



Dialogue on Women's Inclusion in Landscape Management in Asia

7 to 9 October 2014, Chiang Mai,
Thailand

Summary Report





Acknowledgments

The Regional Dialogue on Women's Inclusion in Landscape Management, held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, builds on the previous Scoping Dialogue on Inclusion and Exclusion of Women in the Forest Sector in Nepal and the 4F initiative of The Forests Dialogue. However, it is the first event in Asia to bring together the topic of landscape management and women's inclusion.

This event would not have been possible without the support of the Stockholm Environment Institute, through the Regional Asia Environment Conference Support Programme funded by the Government of Sweden.

Special thanks to WOCAN staff for preparing the background materials and organizing the Regional Dialogue, and to The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC) for organizing and facilitating the field trip at Thung Yao village. We would also like to express our appreciation to the women and men of the community who shared their passion and experience concerning the forests with the participants.

We are grateful to the Regional Dialogue co-chairs Gary Dunning (The Forests Dialogue), Vanessa Linforth (Forest Stewardship Council) and Jeannette Gurung (WOCAN) for facilitating the exchanges during the event.

This summary report prepared by WOCAN draws on, and tries to do justice to the inputs of the 40 participants in the Regional Dialogue. We would like to thank all the participants for their contributions.

1. Introduction

Currently, Asia is facing acute pressure on its land resources from soil degradation, deforestation and competing interests for its use. Over the next 30 to 40 years, food, fibre and biofuel production, as well as growing urban spaces, will compete even more intensively for limited land and water resources. Economic and demographic forces have already led to a growing number of land disputes and conflicts around property rights within communities, and between communities and public and private stakeholders. In this context, it is crucial for all key stakeholders to engage urgently in a dialogue on sustainable forestry and farming practices and land-use approaches.

While there is plenty of evidence on women's central role in the management of forests and agricultural lands, conservation of biodiversity and food production, women remain excluded from current land-use and landscape management related debates. Also, their knowledge and contributions are often ignored in support programmes, benefit sharing and certification schemes. They face many challenges, including few rights over land, unequal access to inputs, lack of assets and capacity building opportunities, and exclusion from high-level managerial and decision-making positions.

Meanwhile, companies are increasingly interested in supporting rural women's empowerment, and increasing their access to capital, knowledge and markets as part of their corporate social responsibility and sustainability strategies. It is in the interest of private companies to enhance men and women smallholders' productivity; some are willing to provide the necessary technical and financial assistance.

Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN) in partnership with The Center for

People and Forests (RECOFTC) and The Forests Dialogue, and with the support of the Stockholm Environment Institute, organized a Regional Dialogue on Women's Inclusion in Landscape Management in Asia.

The objectives of the Regional Dialogue included:

1. Develop understanding of the current state of women's exclusion/inclusion in landscape management, and identify the challenges for designing and implementing mechanisms in Asia and internationally;
2. Build a "community of practice" to share experiences and practical approaches and actions that support women's inclusion in Asia and internationally;
3. Promote women's inclusion and gender equality in the debate around the future role and value of forests in relation to food, fuel and fibre and contribute to regional approaches of The Forests Dialogue in Asia and internationally.

The Regional Dialogue brought together 40 participants from ten countries (eight from Asia), representing indigenous peoples, local communities, producer organizations, development assistance agencies, forestry departments of national governments, certification bodies, researchers and non-governmental organizations (see the full participant list in Annex 3). Among the 40 participants, 33 were women.

The first day of the Dialogue took place in Thung Yao village. Participants visited the forest area, meeting with men and women representatives of the community-forestry group and discussing relevant issues with the leader of a women's group at an organic

family-based farm. The field trip allowed participants to better understand the different roles and responsibilities of men and women in forest use, management and farming. They also learned about the process of women's empowerment in a community where women are actively engaged in

managing the forest as members of the executive committee (see more reflections on the field trip in Annex 2).

Key observations and main points from the following two days of the Regional Dialogue are summarized in this report.



Jeannette Gurung, WOCAN, co-chair



Bhawana Upadhyay, RECOFTC, co-organizer



Gary Dunning, TFD, co-chair



Daryll Delgado, Verite, speaker



Vanessa Linforth, FSC, co-chair



Akihito Kono, UN-REDD, speaker

2. Challenges for Designing and Implementing Landscape Initiatives that Include and Benefit Women

Participants identified the following challenges for designing and implementing landscape initiatives that include and benefit women:

- **Promotion of a “landscape approach” is hindered by the lack of a common understanding and organizations working in sectoral silos**

While the concept of “landscape” is not new in itself, the modalities of applying a “landscape approach” that bridges agriculture, forestry, livestock and water sectors -- in the context of synergies, trade-offs and combined solutions -- remains a work in progress. Different meanings may be attached to the concept of “landscape” beyond sectoral specificities, including multiple levels of stakeholders and interests. These involve urban as well as rural people, from local to global levels, which links and recognizes the significance of local actions to global issues (e.g., climate change, consumerism and global supply chains). The lack of a common understanding and the existence of other approaches (e.g., eco-system approach) call for clarification and the need to elaborate an analytical framework that could assist organizations, agencies and governments in applying a landscape approach when designing and implementing related policies and projects.

