

Regional Workshop Report on Mainstreaming Gender into Forest Policy

Pre-Session of 25th FAO – Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission

3 November 2013, Millennium Hotel, Rotorua, New
Zealand



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Background and Objective

RECOFTC —The Center for People and Forests— holds a unique and important place in the world of forestry. It is the only international not-for-profit organization that specializes in capacity building for community forestry and devolved forest management. RECOFTC engages in strategic networks and effective partnerships with governments, nongovernment organizations, civil society, the private sector, local people, and research and educational institutes throughout the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. With over 25 years of international experience and a dynamic approach to capacity building – involving research and analysis, demonstration sites, and training products – RECOFTC delivers innovative solutions for people and forests.

Within the context of RECOFTC’s overall goal to strengthen rights, improve governance and ensure equitable benefits to forest dependent men, women and other excluded groups, RECOFTC has been implementing a Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO-RAP) funded project entitled “Mainstreaming Gender into Forest Policies”.

Specific activities under this project include assessing the integration of gender into national forest policies, providing policy recommendations, producing knowledge for the development of training materials for mainstreaming gender, enhancing the capacity of policy makers on gender mainstreaming, communicating and disseminating the findings and producing policy briefs focused on specific country cases. The project target countries are the eight developing Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) member countries, namely, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines, Fiji, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

With a view to enhance capacity of policy makers on gender mainstreaming into forest policies, a one-day regional Workshop was jointly convened by RECOFTC and FAO-RAP. The Workshop was hosted by RECOFTC in Rotorua, New Zealand, as an important pre-session of the 25th Session of the APFC.

The workshop provided opportunity for the participants to present and discuss current challenges and opportunities with regards to integrating gender perspectives into national forest policy highlighting their country contexts. As there were more than a dozen stakeholders in policy-making representing eight APFC member countries, the workshop provided a platform for cross-country learning and sharing of experience in integrating gender perspectives into forest policy. The specific objectives of the workshop were as follows;

- To improve understanding and learning on existing forest policies with the key focus on strengthening gender equality in national forest policy
- To identify key challenges and opportunities in incorporating gender dimensions in ongoing initiatives that support ensuring gender equality in the forest policy

- To discuss and find out appropriate approaches and actions to address identified challenges

Structure

The workshop was divided mainly into two sessions—knowledge sharing and group discussion.

Session 1: Knowledge sharing

This session started with an overview of the on-going FAO-RAP funded regional project and sharing of its preliminary outputs. Then, presentations on existing forest policies of APFC member countries were done. Presentations highlighted the overview of existing forest policy of each project country with identified concerns on how gender perspectives have or have not been integrated into the policy. This also included a brief explanation of ongoing initiatives to support gender equality into forest policy in each country context. The second part of the presentation focused on challenges facing incorporation of gender into the forest policy. The presentations concluded with some key recommendations to address the challenges.

Session 2: Group discussion

The post lunch session mainly consisted of group exercise and sharing of outputs of group works in a plenary. The group work was facilitated to help stimulate discussions and constructive sharing among group members. Please refer to annex 1 and 2 specific agenda items and list of participants.

Opening and Welcome Remarks

Bhawana Upadhyay from RECOFTC, Convenor of the workshop, stated in her welcoming remarks that the issues of women in forestry were touched upon for the first time in the APFC during the 15th session in Sri Lanka in 1993.

Highlighting that there remains much work to be done in terms of gender mainstreaming in forest policies, she shared her expectation that the knowledge gained through this workshop would be instrumental for bridging the existing gender gaps to enhance collaboration among stakeholders for the integration of gender aspects in forestry policy, programs and practices. She also encouraged country delegates holding strategic positions in their respective ministries and departments to foster gender mainstreaming agenda for gender responsive forest policy and programs.

