

GENDER AND CONSERVATION: KEY QUESTIONS

Conservation, Livelihoods and Governance Programme

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A better understanding of the different roles, knowledge, needs and aspirations of women and men with regard to their environment can help us achieve the twin goals of better conservation outcomes and increased gender equity. The following questions are provided to help project managers think through relevant gender issues when developing a new project or seeking to improve an existing project. The list is not exhaustive, nor is it designed as a 'form' that must be completed. Rather, these questions are intended to aid project planning and to be used in a way that is most helpful to those doing the planning.¹

Project objectives and rationale

- Does the project acknowledge that women and men use natural resources in different ways?
- Does the project acknowledge that women and men have *different knowledge and skills* in relation to biodiversity and natural resource use and management?
- Does the project acknowledge that women and men have *different levels of access to and control over* natural resources?
- Does the project acknowledge that women and men may have *different perceptions, needs and priorities* for natural resource use, management and conservation?
- Have both women and men directly or indirectly affected by the project identified their own priorities?
- Do project objectives explicitly refer to women and men?

Dependence on natural resources

- How dependent are both women and men on the resources which have been targeted by the project? (*e.g. for energy, food, fodder, housing, water, medicinal purposes*)
- Will there be adverse effects on women's or men's capacity to continue to provide for basic daily needs or to earn income from natural resources?

The gender division of labour and natural resource use

- Has sex disaggregated data been collected on how men and women use the same natural resources differently (*including for subsistence, for market, or for religious/ritual purposes*), or use different natural resources?
- Will women's or men's workload increase as a result of project involvement?

Natural resource knowledge and skills

- Does the project build upon both women's and men's knowledge and skills?
- Will women's knowledge, skills and practices be integrated into natural resource management practices initiated by the project?
- Has the impact of proposed new technology been discussed with women? (*e.g. designs for improved stoves*)

¹ This checklist is adapted from AusAID's *Guide to Gender and Development*
<http://www.usaid.gov/development/pubs/guide-to-gender-and-development.pdf>

Access and control of resources²

- Has sex disaggregated data been collected about who has access to and control over key natural resources targeted or affected by the project?
- Will women or men have *reduced access to resources* as a result of project activities?
- Will women or men have *reduced control over resources* as a result of project activities?
- Has the project identified opportunities for *increasing women's access to and control over resources*?

Participation and consultation strategies

- Will women and men have adequate and equal access to information about project activities and decisions?
- Will both women and men be consulted about project related activities?
- Will women and men be consulted separately?
- Will women and men have equal access to project related planning and decision making?
- Will both women and men be supported in taking action?
- Have the constraints to women's and men's participation in project activities been identified?
- Have strategies been identified to overcome these constraints?
- Will any separate and/or additional activities be needed for women to ensure that they participate?

Project monitoring

- Will all data collected be disaggregated by sex?
- Have gender-sensitive indicators been identified?
- Will community groups or representatives be involved in project monitoring, including women's groups or representatives?
- Will women be trained and supported to engage in project monitoring, research and documentation?
- Will both women and men be involved in the interpretation and/or analysis of data?

Project benefits and outcomes

- Will the project benefit both women and men? If so, how do women benefit and how do men benefit?
- Are there any groups of either women or men that are likely to be disadvantaged by the project?
- What practical needs³ of women and men are addressed by the project?
- What strategic needs⁴ of women and men are addressed by the project?
- Will any separate and/or additional activities be needed to ensure that women are not disadvantaged by the project?

Project resources

- Does the implementing organisation(s) have experience of working with women, as well as with women and men?
- Do project staff have experience using gender specific tools, or gender responsive participatory tools?
- Is gender expertise available throughout the project?
- Are project resources adequate to ensure that both men and women participate in and benefit from the project?

² Access is the opportunity to make use of a resource and control is the authority to make decisions over the use of a resource.

³ Practical gender needs concern the condition of women or men. Addressing these would improve their lives, but would not necessarily change existing gender relations.

⁴ Strategic gender needs concern the position of women or men in society. They include such things as legal rights and equitable participation in decision making. Addressing these would contribute to improving their position in society.