How to link this landscape framework to women’s empowerment strategies, and/or a human rights framework is an additional challenge.

Interventions are too often segmented, and do not facilitate holistic approaches, such as that of landscape management. There is a lack of coordination, space and appropriate mechanisms to design and implement common programmes.

This is a challenge, as the landscape approach requires interdisciplinary work, bringing together different technical expertise and people from the public and private arenas that are not used to working together; do not use the same frame of reference; and have different interests/priorities. Bridging local communities and experts’ knowledge will also be beneficial to develop tailored solutions, adapted to local realities. However, local knowledge is rarely taken into account in national and international debates.



- **The “landscape” debate is perceived as too technical especially for/by women**

Understanding who is leading the “landscape” debates and how the perspectives of women will be included is very important. Professional women tend to not be engaged in these debates at national and global levels. At the community level, they are also underrepresented in decision-making processes about land-use and natural resource management. They are not considered knowledgeable on the topic (by men and sometimes women themselves), even though they are the primary users and managers of rural “landscapes” (e.g., forests and agricultural land). Therefore, generally men will be sent to national and global meetings. Also, women tend to perceive this topic as too technical and complex, and thus exclude

themselves. There is a gap between professionals working on women's rights and gender equality and those working on landscape related sectors.



■ **Negotiations and decisions between governments and large companies over the use of land do not fully engage communities -- much less to women**

Discussions and decisions about land-use, including negotiations between governments and large companies, are going on without much space (and voice) given to local communities in general -- and much less to women. Strong legal frameworks and binding treaties to protect communities from land grabs or acquisitions without their consent are still lacking or not well implemented. It is, however, crucial to engage with large companies to raise their awareness and build the case that engaging communities will benefit them, such as the reduction of conflict risks and increased sustainability.

■ **Existing customary norms and cultural factors do not give women much opportunity to increase their voice in decision-making**

Traditionally, women and men play different roles in the management of natural resources. As witnessed during the field trip, women manage and make decisions about non-timber forest products while men often focus their attention on trees and timber. The situations are very diverse across Asia. Women do not always feel confident talking in meetings, nor are they given the opportunity to speak for themselves; in certain settings, they may not even be allowed to speak. However,

there are some common characteristics of women across the region. Women may participate in decisions about land-use at the community level, but they are hardly ever given the opportunity to take leadership positions (due to lack of confidence, lack of support from men, workload and time constraints, etc.). They are also less likely than men to participate in higher-level national and global debates.

It is important to understand the politics of scale (women's agency at local, national and global levels), the barriers to women's increased participation in higher levels of political and economic decision-making and how to remove those barriers. Building women's leadership and appropriate representation mechanisms is crucial to enable them to engage at different levels. There is also the need to pay attention to customary norms and how they may evolve, as well as how economic empowerment may affect women's exposure to violence at home or in the community.



■ **Women still do not have equal access to property rights and financial resources, which limits their opportunities**

Only 10 per cent of women in Asia (7 per cent in South Asia¹) are landowners. Even in countries where the law grants women the right to own land, in practice women are not always aware of those rights, or customary laws prevail and continue to favour men. Without land ownership rights, women are much more vulnerable to have their land taken away. Also, they cannot use land as an asset to access loans, nor are they consulted when land-use decisions are made.

Women and their organizations do not receive much funding. They lack access to financial

¹ IFAD. 2013. Gender and Rural Development Brief: South Asia

schemes in part because they do not know about them, do not have the capacity to respond (e.g., writing proposals) or cannot exert strong influence on the process. Governments do not allocate specific budget lines to support women's organizations. In addition, projects conducted with women-based organizations are often small scaled and not sustained over enough time to build autonomous capacity.



■ **There is a lack of awareness and capacity (and disposition?) within agricultural and forest sector organizations to include women's issues in agriculture, forestry and landscape initiatives**

Project managers, and agricultural and forestry experts may acknowledge the fact that they do not know how to include gender in their projects, strategies and investments plans. But often, they do not consider women's inclusion and gender equality a priority issue and thus, grant such issues little attention and resources. There is resistance to see attending to gender as a transformational solution instead of a safeguard. Nevertheless, a few male "champions" are striving to change this situation.

Collecting gender-disaggregated data on roles and responsibilities is not enough. It is important to build the capacity/understanding of how to use this data to ensure women's issues are taken into account in project design and implementation (e.g. taking into account women's constraints when organizing meetings and trainings, including distance from home, safety when travelling, transportation, workload, childcare, etc.).