In his introductory remarks Dr. Tint Lwin Thaug, Executive Director, RECOFTC, highlighted that the number of women in forestry has increased over recent years. He noted that many women foresters are now part of national forestry departments, which was not the case in the past. He appreciated the fact that women are gradually being recognized as key contributors in forest management at community and local levels. Highlighting the need to mainstream gender in forest policies, he anticipated that the deliberations of the workshop will help garner support from countries and organizations such as FAO towards that end.

Dr. Yurdi Yasmi, FAO-RAP Forestry Officer, remarked that in the past it was difficult to discuss gender and to include gender issues on conference agendas related to forests. The recognition of the important role of women in the forest sector has increased over recent years. Highlighting the fact that women spend a lot of time collecting firewood and non-timber forest products but still lack access to financial support and markets, he emphasized that gender has to be meaningfully integrated in forestry and gender issues shall be well reflected in policies.

Keynote Speech

Dr. Andrew McEwen, President of New Zealand Institute of Forestry (NZIF), emphasized in his keynote speech the importance for forest policies to take into account the society-specific issues, including gender.

Citing examples of two policies that were flawed (i.e. forest policy of the Rapa Nui or Easter Island in the south-east Pacific and that of New Zealand Emission Trading Scheme), he noted the need of forest policies to have clear objectives, to be effective, simple, equitable, relevant to local conditions, scientifically based, comprehensive, cohesive and forward looking.

He emphasized the importance of getting the forest policy right. Among other things, he remarked that wider consultation to set achievable objectives of forest policy is important. On the issue of gender, he stated that traditionally there used to be no women in forestry and now there are considerable number of female students, graduates and foresters. Please see annex 3.1 for presentation document of his speech.

Overview of on-going FAO-RAP Regional Project on Gender Mainstreaming into Forest Policy

Prior to the workshop sessions, Bhawana Upadhyay provided an overview of the on-going FAO-RAP funded regional project (please see annex 3.2). She explained the major objectives of the project which are basically – promoting gender equality in the national forest policies of eight project countries in the Asia Pacific region and strengthening the capacities of policy makers and relevant stakeholders in mainstreaming gender issues in forest policy. She also highlighted the project activities as; assessment of integration of gender in forest policy, identification of the capacity development needs of key stakeholders and development of training manual, conduction of regional and expert workshops, development and dissemination of policy briefs and a regional synthesis.

She also discussed the study approach and methods used while undertaking country case studies and briefly touched on the upcoming activities and expected outputs of the project.

There was a discussion on the necessity of additional training manual given the existence of numerous existing manuals on gender and gender mainstreaming. Explanation was provided with the rationale behind producing this particular manual which specifically deals with gender mainstreaming related to forestry. Some

participants shared that some stakeholders and gender mainstreaming practitioners had recommended that there has to be adequate training on gender as part of capacity development that should provide basis for policy formulation.

Country Presentations

Eight presentations about existing gender mainstreaming related to forest policies of APFC member countries were presented and that was followed by questions, answers and clarifications.

Vietnam

Nguyen Tuong Van, Deputy Director, Department of Science, Technology & International Cooperation, Viet Nam Administration of Forestry (VNFOREST) shared that future efforts of forestry policies include among other matters accelerating the shift from state management to social forest; promoting community based forestry and co-management schemes; and harmonizing relation between forest ownership, forest use rights, forest business rights and rights to benefit from forest (see annex 3.3).

Gender mainstreaming is implemented conform to the national strategy on gender equality 2011-2020; national action program on gender equality 2011-2015; Vietnam forestry development strategy 2006-2020, and national strategy to response to climate change. Identified challenges are: lack of enabling environment and confidence for women to convey perceptions and be involved in decisions making; unclear guidelines how to integrate gender in policymaking; limited gender concerns and commitment at all levels/sectors; weak system capacity towards gender equality; lack of financial, time and human resources in ministries and sectors and in provinces.

Important recommendations include: develop regulation on relative proportion of women participating in policy/decision making; institutionalize integration of gender; set-up monitoring mechanism on gender equality for policy development process; develop enabling conditions for women to be fully active; raise awareness and capacity strengthening on implementation of gender equality policies; implement gender-budgeting.

