active and equitable participation of Indigenous women during all consultation stages of the Environmental, Forest and Territorial Plans (PAFTs) to ensure their priorities were included

Paraguay's GCF REDD+ RBP project supported the design of an Environmental Services Regime for Indigenous community lands that values and integrates Indigenous women's contributions

Effectiveness: included a diverse and wide array of voices, perspectives and expertise that contributed new and innovative activities within REDD+, forest conservation and sustainable use.

Efficiency: received buy-in and developed and undertook actions that were representative of and addressed the needs and priorities of both male and female stakeholders.

Equality: developed more inclusive and diverse actions that included and benefited male, female, and youth (as applicable) stakeholders.

Sustainability: developed activities that addressed the needs, knowledge and priorities of different stakeholders leading to greater support and buy-in as well as helping to promote improved project results in REDD+, forest conservation and sustainable use.



Promotion of women's equitable involvement and leadership in decision-making

Brazil's GCF REDD+ RBP project ensured that women had an influential voice in shaping the direction of local development projects

Costa Rica's GCF REDD+ RBP project supported the establishment of the National Forum of Rural Women to strengthen their involvement in decision-making processes on rural and environmental public policies

Paraguay GCF REDD+ RBP project implemented several actions to promote the full and effective participation of Indigenous women in the project's governance

Effectiveness: identified and supported activities that scaled up and promoted women's unique expertise, contributions and perspectives to REDD+, forest conservation and sustainable use.

Efficiency: developed and tailored project activities that addressed women's needs and priorities and directly supported women's environmental stewardship and livelihoods.

Equality: recognized, valued and supported the unique contributions of women to REDD+ action, forest conservation and sustainable use. Also assisted women in achieving recognition as leaders in their communities, challenging traditional gender norms.

Sustainability: undertook activities that supported women environmental stewardship and integrated perspectives and knowledge across genders and stakeholder groups, helping, in turn, to promote buy-in and success for project activities and the longevity of project outcomes.



Inclusion of comprehensive gender capacity-building efforts with project stakeholders and staff

Brazil's GCF REDD+ RBP project developed a comprehensive and stepwise capacity building process on gender for national and local government staff, project staff, implementation partners and project beneficiaries

Chile's GCF REDD+ RBP project provided practical guidance on safeguards and gender equality to ensure gender integration in project management instruments and local REDD+ site-level projects

Costa Rica's GCF REDD+ RBP project developed a Course on Gender, Forest and Fire to strengthen the gender capacities of staff and volunteers of the National Fire Management Programme (PNMF)

Paraguay's GCF REDD+ RBP project established a Community of Practice on equity and equality to strengthen the capacities of its Technical Team to integrate gender into project activities

Effectiveness: capacities strengthened to recognize the added value of incorporating a gender approach and the gender-differentiated contributions within REDD+.

Efficiency: ensured that the implementing partners and beneficiaries had the know-how to effectively and meaningfully integrate gender into project activities, thereby helping to increase the recognition of women's, in addition to men's, key contributions to REDD+ action.

Equality: achieved equitable involvement of women and men in project activities, allowing them to inform and benefit from project outcomes, such as livelihood diversification, income generation, forest conservation, fire prevention and ancestral knowledge preservation.

Sustainability: supported meaningful incorporation and implementation of a gender approach from the outset, thereby helping to ensure that project activities promoted gender equality and women's empowerment, fostering more inclusive and equitable outcomes within REDD+ efforts.



Promotion of women's equitable and active inclusion in the project's training and capacity-building efforts

Chile's GCF REDD+ RBP project Environmental Education and Training Plan considered event timing and locations compatible for women as well as offered childcare facilities

Ecuador's GCF PROAmazonía and REDD+ RBP projects promoted the active and equitable participation of women during Agricultural Field Schools training

Paraguay's GCF REDD+ RBP project strengthened the capacities of Indigenous women in leadership, negotiation, and project management

Effectiveness: tailored project capacity-building to the needs and priorities of women to promote and scale up their contributions to forest conservation and sustainable use and ensured that activities were integrated into REDD+ project efforts.

Efficiency: promoted that women's capacity-building process was tailored equitably to their needs and realities, in addition to men, thereby ensuring that the capacity-building process was successful and well attended by all project stakeholders from the outset.

Equality: ensured that all relevant stakeholders, across genders, could equitably and actively engage and benefit in capacity-building processes offered by the project and inform associated activities.

Sustainability: guaranteed that women have the capacities to inform, implement, enhance and contribute activities to support REDD+, forest conservation and sustainable use, including beyond the lifespan of the projects.



Improvement in women's access to finance opportunities

Under Brazil's GCF REDD+ RBP project, the Operations Manual for the payment for environmental services (PES) programme stipulates that when a rural property is registered under multiple owners (e.g. a man and woman), the funds be transferred directly to the woman's account

Ecuador's PROAmazonía and REDD+ RBP projects set an ambitious 40 percent target for women's participation in credit socialization, financial educational activities and access to loans

Effectiveness: guaranteed financial resources equitably reached both male and female stakeholders, helping to increase the number of stakeholders involved in activities improving and contributing to REDD+ and forest conservation and sustainable use.

Efficiency: ensured resources went directly to relevant stakeholders, including equitably women and men involved in REDD+ and forest conservation and sustainable use, without an intermediary.

Equality: ensured that marginalized stakeholders, such as women, receive and have control over resources and have access to and receive financial benefits.

Sustainability: ensured that both male and female stakeholders, who were contributing to REDD+ and forest conservation and sustainable use were rewarded for their efforts and had financial resources to continue implementing actions or scaling up their contributions.



Promotion of gender equitable project benefit-sharing arrangements

Brazil's GCF REDD+ RBP project incorporated clear, measurable and ambitious gender targets, requirements and prioritization criteria in the design of the modalities of its PES programme to ensure women's equitable inclusion as project beneficiaries

The Benefit Sharing Plan of the National Strategy on Climate Change and Vegetation Resources, which the **Chile GCF REDD+ RBP project** supports, incorporates the concept of 'project holder', allowing women and other family members to participate and manage site-level projects

Ecuador's GCF PROAmazonía and REDD+ RBP projects equitably supported women's sustainable livelihoods through small scale bio-enterprises

Effectiveness: guaranteed resources were accessible and rewarded in a gender equitable manner and to a diversity of stakeholders undertaking activities contributing to REDD+, forest conservation and sustainable use.

Efficiency: ensured that project-related conservation benefits went directly to male and female stakeholders contributing to REDD+, forest conservation and sustainable use.

Equality: ensured that marginalized stakeholders, such as indigenous and local women, could be equitably involved in and receive benefits for REDD+ and forest conservation efforts.

Sustainability: tailored resource allocation and support to the needs and preferences of the various stakeholders, including equitably women and men, thereby helping them to continue implementing actions or scaling up their contributions to REDD+.



Integration of measures to address risks of GBV/SEAH

Chile's GCF REDD+ RBP project included mandatory training on procedures for the prevention and/or sanction of sexual harassment and abuse, for all project operations and contracting processes

Costa Rica's GCF REDD+ RBP project Gender, Forest and Fire course includes a module on how to prevent sexual harassment

Ecuador's GCF PROAmazonía project addressed gender-based violence in rural communities through its Botas Violeta (Violet Boots) initiative

Effectiveness: identified and avoided potential GBV/ SEAH situations that could affect the effective implementation of REDD+ and forest conservation and sustainable use activities.

Efficiency: undertook measures to prevent, identify and address potential GBV/ SEAH situations which could pose harm to project stakeholders, jeopardize their safety and health and affect the implementation of the project.

Equality: created safe and secure spaces that ensured stakeholders, across genders, could fully and effectively participate in and benefit from project activities.

Sustainability: prevented potential GBV/SEAH cases that could have deterred some stakeholders to engage in project activities as well as jeopardized effective implementation of project activities.



The power of a gender approach: REDD+ action that addresses prevalent gender inequalities and promotes women's empowerment

Although women are key environmental stewards with specific roles, rights, and responsibilities, as well as important contributors to forest conservation and sustainable use, they are usually not recognized as relevant stakeholders in the forest sector. Experiences from around the world have shown that women hold a wealth of knowledge of forest systems and have deep relationships with them, making them perfectly placed to be important actors for positive action. However, they often remain, in many cases, under-recognized and under-valued agents in addressing forest loss.¹⁶ Various social, economic and cultural inequalities and legal impediments, particularly within the forest sector, limit the ability of women (and often of other marginalized groups, including Indigenous People, the poor, young people and persons with disabilities) to fully participate in, contribute to and benefit from REDD+ initiatives (See Box 3 for examples of inequalities in the forest sector).¹⁷

As the world faces the unprecedented loss of forest ecosystems, ignoring the gender dimension in forest conservation and management will harm women and increase their marginalization. The loss of forest ecosystems, or even small changes in their species composition, have gender-differentiated impacts that could jeopardize the livelihoods of women and men around the world. Deforestation and forest degradation tend to reinforce and exacerbate existing gender inequalities, such as GBV and unequal access to resources and tenure of land. As a result, the impacts of forest loss tend to be greater on women, placing them, along with girls, in a position of greater vulnerability in which their livelihoods, assets and economic opportunities are threatened.

¹⁶ Larson, A. M. et al. 2018. *Gender lessons for climate initiatives: A comparative study of REDD+ impacts on subjective wellbeing*. World Development Volume 108.

¹⁷ Setyowati, A. (n.d.). 'Policy brief: How bringing gender perspectives into REDD+ policies could enhance effectiveness and empowerment'.



Box 3.

Examples of prevalent gender inequalities in the forest sector

- » **Lack of recognition as forest stakeholders and stewards:** women are usually not recognized as environmental stewards and agents of environmental change and their contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of resources are under-valued.
- » **Unequal access to and lack of involvement in decision-making power over natural resources:** women often lack or have limited access and decision-making power and processes over forest resources, conservation and management due to structural prevalent inequalities, lack of land tenure rights and discriminatory customary systems and norms.
- » **Unequal access to services and resources:** women experience barriers that prevent them from accessing credit, technology, education, training, and employment opportunities within the forest sector.
- » **Limiting gender norms and stereotypes:** negative gender norms and stereotypes often limit women and girls' involvement in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education tracks and technical jobs.
- » **Underrepresentation in forest research and professional roles:** the forestry sector is often a male-dominated sector, particularly at senior and management levels.
- » **Unequal care responsibilities:** women are often overburdened with domestic and care responsibilities that limit their possibilities to participate in REDD+ and forest conservation related initiatives. Additionally, gender blind interventions can increase workloads, reduce income and increase vulnerability for women.
- » **GBV and SEAH.** There is a correlation between GBV and environmental violence, where GBV is used disproportionately against women to control and silence them and repress their power and authority as leaders.¹⁸

Conversely, building resilient livelihoods and adopting a multidimensional and fully integrated gender approach to forest conservation and sustainable use could foster a win-win scenario that reduces inequalities, increases economic empowerment of women while reducing forest loss and degradation. This multidimensional action can break the multiple crises circle of increased inequalities and vulnerabilities and strengthen social cohesion and environmental conditions to ensure the long-term sustainability of both women's and men's livelihoods options in the face of future impacts of the climate and biodiversity crises.

Results from the five LAC country case studies featured in this publication showcase a new generation of gender-responsive, climate-forest finance that addresses persistent, structural gender barriers and inequalities and improves women's livelihoods and economic empowerment. These projects not only promote gender-responsive approaches to project design, implementation and decision-making processes, but also tackle larger systemic gender inequalities within complex sectors, such as land tenure, fire management and control, and sustainable forestry and agricultural value chains. Such actions promote transformational change and sustainable and gender-equitable results that benefit women. Table 2 includes a summary of the gender impacts observed in the five case studies.

¹⁸ IUCN (2020). [Gender-based violence and the environment](#).



Table 2.
Summary of gender impacts and results of LAC gender and REDD+ country case studies

Project	Gender Impacts	Gender Results	Specific Project Activity and Corresponding Results
Brazil's GCF REDD+ RBP project	 Improved sustainable livelihoods	Increased number of women-led green enterprises	<u>Communities and Innovation modalities of the project's PES programme included gender criteria in their support to Indigenous Peoples and local communities' projects and innovative businesses</u>
	 Income and resources	Women's access to finance, land, funding, etc. improved	<u>Through use of gender targets, criteria and requirements, the project improved women's equitable access to and control of benefits associated with the project</u>
	 Women's environmental stewardship, forest management/conservation	Women's environmental stewardship and their contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of resources recognized, valued and promoted	<u>Gender capacity-building undertaken with project stakeholders and launch of the "Gender Integration in Socio-Environmental Development Projects Toolkit"</u>
		Increased women's involvement in forest conservation and sustainable use	<u>Gender prioritization criterion has encouraged women to take leadership roles in project design and decision-making processes</u>
		Increase women's access and decision-making power over natural resources	<u>PES programme's Operations Manual includes guidance to promote gender equity in the Project Advisory Committee (PAC)</u>
	 Improved sustainable livelihoods	Number of women involved in green jobs increased	<u>Promoted women's equitable involvement in all of the project's technical, administrative and operational areas and levels, from the team working with CONAF to the operational teams of the site-level projects</u>
Chile's GCF REDD+ RBP project	 Income and resources	Increased number of women led green enterprises	<u>Proposals that included women as part of the project team received more points (5 to 10 percentage points)</u>
		Women's access to finance, land, funding, etc., improved	<u>Used gender prioritization criteria and requirements to put special emphasis on promoting gender equitable benefits sharing</u>
	 Women's environmental stewardship, forest management/conservation	Increased women's involvement in forest conservation and sustainable use	<u>Used gender tools, data collection processes and methodologies to identify women's interests, address their corresponding priorities and promote their forest initiatives</u>
Costa Rica's GCF REDD+ RBP project	 Improved sustainable livelihoods	Women's involvement in zero-deforestation value chains, and alternative livelihoods increased	<u>Promoted the active and equitable participation of indigenous women during all consultation stages to ensure their priorities, including on sustainable livelihood options, were included in the PAFTs</u>
	 Income and resources	Women's access to finance, land, funding, etc., improved	<u>Law for the Access, Use, and Control of Land by Women presented to the Legislative Assembly</u>
	 Women's environmental stewardship, forest management/conservation	Increased women's access and decision-making power over natural resources	<u>Establishment of the National Forum of Rural Women</u>
			<u>Project developed a methodology that contemplates safeguarding the inclusion of indigenous women in decision-making relating to PAFTs</u>
	 Reduction of GBV/SEAH	Evidence that stereotypes on gender roles in societies and families improved upon Awareness raised of risks of GBV/SEAH	<u>Development of Gender, Forest and Fire course for staff and volunteers of the National Fire Management Programme (PNMF)</u>

Ecuador's GCF PROAmazonía and GCF REDD+ RBP projects	 Improved sustainable livelihoods	Increased number of women adopting sustainable practices	<u>Promoted the active and equitable participation of women during the Agricultural Field Schools training</u>
		Increased number of women-led green enterprises	<u>Financial support was equitably provided to women- and men-led, small-scale bio-enterprises</u>
	 Income and resources	Women's access to finance, land, funding, etc. improved	<u>16 Agricultural Service Centres were created (to further strengthen the sustainable agricultural practices of female and male producers)</u>
		Access to green technologies and jobs increased	
		Women's access to finance, land, funding, etc., improved	<u>Deforestation-Free Sustainable Production (PSLD) Credit Line for women and men producers</u>
	 Women's environmental stewardship, forest management/conservation	Increased women's involvement in forest conservation and sustainable use	<u>Ambitious 40 percent target for women's participation in credit socialization and financial educational activities and access to loans</u>
	 Reduction of GBV/SEAH	Awareness raised of risks of GBV/SEAH	<u>The Botas Violeta initiative (Purple Boots in English) was designed to shed light on gender disparities prevalent in the Ecuadorian Amazon</u>
Paraguay's GCF REDD+ RBP project	 Women's environmental stewardship, forest management/conservation	Increased women's access and decision-making power over natural resources	<u>The project established a 40 percent gender quota for women in its governance bodies, ensuring equal representation of women, alongside male leaders, in decision-making spaces</u>
		Increased women's involvement in forest conservation and sustainable use	<u>First National Forum for Rural Women was organized, resulting then in the establishment of the National Network of Rural Women</u> <u>Capacity building efforts enhanced the gender capacities of the project's team and stakeholders and improved women's opportunities to contribute to REDD+</u> <u>Cultural elements that supported women's increased participation were utilized, for example female translators were used to help support the understanding of the topics discussed</u>
	 Time savings and care responsibilities	Childcare support offered	<u>Childcare spaces (including play and learning areas) were provided so that mothers could effectively participate in the FPIC workshops</u>

The power of a gender approach: REDD+ action that contributes to a low-carbon, sustainable future

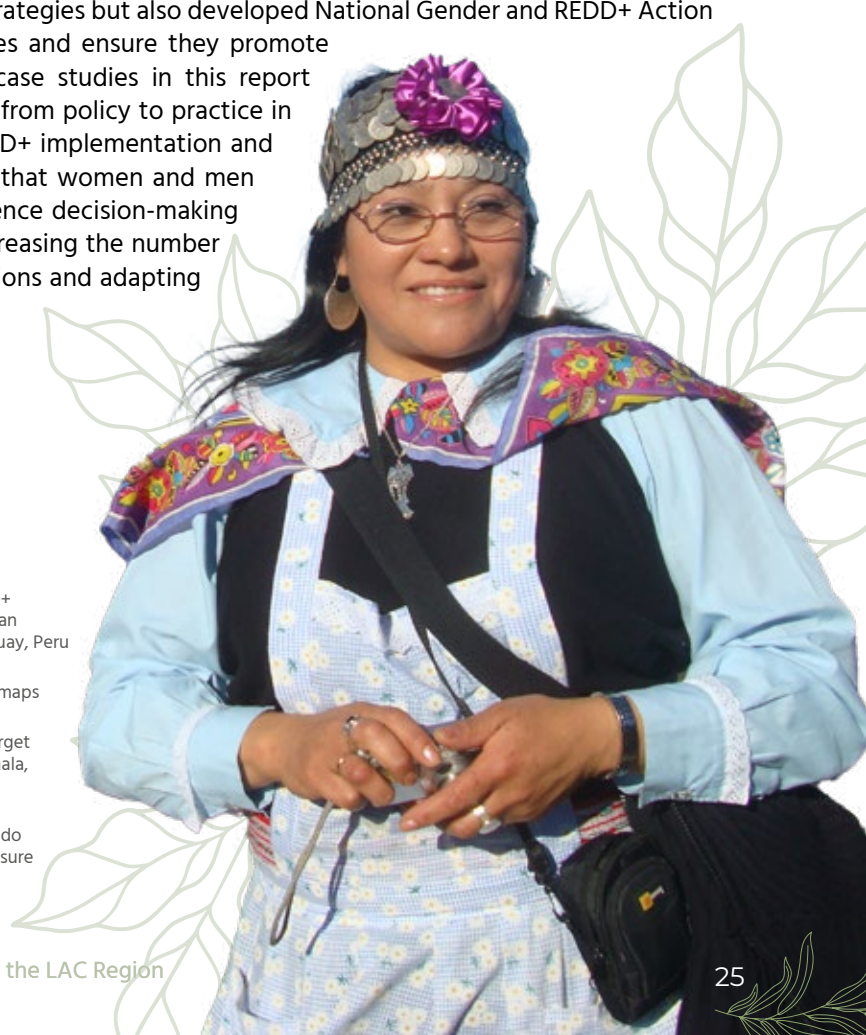
In LAC, the work on gender and REDD+ has shown great progress over the years, thanks in part to the inclusion of gender commitments in the national forests and climate agendas. Since the adoption of the Cancun Agreements in 2010, 15 countries in the LAC region have included gender considerations in their REDD+ National Strategies¹⁹ and four countries have developed Gender and REDD+ National Action Plans or roadmaps.²⁰ Additionally, many of these efforts have influenced the national climate agendas, as ten countries²¹ have incorporated gender commitments relating to their forest and climate targets or measures in the [Nationally Determined Contributions](#) (NDCs).²² This correlation between the NDCs and REDD+ strategies can be seen in the cases of Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama and Paraguay. In the case of Guatemala, Mexico and Panama, the work on gender in REDD+ action is supported by specific gender and REDD+ roadmaps. Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic have not only included gender considerations in their REDD+ Strategies but also developed National Gender and REDD+ Action Plans to accompany the implementation of strategies and ensure they promote gender equality and women's empowerment. The case studies in this report show how some countries in the region have moved from policy to practice in effectively integrating a gender approach within REDD+ implementation and related RBP efforts. Such action is helping to ensure that women and men can equitably contribute to, be involved in and influence decision-making on REDD+, and ultimately benefit from it, thereby increasing the number of people involved in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the challenges of climate change.