In certain cases, projects may reinforce traditional gender roles and stereotypes when deciding on which activities are targeting men and women. This will limit the range of opportunities women could seize. The use of a "do no harm approach", which is gender neutral, holds the risk of not responding to gender-specific needs and not taking into account women in situations of exclusion. Particular attention needs to be given to the choice of tools and methods used when approaching communities, to ensure that women's perspectives and priorities are consciously included.

Additional comments from participants included the need to connect the landscape approach with consumption and production trends, questions around the triggers for changes in attitudes and practices to be more "women inclusive" (e.g., courage, strategic alliances, etc.), and the importance of accountability mechanisms ("good will is not enough").



3. Ways Forward in Designing and Implementing Women-Inclusive Initiatives in Asia

Participants suggested a series of good practices that could lead to the increased inclusion of women. Based on this list, the six clusters were identified, as follows:

- Capacity Building
- Communication
- Policy
- Research
- Standards
- Platform/Partnership

To facilitate exchanges, six tables were set up, one for each cluster, and

manned by a participant of an organization that is actively working on related activities at the regional level. Participants were able to visit up to four clusters to discuss ideas and propose concrete actions that could be implemented within their organization or in partnership with others. The tables in the following pages summarize the key points proposed in each cluster. They show the interest and willingness of participants to continue the learning and engage in a more formal collaborative process to promote women's inclusion in landscape management in Asia.

4. Next Steps

As a follow-up to this Regional Dialogue, WOCAN will contact participants in three months to learn if and how they were able (or not) to move forward with actions suggested during the meeting. WOCAN will also investigate whether any issues subsequently arose.

Key messages from the Regional Dialogue will be shared at upcoming events, including the meeting of TFD's Steering Committee, COP 20 in Peru and the Asia Pacific Civil Society Forum on Beijing +20 in Bangkok, as well as through an infographic prepared by WOCAN and RECOFTC for a wide audience.



CAPACITY BUILDING

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS SUGGESTED	(INTERESTED) PARTNERS	NEXT STEPS SUGGESTED
Build institutional level capacity - enhance the capacity of government, project staff and partners to integrate gender issues	Conduct gender integrated planning training for project staff and partners (applied to gender/food security; gender/forestry, gender/NRM, etc.)	GIZ Bangkok, WWF Malaysia, Food Security Working Group Myanmar, Gender & Environment Group Myanmar, OXFAM (to receive)	Consultation of interested organizations with RECOFTC and WOCAN
	Integrate gender issues in existing land tenure/land use management trainings	WOCAN/RECOFTC (to offer)	WWF to invite WOCAN, RECOFTC and OXFAM to WWF annual community engagement and education workshop
	Develop/conduct gender-sensitive training on linkages to markets for NGOs partners and women at community level		
Build capacity of the private sector to integrate gender issues in their strategies	Conduct private sector analysis and mapping on CSR/issues related to environment and gender	WOCAN RECOFTC (CSR Asia)	
		USAID	
Develop a community of practice on gender and landscape management	Develop training on gender and landscape management	AIPP WOCAN RECOFTC OXFAM	Opportunities to exchange: OXFAM Jan. 2015 - community of practice on women economic leadership regional learning journey in Asia (How do you demonstrate women's economic empowerment in your livelihood programmes?)
	Organize a ToT on gender and landscape management		Link to the "platform cluster"
Increase awareness and capacity of small farmers about organic farming	Organize training on organic farming and field schools (organic farming, gender equity, forestry and agricultural practices)	Field school at Ban Thung Yao; ALRO; seedling network and youth groups	Planning with Ban Thung Yao community and seedling network (RECOFTC)

COMMUNICATION

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS SUGGESTED	(INTERESTED) PARTNERS	NEXT STEPS SUGGESTED
Improve understanding and increase awareness about women and landscape issues and challenges (targeting different audiences to change awareness levels)	Communicate with colleagues about the benefits of women's inclusion		
	Organize events (campaigns, dialogues, forums, debates) about women and landscape management at community and national levels	Dept. of Land Management (Cambodia)	Dept. of Land Management (Cambodia) to create a committee to discuss women's inclusion
	Identify planned events and include this issue into the agenda		
	Identify male champions at decision-making level		
	Develop shared key messages (that can be contextualized) to promote women's inclusion in landscape management	WOCAN and RECOFTC (infographic)	WOCAN and RECOFTC to draft text (print) and disseminate infographic at COP20 and through networks
	Develop and produce infographic to call for action to include women in landscape management	Myanmar Gender & Environment Network (GEN), Jogo (NGO) and local communities	Desk review of the existing research (Myanmar GEN)
Communicate research results that show the benefits of including women and communities in landscape management Audiences: conservation/practitioners; donor groups	Share evidence/data on benefits of including women to convince policy and local level decision-makers		
	Include communication strategies into research and project planning (specific budget line for communication; or percentage of the budget)		
Raise awareness among NGOs on how to effectively communicate about women and landscape management among local communities	Develop communication tools together with community (in local language)		
	Share innovative community-driven communication	RECOFTC and forestry communicators	RECOFTC to contact Asia-Pacific Network of Forest Communicators
Assess the effectiveness of communication materials and share what's worked or not	Foster active engagement of forestry communicators to share best practices in communication		

