

Gender Equality in Rewards for Environmental Services Schemes in Indonesia

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A rewards for environmental services scheme is a mechanism to connect between environmental service providers and their beneficiaries through the flow of environmental services and rewards. Trust and strong social capital are needed to ensure success, but need nurturing and maintenance by stakeholders involved. Gender equality between community members—both for males and females—is a pre-requisite and further guarantees solid social interaction.

Our research objective

- Identification of gender roles (productive, reproductive and community role), relationships and power distribution among men and women in three of the “Rewarding Upland Poor for the Environmental Services they provide” (RUPES) project’s action research sites in Indonesia (Singkarak, West Sumatra; Sumberjaya, Lampung; Sesaot, Lombok).
- Analysis of practical and strategic gender needs in the context of rewards for environmental service schemes.
- Recommend policies and actions for mainstreaming gender equity and equality within the RUPES project.

Gender analysis method

The study applied three gender analysis tools:

1. **Harvard Analytical Framework** to collect basic data on gender division of labour, access to, control and benefit over resources at micro-level and analysis of influencing factors to gender differentiations.
2. **Gender Planning Framework** (Caroline Moser) to focus on strategic gender needs and inequalities and how to address these at programme and policy levels.
3. **Gender Analysis Pathway**, which was developed by the Indonesian National Planning Body, to support gender mainstreaming in planning of policies, programmes, projects or other developmental activities.

The research team conducted a sex-disaggregated socio-economic survey at household level, a series of focus groups and transect walks with the community, and organised a workshop to collect inputs for the gender analysis pathway.

Environmental rewards schemes and socioeconomic characteristic of the sites

Singkarak

- A voluntary carbon scheme has been operating since December 2009, covering 28 ha for phase one and 21 ha for phase two and involving 82 households.
- Matrilineal heredity line with strong Islamic and local Minang culture.
- Average well-educated up to 12 years and household size about 6 persons per household.
- Rural economics based on mixed agroforestry community.
- Relatively strong local institutions and land ownership with Minang cultural influence.



The carbon scheme site dominated by cloves with Lake Singkarak in the distance. Photo: RMI

Sumberjaya

- A micro-hydropower unit has been given as a reward to 40 households in Buluh Kapur village from the downstream hydropower company in 2010. The environmental services’ contract is to reduce sedimentation level in the river.
- Patri-lineal heredity line dominated by migrants from Central Java.
- Low education level less than 6 years and household size about 3 persons per household.
- Coffee plantations with mixed agroforestry.
- Strong and active farmer groups with women having positions within the organisations.

Sesaot

- On-going application for permits to access state-owned forest lands.
- Patri-lineal heredity line with 95 percent Moslem and 5 percent Balinese Hindu.
- Low education level less than 6 years and household size about 3 persons per household.
- Agriculture-based community but with high forest dependence.
- Relatively strong local institutions: 10 active farmers’ groups with women membership at about 24 percent and 2 out of 10 are women-farmer groups.

Gender Equity:

“fairness and justice in the distribution of responsibility and benefits between men and women”

Gender Equality:

“the absence of discrimination on the basis of a person’s sex in opportunities, the allocation of resources or benefits, or in access to services”

Source: CIDA Gender Analysis Tools



Women’s discussion in Sumberjaya, Lampung. Photo credit: RMI

Results and recommendations (in progress)

- ❖ Women’s roles are mainly in agricultural harvesting, marketing and post-harvest production, if any. Women also involved in the full cycle of annual plant management. The focus groups revealed that women have almost no control over, or benefits from, natural resource management.
- ❖ The gender study showed that men have dominant access to, control over and benefits from, natural resource management through their active membership in farmer groups and different community forums in the three locations. Women’s participation is still sub-optimal because of high and unbalanced domestic workload.
- ❖ Current environmental services schemes still assume that benefits will flow directly to women and children, which, in fact, may not happen. Women might be absent at all stages of the scheme (from scoping and stakeholder’s identification through negotiation and implementation to monitoring and verification).
- ❖ Most of the gender issues are beyond the implementation of the RUPES scheme itself. The gender issues, such as subordination of women, lack of self-confidence in social forums and stereotyping women’s roles to mainly the domestic domain are deep-rooted within the local cultures in the three locations, including in West Sumatra with its matrilineal heredity line.
- ❖ To achieve gender equality in RES schemes, cultural and structural constraints need to be addressed, ideally from the outset. Women participation in decision-making should be improved in order for women to benefit from RES schemes.
- ❖ Pro-poor schemes should be gender-sensitive. Rewards or payment schemes for commoditized environmental services that are not pro-poor may also not support gender equality.
- ❖ Co-investment in landscape stewardship as a paradigm of PES addresses livelihood capitals with respect and mutual accountability to sustainable development, yet provides more space for specific actions for actual delivery of environmental services to meet conservation objectives.

