

Biodiversity and Adaptation of Key Forest Ecosystems to Climate Change II Programme “Promotion of the gender equality in the forestry sector of Mongolia”

INTRODUCTION

Nomadic Mongolians’ livelihood patterns, their traditions and values, basic economy including labor division of men and women and their roles within the households and society for centuries have closely been relied on the climatic conditions and natural resources availability thus, creating a foundation for shaping of gender relations in the country. Some negative changes have taken place due to climate change processes and natural resources specifically, desertification and natural resources depletion affected men and women of all ages both in urban and rural areas as well as various social groups differently. This phenomenon has facilitated exacerbating of inequalities in the society thus, becoming a major factor in aggravating critical social challenges including risks in poverty, health dimensions and internal migration patterns.

The constitution of Mongolia proclaims the equal rights of men and women and the Gender Equality Law defines the basic principles of gender equality. Although women’s participation in the economic, social and political life has been increased over the past 20 years, their representation in decision-making level remains limited. In national level women make up 20% of all staff employed in the environmental sector and 90% of environment protection staff are men in a village level.

1. PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY



Biodiversity and Adaptation of Key Forest Ecosystems to Climate Change Programme (the programme) have been implemented in Mongolia since 2012. The overall module of objective of the initial phase (2012-2015) of the programme was the improvement the political and institutional frameworks and capacity building for biodiversity conservation through protection and sustainable management of chosen ecologically significant areas (key ecosystems) under consideration of climate change and the need for improving

living conditions of the rural population (women and men). One of the main baseline data was “inexistence of a gender differentiated consideration in use of natural resources”.

In order to increase the income of the rural population, especially women, and equal participation in the sector, it was important for the programme to establish a legal framework that ensures and supports gender equality in all level of the sector based on the national gender policy. Furthermore, none of 30 environmental laws and 200 regulations and policies had any gender related inputs.

In 2014, after two years of legislative framework, materials and financials, and institutional capacity development supports of the programme, Ministry of Environment and Green Development have approved its sectoral gender strategy which was considered as a pioneer in development of sector-specific gender strategy initiative amongst other line ministries.

In the second phase of the programme is devoting a special attention to the participation of women and girls in capacity development, especially in forestry vocational education and in generating value from

natural resources. Because 70% of all single mothers live in rural areas and they face challenge of securing the livelihood of the family alone. Therefore, women are threatened by destructive usage of natural resources, loss of biodiversity and climate change.

The conservation of forest through sustainable forest management, which ensures the ecologic, economic and social functions of the forest is the main focus of the programme. The programme estimates that to establish/implement the clean forest concept and sustainable forest management of Mongolia, in overall 6 thousand professional foresters are required. But annually, less than a hundred foresters are graduating from universities and vocational training centers in national level. In this context, Memorandums of cooperation was signed with 4 Vocational Training Schools, which located in northern part of Mongolia, to prepare forestry workers. The programme's main objective in the forestry vocational education is to ensure balanced gender ratio among the trainees, i.e. at least 40% women.



Once a year a gender sensitive open door event at one of the partner vocational training school is organised. During this event, female students of the forestry classes perform moderation of forestry tools and equipment. The main idea of the event is to provide inspiration to young girls and women, and to show that forestry is no longer masculine sector. Thanks to modern technologies and new inventions, forestry equipments and tools that supposed to be too heavy and difficult to use for women were remodelled and changed.

2. GENDER AS A QUALITY FEATURE OF OUR WORK

The GIZ programme's participation in the strategy development is highly recognised by other ministries, civil society organizations and international donors in the country. Presently, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Finance are working to develop their sector specific gender strategies and the programme's officers are often sought and invited for the workshop and seminars for inputs and recommendations.



Under the gender and forestry sector title, the programme officers were invited to television interviews, and published newspaper articles directed to the general public. Furthermore, in Bulgan province of Mongolia, the first-ever tree garden for female foresters was established by the programme with initiation of the local governor's office.