POLICY

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS SUGGESTED	(INTERESTED) PARTNERS	NEXT STEPS SUGGESTED
Develop/integrate landscape management perspectives (human landscapes; habitat and species landscapes; developmental landscapes) in appropriate policies and programmes with a gender lens (these need to overlap like GIS layers)	Review/strengthen existing rules and laws related to gender equity and landscape management	Ministry of Women Affairs Land Department (Cambodia)/Agriculture Department/Forestry Department (Cambodia/Indonesia)	Organize consultations in the community Disseminate laws on gender equality at national and regional levels
	Conduct research on existing initiatives/programmes in landscape management and how women are included	ITTO - International Tropical Timber Organization/GIZ (Indonesia)	Advocate governments and donors to allocate budget for women's groups
	Develop a programme to mainstream gender-specific policies at organizational level/government level (WWF, GEN)		Develop guidelines for gender inclusion in landscape management
Include the rights of women when developing new laws/bills (e.g., land-use and environmental laws in Myanmar)	Promote good practices on women's inclusion in landscape management		Create a regional platform on gender and landscape management that will serve as a mechanism for learning, exchanging, forging partnerships (link to "platform cluster")
	Lobby with the government /decision-makers to include women	MUF, ITTO, WWF, TFCA/ADB/Donors	
Enforce laws on gender equity/equality related to land-use (including making the agribusiness industry accountable)	Include gender equality indicators in programmes, and monitor performance (percentage of women in government, parliament, leadership and management of the organization, etc.)	Ministry of Forestry/ Department of Agriculture CSOs/AFA	
	Issuance of land titles to both women and men	Provide incentives of environmental services for women's groups that are implementing biodiversity conservation	

RESEARCH

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS SUGGESTED	(INTERESTED) PARTNERS	NEXT STEPS SUGGESTED
Understand how to address gender inequity within customary institutions of IP	On-going study on women's role and status in customary institutions in North-eastern India (with possible expansion to other parts of Asia)	NE Social Research Center and local POs/Naga Women's Union and member organizations	Publish and discuss findings (NE Social Research Center)
Provide evidence-based advocacy for gender in National Land Use Policy	Conduct comparative research on gendered land systems (tenure; customary laws; land use and economic output; inheritance and marriage patterns in different ethnic/eco zones in Myanmar with participatory methodologies	Gender Equality Network in Myanmar	Determine scope of research/design/funding/leaders (gender and environmental groups and other advisors/experts/practitioners); design survey and questionnaire; determine study sites; train enumerators; carry out study; and discuss report format and advocacy tactics
Assess to which extend the Beijing Declaration on Women's Rights is embedded in policies/mechanisms and exercised by women taking landscape management approach	Review legal and regulatory mechanisms; assess level of success of implementation; determine gaps/solutions	Verite; Research institutes in SEA working on specific sectors	Use results and findings to lobby policy reform; revise/expand voluntary certification standards; and develop capacity building around gaps
Regional research to feed into "women inclusive and gender equality landscape management framework"	Conduct: 1) Participatory action research on barriers/opportunities/ best practices for women's' inclusion and leadership in landscape management (across different sectors, indigenous peoples, agriculture, forest) in Asia/South-east Asia; 2) Comparative studies on benefits of women's inclusion in landscape management in South and South-east Asian regions	Oxfam, SRD, WOCAN EFI, WWF	Set up a mailing list of those who are interested in getting updates regarding progress of works on customary laws, landscape management
Develop a women-inclusive landscape management framework (1- framework building: framing landscape perspectives, framing women's empowerment and leadership; 2- effective strategies)	1) Formulate a core group to develop TOR/concept note on the process of developing the framework, which will be turned into a proposal for fund-raising in the later stage 2) Map out stakeholders in landscape management approach (mapping of private sector will be potentially funded by USAID) 3) Conduct an action research on landscape management approaches and development of women-inclusive landscape management framework for policy makers and development practitioners	Core group: SEI, OXFAM, GEN, WOCAN Involve communities, CSO/NGO, research institutes to develop the framework	SEI to develop a TOR/concept note for inputs and comments from the core group members

Explore the feasibility of landscape certification	Review and analyse existing standards and certification systems to learn which are most relevant to land-use	WOCAN Results would be shared with reg. platform
Understand economic value of native vegetables and promote native plantations	Community action research to define economic value of their village farms/native plants	Ban Thung Yao, RECOFTC, SEI RECOFTC to lead the process

