

Towards a workable approach to mainstream gender in natural resources management



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management**

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Both ENDS

Nieuwe Keizersgracht 45
1018 VC Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31 20 530 6600
Fax: +31 20 620 8049
E-mail: info@bothends.org

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Text: Annelieke Douma, Both ENDS

With contributions from Yurani Monsalve (AMICHOCÓ), Marieke Heemskerk (gender expert), Ebeh Kodjo (ANCE), Perpetue Koami (gender expert), Kazi Sufia Akhter, Ferdousi Akhter, Sen Sukanta (BARCIK), Rekha Saha (gender expert) Jorieke Kloek, Tamara Mohr, Remi Kempers and Martien Hoogland (Both ENDS)

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Towards a workable approach to mainstream gender in natural resources Management

This paper describes the key results and lessons learned of a PSO funded project in which Both ENDS and partner organisations AMICHOCÓ in Colombia, ANCE in Togo and BARCIK in Bangladesh jointly set out to test a practical approach to mainstream gender in their work on natural resources management. This paper aims to share their insights and experiences so far in working with the approach.

Introduction

This paper describes the key results and lessons learned of the PSO funded project: *Towards a workable Approach to Mainstream Gender in Natural Resources Management*. In this one and a half year project (2010-2011) Both ENDS and partner organisations AMICHOCÓ in Colombia, ANCE in Togo and BARCIK in Bangladesh jointly set out to test a practical approach to mainstream gender in their work on natural resources management, each in its specific context and based on its specific ambition.

The tailored step-by-step approach allows for an in-depth analysis of the gender relations in the focus area, close cooperation with gender experts and women's organisations, and for learning-by-doing.

We believe the approach and our findings may also be relevant for other CSOs working on natural resources management in the South and North, who are interested to (further) address and integrate gender issues in their activities. This paper aims to share our insights and experiences so far in working with the approach.

The first chapter describes the background to the initiative. In the second chapter the reasoning behind, and steps of, the approach itself are explained. The key results of the pilots in Colombia, Togo and Bangladesh can be found in chapter 3. In chapter 4 and 5, our main conclusions and lessons learned, and our ideas for follow-up are provided. Gender concepts and definitions, more detailed information on gender analysis tools, and some personal accounts of people involved in the project are included in the annexes.

We invite all readers to provide your feedback on this paper and the tested approach, as well as your suggestions and ideas to continue working (together) on enhancing gender equality in access and control over natural resources.

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1. Background to the initiative

1.1 The role of gender equity in natural resources management

Gender equity is a fundamental human right and a matter of social justice. It is also essential for the sustainable use and management of natural resources. Women are the guardians of biodiversity world-wide. They form the majority of small-scale farmers and are largely responsible for food security and water supply for their families and communities. Therefore, by and large they are most intensively involved and knowledgeable about the natural resources on which they depend. Women are also known to reinvest 90% of their income back into their families, compared to men who reinvest around 30-40%.

Vice versa, the use and value of natural resources in a region affect gender relations. For example, when cash crops are introduced, men tend to benefit while women, who are mostly responsible for subsistence farming, loose out. Similarly, the impacts of large-scale dams or plantations forcing communities from their land are disproportionately felt by women who may now need to work larger tracks of marginal land to harvest the same amount of food to feed their families. They have to walk more hours to fetch water and fuel.

While women have specific knowledge on the conservation and use of local natural resources, formal control over these resources is mostly vested in the hands of men or male dominated institutions. In politics and institutions at all levels, women are weakly represented. In other cases women can participate in meetings and discussions on the way resources are managed, but their actual decision-making power is limited due to the social and cultural setting.

Generally, women control those resources which are freely available while men dominate resources with higher monetary value, which are scarce. Pressures on resources due to population growth, climate change, pollution, and a tendency for large-scale interventions can reinforce and aggravate current gender inequalities.

Achieving equal control of women in the management of natural resources ensures their needs and knowledge is taken into account and effectively used. It may also lead to shifts in priorities. For example in India giving power to women at the local level led to increases in provision of public goods, such as water and sanitation, which are priority concerns of women (*World Development Report 2012, Gender and Equality, World Bank*). Moreover, in all societies women are often powerful actors in the promotion of sustainable development and social justice.