3. GENDER AND RBM

The programme contribution to enhancing gender equality of the environmental sector have been documented on the DMS since 2012.

A report on the first meeting on development of gender strategy with MEGD and related stakeholders is stored on the DMS at: <https://dms.giz.de/dms/lisapi.dll?func=ll&objaction=overview&objid=88583580>

Gender situation analysis of the sector are stored on the DMS at: <https://dms.giz.de/dms/lisapi.dll?func=ll&objId=80989950&objAction=browse>

The Minister's order to establish a Gender council is stored on the DMS at: <https://dms.giz.de/dms/lisapi.dll?func=ll&objaction=overview&objid=85993919>

The desktop review: Gender analysis conducted by the GIZ programme is stored on the DMS at: <https://dms.giz.de/dms/lisapi.dll?func=ll&objaction=overview&objid=84074832>

Progress reports, operational plans of the working group, and summary of meeting on development of the gender strategy are stored on the DMS at:

<https://dms.giz.de/dms/lisapi.dll?func=ll&objId=85994994&objAction=browse&viewType=1>

The approved gender strategy is stored on the DMS at:

<https://dms.giz.de/dms/lisapi.dll?func=ll&objaction=overview&objid=88256101>

For the both phases of the programme, gender considered as the main cross-cutting issue and gender interventions was/are monitored and evaluated separately in the RbM system.

Any changes in gender related indicators are updated along with means of verification in the RbM document. The latest quality management system reports are stored on the DMS at:

<https://dms.giz.de/dms/lisapi.dll?func=ll&objaction=overview&objid=90973720>

<https://dms.giz.de/dms/lisapi.dll?func=ll&objaction=overview&objid=98383502>

Forestry training reports that contain information on list of participants and gender ratios are frequently filed and stored on the DMS

at: <https://dms.giz.de/dms/lisapi.dll?func=ll&objId=99034766&objAction=browse&viewType=1>

4. COOPERATION

The environmental sector's gender-responsive policy planning and management process was joint and inclusive task that ensured participation of women and men in prioritizing and solving of sectoral issues at all levels, improving the efficiency of the policy implementation, its impacts and sustainability as well as its cost-efficiency.

Gender equality and environmental concerns are both cross-sectoral and both are equally relevant towards all of the policy planning processes and their implementation at all levels. Therefore, they require common understanding,



agreed approach, meaningful participation of all critical stakeholders and improved capacities and expertise.

During the development of the strategy, the working group organized individual and group meetings and thematic consultations (on climate change, desertification, forest and water issues) with policy makers as



well as civil society representatives in order to identify gender concerns of the sector. These efforts enabled the team to identify opportunities of mainstreaming gender in the sectoral policy planning and activities, pursue gender-responsive agenda in line with the local development plans and within the priority areas of actions as well as reveal some challenges for further solution.

The adopted gender strategy (2014) is recognized in the international level due to its fulfilment of the Rio Convention (supports active participation of women in

action against biodiversity loss, climate change impact and desertification), the Convention on the Biological Biodiversity (focuses on promotion of gender equality to achieve objectives of the convention), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (recognizes the importance of rural women in improving livelihood and sustainability of ecosystem) and the United Nations Framework Convention On Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The major challenge during the development of the strategy was instability of the Government of Mongolia. In 2014, due to the budget deficit, the Mongolian Parliament has decided to dissolve and merge some ministries and intergovernmental organizations. As the result Tourism Department of the former Ministry of Culture, Sport and Tourism has merged with the MEGD and the ministry was renamed as the Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism (MEGDT) which led to increased workload and additional responsibilities to the ministries staff.

Three key successes were: skilled and professional GIZ team, a demand for the sector specific gender strategy and a female minister of EGDT of 2014. Teamwork and professionalism were one of the main success factors. Secondly, there was already demand for not only for the strategy but for the sectoral gender situation analysis because very few researches were conducted since 1990. The Ministry of Environment and Green development was headed by a female minister, Ms. Oyun.S, who was the President of the United Nations Environmental Assembly during the strategy development.

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