STANDARDS

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS SUGGESTED	(INTERESTED) PARTNERS	NEXT STEPS SUGGESTED
Understand how the inclusion of gender/women in an appropriate forest management standard addresses women's inclusion in landscape/forest management (Incorporating social responsibility/gender equality for holistic certification and community forest management schemes)	FSC – WOCAN partner to: - integrate gender into FSC, - refer to W+ within FSC standard Case study looking at the impact of including gender equality standards in existing FSC standards	WWF Malaysia Cambodia Dept. of Forestry Indonesia Natural Resource Development Center SRD/VFD Vietnam	Conduct feasibility for joint application of W+ and FSC standards (Indonesia) FSC project planning and budget by Dec. 2014 WWF planning and budget by July 2015
Redistribute money from sales of W+ units back to the women's groups	Collaboration between W+ and ACCU (regional organization for credit union) to establish a redistribution mechanism for women in application of W+		Piloting W+ in landscape management project in Vietnam
Leverage private sector resources to strengthen "business case" for women's empowerment and investing in women as a smart investment	Leverage USAID links to private sector/investors to increase investments in women and use standards (W+, FSC, etc.) Briefing paper: why private sector and governments should invest in women's empowerment	WOCAN, USAID OXFAM	OXFAM to invite WOCAN to CoP on women economic leadership in Asia (Jan. 2015)
Increase awareness and understanding of certification schemes in local/regional events (W+, FSC, etc.)	Share W+ feasibility study on biogas in Indonesia, cook stoves in Laos Cambodia Ministry of Forests to contact FSC Asia-Pacific Regional Office and establish dialogue Improve W+ system based on expertise and experience of others	WOCAN, Indonesia Natural Resource Development Center; W+ and Ministry of Forestry Cambodia Ministry of Forests, FSC, APRO, ALRO Verite, WOCAN	
RSPO and other certification schemes adopt W+	Draft indicators and bring up in P&C review process		

PLATFORM

OBJECTIVE	ACTIONS SUGGESTED	(INTERESTED) PARTNERS	NEXT STEPS SUGGESTED
Develop better understanding of the landscape management approach, including modalities for its practical implementation	Form a landscape consortium	Led by TFD with partners: CIFOR, WOCAN, RECOFTC, IUCN, WBC, (FSC), GIZ Bangkok, WB, WWF, PWC, Yale, (ASEAN Centre for Conservation & Biodiversity)	Identify funding sources
	Create repository of knowledge and methods (e.g., gender and women's inclusion in land use management, women's rights in work places, etc.)		Select key landscape sites
Provide "one-stop-shop" for expertise and knowledge on gender and women's empowerment in a landscape approach	Create experts roster	Regional Joint Initiative, Verite Potential clients: WWF Malaysia, RSPO, ASEAN Centre for Conservation & Biodiversity	Finalize partnerships based on the identified sites (work on challenges and solutions)
	Harmonize understanding on the landscape approach		Capacity building (link to "capacity building cluster") Funding and resource mobilization
Knowledge sharing at regional and provincial/districts levels (including best practices)	Form a multi-stakeholder platform to engage private sector, NGOs and governments	UN-REDD, Regional Joint Initiative, RECOFTC, WOCAN, FSC, USAID Potential clients: WWF Malaysia, ISEAL, private sector, community forests, national governments and NGOs	Organize regional follow-up events
	Share best practices on certification		Increase the number of entities going through certification programmes
	Stock-take actors' roles, interests, etc.		Establish private-public partnerships
	Organize annual meeting to monitor/assess progress		
	Share review/analysis of land-use related standards and certification schemes		