After the presentation there were several interesting points raised by the participants highlighting the importance of political commitment to ensure women's and men's meaningful participation and to ensure that adequate understanding is there among policy makers at national and sub-national levels and among government bureaucrats on mainstreaming gender in forestry policy planning and development. Example from New Zealand was given where there is a policy to increase up to 50% seat allocation for female Members of Parliament (MPs). Currently, there are 41% of female MPs.

Women are being increasingly involved in the forestry sector than in the past few years. For example, there are more women professors in silviculture and economics subjects of forestry. Even though the entrance requirements in Vietnam universities for forestry courses require lower qualifications compared to other courses, there still

are fewer female students in forestry. General public are more concerned with incentives which forestry sector has less to offer in general. For example, in case of Vietnam, salary of policemen is greater than that of foresters. For similar reasons, families would prefer to send their girl children to colleges and universities to build careers in disciplines other than forestry which have high probability of securing better employment.

A participant from Fiji shared that the Fiji National University (FNU) has a forestry program now, and there is an opportunity for interested students to enrol in forestry programs within the country instead of going overseas to study forestry. In 2013, there is 95% female intake in FNU and 50% enrolment has been in agroforestry.

Despite all these facts, the trend has been changing and many female graduates are enrolling in forestry programs in the Asia Pacific region these days. While only men used to attend forestry courses earlier, there has been a change in perception that foresters need soft skills too for ensuring community participation and enhancing livelihoods.

A delegate from the Philippines shared that the perceptions are changing and more work opportunities for men and women are available now compared to before when foresters had limited opportunities other than those associated with forest regulation. For example this year alone the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) recruited 100 foresters to look after the National Greening Program, REDD++, and Climate Change programs. So, there has been a shift in the paradigm. There are allocated slots for females in forestry department such as laboratory technicians, entomologists, Geographical Information System (GIS) technicians.

Forestry is not a male dominated field in the Philippines anymore. There are more females now compared to the past few years. Before 30% of forestry staff were women, now more than 50% are women. More women are now in leadership positions like the Director General (DG). This is a good example of implementation of the gender and development (GAD) approach and other relevant gender sensitive policies and programs in forestry sector.

Philippines

Mayumi Quintos-Natividad, Assistant Director OIC, DENR-Forest Management Bureau, began her presentation by depicting key Philippines forest policies and gender mainstreaming policies, after which she described the policymaking process comprising agenda setting, policy formulation, legitimization, implementation, and evaluation.

She considered four entry points for mainstreaming gender: people, policy, programs, projects and activities, as well as enabling mechanisms. Some challenges were noted: gender analysis of all forestry programs and projects; adoption and institutionalization of GREEN kit nationwide; integration of sex-disaggregated data and indicators in the monitoring and reporting system of forestry projects; and orientation/training on gender mainstreaming and gender analysis.

Recommendations are: revise forestry policies and programs to incorporate gender issues based on gender analysis; develop disaggregated data and information databases in forestry. Mayumi noted that there has been so much capacity building for DENR, gender and development (GAD) and the Gender and Development Focal Point System (GADFPS). Also, at least 30% membership is mandated for community-based forest management (CBFM). Today, over 30% of CBFM memberships are women. There are more women specifically in the DENR-Forest and Management Bureau.

There are more women taking forestry courses (most courses are now dominated by women). This is partly due to the proportion of students studying in the Philippines (women-men ratio of enrolment is now 3:1). In the field, labour requiring heavy lifting such as forest harvesting is still dominated by men. Please see annex 3.4 for presentation document.

The delegate from Sri Lanka remarked that there is current debate in Sweden (citing an article he read in the Times Magazine recently) revolving around the use of gender-neutral terminologies. Some suggest to doing away with terms such as Mr. and Mrs., but describing them as human beings for having more gender equality approach and practices.