According to the United Nations:

- More than two-thirds of the people in the world living in absolute poverty are women.
- Women perform 67% of the labour in the world, but are the worst paid, earning only 10% of the global income.
- Women own less than 1% of all property in the world.
- 66% of all illiterate people are women.
- Women occupy 10% of all parliamentary seats.

1.2 The need for a workable approach to mainstream gender

Many civil society organisations in the South and North acknowledge the important role of gender inequality in their work on environmental and development issues. At the same time, gender issues and women's rights are not their key expertise and they are struggling to find practical ways to start addressing gender inequality in their specific field of work.

Key challenges many environment and development organisations meet include:

1. The lack of sufficient time and resources for a genuine analysis of existing gender relations and inequities in areas they work in, and the underlying causes. It is not possible to start mainstreaming gender, without first putting specific emphasis and additional resources into understanding the specific issues they are dealing with.
2. The difficulty to question power relations in the communities they work with, as they are deeply embedded in social, political and cultural structures. Addressing these structures require a long-term process and a careful approach.
3. The fact that many existing tools and guidelines on gender mainstreaming are often rather general and not easy to apply to the specific contexts in which organisations are working¹. In reality, gender issues are complex and highly context-specific. Generally, Both ENDS and partners believe it is important to move away from generalisations and learn from practical experiences.
4. The lack of insight in the role of gender in natural resources management specifically. While quite some literature and successful examples is available on the role of gender in sectors such as health and education, the link between natural resources management and gender equity seems not as extensively explored.
5. The language barriers between gender experts and practitioners. While gender experts have crucial expertise on ways to mainstream gender, they sometimes seem to speak a different language than practitioners in the field². It is therefore important to work together for a longer period, understand each other and find a more common language (instead of a gender expert providing a single, generic gender training as a means to build capacity of an organisation in gender mainstreaming).

Both ENDS and partner organisation AMICHOCÓ (Colombia), ANCE (Togo) and BARCIK (Bangladesh) are all aware of the important role of gender inequality in their work on environmental and development issues. They jointly took up the challenge to address the issues above and come to a practical and workable approach for environment and development organisations to integrate gender equity in their work.

1.3 The role of PSO, Both ENDS and partners

The innovation fund of PSO, allowing members and partner organisations to experiment with new ways of capacity building, provided a unique opportunity for Both ENDS and partners to learn as equal partners. With the project, Both ENDS and the three partner organisations aimed to increase their insight in the role of gender in natural resources management and poverty alleviation, build their capacities to address gender inequality in a practical way, and increase

¹ One of the conclusions of a joint project of Both ENDS, the Gender and Water Alliance, and the Comprehensive Assessment in 2006, *Effective gender mainstreaming in water management for sustainable livelihoods: from guidelines to practice*.

² Another conclusion of the project by BE/GWA/CA

cooperation between environment and development NGOs, gender experts and women's organisations.

AMICHOCÓ, ANCE and BARCIK tested the approach proposed by Both ENDS in their specific area of work. AMICHOCÓ and BARCIK focused on power relations and women's participation in the environmental projects they implement with grassroots communities in de Chocó region in Colombia and in the Sundarbans in Bangladesh respectively. ANCE focused on the promotion of equal participation of men and women in decision-making over the use and management of water in their lobby campaign on the Human Right to Water in Togo.

Both ENDS took up a coordinating role ensuring progress, providing back-stopping support, and taking responsibility for monitoring and evaluation. It also acted as a broker of information and people, and a facilitator of shared learning amongst the partners. In September 2011, an international workshop was held in Amsterdam to evaluate the country processes and the approach as such, and to share the results with a broader group of interested organisations.

2. A workable approach to mainstream gender

2.1 Reasoning behind the approach

The *workable approach to mainstream gender in Natural Resources Management (NRM)* aims to counteract the problems described in the previous chapter. It is based on the following reasoning:

1. Mainstreaming is not possible, without first putting *specific efforts and time* in assessing gender relations in *an inclusive process*. It is important therefore to engage in a *longer-term, step-by-step* process in which a gender expert together with the communities and the organisations working in the area look into the specific power and gender relations and ways to address them. Only when a proper analysis is done, appropriate answers can be found. The step-by-step process proposed in the approach is further described in Section 2.2.
2. A gender expert should facilitate the process on a longer-term basis (instead of providing generic gender training). The gender expert should come from the area or be at least highly knowledgeable about the area. Gender tools and guidelines (such as checklists, gendered resource mapping, policy matrices etc.) must be *tailored* to the specific context.
3. Discussions about gender relations will be specifically *linked to access and control over natural resources* on which communities depend for their livelihoods.
4. Cooperation should be sought with women's organisations and other relevant stakeholders. Unfortunately, environmental organisations and women's (rights) organisations do not seem to work together much, even though they may have clear overlapping goals and complementary skills and knowledge. Local or national women's organisations are knowledgeable about the needs and vision of women and ways to empower them, and thus valuable to involve in an attempt to integrate gender issues. Other relevant stakeholders include local or national authorities, lawyers, students and media for example.
5. *Continuous documentation and monitoring and evaluation* of the gender mainstreaming process via reports, interviews, film and questionnaires, will increase ownership and transparency and allow for learning and sharing with others.

2.2 Step-by-step methodology

The proposed and tested workable approach includes a number of specific steps which can guide a process in which an organisation starts working on the integration of gender equality in its work.

In a first phase, a (preferably local or national) gender expert is sought who is willing and interested to facilitate the capacity building trajectory, which is based on the specific question and ambition of the environment and development organisation. This means he or she will guide the performance of a thorough gender analysis, and the development of a work plan to address the issues identified. He or she acts as a resource person throughout the whole process.

An initial capacity building workshop is organised to start analysing the specific gender issues in the work area of the organisation. The gender expert and staff members participate, as well as other relevant people and organisations with specific expertise, notably local or national women's organisations and community members, but also other CSOs, lawyers, anthropologists, or scientist. In the workshop, the gender expert presents relevant tools to guide an analysis. The

tools are directly applied to the specific target group/area at hand. Important issues to look at in the analysis are:

- Power relations in households, communities, and between regions.
- Differentiated access and control over resources.
- Decision-making structures.
- Cultural and social structures.
- Legal/institutional/customary laws and regulations at local and national levels.
- Policies, investments and interventions that have a negative effect on gender equity on the ground.

Based on the first analysis and sharing, gaps are identified and a plan is developed to further analyse the gender relations and issues at stake. Difficult issues such as cultural sensitivities are also discussed.

In the second phase, the gender analysis is elaborated. This may involve finding more data, information and contacts; carrying out questionnaires, group discussions or surveys in the field with the target group; development of material or further sharing of goals and strategies with the women's organisations, etc. The analysis will be documented, and subsequently discussed and validated in a mid-term workshop with the same group of people participating in the initial workshop. Based on the analysis and challenges encountered, a tailored work plan is developed to try and address the issues and answer the initial question and ambition of the environment and development organisation.

In a third phase, the organisation and relevant stakeholders start to implement the proposed work plan to allow for learning-by-doing. A final evaluation workshop will be important to discuss the results of the work plan implementation and evaluate the process, looking back at the initial ambitions and key challenges and lessons learned.

Table 1: Steps of the workable approach to mainstream gender in NRM

Step	Goal
0) Preparation	Defining specific question and ambition, finding gender expert and relevant stakeholders to involve
1) Initial capacity building workshop	Scoping, common understanding, training, tools, cooperation with others, baseline.
2) In-depth gender analysis	Elaborate on analysis, field work, documentation
3) Validation and planning workshop	Validate analysis, planning concrete activities
4) Implement work plan	Learning by doing
5) Evaluation workshop and way forward	Evaluate work plan, results and process, plan follow-up
6) International sharing workshop	Share results of country pilots with one another. Evaluate and strengthen the approach. Share with a broader group of interested organisations.

3. The approach tested in practice

AMICHOCÓ, ANCE and BARCIK set out in early 2010 to test the gender mainstreaming approach, based on their specific ambitions in relation to gender mainstreaming. A summary of the process followed and results achieved in each of the countries is described below. Elaborate accounts of their cases are described in country reports available at the websites of Both ENDS, AMICHOCÓ, ANCE and BARCIK.

3.1 The case of AMICHOCÓ

Introduction

The Chocó bioregion comprises the north-western fringe of South America; it is approximately 71,000 square kilometres in size and has one of the highest levels of endemism in the Neotropics. In Colombia, the Chocó bioregion encompasses all territory from the foothills of the western mountain range to the Pacific coast and includes municipalities in the departments of Antioquia, Nariño, Cauca, Valle del Cauca, Córdoba, Risaralda and the whole of the Chocó department. It's one of the world's most biodiverse regions, and in Colombia, one of the most culturally diverse as well; nearly 98% of its population is afro descendant and the remaining 2% are made up of different indigenous groups.