Annex 1: Agenda

Tuesday, 7 October 2014		
08:30	Registration	
09:00	Field trip briefing – WOCAN and RECOFTC	
10:00	Departure from hotel	
11:00	Arrival at Thung Yao Community Village Learning Center	
11:15	Discussion with Community Forestry Group and organic vegetable farmers	
13:30	Lunch at Village Learning Center	
14:30	Discussion with Community Forestry Group and organic vegetable farmers	
15:30	Refreshments at Village Learning Center	
16:00	Farewell and departure for hotel in Chiang Mai	
17:00	Arrival at hotel	
Wednesday, 8 October 2014		
08:30	Welcome and introduction of participants	Bhawana Upadhyay, RECOFTC
09:00	International Context: TFD's 4 Fs Initiative and Exclusion and Inclusion of Women in the Forest Sector Initiative	Gary Dunning and Jeannette Gurung
09:30	Co-Chairs' reflections on field trip	
10:00	Discussion: participants' reflections on field trip	
10:30	Coffee/tea break	
10:45	Women's Exclusion and Inclusion in Landscape Management Background Paper Presentation	Maria Lee, WOCAN
11:10	Presentation: Verite, a global advocate for workers	Daryll Delgado, Verite
11:40	Breakout Group Session 1: Stakeholder Perspectives on Key Challenges in Designing and Implementing Landscape Management Initiatives that Include and Benefit Women	
12:30	Lunch	
13:30	Continuation of Breakout Group Session 1	
14:00	Breakout group reports and plenary discussion: Key Challenges for Designing and Implementing Landscape Initiatives that Include and Benefit Women	
15:00	Break	
15:30	Presentation of Joint Initiative's <i>Gender and REDD Scoping Study</i>	Akihito Kono, UN-REDD
16:00	Video: http://www.recoftc.org/videos/fair-climate-gender-equity-forestry-and-redd Plenary discussion and sharing of good practices in land use management	
17:30	Adjourn	
Thursday, 9 October 2014		
08:30	Co-chair reflections	
09:00	Breakout Group Session 2: Practical Actions to Design and Implement Women-inclusive Initiatives in Asia (Methodology: World Café)	
11:00	Coffee/tea break	
11:30	Continuation of Breakout Group Session 2	
12:30	Lunch	
14:00	Breakout group reports and plenary discussion	
15:30	Closing session	
16:00	Adjourn	

Annex 2: Key Learning from the Field Trip

Presentation of Ban Thung Yao

In 1923, less than a decade after the village was settled in Lamphun Province, the first village chief of Ban Thung Yao declared 9.6 hectares of watershed forest as a protected area to address water shortage issues. Since then, villagers have put their forest at the centre of their community, which has shaped their cultural, economic and environmental development. Today, Ban Thung Yao is recognized as a model community forest within Thailand's Community Forest Network.

As environmental monitors, researchers, decision-makers, conflict mitigators and teachers, the women of Ban Thung Yao have played an indispensable role in managing and protecting the village's natural resources. Female delegates joined Thung Yao's Community Forest Committee in 1997. In 1999, they joined Lamphun's Community Forest Committee, reflecting provincial level participation. Currently, the village community forest committee manages 400 hectares of forestland, with 12 women making up more than one-third of the board.

Reflections from co-chairs and participants

- Observed that women were not always given the opportunity to speak for themselves; however, women seemed confident to speak up in front of the men
- Women's empowerment is borne out of their own experience, and not imposed or taught from the outside
- Men generally seemed very supportive of women's activities; this reflects maturity and confidence, as well as the important message regarding complementarity between men and women
- We expected to hear more about men's absence, due to out-migration factories (reflecting on the need to receive and support ex-factory workers with production land)
- Surprised that the women didn't feel the need to have women-only meetings; perhaps this represents maturity and comfort of women with men, true equality and decision-making confidence
- Collective action makes women stronger. How important are the opportunities are for mutual support and strength cultivation?
- Importance of a platform for women was mentioned as key to resistance 25 years ago – it has been a long established practice and development process
- Perhaps women could resist because men were too close to government (a complementarity issue)?
- Leadership is critical: one woman leader's actions brought tangible changes to the community
- Sustainability: we didn't see any sign of pressures from the population or companies for land (Is this too ideal? How to operate in more suppressive contexts?)
- Benefit of women's engagement in forest protection: women are in the forest more often than men, and know if there are encroachers
- Women seem more risk averse – e.g., during the 1997 crisis, they defended their right to access forests
- We need more information on women's role in decision-making related to forest use
- Girls seem to be connected, and want to maintain stewardship of forest and land
- Gender gap is not a problem in household and community levels, but it comes into play when dealing with outsiders

Annex 3: List of Participants

Name	Organization	Email
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Annex 4: Background Paper and Resources

Changing Landscapes in Asia

In the last few decades, Asia experienced rapid economic growth, but the benefits have been unevenly shared. Growth has also placed an enormous strain on the environment. Currently, Asia is facing acute pressure on its land resources from soil degradation, deforestation and competing interests for its use. The region's growing population, and hence the need to produce more food and other consumer goods, is leading to the increasing conversion of land and forests to agriculture, including the expansion of oil palm plantations and the conversion of mangroves into shrimp farms or rice cultivation areas.

Over the next 30 to 40 years, food, fibre and biofuel production, as well as urban spaces, will compete even more intensively for limited land and water resources (12). While the region as a whole has been able to reverse deforestation (4), issues related to land governance and equitable benefit sharing remain critical to adopt sound landscape management approaches. Furthermore, as Asia is one of the most ecologically and climatically vulnerable regions, it is expected to face high levels of exposure to climate change impacts, including higher temperatures, changing weather patterns, increasing water scarcity and more frequent severe weather events such as storms, floods and landslides.