¹⁹ Countries that incorporated gender consideration in their National REDD+ Strategies include Argentina, Belize, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Suriname.

²⁰ Countries that have developed Gender and REDD+ Action Plans or roadmaps include Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala and Mexico.

²¹ Countries that incorporated gender commitments in the forest sector target or metric within their NDCs include Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama and Paraguay.

²² Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), are countries' self-defined national climate pledges under the Paris Agreement, detailing what they will do to help meet the global goal to pursue 1.5°C, adapt to climate impacts and ensure sufficient finance to support these efforts.



The recognition of gender equality as a key element of REDD+ policies, strategies, and activities has created an enabling ecosystem that promotes ambitious and innovative gender-responsive REDD+ action. By creating a gender-transformative enabling ecosystem, it is no surprise that UN-REDD countries like Argentina, Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Paraguay capitalized on the opportunity with the GCF on REDD+ RBPs to continue advancing national work on gender and REDD+. While not required to achieve gender and REDD+ results, this gender-transformative enabling ecosystem is nevertheless essential if REDD+ projects are to be designed and implemented that are ambitious and transformational, as demonstrated by the case studies in this publication.

These five case studies show that REDD+ has represented a pioneering mechanism to achieve effective and equitable climate action. They demonstrate that it is possible to catalyse joint transformative gender and environmental actions that 1) support a just transition to a low carbon future; 2) promote increased ambition on NDCs; and 3) result in a positive virtuous circle of sustainable development. But these achievements are just the beginning. The hard work and good practices on gender and REDD+ need to continue to be scaled up and replicated to ensure that they have an ever-greater impact around the world. To do so, there is a need to support countries in harmonizing efforts to establish gender-transformative enabling ecosystems that strengthen their national REDD+ policy, governance, planning and finance, to have the fertile ground needed for countries to increase the gender ambition of future RBPs (including in the carbon market arena).

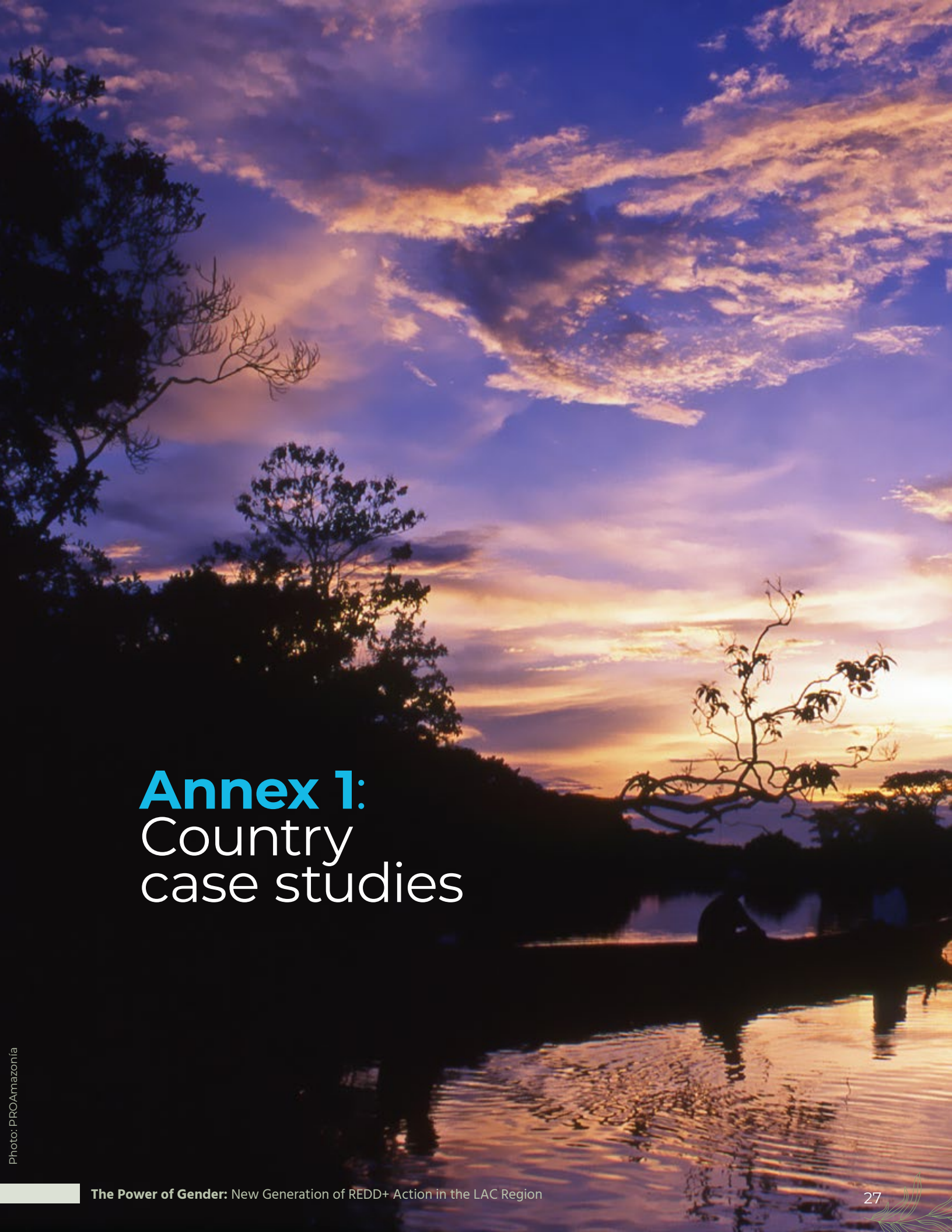
To support this effort, knowledge exchange between countries and regions remains crucial. Aside from publications such as this one, multi-country platforms and communities of practice can accelerate the process by enabling REDD+ countries and stakeholders to connect, share knowledge, exchange best practices and lessons learned and, above all, have a space in which they can:

- » Share gender experiences and identify future priorities to continue advancing gender mainstreaming in REDD+ action.
- » Build on existing processes and progress achieved on promoting gender-responsive REDD+ and share experiences and identify actions to further promote that REDD+ projects evolve to become gender-transformative.
- » Strengthen South-South cooperation among REDD+ countries on gender and REDD+.
- » Identify existing gender gaps and gender technical support needs, as well as possible ways to address them.

The UN-REDD LAC Gender and REDD+ Platform is a good practice example that could be further developed and scaled up to promote this South-South knowledge exchange among REDD+ countries and stakeholders across the regions. Such a global platform could help its members to further build capacity, exchange approaches and generate new knowledge materials on how to fully integrate a gender approach within REDD+ action and RBPs in a catalytic and transformative manner.

As this publication demonstrates, many countries are taking steps to turn the tide by addressing systemic barriers, promoting greater equality and actively involving and including women in REDD+ action. However, this is just the beginning. **The aim of this UN-REDD publication is to scale up and encourage further gender action by demonstrating the power of integrating a gender approach and its essential role in achieving an equitable, just, low-carbon, sustainable future for everyone, across all genders and in all their diversity;** a win for all sides in terms of gender equality, climate action and sustainable development.



A full-page background image showing a sunset over a body of water. The sky is filled with clouds, illuminated by the low sun, creating a palette of orange, yellow, and deep blue. Silhouetted trees are visible on the left and right sides of the frame. In the lower right, a person is visible in a small boat on the water, their form also silhouetted against the bright sky.

Annex 1: Country case studies



BRAZIL

REDD+ results-based payments for results achieved by Brazil in the Amazon biome in 2014 and 2015 (referred to as the Floresta+ Amazon Project)



Improved sustainable livelihoods



Income and resources



Women's environmental stewardship, forest management/conservation



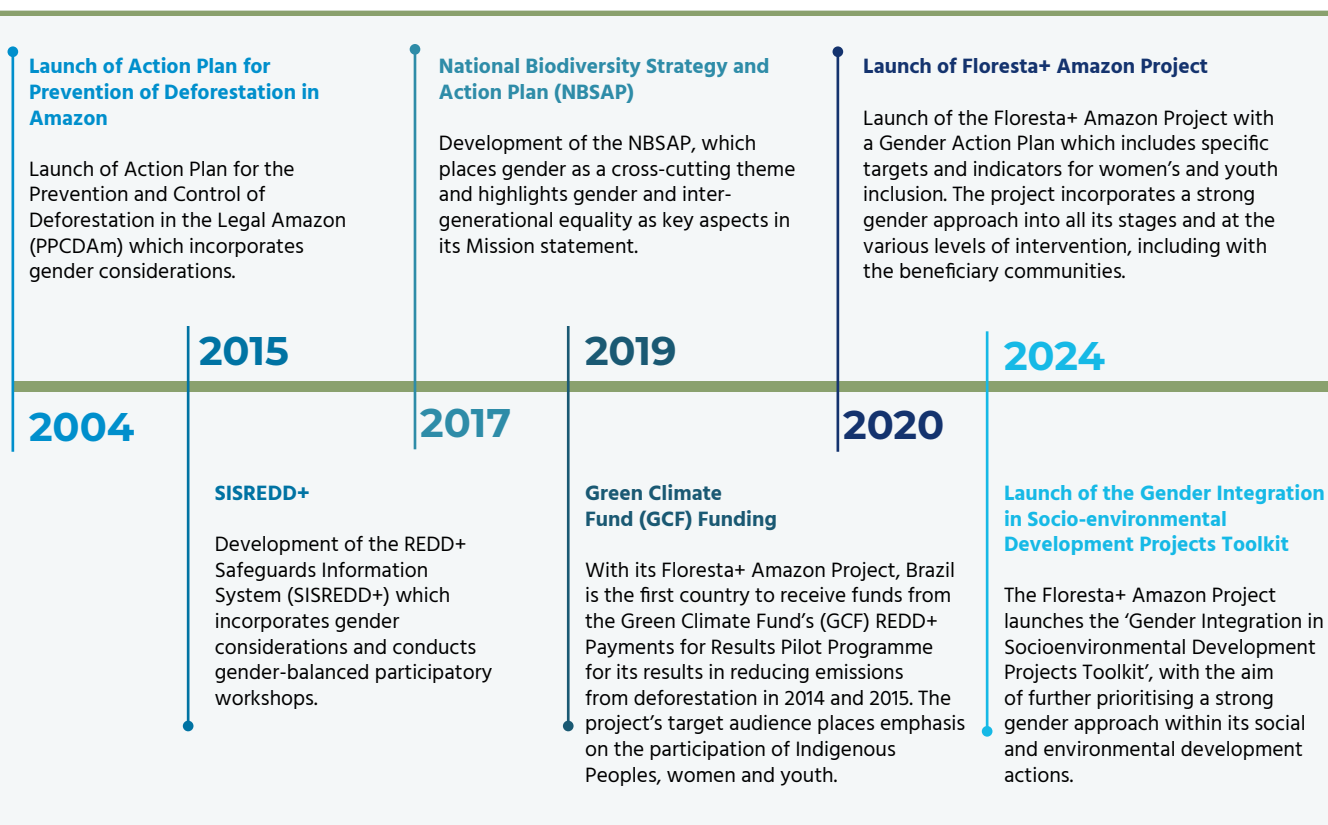
Gender and REDD+ overview

Brazil has promoted different actions to ensure that women, particularly from rural and Indigenous communities, play an active and equitable role in decision-making processes and programme implementation as regards reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+). These efforts are supported by gender mandates included in different environmental policies, which contribute to advancing gender-responsiveness in climate and forestry policies. Some direct impacts of the project have increased recognition of women's contribution to the sustainable management of forests, improved access for women to leadership opportunities and decision-making spaces around natural resources and the use of tools to ensure that they are equitably and meaningfully included as beneficiaries, implementors and decision-makers within the project itself.

The figure below summarizes some of these gender milestones in the country's national action to reduce emissions from REDD+.

Figure. 1.

Gender milestones relating to national REDD+ action in Brazil



In Brazil, women play a pivotal role in the sustainable management and conservation of natural resources, particularly in rural and forest-dependent communities. However, despite their significant contributions, gender inequalities persist, especially in the agricultural and environmental sectors. For example, women in rural areas represent 35 percent of the labour force, yet they face challenges such as limited access to financial resources, with

only 15 percent of rural credit directed to them, and low levels of land ownership, which stands at just 13 percent.²³ Furthermore, many women work without financial remuneration, underscoring the deep-rooted gaps in recognition and economic participation of women. Within the country, women tend to spend an average of 22.7 hours a week on domestic work and men 5.5 hours. This division of labour not only reduces women's earnings by limiting the time they spend on paid activities, but it may also lead women to seek employment that has flexible or shorter hours. This work is also more likely to be found in the informal sector or in low-growth entrepreneurship.²⁴

In light of these challenges, Brazil has undertaken strategic actions to promote gender equality through its national REDD+ actions. These gender actions include increasing women's access to rural credit, promoting joint land titling and enhancing their participation in decision-making processes at various levels of governance. For example, the composition and selection process for the National Commission for the REDD+ (CONAREDD+)²⁵ technical working groups on Benefit Sharing, Safeguards and MRV are defined by criteria relating to thematic expertise, gender, regional distribution and diverse knowledge systems. This has had a direct impact, with over 50 percent female representation within the technical working groups, especially the Safeguards working group. These actions have also helped address some of the persistent gender gaps in the environmental sector and create more inclusive and effective REDD+ policies. For example, the REDD+ Thematic Advisory Board on Safeguards included several gender considerations when it adapted the seven UNFCCC REDD+ Safeguards in the Brazilian context. For example, 'Safeguard b' emphasises that partnership should be balanced in composition and include the representation of Indigenous Peoples, traditional peoples and communities, traditional and family agriculture and the private sector, taking into account gender and generational representation. Similarly, 'Safeguard c' mentions that Indigenous Peoples, traditional peoples and communities, and traditional and family farmers, should enjoy the same rights as other citizens, especially as regards human rights and fundamental freedoms, without discrimination, including gender equity, while 'Safeguard d' refers to the establishment of governance structures and instruments to ensure stakeholder representation and engagement while safeguarding sociocultural diversity and gender equity.²⁶

Scope of case study

This case study demonstrates how gender equality and women's empowerment are being promoted through national REDD+ action in Brazil. It is specifically focused on gender and REDD+ work financed through the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) REDD+ results-based payments (RBPs) project within the country. See the table below for project details.

 Project name REDD+ results-based payments for results achieved by Brazil in the Amazon biome in 2014 and 2015 (referred to as the Floresta+ Amazon Project).	 Objectives The project aims to (i) develop a pilot payment for environmental services (PES) programme to support the continued implementation of the Native Vegetation Protection Law and encourage environmental services for conserving and recovering native vegetation, through financial and technical incentives to small rural producers, Indigenous Peoples, traditional communities, and small forest sector innovation businesses through four implementation modalities: Conservation, Recovery, Communities, and Innovation; and (ii) strengthen the implementation of Brazil's National REDD+ Strategy (ENREDD+).	 Implementation partners Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MMA) and UNDP  Implementation period 2020–2026  Funds US\$96.45 million
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²³ United Nations Development Programme (2019). [Gender Assessment for Green Climate Fund's 'REDD+ results-based payments for results achieved by Brazil in the Amazon biome in 2014 and 2015 Project'](#).

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ CONAREDD+ is responsible for coordinating, monitoring and reviewing the National REDD+ Strategy (ENREDD+), managing the drafting of the requirements for access to payment for results and establishing and complying with REDD+ safeguards.

²⁶ GCF. 2019. [Gender Assessment for FP100: REDD-PLUS results-based payments for results achieved by Brazil in the Amazon biome in 2014](#).



Photo: Floresta+ Collection

Creating impact: achieving progress on gender equality and women's empowerment

The pilot PES programme of the Floresta+ Amazon Project is implemented through five distinct modalities: Conservation, Recovery, Communities, Innovation and Institutions. Each modality has specific objectives and participation requirements for beneficiaries and includes actions designed to actively promote gender equality and women's empowerment within its activities. Three of these key gender actions, along with their corresponding impacts and results, are listed below.

This case study is part of the larger UN-REDD publication 'The Power of Gender: New Generation of REDD+ Action in the LAC Region', which showcases country case studies from Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Paraguay. To help systematize the activities and results of these five country case studies across common thematic areas, thematic classifications for gender actions and their corresponding results are presented in green and orange boxes respectively. Please see below for more information.

