



Gender Mainstreaming in National Forest Policy in Nepal

Madhu Devi Ghimire
Under Secretary/Gender Focal Point
Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation
Government of Nepal

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...there is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women."

-- [Kofi Annan](#)

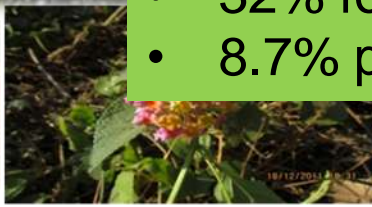




Forest management in Nepal



- 23% under protected area system
- 32% forests managed by community
- 8.7% protection forests





1. Overview of Forest Policy in Nepal

- Interim constitutions (2007) of Nepal is highly gender responsive, reserved quota for women
- Civil Service Act made reservation for women and deprived groups
- National Periodic plans (9th plan onwards-1990 onward) accorded high priority on women empowerment and gender equality
- Forestry sector prioritized on women empowerment with the initiation of community forestry programme in Nepal (1993)





1. Overview Contd....

Period	Policy	Policy thrust	Gender mainstreaming
1970s	National Forestry Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scientific management by the state 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender and women issues remained silent
1988s	Master Plan for Forestry Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People's participation Community forestry Basic need fulfillment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation and women involvement in forestry
2000	Revised Forest Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple models of community based management Commercial forestry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender and social inclusions Empowerment
2012	New forest sector strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable management Multi stakeholder approach Private sector participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusive development Positive discrimination GESI remain one of the guiding principle





2. Forest Policy Making Processes

Earlier (Before 2000)	After 2000
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Government led, command and control• Top down, less consultative• Isolated and poor coordination• Human dimension poorly acknowledged• Community as passive participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Government on supportive role with multi-stakeholder involvement• Bottom-up, participatory and consultative• Inclusive and right based• Focused on environment sustainability and economic growth• Inter-sectoral coordination• Active involvement of right holder groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited or no consultation with women, bureaucracy centric.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wider consultation and consensus oriented• Win-win situation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Role of women not visible, not acknowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased women involvement, views and concerns widely acknowledged and addressed





3. On-going Initiatives on Gender Mainstreaming in Forest Policy



- Gender mainstreaming initiated on 1988 with the promulgation of Master Plan for the Forestry Sector (33% women)
- Periodic plan and sub-sectoral strategy focused on women involvement and their active participation on forestry sector strategy
 - Community forestry
 - Collaborative forestry
 - Protected forests
 - Conservation area management council





3. On-going Initiatives Contd...

- In 2008, Ministry formulated Gender and Social Inclusion Strategy, focusing on 4 change areas,
 - Gender and social inclusion policy, rules, regulations and directives
 - Gender equity and social inclusion sensitive programs/budgets and monitoring
- Periodic policy review and assessment based on changed context, including GESI





3. On-going Initiatives Contd.....

- **Gender responsive institutional mechanism**
 - Inclusion of women on multi-stakeholder mechanisms formed at national, sub-national and district level
 - GESI core group formation under leadership of ministry with participation of civil society and conservation partners
- **Gender responsive budgeting**
 - 20% of programme budget focusing on women while government target is of 33%





3. On-going Initiatives Contd...

- **Improve access to and control over**
 - Leadership position (reservation)
- **Equitable sharing of benefits**
 - Positive discrimination (quota, reservation)
- **Women involvement on change process**
 - Strategy formulation (Forestry sector)
 - GESI strategy implementation status review





4. Challenges/Gaps

- **Policy and legislative issues**
 - Limited periodic assessment and revision
 - Inadequate will and enforcement
- **Institutional issues**
 - Male dominated forestry organizations, no gender balance at management level
 - Low focus on gender within the formal structure of MFSC
 - Inadequate knowledge and skills among forestry professionals
 - Limited human resources and budget constraints





4. Challenges/Gaps Contd.....

- **Implementation issues**
 - Policy provisions not fully implemented
 - No accountability mechanism established, ineffective monitoring
 - Insufficient/inconsistent practice of collecting disaggregated data
 - Weak monitoring
- **Socio-cultural beliefs/ attitudinal issues**
 - Forestry professions not for women
 - Inadequate orientation to stakeholders
 - Stereo type attitude to wards women





5. Recommendations

- Periodic assessment of policy implementation and revisions
- Institutional capacity strengthening for mainstreaming gender in organization
- Provide incentives for women in pursuing forestry education and higher courses





5. Recommendations Contd...

- Capacity building and sensitization on gender and change management on policy processes
- Coordination, communication and resource leverages