In this context, it is crucial for all key stakeholders to engage urgently in a dialogue on sustainable forestry and farming practices and land-use approaches. While the interests of communities and small producers and those of agri-business and forest products companies often differ, they all face and need to respond to a series of risks associated with the sustainable use of natural resources and efficient supply chains. Smallholders often do not have adequate access to markets, financial services, knowledge and technology to anticipate and manage those risks. On the other hand, companies need to ensure that they are taking calculated risks to secure their supply chains.

In recent years, economic and demographic forces have led to a growing number of land disputes and conflicts around property rights within communities, as well as between communities and public and private stakeholders. In response to this situation, dispute resolution mechanisms and tools to promote sustainable approaches and preserve customary land rights have emerged, including formal laws, voluntary guidelines, multi-stakeholders' mediation, dialogues and platforms (e.g., Free Prior and Informed Consent principles; Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests; The Forest Dialogue; The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil, etc.) (1,3,6).

While these mechanisms and tools have contributed to improve the understanding of key issues both for communities and companies, and to stimulate more inclusive processes, in practice, results have not reached expectations. Indeed, the effective implementation of these mechanisms to ensure the rights of local communities, equal access for men and women, and win-win relationships with companies is not an easy task. Reducing and avoiding conflicts over land and forests remains a major and shared concern. It requires wide and iterative participation of all key stakeholders and rights holders, as well as transparency and accountability (5) of the relevant parties.

Between Exclusion and Opportunity: Gender Equality, Sustainable Landscapes and Supply Chains

The management of natural resources and property rights in Asia are gendered. While women play an important role in the use and conservation of natural resources, biodiversity and food production, their contribution is still largely invisible. Agriculture employs on average 70 per cent of women in Asia (2). However, they have few rights over land due to the traditional land tenure structures, laws and norms that favour access rights to men. In Asia, only 10.7 per cent of women own land on average (13), and in South Asia, only 7 per cent are farm owners (7). Equitable access and control over land is a precondition for women to access other assets and fully contribute to the rural economy.



Beyond their exclusion from land ownership and due to biases, women also lack access to other inputs and services (e.g., quality seeds, technology, financial and extension services), which are crucial to increase agricultural productivity and engage in economic activities. If women enjoyed the same access to productive resources as men, they could increase yields on their farms by 20 to 30 per cent (2).

Women's voice and influence in the public domain remains low in general. Customary norms on the role of women in households and public life limit their ability to make decisions and seize opportunities. In the case of forestry, there is also a widespread perception that it is a male-dominated sector, most suitable for men. As a result, women are still often excluded within local management systems, and professional and institutional structures. Similarly, at the policy and institutional levels, most agriculture and forest policy decisions still utilize a gender-neutral framework, ignoring the specific needs and contributions of women. However, more efficient decisions about land use planning and natural resource management will not happen unless men's and women's differentiated but complementary knowledge, skills and experience are taken into consideration. Evidence shows that inclusive environments are associated with better organizational outcomes, and that gender-diverse teams at all levels make better decisions (10).

Male migration to cities and overseas have changed the face of rural areas, leading to what is commonly known as the feminization of agriculture. On one hand, this change has increased women's responsibility and burden, and limited the time they could spend on trainings, income generating or community activities. On the other hand, it has brought new attention to the role of women as "guardians of natural resources", producers, traders and entrepreneurs. Women's empowerment is gaining ground as a priority issue not only for governments and development agencies but also for some companies that are making high profile commitments around women's inclusion and economic empowerment, and recognizing the critical roles of women in their supply chains.

Because of their high dependence on agriculture and non-timber forest products, the sustainable use of natural resources is vital for women. Including women in land use and natural resource management interventions can produce improvements for the environment, while their exclusion can negatively impact such interventions. Enabling women to benefit from these interventions can also have positive impacts on poverty reduction. Many studies have shown that when women are provided the means and opportunity to increase their income, their families and communities benefit. Moreover, they help augment the rural economy. For example, a cross-cutting study of developing countries found that, from 1970 to 1995, 55 per cent of the gains against hunger in these countries were due to the improvement of women's situation within society (9).

Companies are increasingly interested in supporting rural women's empowerment, and access to capital, knowledge and markets as part of their corporate social responsibility and sustainability strategies. It is in the interest of private companies to enhance men and women smallholders' productivity; some are willing to provide the necessary technical and financial assistance. Supporting women represents an opportunity to improve the efficiency of supply chains. This is because women can play influential roles as farmers, agricultural workers, cooperative leaders and entrepreneurs. They can also make a difference when they carry less visible but influential positions, such as mid-level managers, field officers and inspectors (8).

Using a gender lens provides an opportunity to rethink landscape management, make responsible investments, and promote more inclusive governance processes and value chains.

Potential Fracture Lines and Opportunities to be Explored

- Competing uses of land: land for food, water, forest products, conservation, and to satisfy supply chains. Who decides? How can win-win solutions be achieved?
- How can communities and companies partner on sustainable management of land and natural resources? How can women be involved in decision-making processes of governments, companies and development organizations?
- How can companies – and other stakeholders -- take women into account in their investment strategies, operations and supply chains? How can women be compensated or otherwise benefit?