Gender action #1

Establishing gender eligibility, prioritization criteria and requirements to ensure women benefit from the project's PES programme



Benefit-sharing distribution

The project addresses inequalities that affect women's access to and control of the resources or benefits associated with the project

The Floresta+ Amazon project incorporated clear, measurable and ambitious gender targets, requirements and prioritization criteria into the design of all modalities to promote women's equitable participation as project beneficiaries and ensure that they received an equitable share of the project benefits. For the Conservation and Recovery modalities of the project's PES programme, a target was set requiring that at least 30 percent of beneficiaries be women, of whom 10 percent should be female single-headed households. To achieve this, a weighted point scoring system was used, whereby female rural landowners, including female single-headed households, receive the highest weighted score (3 points). Additionally, the rules set out in the PES programme Operations Manual stipulate that, when a rural property is registered under multiple owners (e.g. a man and a woman), the funds shall be transferred directly to the woman's bank account, which has helped to ensure that female rural owners receive the benefits. In cases where female or male beneficiaries did not have a bank account, they were advised by the project team on how to open a bank account and offered the option of opening a bank account free of charge at the nearest branch of Banco da Amazônia S.A to their location.

The Communities and Innovation modalities of the project's PES programme also include gender criteria in their support to Indigenous Peoples and local communities' projects and innovative businesses. The rules of the Communities modality require that at least 40 percent of the projects/businesses selected must (i) have a majority of women on the technical team, (ii) prioritize women as direct beneficiaries, or (iii) have gender as a main focus. For the Innovation modality, the rules require that at least 40 percent of projects/solutions implemented must either (i) have women in the leadership position, (ii) have at least 50 percent of women on their team, or (iii) have women as the main

beneficiaries. Moreover, under the Innovation modality, innovation bootcamps were held that allowed young male and female professionals to work on innovation-based ideas relating to the conservation, recovery and sustainable use of native vegetation in the Amazon and to access mentoring from professionals with experience in the job market; for the latter service, 30 percent of participants were required to be women.

The integration of prioritization criteria across all modalities is a cornerstone of the Floresta+ Amazon project's gender actions, which have ensured that women are able to participate equitably as both beneficiaries and active leaders of local projects and benefit equitably from the project's PES programme.

Results and impacts to date



Income and resources



Improved sustainable livelihoods

Through the use of gender targets, criteria and requirements, the project has successfully been able to improve women's equitable access to and control of benefits associated with the project. As of the end of 2023:

→ **230**

beneficiaries had been reached under the Conservation modality, 43% of them were women, of which 10% were heads of single-parent families.

→ **12**

innovative businesses in the Innovation modality have received support (including trainings and consultancies for development and growth), of which 50% are led by women.

→ **4**

innovation bootcamps were organized with 149 participants, 59% of whom were women.

Gender action #2

Improving gender impacts of REDD+ interventions through a comprehensive and stepwise capacity-building process



Gender capacity building

The project strengthened capacities of national and local project stakeholders on gender equality and sustainable management of forests, including REDD+

The project took various measures to strengthen the necessary skills of the project stakeholders to integrate gender and implement the Project's Gender Action Plan (GAP). The project committed not to do activities in isolation but rather proposed a comprehensive stepwise process that allowed stakeholders to progressively improve their capacities on gender and REDD+. As a first step in 2021, the project staff directly involved in the planning and implementation of the project participated in two workshops, which were focused on gender equality concepts and strategies for integrating a gender perspective into project planning and monitoring. These workshops were organized by the Project Management Unit with technical assistance and backstopping support from UNDP global and regional gender specialists. The next steps conducted by the project included hiring a gender specialist, developing knowledge products, and implementing additional capacity-building sessions. These efforts are described below.



Thereafter, a gender specialist was hired by the Project Management Unit from 2022 to 2023 to specifically provide support on developing capacity-building activities and materials on gender and REDD+ to deepen the knowledge of a larger group of project stakeholders. With key targeted audience including the Project Management Unit, national and local government staff, implementation partners and project beneficiaries, these gender materials ranged from guidance reports and articles to videos, testimonials, radio spots and social media posts. Topics covered included general aspects on gender equality and empowerment, the 'how to' in mainstreaming gender into the project planning and monitoring, modality-specific good practices for integrating gender into conservation-related activities in the Amazon and testimonials from women from the Amazon.

To ensure that Floresta+ Amazon projects' institutional partners also promoted gender within the project and its modalities, their contracts included a mandatory requirement that all team members undergo specific gender and REDD+ training. Partners were requested to conduct these training courses in the first three months after signing their contract. By requiring this training and involving both male and female project staff in discussions about gender roles, the project has promoted a shift in cultural perceptions and improved understanding of gender considerations in the REDDS sectors. This has resulted in an increase in the number of allies promoting gender issues. The project used pre- and post-workshop surveys to document this shift, demonstrating that a gender approach is being embraced both as a policy requirement and as a common project goal.

The project's implementation partners also delivered modality-specific capacity-building on gender directly to the beneficiaries. For example, under the Communities modality, four gender and REDD+ training workshops were held with Indigenous People and local communities to support them in integrating a gender perspective into their local project proposals and complying with the gender criterion for qualifying project submissions. By fostering community ownership of gender efforts, the Floresta+ Amazon project ensured that these changes were not just top-down interventions but grass-roots initiatives, deeply rooted in local contexts and cultures, in which local groups played an active role in shaping the gender aspects of their initiatives.

Ultimately, these efforts culminated in the launch of the '[Gender Integration in Socioenvironmental Development Projects Toolkit](#)' in 2024. The toolkit is divided into 10 sections that provide concepts, perspectives and practical guidelines for incorporating a gender approach into rural and forestry contexts, family farming spaces and among Indigenous populations and traditional communities with the objective of serving as a model for other similar projects in the country, promoting gender equality and women's empowerment across diverse socioenvironmental contexts.

Results and impacts to date



Women's environmental stewardship, forest management/conservation

Through gender capacity-building, the project has helped to not only significantly enhance capacities on gender of project stakeholders and beneficiaries but also increase the recognition of women's key contributions to the sustainable management of forests and foster national and community ownership of gender efforts.

→ As of the end of 2023,
92 staff
from the project's institutional partners received gender and REDD+ training, 76 percent of whom were women.

→ The project has evidence of the improvement in men's and women's perception and understanding of gender and raised awareness of the vital role women play in REDD+. Perception surveys from gender trainings reveal that at least **80%** of both male and female gender and REDD+ training participants felt that their capacity had been built and that the trainings were accessible (appropriate language and accessible means of communication), participatory and engaging.



→ Modality-specific gender capacity-building efforts, focusing on raising beneficiary awareness and empowering women, resulted in the training of a total of 841 beneficiaries, **47%** of whom were women.

→ In 2023, under the Communities modality, **70%** of the 40 local projects selected were directly related to gender issues with women being the main beneficiaries of their implementation.

Gender action #3

Increasing decision-making power and leadership opportunities for women within REDD+ action



Leadership and decision-making

Project increasing women's participation in leadership and decision-making spaces through use of targets, mentorship programmes, capacity-building and sensitization.

Through a range of actions, the Floresta+ Amazon project has actively promoted women's leadership and equitable role in project decision-making and governance structures. For example, with the gender prioritization criterion in place (see Gender action #1 above) in the project, women have been encouraged to take leadership roles in project design and decision-making processes. Doing so has helped to ensure that women have an influential voice in shaping the direction of local development projects under the Communities modality as well as innovative businesses being supported under the Innovation modality.

Additionally, the PES programme's Operations Manual includes guidance to promote gender equity in the Project Advisory Committee (PAC), where institutions part of the PAC were asked to designate women representatives, either as their primary or alternate member, with the target of having 40 percent of women in decision-making spheres of the project. Additionally, other bodies, such as selection committees for local projects under the Communities modality, were encouraged to achieve a gender balance of 40 percent women.

Results and impacts to date



Women's environmental stewardship, forest management/conservation

Through its focus on improving women's access to leadership opportunities and decision-making power around natural resources, the project has demonstrated the pivotal role women play in driving innovation and forest sustainability forward. For example,

→ Women from Indigenous and local communities have been empowered to assume leadership roles in the planning and implementation of local REDD+ projects. Within the Communities modality, **60%** of the members of the local projects' selection committees were women.

→ Under the Acceleration Programme of the Innovation modality, 50% of the 12 businesses selected to be pre-accelerated and **67%** of the six businesses selected to be accelerated were led by women.

→ **Gender balance** is being promoted within the project's governance structures. To help in these efforts, an official communication was delivered by the Brazilian Government regarding the appointment of members to the Project Advisory Committee, in which it was stated that gender equity within it was of primary importance.

As a result, **52%** of the 23 people appointed to the Project Advisory Committee are women.

"As a female entrepreneur in Brazil, the journey is daunting, especially in the Amazon. We grapple with challenges that extend far beyond mere commerce; it's about supporting the Indigenous communities in their battle to preserve the forest and their sustainable way of life. True entrepreneurship isn't just about profit; it's about embodying our beliefs. We navigate these waters with dedication, inclusivity, and empathy—qualities inherent to women."

Valéria Mourão with her socioenvironmental enterprise is one of the beneficiaries of the Floresta+ Amazon project through its Innovation modality

Gender action #4

Establishing ambitious and realistic gender targets through comprehensive monitoring and evaluation



Monitoring and reporting

The project collected gender-disaggregated data for activities involving or impacting people to help ensure gender-equitable engagement and sharing of benefits within the project.

The Floresta+ Amazon project established a comprehensive monitoring plan, which included gender indicators across all modalities to assess whether both women and men were actively engaging with and benefiting from the project. A key element of the project's monitoring plan was the policy to collect gender data disaggregation on women's and men's involvement, which was included from the outset of the project. To do so, several practical tools were designed to collect gender-disaggregated data at all project levels within this monitoring plan, including a cross-referencing system to establish the number of female beneficiaries, since this information was not incorporated into official governmental data. As a result, project staff gathered critical information and data aimed at achieving the established gender targets on beneficiaries.

The first step for developing ambitious but realistic targets was to establish a gender-disaggregated baseline, which did not exist prior to the start of the project. For example, under the Conservation modality, to address the lack of gender-disaggregated information on rural landowners and the low percentage of rural properties registered to women, the project created a methodology to estimate the number of potential rural landowners, disaggregated by gender, who could be beneficiaries of the modality. The baseline developed estimated a potential 27 percent of the beneficiaries could be women under the Conservation modality. Collecting this gender-disaggregated data, making these estimations, and then establishing this baseline allowed the project to set a target of going above the potential 27 percent, wherein it would strive to have 30 percent of the women beneficiaries, including at least 10 percent being female single-headed households. In the case of the Communities modality, in addition to gender data collection through online forms and surveys, the monitoring plan also requires project staff to undertake field visits within communities participating in the project to collect quantitative and qualitative data, including on gender-specific actions and results.

This gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation approach, paired with the gender prioritization criteria for implementation of the modalities (see Gender action #1 above for more information) has also enabled effective tracking of the project's gender approach allowing the project to assess the effectiveness of its gender-focused initiatives. This gender-responsive monitoring plan not only ensures that the project equitably involves and benefits women and men but also enables it to identify gender good practices as well as areas of improvement.

Results and impacts to date



Women's environmental stewardship, forest management/conservation

Within the framework of the Floresta+ Amazon project's objectives and targets, the full inclusion of a gender approach in monitoring and evaluation has helped to ensure that women are equitably and meaningfully included as beneficiaries, implementers and decision-makers within the project. This achievement has resulted in the following:

→ Creation of **tools**

for gender-disaggregated data collection and an established methodology for establishing gender baselines and generating gender-disaggregated information not yet available through official national data.
(See www.florestamaisamazonia.org.br for more information.)

→ Successful collection of gender-disaggregated

data

in all levels of the project, including on project benefits, capacity-building and management and governance bodies, which in turn has also allowed for identification of good practices as well as areas for corrective action to help promote the fulfilment of gender targets.

→ Development of ambitious and realistic

targets

to ensure women's equitable inclusion and involvement as part of the project outcomes.

Key resources

GCF. 2019. [Gender Action Plan for FP100: REDD-PLUS results-based payments for results achieved by Brazil in the Amazon biome in 2014.](#)

GCF. 2019. [Gender Assessment for FP100: REDD-PLUS results-based payments for results achieved by Brazil in the Amazon biome in 2014.](#)

GCF. 2023. [2022 Annual Performance Report for FP100: REDD-PLUS results-based payments for results achieved by Brazil in the Amazon biome in 2014.](#)

GCF. 2024. [2023 Annual Performance Report for FP100: REDD-PLUS results-based payments for results achieved by Brazil in the Amazon biome in 2014.](#)

UNDP Brazil. 2024. [Toolkit: Gender Integration in Socioenvironmental Development Projects.](#)



Chile

GCF-financed REDD+ RBP for
the 2014, 2015 and 2016 project



Improved sustainable livelihoods



Income and resources



Women's environmental stewardship,
forest management/conservation

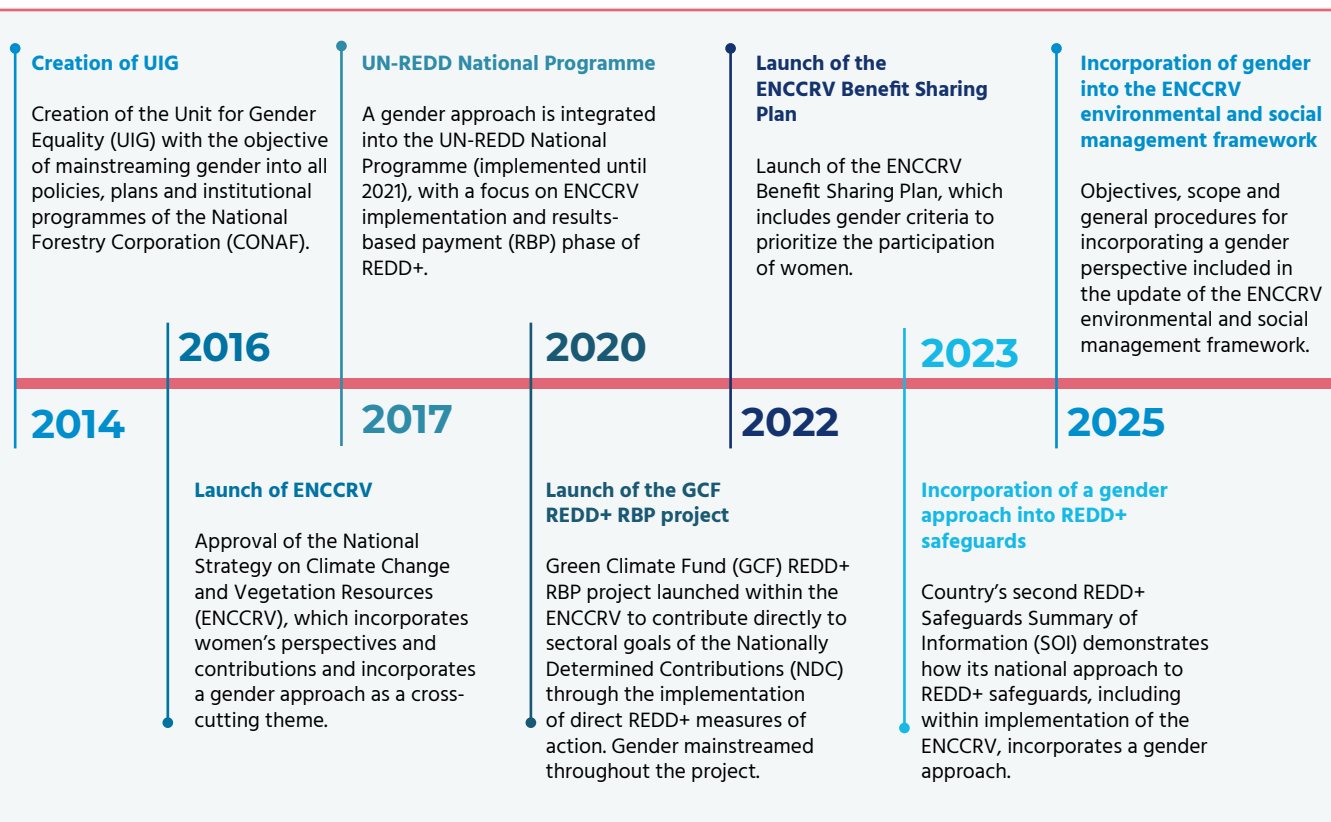


Gender and REDD+ overview

Chile has made significant strides to mainstream gender in its REDD+ action, both in policy and practice. This support has ranged from integrating a gender perspective fully within the [National Strategy on Climate Change and Vegetation Resources \(ENCCRV\)](#) to supporting the equitable and active participation of rural women in ecological restoration, REDD+ activities and decision-making spaces. Direct impacts of this gender-responsive approach have included improving women's equitable access to REDD+ benefits, promoting their leadership and assisting them in diversifying their livelihoods opportunities, as well as helping them to generate economic benefits, conserve forests and preserve women's ancestral knowledge. The following figure summarizes some of these gender milestones in national REDD+ action.

Figure 1.

Gender milestones in national REDD+ action in Chile



Despite this progress in incorporating a gender perspective effectively into REDD+ policies and measures within Chile, gender inequalities and gaps persist within the forestry sector. For example, women face barriers in receiving equitable access to benefits, funding or incentives related to forests and other resources due to the lack of legal regularization of their tenure rights. Only 28 percent of the native forest management plans are headed by women, who in turn, concurrently manage 22 percent of the total area and 20 percent of native forest area in the country (CONAF internal unpublished data).²⁷ There is also a wage gap between men and women in every region of the country:

²⁷ UN-REDD Programme (2022). [From Policy into Practice: how Chile is mainstreaming gender into its REDD+ Actions](#).

on average, women's hourly earnings are 85 percent of men's.²⁸ Furthermore, according to CONAF, in 2021, women accounted for only 13 percent of people employed in the forestry sector.²⁹ There is also high gender segmentation of the labour market, with a concentration of women in specific areas within the forestry sector, such as plant nurseries and seed supply, which are, in general, temporary and more precarious types of employment. Within the forestry sector specifically, gender gaps remain in terms of 1) women's effective and equitable participation; 2) capacity on gender concepts, gender mainstreaming and collection of gender-disaggregated data; and 3) understanding among policymakers and government staff on how to work with a gender and intersectionality lens.³⁰

Given these gender inequalities and acknowledging the key role both women and men play in forest management, as highlighted by Figure 1 above, Chile has taken multiple steps to ensure that social inclusion and gender equality are appropriately addressed all its REDD+ action. For example, the needs and perspectives of women were taken into account in the ENCCRV to ensure that they would be able to access the benefits arising from its implementation.³¹ Additionally, a gender approach was incorporated into the REDD+ Safeguards Information System (SIS) and its Benefit Sharing Plan and the Co-benefits System identifies reduction of the employment gap between men and women as a socioeconomic benefit and defines an indicator for its variation in the forestry and agricultural sectors.³²

Scope of case study

This case study on Chile demonstrates how the country has adopted a multi-pronged and cross-cutting approach to promoting gender equality within its REDD+ action. It has specifically focused on incorporating the gender approach into the national REDD+ results-based payments (RBP) project financed by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). See the table below for project details.