Unfortunately, this immensely rich region is also one of the country's most vulnerable. The inhabitants of the Chocó Bioregion have the highest levels of unsatisfied basic needs (over 80% in average) in the country and face serious threats to their health and wellbeing. The lack of state presence and the territorial disputes with illegal armed groups are the main source of instability in the region and serious limitations in local infrastructure have isolated its people from the rest of the country.



Gender issues in the Pacific state of Chocó, Colombia

In a sustainable mining initiative which AMICHOCÓ promotes, the Oro Verde (*Green Gold*) Programme, women are actively involved in extracting metals from the mines. However, most of the time, decision-making and marketing activities are carried out by the men who represent the Family Production Units³. Although some women leaders do exist, on the whole they are restricted to participating in mining production. It is mainly men who have contact with the *Consejos Mayores* (Community Councils) in Tadó and Condoto for the sale of gold, and the men take part and decide on everything related to the programme. AMICHOCÓ therefore felt the necessity to include in the work of Oro Verde, and generally speaking in

³ In 2011, the representation of Family Production Units in the Oro Verde programme had the following distribution: in Tadó there are 24 FPU in total, which are chiefly represented by 7 women and 14 men; in Condoto there are 90 FPU in total, which are represented by 25 women and 65 men. These representatives make decisions for example on the use of primary resources which they receive from the sale of Oro Verde metals and other matters relating to programme participation.

all projects run by AMICHOCÓ, an emphasis on gender that would guarantee equal participation and access to benefits for men and women.

Therefore, for AMICHOCÓ the point of departure in this project was the question:

How can we enhance the participation of women in environmental projects with rural communities in Colombia and in our work with their leaders, without questioning their culture or threatening their autonomy?

Key steps taken and tools used

To enhance the participation of women in environmental projects, the approach proposed by Both ENDS was applied. The project consisted of five phases, which together established a strong basis for the inclusion of gender. These phases were: 1) constructing a conceptual framework on gender and implementing tools for gender analysis, 2) conducting a detailed gender analysis through field work, 3) validating the analysis, 4) constructing and implementing a work plan to mainstream gender into the work of AMICHOCÓ and 5) a final evaluation workshop.

The project was formally launched in June 2010 with the workshop *Gender in Development and Conservation Projects in Rural Communities*. Ten environmental, social, and academic organisations that work in the regions of Chocó and Antioquia participated in this workshop. During the workshop participatory tools for conducting gender analysis in rural communities were presented and tested, including a problem tree, gendered resource mapping, stakeholders' analysis, activity profiles and activity calendars (for more information on these tools, please refer to annex 2).

From August to November 2010, AMICHOCÓ executed a gender analysis, using gendered resource mapping and problem trees as analytical tools. These research instruments were combined with observations and interviews during an ethnographic study in communities that participate in the Oro Verde Programme in the municipality of Condoto, Chocó. The most important conclusions of the analysis were:

- Female spaces *par excellence* are the home and the home-garden or *azotea*⁴, which are closely related to the main female roles of household management, child care and food provision.
- Both women and men use and benefit from the natural resources found in and around the Chocó communities, such as rivers, forest, agricultural plots, home gardens and minerals (gold and platinum). An exception is hunting, which takes place in the forest and is only done by men.
- The agricultural plot, the home garden, and the river are the main places where women perform their productive activities. In the agricultural plot and the home garden women plant and harvest food crops for daily consumption; in the rivers they mine for gold and platinum using traditional mining methods, locally called *zambullidero*⁵.



⁴ The *azotea* is a garden for the cultivation of aromatic and medicinal plants, herbs, and condiments. These gardens are typically situated behind the house, in the remains of a wooden canoe or on a table especially constructed for this purpose, which is placed on poles to protect it from animals.

- Women have limited involvement in projects and decision-making structures in the community for various reasons, including: (1) the presence of men - women participate more actively when they are in a women-only setting; (2) child care; and (3) their double working days – they work in the mines and/or agriculture, in addition to performing their household chores.