Resources

1. CSR ASIA. Multi-stakeholder Initiatives: Small Holders and Inclusive Business Opportunities in Palm Oil. http://www.csr-asia.com/report/RIB_Asia_Palm_oil_report.pdf
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 4. FAO 2014. FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific. Thirty-second Session. Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 10-14 March 2014. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/030/mj301E.pdf>
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 12. The Forests Dialogue. Field Dialogue on Food, Fuel, Fiber and Forests Co-chairs' Summary Report 11-14 November 2012 | Capão Bonito, Brazil. http://theforestdialogue.org/sites/default/files/tfd_4fs_brazil_co-chairssummary_en_lo_res.pdf
 13. UNDP, Regional Dialogue | Asia-Pacific Trails Other Regions in Women's Access to Land. <http://asia-pacific.undp.org/content/rbap/en/home/presscenter/articles/2014/06/11/regional-dialogue-asia-pacific-trails-other-regions-in-women-s-access-to-land/>
- WOCAN, UN REDD, LEAF 2013. Scoping Study of Good Practices for Strengthening Women's Inclusion in Forest and other Natural Resources Management Sectors. <http://www.wocan.org/resources/scoping-study-womens-inclusion-REDD>
- RECOFTC, A Fair Climate: Gender Equity in Forestry & REDD+, video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7wsl_AP4Qs

Annex 5: Results of Evaluation

1. Did the Regional Dialogue help to advance your own thinking on the challenges and opportunities to include women in landscape management initiatives? 100 % YES

2. What was the most significant aspect of the Dialogue that made this a successful experience for you?

The Regional Dialogue provided an opportunity to:

- Listen and learn the different perspectives, issues and knowledge of participants on key challenges and best practices on women's inclusion in landscape management, and discuss how to design women-sensitive land use initiatives.
- Learn about linkages between gender issues and landscape management and how women' inclusion can benefit the economic and social advancement of forest communities
- Network, meet potential partners and develop synergies for collaborative work/projects
- Visit the Ban Thung Yao community, exchange with the community and reflect among participants

3. Field Trip Comments

While participants valued the field visit with the community, there were suggestions for improvement, including:

- Provide more time for interaction and for the community to ask back any questions they may have
- Meeting with women and men separately
- Split participants into smaller groups to facilitate exchanges
- Provide opportunity to talk to non-leaders in a less formal way
- Provide more detailed information about the community and existing issues in advance

4. Dialogue Comments

Participants appreciated the breakout sessions the most, in terms of quality of interaction. General comments on the plenary sessions included:

- Avoid long, continuous presentations, and offer privilege pictures, graphics and time in plenary for questions and dialogue
- The TFD methodology and rationale should be explained to participants before going to the field
- More time is needed to facilitate the understanding of the landscape management concept/approach and how women fit in
- Suggest to present cases of good practices of women's inclusion for a better understanding

Additional comments for future dialogues: include private sector and local government, financial sector, other research institutes; share presentations immediately after the event or before closing; use more participatory methods to encourage interaction; attach a timeline and lead person(s) to the action plan that will be produced as a result of this Dialogue.

5. How useful are the experiences you have gained at this dialogue to your future work?

[10] 1 (very) [07] 2 [09] 3 [0] 4 [0] 5 (not at all)

6. Which publications do you think are important for informing future dialogues on women's inclusion in landscape management?

- Clear framework on landscape management; privilege infographic and video on why women's inclusion in landscape management matters
- Best practices from different countries

7. What specific issues should the continuing COP 20 in Peru focus on?

- Government support for women's inclusion (policy, laws)
- REDD+
- Benefit sharing schemes
- Benefits of women's inclusion
- Specific calls to action by COP 20 negotiators
- Ensure gendered language in agreements
- Share key messages of this Dialogue
- Role of private sector and how we could leverage this resource (not just financial but the know-how)
- Gender roles in conservation and natural resource management
- Social safeguards in landscape management and contribution to mitigating climate change

8. Besides this issue, what are other issues related to women's exclusion or landscape management that you would recommend as a focus for future TFD Dialogues?

- Barriers/obstacles to include women into landscape management
- Land grabbing issues
- Conflict resolution
- Conflicting policies between agriculture/forestry, economic strategies and investments, impact on small-scale farmers
- How to communicate about the issue of women and landscape management to others
- Women's rights to land
- Strategies to facilitate cross-sectoral collaboration and operationalizing landscape management
- Sustainable consumption in advanced and emerging economies, and role of society and consumers, including women
- Living wages allocation
- Building women's confidence and self-esteem as part of effective landscape management
- Private sector's engagement
- CSO engagement in monitoring forest law enforcement
- Rights-based approach (gender and women's rights), post-growth development



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