Project name

GCF-financed REDD+ RBP for the 2014, 2015 and 2016 project



Objectives

The REDD+ RBP project aims to empower communities in six regions of Chile (Maule, Ñuble, Biobío, Araucanía, Los Ríos and Los Lagos) by providing them with practical tools to fight climate change through effective forest management, in the form of non-monetary benefits for small-scale forest owners: technical support, supplies and/or services for the execution of site-level projects.

This project is restoring and conserving about 25,000 hectares of native forest in Chile. It focuses on the following actions: afforestation, strengthening ecological restoration, post-fire forest restoration, forest fire prevention, forest management and strengthening the wood energy programme.



Implementation partners

National Forestry Corporation (CONAF) and FAO



Implementation period

2020–2026



Funds

US\$ 63.697.552

²⁸ Urquidí, M., Chalup, M., and Sardán, S. (2023). 'Changes in Chile's Gender Earning Gap: An Analysis from 1990 to 2020'. Inter-American Development Bank.

²⁹ Green Climate Fund (2024). FP120: Chile REDD-plus results-based payments for results period 2014–2016, Annual Performance Report CY2023.

³⁰ UN-REDD Programme (2022). *From Policy into Practice: how Chile is mainstreaming gender into its REDD+ Actions*.

³¹ Ibid

³² Ibid



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Creating impact: achieving progress on gender equality and women's empowerment

The Chile REDD+ RBP project has been developed under the umbrella of the [ENCCRV](#) to contribute directly to the sectoral goals of the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). It integrates a gender-responsive approach into its design and implementation, aiming to reduce barriers faced by women through gender-responsive activities focusing on women's recognition, inclusion, capacity-building and leadership. Three of these key activities, along with their corresponding impacts and results, are listed below.

This case study is part of the larger UN-REDD publication 'The Power of Gender: New Generation of REDD+ Action in the LAC Region', which showcases country case studies from Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Paraguay. To help systematize the activities and results of these five country case studies across common thematic areas, thematic classifications for gender actions and their corresponding results are presented in green and orange boxes respectively. Please see below for more information.

Gender action #1

Ensuring that women can access the project's monetary and non-monetary benefits through the incorporation of gender prioritization criteria and requirements into REDD+ benefit sharing plans and activities



Benefit-sharing distribution

The project addresses inequalities that affect women's access to and control of the associated resources or benefits, allowing women to participate equitably as project beneficiaries and receive an equitable share of the project benefits.

Through the use of gender prioritization criteria and requirements, the project has placed special emphasis on promoting gender-equitable benefit sharing as well as increasing women's employment opportunities across all aspects of the project. The ENCCRV Benefit Sharing Plan, which the project helps to implement, highlights "equity" as one of its key criteria for benefit distribution and is largely geared to benefit small-scale individuals, including Indigenous peoples and women³³. For example, since women face significant challenges around land tenure, the project, in line with the Benefit Sharing Plan, incorporates the concept of 'project holder', allowing women and other family members to participate and manage site-level projects without being the landowner.

The gender approach of the project also focuses on using inclusive language, targeting women, including Indigenous women, and undertaking culturally appropriate efforts to recognize and respect participants during the meetings and outreach activities. For example, to encourage marginalized groups (e.g. women and men from

³³ Green Climate Fund (2019). [FP120: Chile REDD-plus results-based payments for results period 2014–2016](#).

small-scale forest owners and Indigenous and local communities who depend on subsistence activities) to apply for the Benefit Sharing Plan, gender and intercultural guidelines were included in the design of dissemination materials (radio messages, printed material and video capsules).

CONAF, through support of the project, has also promoted women's equitable involvement in all of the project's technical, administrative and operational areas and levels, from the team working with CONAF to the operational teams of the site-level projects. The Benefit Sharing Plan has a gender inclusion criterion in the evaluation of proposals, where proposals that include women as part of the project team receive more points (5 to 10 percentage points). Additionally, specific guidelines were developed to increase the inclusion of women in the workforce, which proposed gender quotas, improved working conditions and salary equity to reduce the wage gap between women and men. As of 2023, these guidelines have become part of the requirements for the local hiring processes by CONAF, where site-level projects must ensure wage equity, improved working conditions and the application of procedures for preventing and/or sanctioning sexual harassment and abuse.

The project also included mandatory training on procedures for preventing and/or sanctioning sexual harassment and abuse, for all project operations and contracting processes. By way of illustration, in June 2023, a mandatory virtual workshop was carried out with the participation of 40 people from 15 forestry operators, including legal representatives, security officers and heads of operations, to sensitize operators to the relevance of gender requirements in contracts, service orders and products, compliance with occupational health and safety regulations, the use of communication channels in the event of unexpected events and the importance of addressing sexual harassment in the workplace. The project has also implemented capacity-building for 115 women workers in a number of areas including occupational health and safety, prevention of sexual harassment and abuse, environmental and social safeguards and the technical aspects of forestry activities.

Results and impacts to date



Income and resources



Improved sustainable livelihoods

Through its use of gender prioritization criteria and requirements, the project has had a direct impact in that it has increased women's access to REDD+ benefits around land, natural resource management and employment opportunities. As of the end of 2024, key achievements in this regard include the following:

→ Of the 3,142 permanent direct beneficiaries of the project (landowners and their families), **50%** (1,577) are women, 55% (1,728) are indigenous people (mainly Mapuche) and 28% (886) are indigenous women.

→ Of the 465 applications approved during the second cycle of the Benefit Sharing Plan, **47%** (219) were led by a woman as a project holder.

→ Of the 112 proposals associated with the project, **95%** (106) included gender guidelines in their terms of reference and 88% (99) incorporated gender inclusion criteria. This resulted in women being hired in 41 out of 112 (34%) of the public proposals.

Gender action #2

Achieving women's equitable participation and involvement through comprehensive capacity-building efforts



Women's equitable inclusion in project capacity-building

Through comprehensive capacity-building on both gender and REDD+ action among project stakeholders and staff, women equitably participating in and benefiting from project activities, enabling them to improve their livelihoods while also preserving forests.

The REDD+ RBP project has undertaken a range of comprehensive capacity-building activities and processes to ensure that project implementation fully incorporates a gender approach and women's equitable and meaningful participation within the project. A guide to incorporating a gender approach into all project activities was developed, which was used to incorporate gender aspects into several project management instruments, including the project's Communication Strategy, Environmental Education and Training Plan and Indigenous Peoples Action Plan, as well as a range of national and regional technical proposals associated with the project.

Within the project's Environmental Education and Training Plan, a range of measures have been integrated to ensure gender-equitable participation. Associated activities range from gender-focused workshops and training courses to thematic and educational talks involving a wide range of stakeholders including small-scale forest owners, local and Indigenous communities, government officials and civil society organizations, regional project teams and the educational community. To ensure the effective and equitable participation of women, including Indigenous women, these training activities have considered schedules compatible with the participants, childcare facilities and the strategic location of activities for women, among others.

To support the incorporation of gender into the local REDD+ site-level projects, the project team undertook monthly meetings and biannual field technical visits with regional teams to provide practical guidance on safeguards and gender equality, identify potential women-led projects and incorporate gender-specific actions into local projects. Several gender tools were also created to promote gender mainstreaming within these site-level projects, including a checklist for measuring implementation of the gender approach, guidelines on conducting a gender analysis during design, a family and gender quality characterization survey and guidelines for the use of intercultural and gender-inclusive language.

Site-level projects also carried out efforts to promote women-led forest initiatives. In 2022, the project organized a participatory workshop in Puerto Saavedra of the Araucanía Region with 39 participants (77 percent women and 67 percent Indigenous) to help raise awareness on the project and build capacity on improved handicrafts production and commercialization to generate additional income, while also preserving forest resources and ancestral knowledge. As a result, in 2023, three women-led family units, applied for restoration projects under the ENCCRV Benefit Sharing Plan to protect and sustainably manage the areas in which the raw materials for their handicrafts are grown.

Similarly, in 2024, in coordination with the Ministry of Women and Gender Equity, the Foundation for the Promotion and Development of Women, the Agricultural Development Institute, the Technical Cooperation Service, the Solidarity and Social Investment Fund and the National Training and Employment Service, the first cycle of Leadership Workshops³⁴ was implemented with six workshops conducted across four regions with 129 local women. These workshops provided

³⁴ For more information, please see: [Mujeres rurales de la región del Maule, participan en intercambio de experiencias en el uso de plantas medicinales | Misitio](#)

female beneficiaries of the project with knowledge on the use of medicinal herbs as a tool to diversify products provided by the forest and natural resources as well to strengthen their coordination with public programmes at regional level to address their needs while also ensuring the sustainability of their initiatives.

For the regional director of CONAF Maule, María Isabel Florido, these types of meetings “are a priority because they provide tools and capacities to the women of our region, leveraging the resources provided by forests. We believe that female leadership for more sustainable management of native forests is a great strategic ally in addressing climate change, considering that women suffer the most from the vulnerabilities and consequences of this phenomenon,” the regional authority notes.

The regional authority notes

Results and impacts to date



Women’s environmental stewardship, forest management/conservation

Thanks to the project’s comprehensive capacity-building efforts, with gender and REDD+ action at both national and local level, it has had a direct impact on women’s active involvement in project activities, allowing them to diversify their livelihoods, generate additional economic benefits, conserve forests and preserve their ancestral knowledge. By the end of 2024, some key achievements in numbers included the following:



100%

of the national project team had received training on gender equity.



55%

of the participants in the 153 training activities of the Environmental Education and Training Plan, which took place at regional and national level, were women.



70%

(573 out of 821) of site-level projects had incorporated a gender-sensitive approach and 36 percent (292 of the 821) of them had carried out a gender analysis.



46%

(377 out of 821) of the site-level projects had women as project owners.

Gender action #3

Supporting women's equitable engagement and benefit sharing through gender-responsive monitoring and reporting measures



Monitoring and reporting

Through the use of gender-responsive monitoring and reporting measures, women are being effectively and equitably involved and are benefiting from the project.

The REDD+ RBP project has incorporated a range of gender-responsive measures to monitor women's effective participation within ENCCRV implementation through recognition, integration, capacity-building and leadership. The project's Gender Action Plan includes a range of SMART indicators³⁵ and targets to measure the integration of a gender approach and the gender-related impact of the project's activities. For example, 40 percent of selected REDD+ site-level projects must incorporate gender into their design; 30 percent of selected REDD+ site-level project activities must be designed to allow women to obtain value/benefits from the forest; and 40 percent of people participating in activities and products associated with these projects need to be women.

Also to integrate a gender approach in the different ENCCRV information and monitoring systems, gender-related risks and their prevention/mitigation measures have been reviewed and updated within the SIS. Under the REDD+ RBP project, gender elements of the safeguards information and monitoring systems have been significantly improved and tools have been generated for gathering relevant information to conduct gender analysis. Additionally, REDD+ site-level projects being supported under the REDD+ RBP project are required to integrate gender aspects into monitoring and data collection instruments, such as their Environmental and Social Management Plan (for project activities) and monitoring and reporting frameworks. In the management of site-level projects, for each project cycle, tools to collect gender information and conduct gender analysis are used as part of the safeguards process.

The project has also made some important advances in developing a process for continuous planning and monitoring of gender actions at the national and regional levels. In line with the objectives of the project's Gender Action Plan, and to help promote the effective and full integration of a gender perspective within the project, a gender equality indicator has been created within the CONAF Management System for the project's six regions.

³⁵ SMART indicators are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound indicators that are used in monitoring and evaluation.

Results and impacts to date



Women's environmental stewardship, forest management/conservation

The incorporation of a gender approach into monitoring and reporting processes is helping to ensure women's effective and equitable engagement, as well as to integrate women's perspectives and contributions into project design and implementation. Key achievements include:

→ Of the 821 site-level projects, **70%** (573) use gender tools, data collection processes and methodologies geared at facilitating equitable participation of men and women as well as helping to identify interests among women (landowners, organizations, groups, community members, etc.) and address their corresponding priorities.

→ Creation of a **gender equality indicator** at national institutional level within the CONAF Management System for the project's six regions, which is the first of its kind in Chile and represents a national mandatory administrative requirement on gender, which is unprecedented in Chile's conservation management.

Key resources

CONAF-FAO-Green Climate Fund. 2023. Integración del enfoque de género en la acción de REDD+ en Chile (internal document).

FAO. 2025. 2024 Cumulative Gender Results for the GCF Chile REDD-plus results-based payments for results period 2014–2016 (Link forthcoming).

Green Climate Fund. 2019. [Gender action plan for FP120: Chile REDD-plus results-based payments for results period 2014–2016.](#)

Green Climate Fund. 2019. [Gender assessment for FP120: Chile REDD-plus results-based payments for results period 2014–2016.](#)

Green Climate Fund. 2024. [2023 Annual Performance Report. Chile REDD-plus results-based payments for results period 2014–2016.](#)

Costa Rica

GCF-financed REDD+ Results Based Payments for 2014 and 2015 Project



Improved sustainable livelihoods



Income and resources



Women's environmental stewardship, forest management/conservation



Reduction of GBV/SEAH

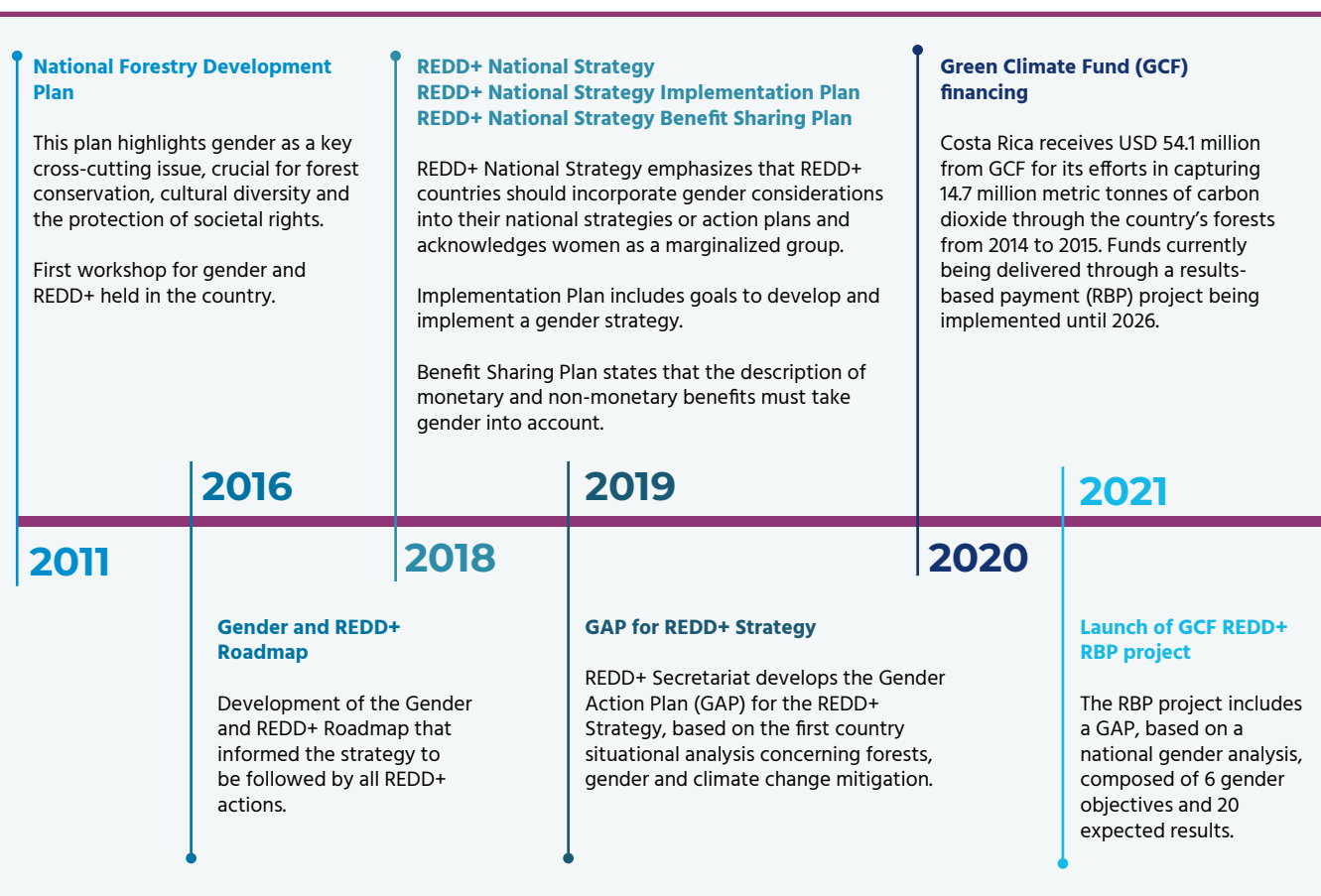
Photo: Women with microphone (Maricela Venegas), Indigenous women (Proyecto REDD+ Pago Basado en Resultados)



Gender and REDD+ overview

Costa Rica has made remarkable progress in developing and implementing gender-responsive REDD+ policies and measures that have contributed to forest recovery and conservation. Throughout this process, the country has proposed and implemented innovative actions that promote gender equality and women's empowerment actions in different environmental solutions aimed at reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+). Direct impacts include strengthening women's capacity to influence rural and environmental public policy through the establishment of a National Forum of Rural Women, and increasing the engagement of Indigenous women in decision-making processes on forest and land through gender-responsive territorial planning. The figure below summarizes some of these gender milestones in the country's REDD+ efforts.