Fiji

Maria Elder-Ratutokarua, Agriculture and Forestry Policy Officer, Land Resources Division, Secretariat of the Pacific Community began with sharing a historical timeline of Fiji's forest policy, beginning with the 1953 Forest Act which over time was adapted to becoming the Forest Policy of 2007 (see annex 3.5).

Early forest policy focused on timber production and the later ones have more emphasized on SFM for balancing environmental protection and economic development. Current forest policy requires involvement of local communities in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. However, gender has not been explicitly mentioned although considered vital in the process. Gender is to be considered in the next policy review. Recent initiatives have focused on gender, such as community conservation and climate change projects.

Challenges have been that gender mainstreaming has not been sensitized and practiced sufficiently, a weak understanding with communities of the need for gender-inclusiveness, and varied views about gender given diverse ethnicities. Ms. Maria recommended examining ways in which forestry may affect women and men; ensure women's opinions in forestry; and encourage women's participation in planning and management.

Discussion after the presentation concluded that rather than pushing on women's empowerment, building the capacity of decision/policy-makers to mainstream gender in forest policy would be a priority as immediate short term strategy. Whereas long-term strategy would need to take into account of women's empowerment issues while devising strategy of forestry sector interventions.

Cambodia

Sopanha Vong, Deputy Director, Forest Administration, Department of Planning and Finance, started off with describing the 2002 national forest policy, the forest sector programs of 2009-2029, and the Cambodian Government's 'Rectangular Strategy for Growth, Employment, Equity and Efficiency' of 2008-present (see annex 3.6). The national forest policy has been focused on forest resource conservation, good governance, socio-economic development and poverty reduction.

Women are considered as backbone of society and economy and laws protect women's rights to ensure gender equality in education, employment and decision making. In the national forest policy gender is not explicitly mentioned, however it is clearly incorporated through the Rectangular Strategy in areas linked to forests: such as decision processes, education and employment.

While in national forest programs, women's participation is incorporated, gender mainstreaming in forest sector was initiated in 2009. Challenges in gender mainstreaming have been: forest policy and programs have prioritised forest science, forest management, and livelihoods rather than gender issues; less women's participation in forest sector; socio-cultural barriers for women's participation; limited women's capabilities; lack of financial. Recommendations include: increase gender awareness with wider public; increase women's participation through incentives and quotas; use livelihoods and human capacity building projects as entry points for gender mainstreaming.

Discussion after the presentation led to conclude that any woman who is not sensitive to gender issues is as gender insensitive as any men. More women participating in activities, does not ensure they would partake in decision-making and does not automatically mean better gender mainstreaming. Although, more women participation would matter since it builds confidence for women to participate in decisions. This discussion was also linked to previous discussion workshop participants had after Fiji country case presentations on women's; empowerment issue.

Thailand

Pralong Dumrongthai, Director of Community Forest Management Bureau - Royal Forest Department, started with an overview of Thailand's forest policy, focused on five key policy areas: forest resource protection, forestland management, forest restoration and extension, forest extension and development, and corporate social responsibility (see annex 3.7). Thailand's 1997 Constitutional Law states that men and women have equal rights and all government departments are mandated to promote women's role and rights. A Chief Gender Equality officer and Gender Focal Point have been appointed to coordinate efforts towards gender equality.

The forestry department is implementing a 4-year strategic plan (2012-2015) as a model to enhance gender equality in association with current departmental missions and to encourage staff and public to gain gender equality. Challenges identified are: imbalanced amount of female officers compared to males; female officials are

limitedly accepted as executive and as field team leader due to socio-cultural barriers, and for reasons of safety, and character of the forestry work. Recommendations include: enroll more female officers; involve more female field in forestry promotion; raise awareness on female acceptance to promote to higher positions; increase capacity building in self protection; increase women's welfare in forestry

Indonesia

Yetti Rusli, Senior Adviser to The Minister of Forestry on Environment & Climate Change and Chairperson of Climate Change Working Group at Ministry of Forestry, started off by explaining the flow of thought of her presentation (see Annex 3.8).

