







Photo: María Lascurain

*[In Mexico] there are 4.2 million communal landowners, of which only 19.8% are women. By not owning land, [women] cannot access public programs for infrastructure, credit, leasing, equipment, and payment for environmental services, and they are not represented in decision-making processes related to land use.*

National Program for Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination  
against Women 2013-2018 (PROIGUALDAD)

## Introduction

Given international efforts to address climate change and to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), and based on Mexico's commitment to develop public policies that contribute to closing the gender gap, the Mexico REDD+ Alliance (M-REDD+), with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and in collaboration with the Global Gender Office of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), is working to mainstream gender in policies related to the change climate and REDD+ in Mexico.

This paper summarizes the process and describes actions taken since 2012 to promote coherent and harmonized policy and program frameworks to strengthen the link between two important development issues: gender equality and climate change.

The aim is to strengthen inter-institutional coordination, coordination between the executive branch and the legislature, and increase participation of different sectors to achieve greater complementarity between public policies.

## MAINSTREAMING GENDER INTO CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES IN MEXICO

### Objectives

- Incorporate gender perspectives in the Special Climate Change Program (PECC) from 2013 to 2018, through development of sectorial goals and cross-cutting targets.
- Develop a Plan of Action on Gender and Climate Change for the implementation of the PECC and contribute to the inclusion of a cross-cutting gender approach within other policy instruments.

## MAINSTREAMING GENDER INTO REDD+ POLICIES IN MEXICO

### Objectives

- Strengthen national capacity to mainstream gender in the environmental sector.
- Prepare technical inputs to ensure that public policy instruments and environmental laws related to REDD+ in Mexico include gender criteria.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE INITIATIVE



### 1. Undertake a Situation Analysis

The starting point was an analysis of the existing legal and policy framework on gender, forests, and climate change in Mexico. We interviewed key actors to identify the main challenges and gaps. We also undertook an assessment of existing capacities to complete the situation analysis.

### 2. Establish a Common Knowledge Base

We trained several women's organizations and institutions to improve and increase their knowledge on climate change and forests in order to create a common base of knowledge on the topic.

### 3. Capture Diverse Voices

We held workshops and consultations with various stakeholders, including: government, civil society, international organizations, and academia. This process helped to assess the situation, identify priority issues, and agree on next steps.

### 4. Set Priorities and Take Action

We made proposals to mainstream gender in public policies related to climate change and REDD+. Proposal development included a validation process with government agencies which helped ensure that the recommendations were included in public policies.

Through this process, we developed technical inputs and recommendations to include principles and criteria related to human rights, gender equality, and the rights of indigenous peoples within the General Law on Climate Change (LGCC) and the General Law for Sustainable Forest Development (LGDFS).

## MAIN LEGAL REFERENCES

- **General Act on Equality between Women and Men (LGIMH) (2006)**

Guarantees equal opportunities through the adoption of policies, programs, projects, and compensatory measures such as affirmative action.

Establishes the need to incorporate the allocation of resources in the Expenditure Budget of the Federation and the generation of sex-disaggregated data, performance indicators, and management.

- **Planning Law (LP) (1983)**

Notes that planning should ensure gender equality, inform the application of policy instruments with specificities related to the differential impact the instrument could have on women and men, and develop indicators to facilitate the assessment of this impact.

- **Federal Budget and Fiscal Responsibility (BFRL) (2006)**

States that the administration of federal revenues and public expenditures must be done with accountability and gender equality.

Evaluations on the exercise of these resources should include sex -disaggregated data related to beneficiaries of programs and measure the how the programs impact women and men differently.

Performance evaluation should incorporate specific indicators to assess the impact of budgetary programs on equality between women and men.

## MAIN PROGRAMMATIC REFERENCES

- **National Development Plan (NDP) 2013-2018**

Mandates the inclusion of gender as one of the cross-cutting lines of action that all institutional, regional, and special programs should contain.

- **National Program for Equal Opportunity and Non- Discrimination Against Women 2013- 2018 (PROIGUALDAD)**

“Ensuring environmental sustainability requires a set of measures to boost clean energy production and ecosystem protection, which together form the basis for achieving sustainable development. The goal is to incorporate the gender perspective throughout the environmental sector. Encourage the participation of women and their role in access, use, control, and management of natural resources, and position them as key decision-makers in the conservation, care, and use of natural resources and in environmental management and actions related to climate change. “

**Strategy 1.1.** Harmonize national legislation with international conventions and treaties related to the human rights of women, in accordance with Article 1 of the Constitution.

**Strategy 5.5.** Incorporate the gender perspective in environmental and sustainability policies, including the legal framework for environmental matters.

**Cross-cutting Objective 6.** Incorporate gender equality policies in the three branches of government and strengthen its institutionalization in organizational culture.

## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE TO ENSURE GENDER EQUALITY

### Progress on the legislative agenda

- A working group within the Mexican Congress was set up to develop technical inputs and integrate gender criteria in the General Law on Climate Change (LGCC) and the General Law for Sustainable Forest Development (LGDFS).
- The Center for the Advancement of Women and Gender Equity in the House of Representatives (CEAMEG) produced the study “Analysis of earmarked expenditures for women and gender equality in the field of environment, forestry, and climate change.” (August 2014)

### PECC 2014-2018

The official version published in April 2014 included:













- 8 lines of action on gender equality
- 11 strategies and 35 action lines corresponding to PROIGUALDAD

### ENAREDD+ (April 2014 version)

The version for public consultation includes:

- 13 lines of action on gender equality
- 15 references to women and gender equality in the text

## EXAMPLES OF LINES OF ACTION INCLUDED IN THE PECC 2014-2018<sup>1</sup>

Area		Line of Action
Forests		<b>PECC Line of Action 5.4.1.</b> Implement training programs on climate change and forests in forest communities including the equal participation of men and women.
Agriculture		<b>PROIGULADAD Line of Action 3.4.3.</b> Take affirmative action to increase the participation of rural women in basic food production projects.
Water		<b>PROIGULADAD Line of Action 3.4.9.</b> Promote women's access to water resources.
Tourism		<b>PECC Line of Action 2.3.6.</b> Promote, with a gender perspective, sustainable community eco-tourism projects in National Protected Areas and/or vulnerable areas.
Health		<b>PECC Complementary Activity No. 7.</b> Design and implement an educational communication strategy in municipalities on the effects of climate change on health, with a focus on gender. <b>PROIGUALDAD Line of Action 5.2.7.</b> Respect the privacy of women during the evacuation and emergency care.
Energy		<b>PECC Line of Action 4.1.6.</b> Replace traditional open fires with improved cook stoves in houses located in areas with poverty and marginalization.
Transport		<b>PROIGUALDAD Line of Action 5.4.3.</b> Strengthen coordination and cooperation between the three levels of government and society for safe transportation.
Urbanization		<b>PROIGULADAD Line of Action 4.3.2.</b> Support self-help housing alternatives for women.
Coastal Zone Management		<b>PROIGUALDAD Line of Action 5.5.7.</b> Promote sustainable fishing and aquaculture for women in coastal and riverine areas.
Disaster Risk Reduction		<b>PECC Line of Action 1.1.2.</b> Consolidate the National Risk Atlas, integrating gender indicators.
Biodiversity and Lands		<b>PECC Line of Action 2.2.4.</b> Apply tools for the sustainable management of biodiversity in priority areas of the MesoAmerican Biological Corridor promoting equal opportunities between men and women.
Financing		<b>PECC Line of Action 5.1.3.</b> Operate the Climate Change Fund and other financial resources with criteria on priorities, gender equality, transparency, and efficiency.

1. We have included specific lines of action of the PECC and lines of action corresponding to PROIGUALDAD included in the PECC.

## EXAMPLES OF COURSES OF ACTION INCLUDED IN THE ENAREDD+ (APRIL 2014 VERSION)






Area		Line of Action
Public Policy		<b>Line of Action 3.4.</b> Promote the implementation, strengthening, and coordination of land use and environmental instruments at regional and community levels with a gender perspective, as well as elements for planning and decision-making.
Financing		<b>Line of Action 4.3.</b> Promote women's access to credit and loans, marketing facilities, and appropriate technology.
Institutional Arrangements		<b>Line of Action 2.2.</b> Promote governance mechanisms with a gender perspective and with full respect for their cultures for participatory territorial planning, implementation, and monitoring of activities at the local level, considering the actors involved.
Social and Environmental Safeguards		<b>Line of Action 3.5.</b> Ensure participation of women and special focus groups in the design and implementation of SIS, respecting the customs of the communities.
Social Participation		<b>Line of Action 4.1.</b> Strengthen the inclusion and participation of women and special focus groups in environmental service projects, community forestry, forest development, and sustainable use of wildlife, among others.





Photo: María Lascurain



Photo: Rodrigo Fernández



Photo: Marco Calvo, UICN

*The legislative developments are critical for the recognition of human rights of women and to achieve formal equality, legal equality between women and men; but do not guarantee substantive equality, de facto equality. Therefore it is necessary to generate comprehensive public policies that meet the regulatory frameworks thus allowing the development of measures to achieve equality in practice.*

## Next Steps

- Monitor the budget earmarked for the implementation of the action lines of the PECC that promote gender equality.
- Promote the generation of data and indicators disaggregated by sex to identify the differential impact of public policies on women and men.
- Strengthen the review criteria and integrate gender into all legislation related to climate change and REDD+ to achieve greater alignment.
- Coordinate efforts and build capacity on gender equality of the fourteen departments that make up the Inter-ministerial Commission on Climate Change (CICC), and the various organizations and institutions that respond to the ENAREDD+.

## Conclusion

The accomplishments to mainstream gender in public policy and environmental laws related to climate change and REDD+ in Mexico have been the result of a combination of efforts by civil society, academia, government, and international organizations. These include: the creation and exchange of knowledge, skills development, formulation and implementation of public policies with a gender perspective and the documentation and promotion of good practices.

