

# Dialogue on Exclusion and Inclusion of Women in the Forest Sector





In partnership with The Forest Dialogue (TFD) , WOCAN organised the Scoping Dialogue on the Exclusion and Inclusion of Women in the Forestry Sector in Kathmandu, Nepal on September 22-24, 2012.

See more at: <http://www.wocan.org/news/scoping-dialogue-exclusion-and-inclusion-women-forestry-sector#sthash.RqMfMY0v.dpuf>

## Purpose:

1. Create a better understanding of perceived advantages of and constraints to including women in natural resource management;
2. Make recommendations on how to include women at all levels in ways that can benefit forest-dependent communities and climate change interventions
3. Identify areas of agreement as well as disagreement and further develop recommendations that address specific stakeholder questions around gender and forestry.



33 participants from 13 countries representing:  
Indigenous Peoples, local communities, forest-based industries, investors, development assistance agencies, forestry departments of national governments, intergovernmental organizations, women's groups, researchers and nongovernmental organizations.

11 were men and 22 were women.

A key achievements of this Dialogue : the first time in 10 years of TFD dialogues that had a majority of women participants.

# Field trip

- Visited the Watershed Level REDD+ Forest Carbon Trust Fund (FCTF) project to understand key challenges and opportunities on the ground for women's inclusion in the forest sector.
- Met with local authorities and local Community Forest User Groups (CFUG), including one group of only female members.
- Based on observations from the field, participants further explored the main causes of the exclusion of women in the forest sector and identified possible interventions.

## Summary: Reasons for Exclusion of Women in the Forest Sector

- Women's exclusion is primarily a result of social-cultural factors.
- Forestry is still very much associated with timber and men.
- Women's uses of forests are deemed insignificant and passive.

- Forestry institutions lack awareness of gender issues
- There is a lack of champions for women's rights.
- Women's rights are not directly linked with property rights or customary rights.



# Actions toward Inclusion of Women in the Forest Sector



- Invest in education and leadership training for women at all levels.
- Build the “business case” for women’s inclusion.
- Combine women-only and mixed group approaches.



## Other actions

- Create more networking opportunities for women to share experiences, learn from and support each other;
- Governments, international organizations should create guidelines and requirements to support women's inclusion
- Women's inclusion should be part of forest certification schemes as well as other standards;
- Closer monitoring of funding expenditures is needed to ensure that resources intended for women and women's groups reach their targets.

# Next Steps

- Communicate the Dialogue outcomes within their networks
- Map successful cases of women's inclusion
- raise awareness of women's exclusion
- support capacity building, developing standards for women's inclusion within carbon projects
- strengthen support for gender actions within donor organizational mandates
- promote inclusion of women and gender issues in the national frameworks of REDD+.



TFD models desited behavior by committing itself to mandate of at least 40% women on its Steering Committee and at all Dialogues.



Thank you.  
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