Gender, participation and REDD+ decision making in Indonesia and Vietnam

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Our study aim
To contribute to REDD+ policies and practices to take full account of the differentiated rights, roles and responsibilities of women and men to promote gender equality and equity.

Our study sites
Indonesia and Vietnam, focusing on two provinces Jambi (Indonesia) and Son La (Vietnam).

Our methodologies
Comparative study to analyse the relative involvement of women and men in REDD+ decision-making processes at national and subnational levels, including:
- Policy content analysis;
- Key informant interviews including government officials, NGOs and civil society organizations working on REDD+.

Our preliminary results
- Gender equity has support in the laws of both Indonesia and Vietnam. For example, gender equality laws and regulations that support rural and ethnic minority groups exist in each country. Both governments have voiced their concerns to support gender equity and equality in their draft national REDD+ strategies.

“Gender is one of our organisational mandates but we do not have a gender focal person in our office or a guideline of how to integrate gender.”

“We do not work on gender because it is not our focus.”

Limited awareness and understanding of the linkages between REDD and gender prevail, therefore there remains a lack of consultation from the REDD+ working groups in these two countries with the gender task force (in Indonesia) and the gender and indigenous committee (in Vietnam) on how to operate gender equality and equity in REDD+.

“We do not work on gender and do not hear much about gender discussions in any REDD national workshops.”

Recommendations
- REDD+ policies and practices (such as national REDD+ strategies in both countries and free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) in Vietnam) should take full account of the differentiated rights, roles and responsibilities of women and men to promote gender equality and equity.
- Research needs to provide REDD+ policy makers and practitioners with country-specific case studies showing why involving more women in REDD+ decision-making process matters.
- More coordination between gender task forces and REDD+ working groups is needed to facilitate the inclusion of gender in REDD+. Consultations and lessons sharing between gender task forces and REDD+ working groups would be able to address why women and gender matters in REDD+ and how to include women and gender in a meaningful way.
- Governments should involve more local people – men and women – be more inclusive and inform the public about the decision-making process at different levels, especially at community and grassroots levels. Enhancing men’s and women’s participation in village and commune meetings on REDD+ and mainstreaming gender into current village agreements are practical first steps.