Figure 1.
Gender milestones in national REDD+ action in Costa Rica



Women in Costa Rica play an active role in the conservation and sustainable management of forests. Indigenous women maintain traditional agroforestry systems on their plots or farms, where productive species such as cocoa, pepper, banana or fruit trees are mixed with timber and non-timber tree species.³⁶ **Despite this, women unfortunately still face significant gender gaps,** particularly in the agricultural and environmental sectors, where their efforts and

³⁶ Costa Rica Gender Action Plan for the REDD+ Strategy, Mongabay 2021 [Mujeres bribris: los secretos de un sistema agroforestal que beneficia a las comunidades y biodiversidad de Costa Rica](#); Alvarado 2023 [Diseño agroforestal participativo con la asociación de mujeres indígenas cabécar kàbata kònana](#).

contributions often go unrecognized. By way of illustration, in Costa Rica women own only 15.6 percent of all farms, their properties are smaller and they receive less technical and financial assistance.³⁷ Moreover, rural women are usually not recognized as key stakeholders in the forest sector as their productive roles tend to be informal (48 percent of women working on farms receive no financial income for their labour)³⁸ and only 18 percent of the agricultural and agro-industry organizations are formally led by women.³⁹ Additionally, many women do not participate in forest-related activities because discriminatory stereotypes still exist, especially in demanding forestry or conservation activities such as putting out fires, thinning, and forest monitoring.⁴⁰ At institutional level, women represent only 28 percent of the National Council of Protected Areas and there is no representation of women in local Councils of Forest Conservation Areas⁴¹ and gender analysis of National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC) conducted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) showed that some officials express they have limited capacity to implement gender-sensitive or gender-responsive initiatives.

Acknowledging these realities, Costa Rica has been undertaking strategic and innovative actions to mainstream gender into environmental public policy, governance and finance to catalyse positive change across sectors in the country, through its national REDD+ action (Figure 1 above). The sections below highlight some key achievements of this work.

Scope of case study

This case study on Costa Rica demonstrates how the country has been able to implement its strong commitments to promote gender equality and women's empowerment included in the REDD+ strategy through its REDD+ activities. The scope of this case study is specifically focused on the gender work being undertaken through the national REDD+ Results Based Payments (RBP) project financed by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and supported by UNDP. See the table below for project details.



Project name

GCF-financed REDD+ Results Based Payments for 2014 and 2015 Project



Objectives

The GCF REDD+ RBP project aims to build on the strong existing legal and institutional framework while strengthening the Payment for Environmental Services (PES) Programme as a policy instrument to guarantee forest conservation and carbon stock enhancement. Such work will be achieved through reforestation, tree planting, agroforestry and sylvopastoral systems as well as strengthening fire prevention measures that have already proven effective in recent years. Additionally, the project seeks to further increase stakeholder participation in the PES programme, engaging both public and private sectors, including Indigenous Peoples and women.



Implementation partners

The Ministry of Environment, the National Fund for Forest Finance (FONAFIFO), SINAC, UNDP



Implementation period

2021–2026



Funds

US\$54.1 million

³⁷ INEC. 2014 Datos Censo Agropecuario. repositorio.tec.ac.cr/handle/2238/15119

³⁸ Costa Rica REDD+, Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres, Instituto de Desarrollo Rural, Consejo Nacional de Clubes 4S, UNDP & GCF (2023). [National Forum of Rural Women Strategy](#).

³⁹ PNUD. [Análisis sobre la igualdad y empoderamiento de las mujeres ad de género para el primer plan estratégico sectorial de ambiente, energía y mares](#).

⁴⁰ [Costa Rica Gender Action Plan for the REDD+ Strategy](#).

⁴¹ VI Informe País ante la Convención de Diversidad Biológica. (MINAE & UNDP, 2018)



Creating impact: achieving progress on gender equality and women's empowerment

Since its inception in 2021, the GCF-funded REDD+ RBP project in Costa Rica has implemented a broad range of actions to actively promote gender equality and women's empowerment as part of the projects activities (for more details visit the Project's [Gender Action Plan](#)). Three of these key activities, along with their corresponding impacts and results, are listed below.

This case study is part of the larger UN-REDD publication 'The Power of Gender: New Generation of REDD+ Action in the LAC Region', which showcases country case studies from Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Paraguay. To help systematize the activities and results of these five country case studies across common thematic areas, thematic classifications for gender actions and their corresponding results are presented in green and orange boxes respectively. Please see below for more information.

Gender action #1

Ensuring rural women's recognition and involvement through the establishment of the National Forum of Rural Women



Leadership and decision-making

The project promoted networking for women through forums, exchange sessions and other platforms.

The National Forum of Rural Women aims to promote the recognition of rural women as key stakeholders and strengthen their involvement in decision-making processes at all levels. This Forum is a platform to promote public policies that address rural women's specific needs and remove the structural gender gaps and barriers that limit rural women within the country. It comprises a network of approximately 80 women representing the 29 rural territories of the country and was developed through the coordinated work of several institutions including the National Institute for Women, the Rural Development Institute and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, through the Executive Secretariat for Planning in the Agricultural Sector and the National Council of 4S Clubs, with the technical support of the REDD+ RBP project implemented with support from UNDP in Costa Rica.

The Forum was constituted in March 2022 through a bottom-up process permitting the identification of rural women from different backgrounds to ensure it was inclusive and representative of the diversity of women in the country. This process first involved organizing nine regional forums to identify needs and priorities of local rural women as well as solutions to implementation challenges surrounding the '[National Gender Equality Policy for the Inclusive Development of the Agricultural, Fishing, and Rural Sectors](#)'. Of the 181 women who attended the nine regional forums, 80 women were selected to be part of the National Forum.

The National Forum was officially launched in June 2022 through a national workshop that defined its governance structure and priority actions. Subsequently, the rural women and the Forum's inter-institutional technical team has developed a strategy, action plan, governance structure and internal bylaws for the Forum. Through inter-institutional collaborative efforts, the Forum established a clear roadmap and in December 2023, the Forum officially launched its four key priority action areas: economic autonomy; empowerment of rural women in decision-making; inter-

institutional coordination for the adaptation and modernization of institutional services; and socioenvironmental development and risk management. Each action area has specific actions, responsible actors and corresponding timelines for implementation until 2026. In addition, since its formation in 2022, the Forum has held a range of virtual and in-person national and regional meetings to discuss key topics related to the Forum's priority action areas. In 2023, Forum discussions and activities led to the drafting of a *Law for the Access, Use and Control of Land by Women*, which is aimed at removing barriers to women's land ownership. It proposes legal reforms to prioritize land regularization, financial aid and access to credit for rural women. In 2024, eight regional workshops were held, attended by a total of 271 rural women, to present the Forum's strategy and define the regional priorities of the action plan. As of July 2025, the law has been approved by congress and is pending executive approval.

This Forum is a crucial step toward ensuring rural women's rights and leadership in decision-making as it relates to women's access, use and control of land at all levels, as well as improving sustainable livelihoods in a gender-responsive manner.

Results and impacts to date



Income and resources



Improved sustainable livelihoods

Through the establishment of the National Forum of Rural Women, the Project has successfully created a diverse and participative space within which to empower rural women and strengthen their capacity to influence rural and environmental public policies. By way of illustration, as of the end of 2024:

→ The National Forum of Rural Women comprises

80 women

representing the 29 rural territories of the country. Four governmental institutions are collaborating closely through an active and effective inter-institutional technical team.



The draft

Law

for the Access, Use and Control of Land by Women (Bill 24.444) has increased recognition of the prevalent land tenure inequalities faced by rural women and ensured greater protection of their rights. It will also boost their employment in low-carbon and conservation activities and forestry production systems. The law was presented to the Legislative Assembly and received an affirmative opinion from the Agricultural Affairs Committee (it will be reviewed at the plenary in 2025).

→ There is broader and deeper public

awareness

of the challenges and inequalities faced by rural women, thanks to media outreach and publicity via four national news outlets. This included news articles on the launch of the National Forum and raised awareness of such challenges as limited access to land, technical support, capacity-building and finance; insufficient marketing channels and business strategies and a lack of information on sustainable natural resource management and conservation.



A national

roadmap

has been drawn up that reflects rural women's reality through a collectively developed strategy and workplan for the National Forum of Rural Women that addresses the challenges faced by rural women face in terms of economic autonomy, decision-making, the adaptation and modernization of institutional services, socioenvironmental development and risk management.



Gender action #2

Strengthening the gender capacities of staff and volunteers of the National Fire Management Programme (PNMF) by developing the Course on Gender, Forest and Fire



Capacity-building

The project carried out activities to strengthen institutional capacities on gender equality and forests.

The Gender, Forest and Fire course (the first of its kind in the LAC region) was developed to build the capacities of PNMF staff and volunteers on gender equality and women's empowerment. This course is being facilitated through an interactive process enabling participants to understand the main links between gender equality and forests; to identify how to strengthen PNMF initiatives and actions to promote gender equality and empower female forest firefighters; as well as how to improve gender relations in the brigades. The course was implemented through in-person workshops in 2023 and virtually in 2024 and **is offered to forest firefighters, selected by PNMF, who wish to incorporate gender perspectives into their daily work and tasks.**

By equipping forest firefighters with the knowledge and tools to incorporate gender perspectives into their daily work, the Gender, Forest and Fire course not only strengthens gender relations within brigades but also contributes to broader efforts to reduce gender gaps in traditionally male-dominated sectors such as forest management and fire prevention. During the training, the firefighters reflected on steps that should be taken to promote healthier working environments and improve gender relations between volunteer forest firefighters. For example, participants highlighted the need to consider schedules that permit women to be present and the need to include voluntary firefighters in the existing regulations on sexual harassment in the workplace. SINAC has quantified that 37 percent of all firefighters are women and recognized that improving gender relations throughout the course has been key to the success of the country's integrated fire management programme. Ultimately, this course is promoting more effective and efficient fire prevention and control.

The objectives and structure of the course were defined in collaboration with SINAC and took into account the information and recommendations gathered at the first National Congress of Volunteer Forest firefighters of Costa Rica in 2019. Seeking synergies with previous work on gender and REDD+ within the country, the course uses the training module '[Learning about forests and gender](#)' that was developed by the REDD+ Secretariat with the support of the World Bank in 2018. The course has six modules focused on gender equality: 1) concepts and definitions; 2) links between gender and forest conservation; 3) recommendations on how to promote gender equality on forest initiatives; 4) gender equality and women's rights legislation; 5) how to prevent sexual harassment; and 6) national efforts to promote gender equality within the Fire Prevention and Control Programme. While most of the course training has been in person, in 2024, a virtual version of the course was also piloted. It is expected that the course will reach 300 firefighters, women and men, over the next two years. In 2025, the project will develop a Training of Trainers to scale up delivery.

The Performance Based Payment Agreement included the completion of the gender course as part of the performance indicators to determine the total amount of resources allocated to SINAC. In order to receive additional resources for capacity-building, the institution has to demonstrate that its staff and volunteers have increased their capacities relating to gender equality. The Gender, Forest, and Fire course has been a key resource for recognizing the gender-responsive training provided by the integrated fire management programme.

Results and impacts to date



Women's environmental stewardship, forest management/conservation



Reduction of GBV/SEAH

Through the design and implementation of the Gender, Forest and Fire course, the Project has successfully improved the capacities and gender relations of the staff and volunteers of the PNMF. By the end of 2024:

→ **80** firefighters (45 women and 35 men) had improved knowledge and understanding of the relationship between forests and gender and of the importance of 1) preventing sexual harassment and gender-based violence (GBV); and 2) promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in forest fire management.

→ SINAC has been awarded nearly **\$25,000** by the GCF REDD+ RBP project to be reinvested in capacity-building, as it demonstrated that 80 firefighters have improved gender capacities.

Gender action #3

Developing gender-responsive environmental, forest and territorial plans through the involvement of Indigenous women



Leadership and decision-making

The project took proactive steps to increase Indigenous women's participation in leadership and decision-making spaces (e.g. quotas, mentorship programmes, capacity-building, sensitization, including with men and community leaders, etc.).

The Environmental, Forest and Territorial Plan (PAFT) is a participatory planning instrument in which Indigenous communities and groups in the territories identify their needs and propose forest conservation projects. PAFTs are developed through an inclusive, local, and participatory process and address different issues such as land tenure, legal security, payment for environmental services, the approach and concept of forests from the Indigenous worldview, as well as participatory monitoring and follow-up mechanisms. Territories that have a PAFT can also access forest emission reduction contracts (CREF)⁴² and receive funds corresponding to their environmental services for forest care from previous years. Aspects included in the PAFT range from the established benefit-sharing distribution and the constitution of administration to details on monitoring and oversight committees composed of community members and a grievance and redress mechanism.

The PAFTs are one of the key initiatives that resulted from the 13-year Free Prior and Informed Consent consultation process conducted between Indigenous Peoples and the Costa Rican government which began in 2008. PAFTs represent one of the main instruments to involve Indigenous territories in the implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy and ensure the vision of the communities that live in the territories are taken in account. The elaboration of the PAFTs is done with the support of local cultural mediators in collaboration with FONAFIFO, UNDP, the Indigenous Development Associations and territorial organizations.

⁴² A forest emission reduction contract (CREF) is a type of Payment for Environmental Service that seeks to recognize forest owners and possessors for the emissions reductions generated on their properties in a voluntary manner.

Through a range of actions, the project promoted the gender-responsive design of the PAFTs. For example, it focused on involving both women and men and building their capacities as cultural mediators. The first step was to include a session on the importance of gender equality and the inclusion of women in the initial capacity-building workshop for cultural mediators. The project also included a session with Indigenous women as part of a special workshop during the PAFT construction process. This designated space for women made it possible for the Indigenous women to share their experiences among themselves and promote projects based on their own visions.

The project also promoted the active and equitable participation of Indigenous women during all consultation stages to ensure their priorities were included in the PAFTs. The project developed a methodology that contemplates safeguarding the inclusion of Indigenous women to guarantee: 1) the active and equitable participation of Indigenous women in decision making; and 2) the development of territorial plans that guarantee that women's opinions and needs are equitably incorporated into local projects and benefit-sharing. Additionally, it promoted the involvement of Indigenous women through the creation of participatory spaces and sustainable production projects, among others. These gender-responsive measures also helped to promote the equitable participation of Indigenous women in the oversight committees. Doing so helped to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of resources, as well as in the implementation of development projects with a gender focus.

The development of PAFTs has ensured that Indigenous women's voices are heard and taken into account in forest conservation projects. Through capacity-building and the creation of participatory spaces, it has promoted Indigenous women's active participation in decision-making processes and leadership roles that will ensure they can benefit from finance schemes associated with forest emissions reduction.

Results and impacts to date



Improved sustainable livelihoods



Women's environmental stewardship, forest management/conservation

Through the development of gender-responsive PAFTs, the project successfully involved Indigenous women in decision-making process regarding their forests and territories and ensured that their priorities were included among the activities that could access CREFs. As of 2024:

→ **9,512**

people have participated in the 209 community dialogues, of which approximately 51% (4,932) have been women.

→ **52%**

of the members of the monitoring committees and follow-up committees are Indigenous women.

→ **44%**

(23) of trained cultural mediators leading the development of the PAFTs are Indigenous women with improved capacities in facilitation, methodology development, consultation and mediation skills.



→ The country has developed 20 PAFTs (representing **79%** of all Indigenous territories) and all of them include priorities proposed by indigenous women such as: capacity-building on project management, health, food security, empowerment and leadership, Indigenous law and sustainable production projects, among others.

→ Completed PAFTs establish a fair and equitable distribution of climate finance to a range of marginalized groups, including women, the elderly and youth. The completed PAFTs include more than **60** initiatives for women, 50 for young people and 30 for the elderly, with territorially defined allocations.

Key resources

Costa Rica REDD+ Secretariat. 2019. [Gender Action Plan for the National REDD+ Strategy](#). (Spanish).

Costa Rica REDD+ Secretariat. 2019. [Training Module on Gender and Forests](#) (Spanish).

National Institute for Women and Rural Development Institute. 2023. [Strategy for the National Forum of Rural Women](#) (Spanish).

Various. 2024. [4 Forestry and Territorial Environmental Plans \(PAFTs\) in Costa Rica](#).

Green Climate Fund. 2024. [2023 Annual Performance Report for FP144: Costa Rica REDD-plus Results-Based Payments for 2014 and 2015](#).

Green Climate Fund. 2023. [2022 Annual Performance Report for FP144: Costa Rica REDD-plus Results-Based Payments for 2014 and 2015](#).

Green Climate Fund. 2020. [Gender assessment for FP144: Costa Rica REDD-plus Results-Based Payments for 2014 and 2015](#).

Secretaría Ejecutiva de Planificación Sectorial Agropecuaria. 2020. [National Gender Equality Policy for the Inclusive Development of the Agricultural, Fishing and Rural Sectors](#) (Spanish).

UNDP Costa Rica. 2023. [National Rural Women's Forum presented its strategy to reduce gaps](#) (Spanish).

UNDP Costa Rica. 2023. [Forest firefighters trained in gender issues](#) (Spanish).

UNDP Costa Rica. 2025. [Rural women will have more access to land](#) (Spanish).