In January 2011, the results of the analysis were presented and validated during a mid-term workshop, which was called *A Look in the Mirror*. This workshop was held in the Municipality of Tadó. The participants were male and female members and leaders from communities in the general areas of Tadó and Condoto.

Participants agreed with the findings of the gender analysis and it was concluded that there is a need to involve both men and women in processes to promote more gender equality, while at the same time respecting the socio-cultural characteristics of the communities and the people of the Chocó region.

Based on the gender analysis and in collaboration with the entire AMICHOCÓ team⁶, a work plan with *Good Practices for Gender Mainstreaming in the Work of AMICHOCÓ* has been developed.

The implementation of good practices started with the Project *Cine para sentir al Chocó* (Film to Feel the Chocó). This project resulted from collaboration with a Colombian film producer, Antorcha Films, and led to the production of a series of documentaries about women in the Chocó region (November-January 2011). The film materials provided an excellent point of departure to involve men and women in discussions about their territories and the role of women. AMICHOCÓ now uses the documentaries as gender awareness material in its work with communities. The most important contribution of the short films is that Chocó women and men see and hear their own people through audio-visual media. Because the audience recognise themselves in the voices and faces of others, they express themselves more freely in discussing often sensitive topics.

Finally, in July 2011, four workshops were held to present the results and evaluate the process. All participants were parties who had been involved: the AMICHOCÓ team, the Community Councils of Tadó and Condoto, members of communities that work in the Oro Verde Programme and the team of Antorcha Films.

Key results

As a result of the project, AMICHOCÓ was able to start mainstreaming gender into their work. The more specific outputs of the gender project include 1) new theoretical and practical tools to conduct a gender analysis, 2) a gender analysis in Tado and Condoto, 3) a series of documentary films (gender awareness material), 4) a work plan with Good Practices to incorporate into all stages of a project, 5) a gender policy for AMICHOCÓ (see the next page) and 6) an evaluation report.

Lessons learned

Changing gender systems and steering transformations that promote more gender equity, takes time and need to be done in small steps. As anywhere, changes that threaten existing power relations are not easily and unconditionally accepted. Within the cultural context of the target communities, men tend to dominate decision-making and capital resources. To create a discussion on

⁵ *Zambullidero* is a traditional mining technique consisting of diving in rivers to collect materials from the riverbed where alluvial gold is extracted.

⁶ Directorate, planning and development, administration and finance, project coordination and communications/public relations

gender, one needs to be careful to not just straight away start talking about gender but to introduce this subject in a careful and creative way. One needs to convince both women and men that more gender equity benefits all by using the opportunities that you get.

Due to the project, and in particular due to the documentary made, it became possible to talk about gender and to initiate a discussion about the daily life realities of men and women. It was found that the documentaries can be used as an instrument for awareness raising. Moreover, the local barriers to join a conversation need to be taken into account. For example by offering childcare during the meetings, by creating separate meetings for women, as women are afraid to speak up in public and by including the men from the beginning.

For AMICHOCÓ this project on gender was successful. However, AMICHOCÓ also faced some challenges during this project. The main important challenges were:

- Lack of continued participation of organisations in the process, due to a lack of time and resources.
- Rotation of representatives from the Community Councils.
- Initial lack of interest among local organisations.
- Information and project activities spread between the communities of Tadó and Condoto, whereby the gender analysis was performed in the Condoto region, but the work plan has been tested and executed in Tadó.

To address these issues, the work plan has been adapted during the project. For example, the work of AMICHOCÓ has concentrated on the internal structure of the organisation and on awareness raising among the existing project partners and the Community Councils. Moreover, during the process local organisations became more interested on working with gender and after a while they started to talk about gender.

AMICHOCÓ Gender Policy

OBJECTIVE: To promote equal participation in, and access to, the benefits generated by the development projects implemented by the Amigos del Chocó foundation

Component	Good practices	Indicators
Formulation and initiation of projects with a focus on gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of the possibilities and limitations for women and men to participate in projects. • Guidance by the AMICHOCÓ gender focus on gender mainstreaming for programme and project-planning documents. • Promotion of participation by men and women through strategies that have been defined by local organisations. • Evaluation of gender mainstreaming. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of projects created with a gender dimension, against total number of projects. • Strategies developed for improving possibilities for female participation. • More gender equality in project participation.