Forests have increasingly been considered to play key roles in sustaining life on earth by among other things mitigating climate change. Present efforts of the forestry ministry have therefore been focused on investigating drivers of 15 years rates of deforestation and on scaling-up best practices (e.g., agroforestry, SFM practices, green energy innovations). Besides, Indonesia has partaken in international dialogue on reducing GHG emission through among other matters REDD+ (Indonesia is committed to reduce 26%-41% emission by 2020) and on promoting a green economy (e.g. to ensure legality in timber trade a VPA was signed between Indonesia and EU in September 2013).

Efforts of gender mainstreaming have been carried out by the ministry over the last decade but challenges have prevailed: lack of gender awareness within forestry institutions; institutional biases determining roles 'appropriate' for women; failure to recognize and legitimate women's role, knowledge and contributions to forest management.

New challenges in connection to climate change could offer ways for more effective gender mainstreaming on the following areas: climate change adaption and mitigation, financial and technological support, and capacity-building support. It is therefore high time to showcase women-led climate-change activities. The then upcoming COP 19 meeting is a strategic meeting for doing this.

Sri Lanka

K.P. Ariyadasa, Conservator General of Forests, began his presentation with giving such facts as Sri Lankan population density and HDI and continued with describing the evolution of the country's forest policy since 1900, at which time *chena* cultivation areas were reclaimed. Early policies evolved over time through timber production policies in 1950s, social forestry policies in 1980s, through 1995-present policies emphasizing community-based tree planting and private sector involvement in forest plantation development.

Present national forest policy was developed in 1995 alongside the preparation of forestry master plan 1995-2023, involving government, universities, NGOs, CBOs in a series of public consultation. Three forest policy areas pertain: management of state forest resources wood and non-wood forest products, industries and marketing, and management of private forest and tree resources. There are no people living or encroaching into forestland since the demarcation in year 2000. Environmental awareness is high and people are agreeable on the terms.

The government owned the forests. Though gender equality is not explicitly mentioned in the current policy, gender issues have been addressed through on-going programs on participatory forest management. Besides, amendments made to the 2009 Forest Ordinance have made possible to enter into agreements and benefit sharing without any gender discrimination.

Challenges that have remained are: forestry service employed 28% female employees in the junior level and only 16% at senior level; current forest policy does not address gender issues explicitly; low awareness of gender issues among policymakers and concept is sometimes misunderstood. Recommendations include: revise national forest policy with explicit incorporation of gender issues; proper gender training to policymakers and other stakeholders; establish indicators in national forestry projects/programs to assess the impact of gender initiatives. See annex 3.9 for presentation document.

Nepal

It is presented that Nepal's legal framework (2007 Interim Constitutions, Civil Service Act, National Periodic Plans, 1988 Master Plan for Forestry Sector) is highly gender-responsive and has placed high priority on women's empowerment and gender equality by reserving quota for women and marginalized groups.

Since 2000 policymaking processes have become more inclusive and right-based, involving a wide array of stakeholders. Gender mainstreaming initiatives have included: women's involvement in periodic forestry sector strategic planning; improved access to and control over decision-making; equitable sharing of benefits, and women's involvement in change processes.

However, challenges like policy and legislative issues (e.g. inadequate will and enforcement); institutional issues (e.g. no gender-balance at management level); implementation issues (e.g. no accountability mechanism established), socio-cultural beliefs/attitudinal issues (e.g. stereotyped attitude towards women) have remained. Some important recommendations presented were: periodic assessment of policy implementation and revisions; institutional capacity strengthening for mainstreaming gender; incentives for women in pursuing forestry education; capacity building and sensitization on gender and change management on policy processes; coordination, communication and resource leverages. See annex 3.10 for presentation document.