Ecuador

GCF-funded PROAmazonía project
GCF-funded 'REDD+ RBP for results
period 2014' project



Improved sustainable livelihoods



Income and resources



Women's environmental stewardship,
forest management/conservation



Reduction of GBV / SEAH

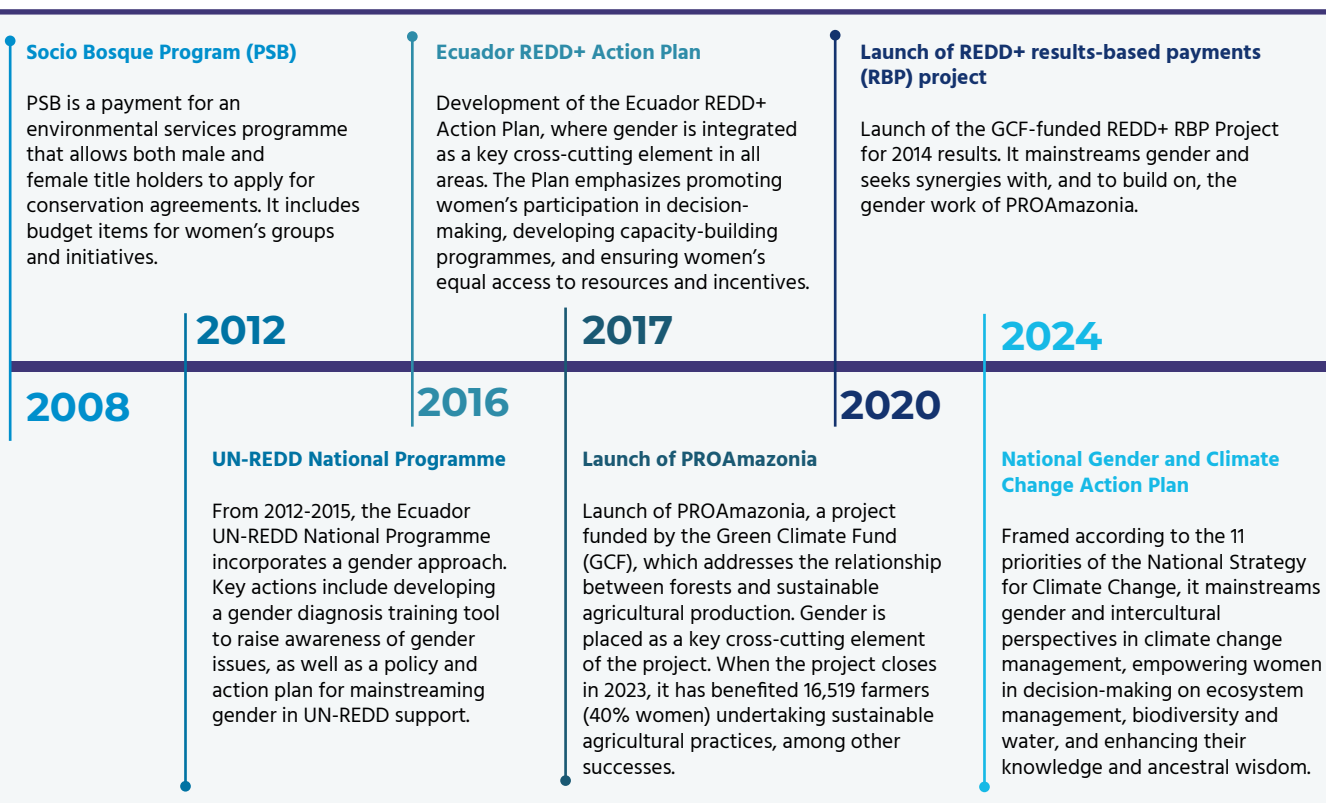
Photo: Women in Blue (Ecuador's REDD+ Results-Based Payment Project), women in Brown (PROAmazonia)



Gender and REDD+ overview

Ecuador has made significant progress in incorporating a gender-responsive approach into its policies and initiatives for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+). Through these efforts, the country is improving women's access to decision-making processes, resources, and benefits from REDD+ programmes, particularly in rural and Indigenous communities. These actions aim to reduce gender gaps and empower women as key actors in the sustainable management of forests. Impacts include equitable engagement of women in Ecuador's world-leading deforestation-free production process, women's economic empowerment through increased access to finance for sustainable production, and broader public awareness of women's critical role in forest conservation and as a driver of economic change in the Ecuadorian Amazon. The figure below summarizes some of these gender milestones in the country's REDD+ national action.

Figure 1.
Gender milestones in national REDD+ action in Ecuador



In Ecuador, women play a crucial role in the sustainable management of forests, particularly in the Amazon region, yet only 25 percent of agricultural production units are in the hands of women producers.⁴³ This inequality highlights the broader gender gaps in access to resources and decision-making, where women's participation in forest conservation and land management remains largely informal and unrecognized. Additionally, Amazonian women within Ecuador face higher vulnerability rates and exclusion. For example, only 12 percent of women producers own land.⁴⁴ They also face heavy workloads, dedicating 78 hours a week to paid and unpaid labour, leaving less time for education, leisure and self-care.⁴⁵

⁴³ Government of Ecuador (2014). *National Agenda on Women and Gender Equality (2014–2017)*.

⁴⁴ PROAmazonia (2020). 'Diagnóstico de la situación de las mujeres amazónicas'.

⁴⁵ *ibid*

Recognizing these challenges, REDD+ initiatives in Ecuador have taken steps to mainstream gender within the country's public environmental policies. Gender is a cross-cutting element in all REDD+ initiatives in Ecuador, ensuring the equitable and active involvement of both men and women in forest conservation and sustainable forest management. Its integration is also aligned with strategic measures and actions to promote gender equality pragmatically while also contributing to REDD+ implementation.

Over the years, key actions on gender within REDD+ initiatives have included promoting women's participation in national and local decision-making spaces related to REDD+; identifying and implementing REDD+ action that boosts environmental and social co-benefits and encourages women's and youth's equitable participation; and fostering equal opportunities for women producers through training programmes, leadership development, and technological incentives. Furthermore, the gender approach in Ecuadorean REDD+ initiatives incorporates an intersectional perspective, thereby also promoting continuous engagement of diverse sectors and actors, including Indigenous women.

Scope of case study

This case study on Ecuador demonstrates how the country is taking a proactive and innovative approach to promote gender equality and women's empowerment within two of its REDD+ initiatives funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The PROAmazonía project aims to 1) bridge the gender gap in resource access; 2) strengthen women's leadership in conservation and sustainable forest production; and 3) ensure women's equitable inclusion in the country's broader environmental strategies. Efforts under the GCF-funded REDD+ Results-based Payments (RBP) project are currently underway and build on the gender work under PROAmazonía, wherein focus is placed on 1) improving financial inclusion of women; 2) offering gender-responsive financial products; and 3) enhancing women's participation and agency in sustainable development and forest management. See table below for details related to these projects.

 Project name GCF-funded PROAmazonía project GCF-funded 'REDD+ RBP for results period 2014' project	 Objectives PROAmazonía linked national efforts to reduce deforestation with the priority agendas and policies of the country's economic sectors. It also promoted sustainable and integrated management of natural resources by contributing to poverty eradication and sustainable human development. The project was contained within the framework of the Ecuador REDD+ Action Plan 'Forests for Good Living' 2016–2025. The 'Ecuador REDD+ RBP for results period 2014' project contributes to the implementation of the national REDD+ Action Plan, providing continuity and complementing actions previously promoted by other initiatives, such as PROAmazonía, which began in 2017, and the REDD+ Early Movers (REM) programme, which was launched in 2019.	 Implementation partners PROAmazonía: Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE), Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG), UNDP REDD+ RBP project: MAATE, UNDP  Implementation period GCF-funded PROAmazonía: 2017–2023 GCF-funded REDD+ RBP project: 2021–2026  Funds PROAmazonía: \$41.2 million⁴⁶ REDD+ RBP project: \$18.6 million
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⁴⁶ PROAmazonía received financing from both the GCF and the Global Environment Fund (GEF). The results from PROAmazonía discussed in this case study are based on the results achieved under the GCF-financed portion of the project.



Creating impact: achieving progress on gender equality and women's empowerment

The gender actions proposed by the PROAmazonía and REDD+ RBP projects are part of a broader context of the national REDD+ Action Plan. In this context, PROAmazonía and the REDD+ RBP project actions have sought to address gender inequalities and equitably promote women's and men's resilience to change and respecting collective rights, worldviews and lifestyles in the Ecuadorian Amazon. Listed below are four key activities, along with their corresponding impacts and results, which detail how these results were achieved and undertaken by PROAmazonía and the REDD+ RBP projects.

This case study is part of the larger UN-REDD publication on 'The Power of Gender: New Generation of REDD+ Action in the LAC Region', which showcases country case studies from Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Paraguay. To help systematize the activities and results of these five country case studies across common thematic areas, thematic classifications for gender actions and their corresponding results are presented in green and orange boxes respectively. Please see below for more information.

Gender action #1

Addressing inequalities and gender-based violence (GBV) in rural communities through the Botas Violeta initiative



Addressing risk of GBV/ SEAH

Through the Botas Violeta (Purple Boots in English) initiative, the projects are raising awareness of the importance of gender equality, helping to prevent gender-based violence and making visible the indispensable roles women play in REDD+ and associated sustainable agriculture and livelihoods practices.

Botas Violeta is a UNDP Ecuador initiative and was designed to shed light on gender disparities prevalent in the Ecuadorian Amazon. The initiative promotes actions of awareness and communication to highlight the importance of advocating for women's equality, addressing gender-based violence and gender gaps as well as recognizing the significant roles women play both in production processes and within their households. The Botas Violeta initiative was born out of reflection on the story of a PROAmazonía beneficiary who was forbidden by her partner to buy new rubber boots, a basic input for her productive activities in the farm, demonstrating the patriarchal violence that many women still endure.

Botas Violeta was implemented through a cycle of capacity-building and awareness-raising workshops for individuals, organizations, and institutions aimed at changing the social norms that promote discrimination and violence against women.

Workshop participants receive a pair of purple boots as a symbol of the quest for gender equity and a call for action to reduce GBV. The initiative also features a campaign that emphasizes how everyone can contribute to promoting gender equality and GBV. It also includes women from all spheres and sectors, including stakeholders from the central and local governments, female producers of coffee, cocoa, livestock, palm oil and guayusa, participants of bio-entrepreneurships and other strategic partners, like academia.

From 2022 to 2024, Botas Violeta also supported the establishment and strengthening of women's networks throughout the Amazon and across various political, productive and bio-enterprise spheres in order to help increase their organizational strength, access to relevant information and participation in decision-making spaces. **Thanks to these successes, in 2023 Botas Violeta was officially expanded through a partnership with MAATE and UNDP in order to scale up the initiative to national level and reach more women and men.**

Results and impacts to date



Reduction of GBV/SEAH

Through awareness-raising efforts, Botas Violeta has successfully highlighted the crucial role of women in sustainable development and forest conservation and empowered women to drive economic change in the Ecuadorian Amazon. By way of illustration:

→ From the beginning of the initiative in 2022 until the end of 2024, PROAmazonía and the REDD+ RBP projects organized 61 events involving 1,747 people, of whom 1,528 (87%) were women and 219 (13%) men

1,437 pairs of boots were distributed to women across the six provinces of the Ecuadorian Amazon.

→ **A national initiative** focused on capacity-building and awareness-raising around gender equality and GBV was launched in 2023, led by UNDP in partnership with MAATE.

Gender action #2

Strengthening women's access to training, technical support and resources to adopt sustainable agriculture practices and participate in deforestation-free certification



Women's equitable inclusion in project capacity building

Projects carried out activities to strengthen women's capacities on REDD+ and deforestation-free value chains, enabling them to equitably and actively undertake sustainable agricultural practices while simultaneously improving their livelihoods.

Both projects created capacity-building spaces for women producers aimed at promoting sustainable agricultural practices within the cocoa, coffee, palm oil and cattle value chains.⁴⁷ For example, the projects established Agricultural Field Schools, implemented by a technical partner, through hands-on workshops and technical support that fosters exchange and joint application of local and external knowledge, such as technological innovations. The methodology used in these field schools was developed and implemented using a gender and social inclusion approach. The project conducted a gender analysis of the value chains to establish the strategies to ensure women's equitable and meaningful inclusion. The results of the analysis also informed the action plans developed with producers, as well as the gender-related activities implemented within associated capacity-building spaces.

⁴⁷ Traditionally identified as the main drivers of deforestation and land use change in the Ecuadorian Amazon

Several actions promoted the active and equitable participation of women during the Agricultural Field Schools training. For example, 1) the field school technicians received training on safeguards and gender; 2) women participation quotas were established (30 percent); 3) childcare was offered during trainings; and 4) activities were scheduled considering the best time for women to join. In addition, to encourage women's meaningful participation, the training format was flexible and based on on-site observations. Both female and male producers who took part in the Agricultural Field Schools training also received non-monetary incentives, such as materials, tools and agricultural inputs, to support the transition to sustainable production systems. They also signed a term of commitment to implement sustainable production practices and forest conservation.

As part of the REDD+ RBP Project, 16 Agricultural Service Centers were created (12 of them are operative) to further strengthen the sustainable agricultural practices of the female and male producers who had already participated in the Agricultural Field Schools. In this context, 11 focus groups were formed in different provinces of Ecuadorian Amazon, consisting of 188 participants, of whom 90 percent were women, 28 percent were Indigenous persons and 72 percent were mestizos.⁴⁸ The focus group goals included the following: 1) guaranteeing the participation of women and Indigenous persons; 2) providing feedback to the centers; and 3) identifying diversified needs that could be addressed through the centers. Additionally, within each of these centers, a gender action plan was developed to achieve these goals.

Results and impacts to date



Income and resources



Improved sustainable livelihoods

Through efforts to equitably involve women in the Agricultural Field Schools and strengthen their capacities in sustainable agriculture practices, women within the project areas are now equitably included within Ecuadorian efforts to become a regional leader in deforestation-free certification, with more than 93,000 hectares in different stages of the deforestation-free transition. By way of illustration:

→ By the end of December 2023, Agricultural Field Schools benefited over 70,654 people, of whom **40%** were women and 18% Indigenous persons, on 93,105 ha of land.

→ Participation of 1,023 producers **52%** of whom were women, in the learning and observation exchanges between the rural producers participating in the Agricultural Field Schools.

→ A total of 4,159 people were trained in financial education as part of Agricultural Field Schools activities, **57%** of whom were women.

→ By 2022, women represented **49%** of those adopting and undertaking sustainable agricultural practices under the projects.

→ By the end of 2024, through the Agricultural Service Centers, 754 producers **31%** women, enhance their access to green credit and/or goods/services through the centers' technical-financial assistance.

→ In 2024, working in partnership with UNDP, UN-REDD, GCF, GEF and companies like Lavazza, the Government of Ecuador developed a gender-responsive and socially-inclusive public-private framework to formulate sustainability policies, issue regulations, promote sustainable livelihoods, establish a national **certification scheme** and mobilize commercial partnerships with coffee and cocoa companies.

⁴⁸ In Latin America, a person of mixed race, especially one having Spanish and Indigenous descent.

Gender action #3

Ensuring women have access to the Deforestation-free Sustainable Credit



Access to finance

Gender-responsive climate finance incentives developed to address prevalent gender inequalities that limited women's access to finance opportunities.

In 2023, a Deforestation-free Sustainable Production (PSLD) Credit Line for women and men producers was created with the support of PROAmazonía and later implemented in the REDD+ RBP Project in 2024. This financial instrument was offered by the public bank BanEcuador to the producers of coffee, cocoa, palm and livestock, who participated in the Agricultural Field Schools mentioned above. It promoted punctuality in payments and the proper use of funds for activities contributing to the transition to sustainable and deforestation-free production systems, aligning with the commitment to forest conservation on the producers' site.

This financial instrument and credit line integrated various measures to help promote women's equitable access to resources. In 2020, PROAmazonía first carried out an analysis of gender gaps in access to credit which demonstrated that women constituted a 'group of interest' who faced various barriers. Based on the findings of this analysis, the project then implemented several actions to develop criteria for this credit line to reduce the financial gaps that women face in the country. For example, it did not require women to present the spouse's signature for amounts less than \$5,000 and it only required the signature of a joint guarantor, instead of legal guarantees, for amounts less than \$20,000.

Additionally, PROAmazonía set an ambitious 40 percent target for women's participation in credit socialization and financial educational activities and access to loans. To achieve this target, strategies for reaching women were implemented, such as developing public notices on financial educational activities in places easy for women to access and at times that are sensitive to the demands of the household. Childcare in training spaces was also offered and provided.

These actions have not only benefited the female producers and their families but also the conservation of forests in the Ecuadorian Amazon. These credit beneficiaries, who were also part of Agricultural Field Schools, are now transitioning to sustainable agricultural practices with increased productivity and profitability.

Results and impacts to date



Income and resources



Women's environmental stewardship, forest management/conservation

Through improving women's access to finance for incentivizing sustainable and deforestation-free production, women's financial and economic empowerment in the project area has been improved, creating positive change in the protection of natural resources in their livelihoods and well-being. Some illustrative results and impacts of these activities are noted below.



Of a total of 2,348 ha natural forest with conservation commitment developed through the project, **779 ha** (33%) are under women's leadership.



Of a total of 6,585 ha in transition to sustainable production systems, **35%** (2,327) is under women's leadership.

- Of the total \$3,918,220.35 of loans disbursed through both the PROAmazonía and the REDD+ RBP projects, 35% went to female producers, with an average of

\$6,040.67
per woman.

- A total of **228** women have accessed the creditline, representing 43% of total recipients. Of which 98 (44%) are from local communities and Indigenous Peoples.

Three diverse spaces were developed to provide financial education to women:

- PSLD financial education training undertaken in which capacities were built for 4,159 participants in the Agricultural Field Schools **57%** women, 43% men.

- The programme arranged women-only financial training activities with BanEcuador, and delivered it to **69** female producers (cocoa, coffee, palm and livestock).

- Under the Antisuyu Warmikuna School for Female Leadership, **267** Indigenous women received training on the financial education module (100% women).

Gender action #4

Supporting sustainable women's livelihoods through small scale bio-enterprises



Women's equitable inclusion in project capacity-building

Gender mainstreamed into bio-enterprise activities to ensure that women-led bio-enterprises could equitably benefit, simultaneously improving women's livelihoods and sustainable climate-friendly practices.

Under PROAmazonía, financial support was provided to women- and men-led, small-scale bio-enterprises which generated economic alternatives and improved livelihoods, while helping to reduce deforestation and forest degradation. To ensure that women could equitably benefit from and be involved in associated decision-making spaces, a range of gender inclusion criteria – such as women's income and their involvement in decision-making and inclusion in benefit structures – were taken into account when selecting the bio-enterprises. Additionally, capacity-building activities were also implemented as part of this work. The project strengthened the capacity of these bio-enterprises on profitable business management and brand transformation as well as granting them assistance to establish new commercial links at national and international level.

A toolbox was developed to provide guidance for mainstreaming gender in the implementation and management of bio-enterprises. These efforts built the capacity of bio-enterprises to sustainably manage forests in a gender-responsive manner and also promoted the equitable improvement of women's and men's livelihoods within their communities.

As part of the support to bio-enterprises under the REDD+ RBP project in 2024, efforts have also been undertaken to provide gender-responsive assistance to strengthen the value chain for guayusa (a native tree, the leaves of which are used in several herbal products). To guide this work, a gender analysis was undertaken in 2024 and early 2025 using data collected from two guayusa organizations made up of Kichwa Amazonian Indigenous persons (PKR and ASOPROWAYLI), who worked with PROAmazonía during the first phase of bio-enterprise support. This approach enabled the REDD+ RBP project to document the participation of men and women throughout the stages of planting,

cultivation, harvesting, processing and marketing guayusa. This analysis made visible the joint work of women and men and their differentiated needs and responsibilities within the value chain. Based on these results, an action plan will be developed in 2025 to ensure that the roles and needs of both women and men within the guayusa value chain are equitably addressed within project support.

Results and impacts to date



Improved sustainable livelihoods

Through targeted efforts to equitably include women within bio-enterprise activities and build their associated capacities and business acumen within the sector, women are being empowered and improving their livelihoods while also conducting sustainable climate-friendly practices. By way of illustration:

→ A total of 30 bio-enterprises are being supported, with a participating population of 3,820 people,

58% of whom are women.

→ Of the 30 bio-enterprises selected, **7** are made up exclusively of women.

"Before, only men had the right to do things like sell cheese. Women were confined to the house. But now, through these [project] trainings, we are equals. Many of us women no longer ask for permission. We can sell a chicken ourselves or conduct business, even become leaders. Together, we're improving—my husband, kids, and I—all working as equals. It would be wonderful if everyone worked this way."