Raising awareness

- Gender awareness workshops with project teams, local organisations, communities, and/or beneficiaries through creative and interactive strategies (the *Cine para Sentir al Chocó* documentaries are a first attempt to generate materials for use in such workshops).
- Number of gender awareness-raising activities per project.
- Increased awareness of the meaning of gender equality.

Capacity building

- Capacity building workshops aimed at increasing understanding of gender equality for project work groups, local organisations and/or beneficiary communities.
- Supporting local organisations in the development of strategies and/or a gender policy.
- Increased female representation in decision-making structures.
- Number of organisations having followed capacity building workshops on gender equality.

Communication

- Include gender-differentiated information in internal project documents
- Guarantee the participation of women and men in activities and projects through the active invitation of both groups.
- Participation in events with a gender theme
- Articles and presentations
- Enhance the internalisation of a gender focus within AMICHOCÓ.
- Increased number of publications and presentations that integrate a gender emphasis.

Follow-up

The process that has now been initiated through this project will be continued in order to have a lasting impact. The work plan must be revised once more to integrate difficulties that have been encountered during implementation of the action points. Some proposed actions to continue and strengthen the project in this phase are:

- Implement the gender policy of AMICHOCÓ and help interested organizations to do the same.
- Distribution of the documentary films in the various communities and other venues.
- Gender awareness workshops with men, women, and families in communities and organizations.
- New audio-visual projects that expose the realities of (women's) lives in the Chocó.
- Meetings between communities to exchange experiences (Tadó and Condoto).
- Complement the initial gender analysis with more detailed information, also taking differences in age, social status, wealth, and other characteristics into account.
- Integration of women in the organizational structures of the Community Councils.
- Awareness raising and training with the AMICHOCÓ team.
- Campaigns that focus on female miners for clients (gold buyers) of Oro Verde.

3.2 The case of BARCIK

Introduction

The Sundarbans comprises an Indian (western) part and a Bangladeshi (eastern part, about 6000 sq. km's). The Bangladeshi part is situated in the south western coastal area, and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1997. The Sundarbans mangroves ecoregion is the world's largest mangrove ecosystem. Named after the dominant mangrove species *Heritiera fomes*, locally known as sundri, this is the only mangrove ecoregion that harbors the Indo-Pacific region's largest predator, the tiger. Unlike in other habitats, here tigers live and swim among the mangrove islands, where they hunt scarce prey such as chital deer, barking deer, wild pig, and even macaques. The people who venture into these impenetrable forests to gather honey, to fish, and to cut mangrove trees to make charcoal, frequently fall victim to the tigers. The forest area itself is not populated, with the exception of some forest stations.

The area ranks among the poorest and most remote in Bangladesh, and development of this region lags behind in the overall development of Bangladesh. It is also the most vulnerable area for natural disasters, such as cyclones, floods, and sea level rise.

Gender issues in the Sundarbans, Bangladesh

Bangladesh Resource Centre for Indigenous Knowledge (BARCIK) has been engaged since 1997 in biodiversity conservation and the rights of primary resource users in different parts of Bangladesh. Since 2007, BARCIK has been exploring in the south west of the country to contribute to establishing rights of forest dependent women and men on natural resources specifically on Non-Timber Food Products (NTFPs). As a part of that process, BARCIK with support from the PSO Innovation Fund and Both ENDS initiated an action research pilot project to empower the women members of the NTFPs dependent families through a gender mainstreaming process.

For BARCIK the point of departure in this project was the question:

How to ensure women participate equally as men in the production, marketing and decision-making of non-timber forest products from the Sundarbans in Bangladesh?



Women in the bonojibi community work both in the household as in income generating activities. But their contribution to income generation is not valued socially and economically. Men go to the sea for fishing and enter into the deep Sundarban forest to collect honey and bee wax facing the risk of tiger attacks. Women are engaged in the processing of honey and bee wax. They also enter into the forest for fuel and spawn collection. However they do not get a license to enter into the forest. If an accident occurs at the time of resource collection no body

comes forward to help the women. Women also have less access in the market and do not do not always get a fair price for their products.

Because of the patriarchal culture men take a dominant role in the decision making process at all levels. The key resources of the bonojibi like land, boats and fishing nets are owned by men. Men are also getting priority in education, health services and nutrition. Forest dependent women have less scope to get government loans, and are often not aware of government services for poor women or opportunities for microcredits.