After this, a question was raised on how to encourage more female candidates to enroll in forestry. Discussions were revolved around following points;

Availability of scholarships for forestry would encourage students to enrol in forestry. Provision of scholarship especially for female candidates may help increase the percentage of female enrolment.

Inclusion of a comprehensive policy to encourage more female candidates to enrol in vocational and/or university courses related to forestry will also help. Availability of opportunities for women will depend on how forestry policy and programs are devised and implemented. Job relocation and travel may also be issues for women,

for example child rearing responsibility and inadequate maternity leave can be one of the hindering factors for women.

Group Discussion

This post-lunch session consisted of a group exercise and plenary presentation of the results of the group work. Participants were split into two groups while discussion was facilitated in each group by a facilitator to ensure a constructive exchange of thoughts and ideas among group members. Group discussions lasted more than an hour and respective group works were shared in the plenary for discussion and feedbacks. The group work was focused on four main questions related to gender mainstreaming and participants were requested to discuss those questions and feed in their agreed answers in the given matrix. The four guiding questions were:

- What are the challenges of gender mainstreaming in forest policy?
- How can identified challenges be addressed or what specific activities should be undertaken?
- Who are the key actors that should be involved in these activities?
- What resources are required to accomplish the specific activities?

The discussion started emphasizing on a major challenge which was being endorsed by all country delegates that there has been a serious lack of forest sector-wide data and information related to women's role and needs in and contribution to forest management. It was also felt important to make decision/policymakers aware as to what extent their decision or policy impacts on men and women differently. In forestry sector this has remained unattended adequately despite some progress made in the past few years.

Lack of political will, commitment, failure to ensure women's and men's meaningful participation and inadequate understanding of gender equity issues were also a central part of the discussion. For example, land tenure issue was brought in the context of the discussion. Cultural norms and traditional practices often marginalize women within their households and beyond and many women lack awareness of their rights as joint owners of family land or as family members with rights of inheritance even if that kind of policy exists in paper. Rights held by the women-headed households are vulnerable to loss to male family members, local elites and commercial interests due to lack of awareness and clarity on land tenure.

For example in Vietnam, important decisions pertaining to land allocation are mainly made by household and/or village heads. Regarding land use planning, women have limited participation, though they have knowledge on land demarcation. Women are not considered as the representative of the family and usually do not have the voice with regards to land allocation, due to reasons such as limited knowledge of local authority on participatory planning; traditional improper perspectives on gender; traditional work assignment within the family; lack of awareness, etc. Inadequate

concern on the roles of women affect the effectiveness and feasibility of the land use plan and pose difficulties in terms of equitably managing forest resources and improving the their livelihoods.

Later the discussion was focused on the need to consider climate change policy as an entry point for gender mainstreaming along with allocation of corresponding budget because inadequate financial resources are regarded as one of the key challenges of all eight studied countries in the region. The participants also clearly stated that sustained financial resources are necessary if gender mainstreaming is implemented not merely as an add-on activity in forestry but as an inherent and integral part of forestry institutions.

Gender should be embedded in the policy analysis, planning and budgeting structures. The case of Cambodia was discussed highlighting the fact that allocation of adequate resources through national funding process is essential to ensure undertaking of gender related activities within the Forest Administration (FA). Therefore, the gender working group at the FA should consider taking the necessary steps to secure annual budget for the gender program and associated activities.

The groups discussed and identified challenges related to gender mainstreaming in forest policy and corresponding activities to address the identified challenges, key actors to be engaged and the resources required to meet the targeted activities. Please refer to annex.....for details. Participants also suggested some key recommendations to enhance the collaboration and cooperation among relevant stakeholders including multilateral and bilateral agencies to ensure that gender aspects are well integrated into forestry policy analysis, planning, development process, institutional mechanisms and in budgeting structures.

The capacity and knowledge on gender mainstreaming issues in the forestry sector are still limited. Gender disparities, equity and women's empowerment issues are not well understood and stakeholders have the tendency to pursue gender mainstreaming just as one of the project activities rather than a process of transformational change.