Female Livestock farmer, Ecuador

Key resources

Green Climate Fund. 2020. [Gender Assessment for 'Ecuador REDD-plus RBP for results period 2014' project.](#)

Green Climate Fund. 2023. [2022 Annual Performance Report for FP019: Priming Financial and Land Use Planning Instruments to Reduce Emissions from Deforestations.](#)

Green Climate Fund. 2024. [2023 Annual Performance Report for FP110: Ecuador REDD-plus RBP for results period 2014.](#)

Green Climate Fund. 2024. [2023 PROAmazonia Project/Programme Completion Report.](#)

Ministerio del Ambiente, Agua y Transición Ecológica, Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería, Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo. 2023. [Fortalecimiento de Capacidades y Participación Inclusiva de actores a través de Escuelas de Campo en la Amazonía Ecuatoriana: Logros, oportunidades y desafíos.](#)

PROAmazonia. 2020. [Diagnóstico de la situación de las mujeres amazónicas.](#)

Paraguay

Paraguay + Verde, the REDD+ RBP
project financed by the GCF



Women's environmental stewardship,
forest management/conservation



Time savings and care

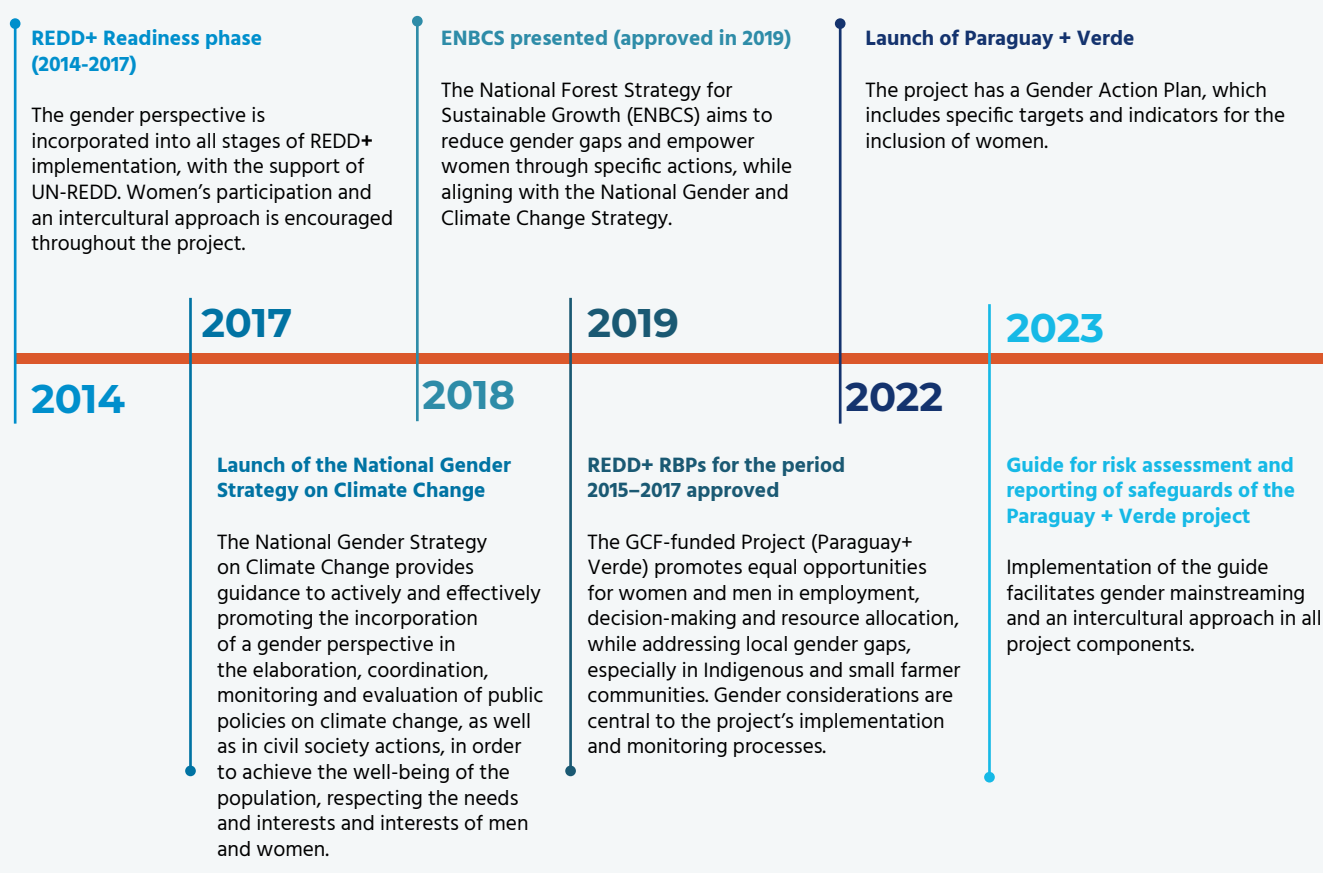


Photo: Paraguay's REDD+ Results-Based Payment Project - Paraguay + Verde.

Gender and REDD+ overview

Paraguay has made significant progress in integrating a gender perspective into the formulation and implementation of policies and measures for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+). These efforts began under REDD+ readiness work with the UN-REDD programme in 2014 and have evolved over the years to include REDD+ implementation and then results-based payments (RBP) efforts. Direct impacts of this work include Indigenous women's leadership opportunities through greater participation in project governance and activities, ensuring women's needs and priorities are reflected in the environmental services regime. The following figure summarizes some key gender milestones in national REDD+ action.

Figure 3.
Gender milestones in national REDD+ action in Paraguay



Within Paraguay, significant challenges remain in achieving gender equality in the forestry sector. Women in Paraguay, especially in rural areas, face fewer economic opportunities than men, with a rural employment rate of 48.51 percent for women compared to 83.66 percent for men.⁴⁹ This inequality is further reflected in land ownership, where women control only 27 percent of private land.⁵⁰ Furthermore, regardless of advances in education, access to higher education remains limited for girls and women, especially in rural areas, further restricting their empowerment and participation in decision-making processes.

⁴⁹ Dirección General De Estadística, Encuestas y Censos, *Atlas de Género*, 2019

⁵⁰ GCF. 2019. *Gender assessment for FP121: REDD+ Results-based payments in Paraguay for period 2015–2017*.

Indigenous women also face greater exclusion, poverty and barriers such as gender discrimination, limited access to education, and lack of recognition in decision-making spaces. For example, 49 percent of the Indigenous population are women, however only 6 percent hold leadership positions within their communities.⁵¹ Gender inequalities hinder women's active participation in forest governance and access to productive resources. Paraguay seeks to overcome these gaps through REDD+ actions, ensuring that women, particularly Indigenous women, have equal opportunities to contribute to and benefit from forest conservation efforts.

To address these gender gaps, Paraguay has undertaken a range of activities to ensure the meaningful and comprehensive integration of a gender approach within its REDD+ efforts. In 2017, the country developed a National Gender Strategy on Climate Change, which was a key step in developing an efficient and effective instrument for the meaningful incorporation of a gender perspective into climate change initiatives. It also helped guide the country in future efforts to integrate gender into climate action, including REDD+. As noted above in Figure 1, the National Forest Strategy for Sustainable Growth (2019) includes gender equality as a key element of the strategy and proposes several actions to address gender gaps and empower women. More specifically, it considers the differentiated roles related to forests and dependency over forest resources between men and aims to reduce gender gaps specifically by ensuring the participation of women in all spheres of decision-making relating to forests. It also promotes gender-equitable access to services like forest-related education, credit and land.⁵²

Scope of case study

Paraguay's case study demonstrates how the country continues to promote gender equality and women's empowerment principles through its REDD+ initiatives. Specifically, the scope of this case study focuses on the gender-related activities carried out within the REDD+ RBP project (Paraguay + Verde) funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The table below includes the project's details.



Project name

Paraguay + Verde, the REDD+ RBP project financed by the GCF



Objectives

Paraguay + Verde project focuses on the implementation of the National Forest Strategy for Sustainable Growth and the establishment of the Climate Change Fund as a national mechanism for the medium- and long-term sustainability of REDD+ emissions reductions.



Implementation partners

The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as an accredited institution under GCF, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the National Forestry Institute, the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, the Ministry of Women and the Indigenous Institute of Paraguay.



Implementation period

2020–2026



Funds

\$50,000,000

⁵¹ Considering leaders recognized by the Indigenous Institute of Paraguay.

⁵² GCF. 2019. Gender assessment for FP121: [REDD+ Results-based payments in Paraguay for the period 2015–2017](#).



Creating impact: achieving progress on gender equality and women's empowerment

The Paraguay + Verde project has integrated gender considerations into its design and implementation. The project promotes greater gender equality and women's empowerment in relation to access and control of forest, land, and natural resources through a series of actions, including 1) land-use, forest management, and protected area planning; 2) support for sustainable production models; 3) payment for environmental services; and 4) monitoring and enforcement of forest and environmental legislation. Three of these actions, along with their corresponding impacts and outcomes, are listed below.

This case study is part of the larger UN-REDD publication 'The Power of Gender: New Generation of REDD+ Action in the LAC Region', which showcases country case studies from Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Paraguay. To help systematize the activities and results of these five country case studies across common thematic areas, thematic classifications for gender actions and their corresponding results are presented in green and orange boxes respectively. See below for more information.

Gender action #1

Ensuring Indigenous women's full and effective participation in the project's national and regional governance



Leadership and decision-making

Project increasing women's participation in leadership and decision-making spaces through use of targets, mentorship programmes, capacity-building and sensitization.

The Paraguay + Verde project implemented several actions to promote the full and effective participation of Indigenous women in the project's governance and activities. The project established a 40 percent gender quota for women in its governance bodies, ensuring the equal representation of women, alongside male leaders, in decision-making spaces. Additionally, the project used inclusive language in its invitations and offered childcare spaces so women could participate in workshops and dialogues.

The project also fostered intercultural dialogues to facilitate the gender-equitable selection of Indigenous Peoples' representatives to the Project Board of Directors, with support from the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the Indigenous Institute of Paraguay. The first dialogue took place through four public meetings between April and July 2022 and was based on the protocols established in the Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage Plan and project's Environmental and Social Management Framework. Additionally, in 2023, five intercultural dialogues were then held in order to form regional councils (eastern and Chaco regions) and define their corresponding objectives, working methods, selection, and role in relation to project activities. The dialogues provided insight into the needs and interests of Indigenous women and men and enabled the development of appropriate mechanisms and strategies to ensure the fulfilment of their rights to self-determination and participation within the framework of the project. Thanks to these processes, the individuals selected to participate in the Project Board of Directors (the main level of governance) and the regional councils have equitable representation of female and male Indigenous leaders representing local organizations participating in the project from each region.

As part of the intercultural dialogues, workshops were also held to strengthen Indigenous women's capacities for leadership, negotiation and project management. The workshops were culturally adapted, offered in native languages and included two regional dialogues with Indigenous women leaders on gender and climate change, held in 2022. The workshops highlighted the role of women as protectors of forests and natural resources, land, territory and environmental services. Key aspects of the project were also discussed, such as 1) gender parity criteria in the project's governance spaces; 2) potential barriers affecting the participation of Indigenous women and men in the project; 3) validation of the developed proposal within the framework of safeguards on gender participation and governance oriented toward Indigenous Peoples; 4) dissemination of the project's Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage Plan, the Gender Action Plan, the Environmental and Social Management Plan and the Safeguards Framework; 5) development of an agenda for Indigenous women; 6) criteria for women's access to climate change funds; and 7) identification of risks of gender-based violence among Indigenous and rural women park rangers. Additionally, in 2023, as part of the intercultural dialogue with the Regional Council of El Chaco, participants discussed the importance of promoting the support from male leaders to ensure a greater participation of women in leadership positions and help address issues related to equity, justice and safeguards in forest conservation efforts. In 2024, another dialogue was organized with the Indigenous women who participated in previous processes to provide updated information on public policy instruments aimed at Indigenous Peoples and young leaders through an enriching intergenerational exchange.

Women's participation was monitored during the dialogues and workshops and in most cases met set targets. A total of 60 people (38 percent women and 62 percent men), representing 35 Indigenous organizations from the Eastern and Western regions, participated in the intercultural dialogues. Two workshops organized specifically for Indigenous women included 44 Indigenous women leaders from more than 10 national and regional women's organizations. In 2023, approximately 71 leaders participated in the intercultural dialogues, of which 62 percent were women, representing 44 Indigenous organizations at national, regional and local levels. In 2024, a total of 38 participants (61 percent women and 39 percent men) were represented in the dialogues, with 45 leaders (56 percent women and 44 percent men) belonging to the Indigenous population. A total of 13 technicians (69 percent women and 31 percent men) participated from public institutions and agencies.

The gender-equitable composition of the Board of Directors and the regional councils allows Indigenous women to have a voice and influence in the most critical processes of the project. Indigenous women have been able to participate in the review and approval of the Annual Operating Plan and the project's safeguards and instruments. Having equitable representation of men and women on the councils has ensured that both their perspectives and interests are transmitted to the Board of Directors and the gender-differentiated realities and priorities of men and women from different communities are considered and taken into account.

The project serves as a model for integrating gender equality into the governance systems of initiatives operating at various territorial levels. The measures implemented have guaranteed respect for the rights of Indigenous women and men, improved the quality of decision-making processes by incorporating diverse voices, and empowered women to contribute to high-level policy debates to ensure that their specific priorities, and those of their communities, are also taken into account.



Results and impacts to date



Women's environmental stewardship, forest management/conservation

Through its focus on improving Indigenous women's participation in the project's governance structure, the project has demonstrated the pivotal role women play in decision-making processes. As of the end of 2024, key achievements in this regard include the following:

- Women have a greater role and influence in project governance, in reaching and exceeding the **40%** quota. Indigenous women now actively participate in project decision-making spaces, where they can express their needs and priorities.
- Women and men equitably make up the Regional Indigenous Councils, with 12 representatives **6** women and 6 men, for the Eastern Region and 16 representatives (8 women and 8 men) for the Western Region.
- Some Indigenous women have been recognized as **leaders** in their communities, challenging traditional gender roles. This has led to greater visibility for women in public spaces.

Gender action #2

Establishing long-term capacity-building platforms and alliances to improve the design and implementation of gender-responsive REDD+ actions



Capacity-building

The project strengthens the capacities of national and local project stakeholders on gender equality and sustainable management of forests, including REDD+.

The project established a Community of Practice on equity and equality to strengthen the capacities of its Technical Team to incorporate a gender perspective into the project's activities and components. Several workshops and sessions on gender were held in 2022, where gender indicators and considerations were identified and included in the project's Operational Plan. Additionally, in 2022, during the 'Paraguay Safeguards Week,' co-organized with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), participants discussed how to ensure gender-responsive management of environmental and social risks related to the project. During these discussions it was emphasized that special attention should be paid to risks associated with the project that may specifically affect women and girls as well as the need to avoid exacerbating gender gaps and violence.

A Technical Committee on Safeguards and Gender Equality was created and is coordinated by the Safeguards and Equality Team of the Project Management Unit. The committee was created as a strategic space for dialogue and capacity-building to support the integration of a gender-responsive approach within the project as well as the mainstreaming of gender in associated public policies and their instruments. The Committee has operational guidelines and holds monthly meetings to share experiences and strengthen capacities around safeguards and the promotion of gender equality. In 2023, the Committee, with the support of the project's gender, safeguards, communication and knowledge management specialists, developed several tools focused on safeguards, including a protocol for the implementation of the Gender Action Plan; a '[Gender-Based Communication and Knowledge Management Plan](#)' to guide the production, systematization, and dissemination of project materials; and a 'Basic Guide for Conducting



a Gender-Based Actor and/or Stakeholder Mapping.’ [Paraguay Safeguards Week](#), held in 2022 (both virtually and in person), involved an average of 35 people per day for 5 days, totalling 175 participants, 57 percent of whom were women.

Additionally, to ensure that the project’s communications integrate a gender perspective, a workshop was organized in 2023 for communication officials from the public institutions and agencies involved in the implementation the Paraguay + Verde project. The workshop focused on strengthening capacities for the use and application of inclusive language with a gender perspective in different areas of communication strategies, such as the development of gender-sensitive audiovisual and training materials and knowledge products. Thanks to these efforts, dissemination and communication materials with a gender and social inclusion perspective have been developed that highlight the experience of the project’s various activities. Some of the products developed include a success story on Indigenous women’s inclusion in Free Prior and Informed Consultation and Consent activities; documentation on lessons learned from childcare spaces and community feeding in intercultural dialogues to guarantee the active participation of women in consultation processes; and a good practice approach consisting in holding project ‘Community lunches’ to overcome cultural and domestic barriers to women’s participation in project meetings and consultations.

Additionally, the project established a collaboration with the Ministry of Women to raise awareness about the importance of gender equality among the project’s various stakeholders. Specifically, the Ministry of Women has been supporting training, dissemination of information and assistance in matters relating to violence against women. For example, during intercultural dialogues, information was provided on the official mechanism to address cases of violence at the national level. Furthermore, in October 2024, as part of this collaboration, the first [National Forum for Rural Women](#) was organized, resulting in the establishment of the National Network of Rural Women. The first National Forum for Rural Women brought together 92 participants (92 percent women and 8 percent men), representing 54 female rural leaders and one Indigenous woman leader from 16 departments across the country, as well as approximately 37 representatives from public institutions and United Nations agencies (81 percent women and 19 percent men).

The Paraguay + Verde project demonstrates the importance of providing tailored capacity-building opportunities on gender equality for the project’s stakeholders. Having specific platforms to regularly discuss gender issues has allowed the project to develop and implement activities that promote gender equality and women’s empowerment, fostering more inclusive and equitable outcomes that contribute to forest conservation efforts.

Results and impacts to date



Women’s environmental stewardship, forest management/conservation

Through a range of capacity-building efforts, the project has significantly enhanced the gender capacities of the project’s team and stakeholders. It has also improved women’s opportunities to inform and contribute to the project’s REDD+ efforts. By way of illustration, as of the end of 2024, key achievements included the following:

→ In total, **404** people (73% women and 27 percent men), representing 139 Indigenous persons (63% women and 37% men), 55 rural women and 210 people from implementing institutions and agencies (72% women and 28% men) have increased their capacities on gender through the range of capacity-building spaces and activities discussed above.

→ In 2023, **46%** of male technicians and **54%** of female technicians from implementing agencies and institutions (Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, National Forestry Institute, Technical Secretariat for Planning, Ministry of Women, Indigenous Institute of Paraguay, UNDP, FAO, UNEP) had their capacities strengthened to implement the activities in the Gender Action Plan.



