



# Gender-responsive stakeholder engagement and meaningful participation

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# Outline

1. Why does participation matter?
2. What needs to change?
3. How to engage stakeholders?
4. Enabling factors



# Why does participation matter?



## Why does participation matter?

### **Participatory approaches...**

- ...create ownership, accountability & partnerships
- ...take into account social & economic needs of stakeholders
- ...make use of diverse skills, experiences and knowledge

### **This results in...**

- better-designed policy processes
- more effective outcome delivery
- more equitable allocation of resources



# Gender Dimensions of climate change

## 1. Women account for the majority of those affected by climate change

- Due to: disadvantage in terms of opportunities, social & legal status and access to resources

## 2. Women and men do not experience climate change equally

- **Women** more often
  - ...are dependent on climate-sensitive sectors
  - ...face constraints in the choices they can make
  - ...have less time & opportunity for education, income-generating activities or participation in decision-making
- **Men** are also negatively affected by climate change (particularly poor men)



## Participation of women in decision-making processes of climate change issues

- enables to **reflect local realities**,
- enables to respond to **different / conflicting needs of women & men**,
- enables to draw on their particular **knowledge, skills and capacities**. **BUT**,
- **still is no guarantee** that women will automatically represent the concerns of the poorest and most excluded, but rather a *good starting point*

### Growing Recognition:

- Climate change policies and processes will become **more effective and sustainable**, when they become **more gender aware**
- Stressed by the adoption of the **UNFCCC Gender Action Plan (GAP)** at COP23



# What is meaningful participation?

## Meaningful participation...

...is based on the principle that those *who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved* in the decision-making process.

...*promotes sustainable decisions* by recognising and communicating the needs and interests of all participants.

...*seeks out and facilitates* the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.

...seeks input from participants in *designing how they participate*.

...*provides participants with the information* they need to participate in a meaningful way.

...communicates to participants *how their input affected the decision*.



# What needs to change?





## Women as agents of change

- Too often the emphasis is on women's **vulnerability**
  - Women portrayed as **victims** or beneficiaries of climate change policies/actions
  - Women are not seen as **part of the solution**
- 
- More attention needed to **women's capacities and agency, role as leaders and innovators**
  - Acknowledging **women's experience in managing natural resources**, their involvement in climate-sensitive activities & contribution to their household's livelihood



## Challenges for gender-balanced participation

### What needs to be addressed?

- Ensuring **economic independency** and adequate financial resources;
- Fighting illiteracy and providing **access to education**;
- Providing **information** on climate change & gender;
- Promoting **equal work opportunities** for women & men;
- **Tackling gender stereotypes** perpetuated in the family and in public life



# How to engage stakeholders?



## Steps to engage stakeholders

- **Stakeholder Mapping**  
→ identifying groups and institutions that will be impacted by or can affect cc outcomes
- **Stakeholder Analysis**  
→ identifying what stakeholders can bring to the discussion
- **Information-Sharing and Awareness-Raising**  
→ about the NAP process, targeting all stakeholders
- **Consultation and Engagement**  
→ inclusive of women and men at local and national levels across sectors and topic areas



**Stocktaking &  
Assessment**

**Plan  
preparation &  
design**

**Gender-  
responsive  
Budgeting**

**Implemen-  
tation**

**Monitoring &  
Evaluation**



## Stakeholder Mapping & Analysis

- Consideration of women as one of the major stakeholder
- Women's groups should be identified and contacted **at a local level**
- Traditional "spaces of women", e.g., schools, water points, and agricultural land to be considered
- **Women's organizations** can be of significant help when approaching local women, extracting information and obtaining political buy-in at the local level.



## Stakeholder Mapping & Analysis

### **Checklist: *Are the following actors included?***

- ✓ Governmental sector: Ministry of Women's Affair
- ✓ Gender focal points in other ministries or departments;
- ✓ Development partners with a gender-equality mandate;
- ✓ A governmental or independent economist with gender expertise;
- ✓ Male and female representatives of private-sector interests;
- ✓ Umbrella organization of women's NGOs;
- ✓ NGOs or lobby groups with gender expertise;
- ✓ Any NGOs or community groups that represent men's gender interests;
- ✓ Relevant sectoral or "special interest" NGOs that have an interest or experience in gender issues;
- ✓ Human rights groups or advocates;
- ✓ Think-tanks or policy analysts with experience / expertise in gender issues
- ✓ Academics or researchers from university Gender Studies Department(s)



## Stakeholder Consultations

### Checklist:

- Is the **effective participation** of women and men ensured for a better identification of the problem(s)?
- Are women equally **involved in analyzing** the direct and indirect causes of the problems?
- Do women **have a say in defining the objectives**?
- Are women equally **involved in identifying the possible options** for achieving objectives?
- Do **women's & men's needs and interests** receive the same consideration in analyzing the advantages and disadvantages of the options?



# What are enabling factors?





## Commitment to gender-responsive participation

- Genuinely acknowledging the importance of the gender issue
- Translate this knowledge into concrete actions:
  - ✓ critically examining own structures, processes and policies
  - ✓ building evidence base by gathering and analysing information

### Country example **Nepal**:

- Established a multi-stakeholder focus group on gender equality & social inclusion
- Mainstreaming & **tracking** gender balance into other working groups



## Creating institutional linkages between gender & CC

- Creating **advocacy units** that have a mandate to influence planning processes across all development sectors on gender
- Promoting **attention to gender issues** and giving advice to various government units
- **Gender focal points** in other ministries for liaising and gender mainstreaming

### Country example **Ethiopia:**

- Gender team within Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change ensuring gender mainstreaming in ministry policies & programs



## Strengthening capacity of women & women's groups

### → Building skills and confidence to make their voice heard

- Improving information to women on climate change
- Making women and men aware of their rights as well as the laws, policies, institutions
- Initiate political, legal, economic and cultural changes that give women greater control over resources and decision-making power

### Methods:

- Conduct trainings with women and women organizations
- Provide national and local women's groups with a platform for dialogue
- Facilitate open spaces for constructive dialogue with decision-makers



## Meeting on equal footing

### Participation can be supported by equity measures:

- I. Participatory techniques
  - a. engaging women and men separately
  - b. encouraging participants to speak up
- II. Gender-responsive facilitation
  - a. timing & location of the meeting
  - b. childcare assistance
  - c. supporting transportation
  - d. ensuring security



**Thank you for your attention!**  
**Vinaka Vaka Levu!**

**Any Questions?**

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## Discussion Questions

**What would gender-responsive stakeholder engagement look like in your context?**

**What would need to be in place for this to happen?**