One of the main reasons of this is the lack of forest sector-wide data and information related to women's roles, needs and contributions to forest management. Oftentimes gender analysis is overlooked in research and analysis, it is equally difficult to obtain gender-disaggregated data and information pertaining to gender-specific needs, interests and priorities in the forestry sector.

These data and information are of critical importance as empirical evidence for policymakers and relevant stakeholders to utilize in the policy development process. Hence, gender mainstreaming would need adequate investment in developing and maintaining forestry sector-wide gender statistics and gender- sensitive monitoring system. Some of the key recommendations are as follows;

- Investment towards strengthening and enhancing capacity on research and development of gender sensitive monitoring and evaluation system with gender responsive indicators to ensure that gender disaggregated data recognize the existence of the heterogeneity among women's practical and strategic needs and priorities.

- Strategic investment shall cover building capacity of not only government stakeholders, but also towards raising awareness of various grass-root level stakeholders including local communities.
- Sustained engagement of civil society organizations (CSOs) in national consultations is of critical importance for ensuring development and implementation of gender responsive forest policy.
- Revision and reorganization of existing structures and staffing towards having more gender-balanced forestry institutions. Providing adequate budgetary support and enhancing skills and knowledge to help facilitate gender-sensitive policy development and implementation.
- Development of gender-sensitive systems in national and sub-national forestry institutions (planning structures, monitoring and evaluation systems, policy analysis and review systems linking to CSOs' representative structures) is essential.
- It is of critical importance to strategically sensitize enrolment system for forestry education on gender by highlighting the employment promotional system for gender-balanced employment opportunities and developing gender competence program in national and sub-national forestry institutions, including gender-sensitive curriculum and research structures.
- A functional coordination unit on mainstreaming gender and promotion of gender equality aspect in the forestry sector with a gender focal point with clear functions, tasks, obligations and authority need to be established.

Closing

Bhawana briefly summarized the group work presentation and highlighted the fact that the group exercise helped generate ideas on some very specific challenges and corresponding activities and required resources. She also informed that there will be a follow-up workshop in December which offers further opportunity to discuss more on the specific recommendations and the way forward.