→ In 2024, through the Community of Practice and learning on equity and equality, 37 technicians **70%** women and 30% men) trained to use gender equality tools in their work.

→ **12** of the knowledge management products produced under the project incorporate a gender perspective and promote the active participation of women in project decision-making spaces.

→ Monitoring mechanism for the implementation of **Law 5446/15** (Rural Women's Policy) through the establishment of the National Network of Rural Women as a platform to strengthen political advocacy and collaboration among organizations and support national efforts relating to rural women.

Gender action #3

Designing an Environmental Services Regime for Indigenous community lands that values and integrates Indigenous women's contribution into the protection, restoration and sustainable use of natural resources



Access to finance

The project is ensuring integration of Indigenous women perspectives and knowledge into the design of financial conservation incentives for Indigenous community lands.

One of the strategic measures of the National Forest Strategy for Sustainable Growth aims to enhance the value of environmental services provided by forests within the country through an Environmental Services Regime (Law 3001/06) on the Valuation and Compensation of Environmental Services. This Environmental Services Regime offers financial incentives for conservation under a voluntary market. **As such, one of the objectives of the Paraguay + Verde project is to support the incorporation of a gender perspective into the National Environmental Services Regime, particularly as it relates to Indigenous community lands.** Within this context, beginning in 2023, a training with Indigenous leaders on 'Environmental Services for Indigenous Communities' was undertaken to strengthen their knowledge on the requirements and mechanisms surrounding the country's Environmental Services Regime. Among a range of issues discussed, gender related topics were also covered, such as the need of male leaders show their support for greater participation of women in leadership and decision-making spaces around the environmental services regime.

In 2024, the project then organized 18 workshops on Free Prior and Informed Consent with 13 communities. To ensure that both women and men equitably and actively participated in the workshops, the technical team integrated a range of gender-responsive measures. For example, cultural elements that supported women's increased participation were utilized, wherein female translators were used to help support the understanding of the topics discussed and the identification of women's interests and needs regarding forests and natural resources. Additionally, before reaching the Indigenous communities, the institutional technical team of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and FAO received training and technical guidance on how to incorporate a gender perspective into the meetings. This preparatory work included identifying gender quantitative and qualitative indicators as well as activities they could undertake to promote women's active and equitable involvement to ensure that women's voices were taken into account. Furthermore, childcare spaces (including play and learning areas) were provided so that mothers could effectively participate in the workshops. These efforts paid off. **The project's Gender and Safeguards specialists observed high levels of participation by men and women, elders and youth in the workshops.** It was reported that both women and men from the Indigenous communities participated actively and enthusiastically

throughout the process and in the workshops.

Women's access to resources from payment for ecosystem services is critical to reducing gender gaps and fostering equitable development. By incorporating a gender perspective into the discussions regarding the Ecosystem Services Regime, the project is helping to ensure that financial resources allocated for the protection and sustainable use of natural resources equitably benefit women and other marginalized groups. These measures not only promote inclusive economic participation but also empower women as key contributors to environmental conservation.

Results and impacts to date



Women's environmental stewardship, forest management/conservation



Time savings and care responsibilities

By including Indigenous women equitably and actively in decision-making processes regarding their forests and territories, the project is helping to ensure their priorities are included in financial incentives associated with the country's Environmental Services Regime. As of the end of 2024, key achievements in this regard include the following:

→ In 2023, a 'Training on Environmental Services for Indigenous Communities' strengthened Indigenous Peoples' knowledge of the requirements and mechanisms of the Environmental Services Regime, attracting 59 participants

56% women.

→ 12 Indigenous communities granted their Free Prior and Informed Consent to join the Environmental Services Regime. With the participation of 1,905 Indigenous persons

42% women and 58% men, at the 18 workshops on Free Prior and Informed Consent, women's equitable participation was achieved. Moreover, women were observed to be participating effectively in decision-making and in some cases leading the consultation process.

→ Indigenous women expressed their satisfaction with the initiative and valued the space for care, learning, and leisure created for their children, which allowed them to participate freely to the Free Prior and Informed Consent workshops. In total, childcare and learning spaces were provided for

556 children.

→ Guiding Principles for the

Free Prior & Informed Consent

process developed that ensure the full representation of Indigenous rights and perspectives from both women and men.

Key resources

GCF. 2019. [Gender assessment for FP121: REDD+ Results-based payments in Paraguay for period 2015–2017.](#)

GCF. 2019. [Gender action plan for FP121: REDD+ Results-based payments in Paraguay for period 2015–2017.](#)

GCF. 2023. [2022 Annual Performance Report for FP121: REDD+ Results-based payments in Paraguay for the period 2015–2017.](#)

GCF. 2024. [2023 Annual Performance Report for FP121: REDD+ Results-based payments in Paraguay for the period 2015–2017.](#)



Annex 2: Gender actions and results categorization methodology

Listed below are two tables. The first table (Table 1) contains a list of gender action categories and corresponding gender activities, which were used to classify and systematize the gender actions across common themes discussed within the country case studies presented in Annex 1 above. Similarly, Table 2 below contains a list of gender result categories and corresponding gender activities, which were used to classify and systematize the gender results across common themes discussed within the country case studies.

These tables can assist future projects as guidelines of potential gender activities that can be incorporated into a project to achieve specific gender actions and results.

Table A.

Gender action and corresponding examples of gender activities

Gender action category	Examples of activities (not exhaustive)
 Collection of gender-disaggregated data and development of a gender baseline	The project/country developed a methodology, procedure, etc., to collect gender-disaggregated and other gender-related data (e.g. Standard Operation Procedure for collecting gender-disaggregated data in a PES programme, SIS, etc.)
	The project/country carried out a gender analysis
	The project/country collected information and developed gender baselines to monitor its impacts
 Integration of gender expertise	The project hired a gender specialist for the lifespan of the project and/or the country hired/designated a specialist to support REDD+ actions
	The project/country consistently utilized and consulted with applicable United Nations gender staff on the project
	Project/country consulted with women's and gender-focused groups/networks to help guide implementation and engage with Indigenous Peoples and local communities effectively
	The National Women's Mechanism identified as a key partner in project design and/or country REDD+ action and implementation
 Use of gender-responsive communication	The project developed communication products that use gender-sensitive language and images.
	The project used messages that represent both men and women as important actors in conservation and ensure that they do not reaffirm gender inequalities (roles, stereotypes, cultural practices) in any communication strategy or product.
	The project designed a gender-sensitive system to disseminate information that involved women on equal terms with men

 Integration of gender-responsive monitoring and reporting	The project/country collected sex-disaggregated data for activities involving or impacting people
	The project/country action integrated gender indicators, targets and/or criteria within its monitoring framework
	Project/country action reported on impacts related to gender equality or women's empowerment
 Promotion of equitable and effective participation of women	Project/country action reported results and impacts disaggregated by gender
	The project/country carried out activities to guarantee participation of women's and youth groups, CSOs, etc., in its design, implementation, monitoring and reporting) (e.g. through consultations, dialogue spaces, focus groups, etc.),
	Project's stakeholder analysis identified gender-related stakeholder groups, such as women's and youth groups/CSOs, women's ministries, forums and/or departments, etc.
	Project's stakeholder engagement strategy included gender-related stakeholder groups, such as women's and youth groups/CSOs, women's ministries, forums and/or departments, etc.
 Promotion of women's equitable involvement and leadership in decision-making	The project carried out activities to address the barriers that prevent women from fully and effectively participating (e.g. location, timing, childcare, funding format, undertaking any necessary capacity-building, etc.)
	The project took account women's mobility, workload, schedules and cultural restrictions, especially when planning meetings, interviews, consultations and workshops.
	The project identified potential conflicts, for example, between the enforcement of women's rights and other rights, and the interests of women or other groups that could marginalize women and possibly result in their exclusion from decision-making spaces.
	The project took proactive steps to increase women's participation in leadership and decision-making spaces (e.g. quotas, mentorship programmes, capacity-building, sensitization, including with men and community leaders, etc.)
	The project trained women in leadership skills and decision-making processes
 Inclusion of comprehensive gender capacity-building efforts with project stakeholders and staff	The project promoted the associativity of women through forums, exchange sessions, etc.
	The project used participatory methodologies to improve relations between women and men, particularly with respect to the division of labour, full and effective participation, consultation, sharing information, benefit sharing, access to and control of resources and decision making in communities and government institutions.
	The project created a secure and democratic voting process for project decisions to ensure that women's perspectives and voices have the same value as those of men. The process should be adapted from traditional structures.
	The project carried out activities to strengthen institutional/internal capacities on gender equality and forests
	The project developed capacity-building methodology and manuals that use various techniques and which can be tailored to the needs of different actors, including women (even those with informal education)
	Conduct meetings and workshops to highlight the importance of including the gender dimension in the REDD+ project



Promotion of women's equitable and active inclusion in the project's training and capacity-building efforts

The project provided resources for women to participate in exchanges to meet and visit other women.

The project incorporated special measures in the capacity-building sessions that take into account the roles of women in the care economy.

The project recognized women's knowledge and skills with respect to project activities to identify gaps, strengths and needs.

Organize targeted sessions for women only in situations where gender inequalities or discrimination prevent women from fully and effectively engaging in meetings and workshops; ensure the information covered is the same.



Improvement in women's access to finance opportunities

The project designed finance schemes/incentives that included gender criteria to address prevalent gender inequalities that limit women's access to finance opportunities.

The project promoted gender-responsive finance schemes.

Setting a prioritization criterion to target women entrepreneurs/groups, etc., in finance opportunities.



Promotion of gender equitable project benefit-sharing arrangements

The project addressed inequalities that affect women's access to, and control of the resources or benefits associated with the project.

The project offered different types of benefits (for example, cash, non-monetary, services) that women will be able to access and which they will be able to control.

In cases of joint ownership, any monetary benefits were deposited into women's account.

The project established an external mediation plan for situations where women's needs and preferences are excluded or dominated.



Integration of measures to address risks of GBV/SEAH

Raising awareness of risks of GBV/SEAH

Creating mechanisms for victims of GBV/SEAH to safely and anonymously report cases and seek help

The project identified women environmental defenders and implemented actions to protect them

Developing mechanisms developed to punish perpetrators of GBV/SEAH

Table B.

Gender results categories and corresponding examples of gender impacts





Photo: UN Women



Annex 3:

Timeline and summary listing of gender and REDD+ research and guidance

2009

Publications



GGCA, WOCAN & IUCN.

[Engendering REDD Workshop](#)

This workshop report discusses how the systematic incorporation of a gender perspective will ensure that the implementation of REDD+ is more effective, efficient, permanent, and sustainable, and reduces risks.



Gurung, J. and Quesada A.

[Gender-differentiated Impacts of REDD to be Addressed in REDD Social Standards.](#) (See Section 6.1.4)

This paper outlines the principles for gender equality and effectiveness in REDD+ processes and agreements, related to access to forest resources, land tenure, and equitable governance.

2011



UN-REDD Programme.

[The Business Case for Mainstreaming Gender in REDD+](#)

The paper aims to demonstrate and illustrate how integrating gender equality principles into REDD+ will result in improved sustainability of climate and development outcomes.



Gurung, J., Giri, K., Setyowati, A., & Lebow, E.

[Getting REDD+ Right for Women: An Analysis of the Barriers and Opportunities for Women's Participation in the REDD+ Sector in Asia](#)

The report identifies good practices, lessons learned and key entry points for increasing women's participation in and benefit from REDD+ activities.



den Besten, J.W.

[Women in REDD in IUCN Arborevitae Issue 43](#)

The article explores how a gender-sensitive approach for REDD starts with an increased understanding of the unique role that women play in the management of forest resources.



Aguilar, L., Quesada-Aguilar, A. and Shaw, D.M.P. (eds)

[Forests and Gender.](#) IUCN and WEDO.

The publication compiles articles that highlight the issues facing gender and forests and consider how gender is being addressed both on the ground and in policy discussions on climate change and REDD.

2012



Nhantumbo, I. and Chiwona-Karlton, L.

[His REDD+, her REDD+: how integrating gender can improve readiness](#)

The research focused on the participation of women in REDD+ processes at national and local level and summarizes different genders roles in value chains for products that use or conserve forest resources



Setyowati, A.

[How bringing gender perspectives into REDD+ policies could enhance effectiveness and empowerment](#), Policy Brief, WOCAN

The paper examines how incorporating gender perspectives into Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) policies can improve their effectiveness and promote empowerment.



Setyowati, A.

[Ensuring that women benefit from REDD+](#), Unasylva 239, Vol. 63

The paper argues that women should be among the beneficiaries of forest-related sustainable development initiatives. The REDD+ mechanism poses several potential risks for women, which, if not considered as a matter of urgency, could underline or broaden gender disparity.

2013



WEDO & REDD+ SES.

[From research to action, leaf by leaf: Getting gender right in REDD+ SES. Booklet 1 and 2](#)

This publication presents best practices and lessons learned on how to address gender considerations in REDD+ safeguards and standards and provides an accessible checklist tool to guide countries to develop gender responsive REDD+ national program.



WOCAN, UN-REDD Programme, & USAID-funded Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests (LEAF) Project.

[Scoping study of good practices for strengthening women's inclusion in forest and other natural resource management structures](#)

The report examines the diversity of good practices within the forest and other land-use sectors on women's inclusion and aims to stimulate reflection on the reasons behind the persistence of women's exclusion from the forest sector.



UN-REDD Programme.

[Guidance note on gender sensitive REDD+](#).

The note is a guide to promote gender sensitive REDD+ processes and support UN-REDD Programme partner countries and stakeholders in the preparation, development and implementation of gender sensitive national REDD+ strategies.



RECOFTC.

[Gender in REDD+: A Handbook for Grassroots Facilitators](#)

The main objective of the handbook is to support local trainers and facilitators who are already familiar with climate change and REDD+. It provides useful information on gender considerations for climate change and REDD+ related training and capacity development programs.

2014



International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) & USAID.

[Summary report: Technical workshop on gender and REDD+ learning Exchange](#)

The workshop report summarizes lessons learned, challenges, gaps and needs among the different countries in which gender and REDD+ initiatives have been developed.



TEBTEBBA Foundation.

[Indigenous Women, Climate Change and Forests](#)

This book contains the results of two research projects about the impacts of climate change on indigenous women and the role of indigenous women in traditional forest ecosystem and resource management.

2015



Eggerts, E.

[The Path through the woods: Gender-responsive REDD+ policy and action. In Roots for the future: The landscape and way forward on gender and climate change](#)

The chapter highlights various entry points for gender-responsive action within key REDD+ thematic areas that can be undertaken to help promote a more effective, sustainable, and equitable REDD+.



Larson, A. M. et al.

[The role of women in early REDD+ implementation: Lessons for future engagement'](#), International Forestry Review 17, no. 1

The paper argues that "participation", is only a partial solution to addressing women's strategic needs in ways that could strengthen their position in REDD+ and that gender-responsive analyses are needed to understand real and perceived gender differences and anticipate risks.



CIEL.

[Using International Law to Advance Women's Tenure Rights in REDD+](#)

This paper makes a case for advancing women's tenure rights and how international law can be used to promote those rights in the context of REDD+.

2016



GGCA & UNDP.

[Gender and REDD+ Policy Brief and Gender and REDD+ Training Module](#)

The brief explores how REDD+ readiness and implementation benefits from equitable inclusion of both women and men and highlights that REDD+ should go beyond a gender-sensitive approach (e.g., 'do no harm'), to instead achieve a gender-responsive approach of 'doing better'.

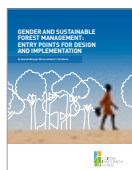


UN-REDD Programme.

[UN-REDD Methodological Brief on Gender](#)

This brief defines the approach of the UN-REDD Programme (UNREDD) on gender equality and women's empowerment and provides guidance and entry points on how the 'Gender Approach' can be effectively operationalized and monitored.

2017



CIF.

[Gender and Sustainable Forest Management: Entry Points for Design and Implementation](#)

This note focuses on women's livelihoods and employment in the forest sector, highlighting key issues of access to and ownership of forest resources and land, and practical guidelines, including a checklist and indicators, to mainstream gender in the sustainable forest management project cycle.



Larson, A. M. et al.

[Gender lessons for climate initiatives: A comparative study of REDD+ impacts on subjective wellbeing.](#)

World Development Volume 108

The paper argues that REDD+ initiatives appear to be repeating past mistakes, with insufficient attention to gender equality and safeguarding women's rights. More effort needs to be paid to ensuring that gender is an integral part of future initiatives to combat climate change in rural communities.

2018



IUCN.

[Planting the right seeds: An analysis of gender considerations in REDD+ readiness documents under the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility \(FCPF\).](#)

This assessment identifies the degree to which gender considerations have been addressed in FCPF REDD+ readiness documents. Findings offer insights into the ways in which national governments and the FCPF itself are recognising gender considerations in the context of their REDD+.

2019

2021



UN-REDD Programme.

[Gender And REDD+: Promoting Transformational Change and Innovation In REDD+ Action](#)

This info brief provides a comprehensive overview of the UN-REDD Programme's work towards mainstreaming gender equity. Gender equality and women's empowerment continue to influence, shape and drive collective climate and human development efforts across the globe, including in REDD+ action



World Bank.

[Gender Equity in Land and Forest Tenure in REDD+ Programming: Synthesis Report.](#)

The purpose of this study was to understand the legal and policy constraints and opportunities affecting women's land and forest tenure in each of the 17 FCPF countries.



Thuy, P. T. et al.

[Mainstreaming gender in REDD+ policies and projects in 17 countries.](#)

Journal of Environmental Policy & Planning, 23(6), 701–715.

This paper analyses the policies and progress of gender mainstreaming in REDD+ processes in 17 countries between 2008 and 2019. Findings show that there is increasing political commitment and numerous policies in place that emphasize the need for gender equity in REDD+.

2022



UNDP.

[The End of Business as Usual: Mainstreaming Gender in Jurisdictional REDD+ Approaches](#)

This report reviews 35 initiatives funded under the Governors' Climate & Forests Task Force (GCFTF), to gather gender-based lessons learned and best practices to share across the GCFTF network and to inform jurisdictional approaches to low-emissions development.

2024



UNDP.

[Gender Front & Centre: Best Practices from the Governors' Climate & Forests Task Force.](#)

This report highlights the gender outcomes from Phase Two (2021–2023) of the technical assistance provided to the GCFTF by UNDP. This phase aimed to design and implement climate, forest and land-use policies and actions ensuring equitable involvement and benefits for rural women, men and forest-dependent communities.



UN-REDD

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