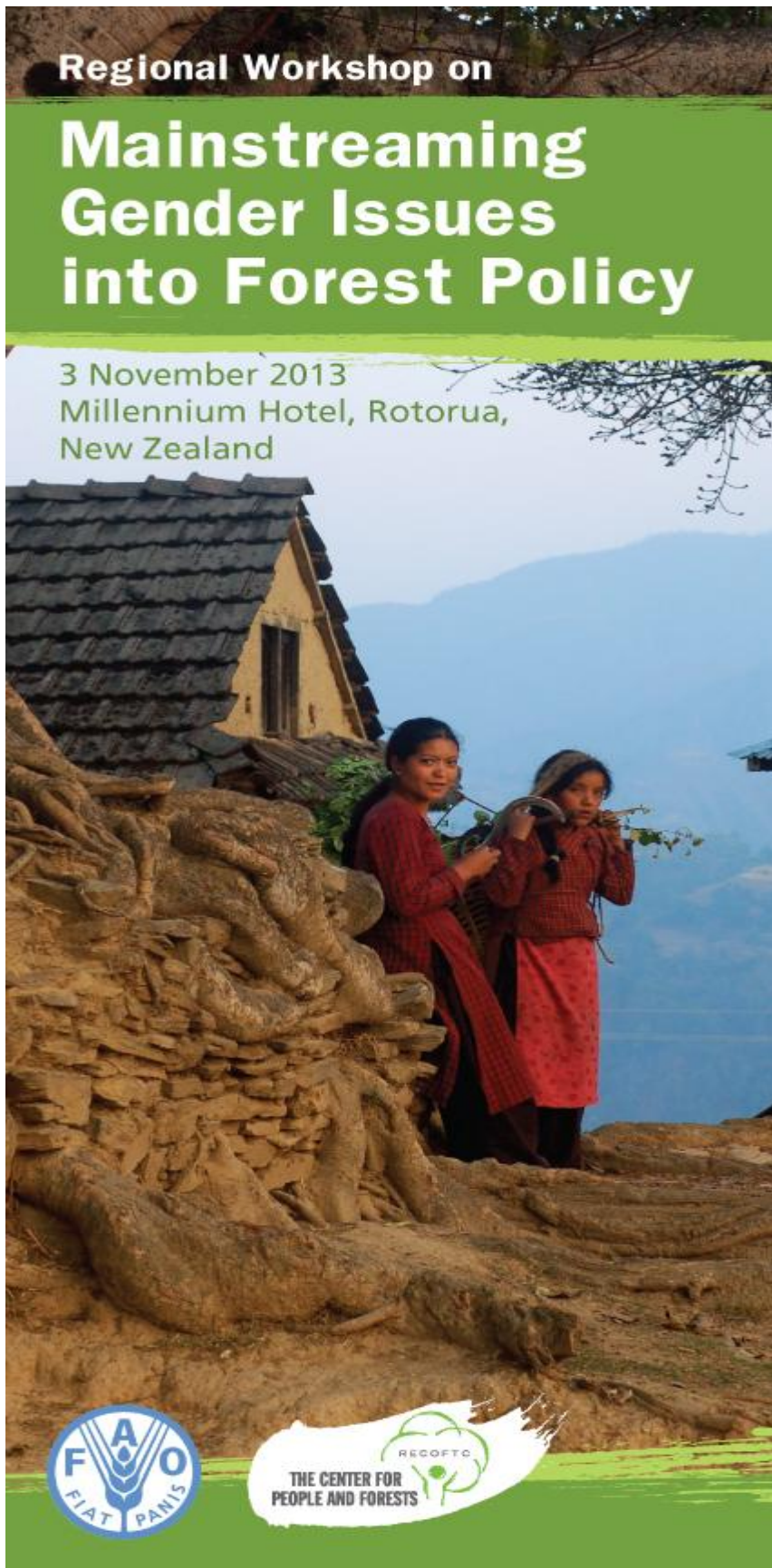
There was an overall consensus that the ideas, experiences and knowledge shared during the workshop will help integrate in feeding into the regional synthesis document and project countries' policy briefs. There were also feedbacks from participants on better understanding of the gender and forestry related issues relating these to bigger picture as to why gender responsive forest policy is essential. Some country delegates felt that this workshop was very timely as a number of interventions are on-going in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation and REDD+ in the region.

A number of participants provided a vote of thanks to the convener and Bhawana finally expressed her gratitude towards all country delegates and participants for making themselves available for the workshop and for their invaluable contribution and participation.

Regional Workshop on

Mainstreaming Gender Issues into Forest Policy

3 November 2013
Millennium Hotel, Rotorua,
New Zealand



Time	Session title	Speakers
9. 15 – 10.00	Welcome Remarks Introduction of the delegates and outline of agenda	RECOFTC and FAO Bhawana
10.00 – 10.15	Keynote Speech on Gender Mainstreaming in National Forest Policies	Andrew McEwen
10.15 - 10. 30	Overview of Gender Mainstreaming into Forest Policy and Objective of the Workshop	Bhawana
10. 30 – 10.50	Tea Break	
10.50 – 12. 30	Country Presentations and questions/clarifications (20 minutes each)	Country Delegates
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch break	
13.30 – 14.40	Country Presentations and Questions/clarifications	Country Delegates
14.40 -15.00	Sharing of success story of mainstreaming Gender into forest policies: how did it happen?	Resource Person
15.00 -15. 20	Tea Break	
15.20– 16.15	Group work	Participants
16.15 – 16.30	Synthesis and the way forward	Facilitated discussion
16.30 – 17.00	Feedback and Closing	RECOFTC and ICRAF

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