Social taboos, a traditional mind-set and patriarchal culture in family and society, as well as a lack of knowledge and skills amongst women are identified as root causes of gender equality. Some gender inequities are deeply rooted in the culture. For example, from a social and religious perspective women's entrance in the forest is prohibited. Society believes that Bonojibi (the Goddess of the forest) will be angry if the women enter into the forest as they are impure. Men traditionally think the women as subordinate. Women often also think they are duty bearers, not right holders. Women who face the biggest burden are those whose husbands die from a tiger attack, known as tiger widows. Tiger widows are blamed for their husband's death and socially neglected and stigmatised and deprived of her husband's property.

Key steps taken and tools used

BARCIK initiated a process of addressing the needs and interests of the forest dependent men and women, also called *bonojibi* in a step by step process, in which the bonojibi community participated actively. BARCIK focused on the non-timber forest resource users in Shyamnagar Upazila (sub-district) in Satkhira district.

The following steps were taken:

- First training workshop in April 2010 at community level to build a foundation of common gender understanding among selected forest dependent men and women as well as BARCIK staff members involving other actors and academics in the field of environment and natural resources conservation and women's equal rights promotion.
- Survey on forest dependent men and women in June 2010 to assess their knowledge gained on gender equality and make a comparison between the participants of the first workshop and other people who did not participate in the workshop and identify the needs of bonojibi community to be addressed in the second workshop.
- Sharing meeting with bonojibi community in July 2010 to assess workshop's participants' skill and commitment to transfer their gender knowledge in a broader community and motivate them to work as a force.
- Second workshop in August 2010 at community level to enhance capacity of the specific bonojibi group to deal with the issues of gender, build their confidence to act as an organized group for raising voice and make linkages between forest dependent people and relevant service providers in the locality like the Forest Department, Department of Children and Women Affairs and Social Welfare Department.
- Third workshop in November 2010 at national level to share the socio-economic and political, and gender situation in Sundarban based on the experiences of the local level workshops and sharing meetings with the bonojibi community and make the bonojibi group capable in advocating with their issues.
- Forth workshop in May 2011 at local level with the participation of the specific bonojibi group as part of the planned steps to review their gender knowledge, skills and actions to work as an organized group to mainstream gender in

natural resource management. Further to discuss follow-up initiatives and establish a routemap for future steps.

- Fifth workshop in May 2011 at national level to raise bonojibis' voice and influence towards media, women human rights activists, academicians and government representatives with regard to establishing equal rights of men and women in natural resource management.

In different steps taken by BARCIK in the action research pilot project various gender analysis tools were used, including activity profile, gendered resource mapping, role plays, stakeholder analysis and analysis of women empowerment in order to:

- Analyse the gender situation in the specific context of forest dependent community in the Sundarban, using activity profiles of women and men (who does what).
- Raise awareness of a specific group of forest dependent women and men regarding their gendered role through group exercises at local level workshops.
- Bring out a picture of specific gender needs and strategic interests of women through discussion and small group works in the local level workshops to build the knowledge and skills of a group of forest dependent women and men with the objective of making them capable to address these gender issues.
- Create linkages with relevant stakeholders for advocacy purposes.
- Focus on women empowerment to raise their voice demanding equal rights of women in natural resource management.

More information on some of these tools can be found in annex 2. An elaborate account of the use of the tools and methods in different steps can be found in the Bangladesh country report.

Key results

BARCIK intended to involve the forest dependent community with the expectation of creating gender awareness and prepare a frontline group to draw the attention of women rights groups and policy planners to the issues related with their equal rights.

This expectation has been translated into reality. First of all, the awareness of the group of the bonojibi community involved rose considerably, notably with regard to the gender-differentiated access to and control over resources and the gendered nature of violence. Also women were empowered and became confident. Before, when women participate in workshops, they cannot talk in presence of their husbands. Now they dare to talk and to demand their rights and to talk with the leaders and the local chairman.

Another key sustainable result is the formation of women development associations in the bonojibi community. The two women's organisations which were formed as a consequence of the process, consisting of over 200 women, save money, engage in small businesses like candle and pickle production and have good linkages with local government. Further, a student solidarity group to work with the young generation on the issue of equal rights in natural resource management was formed as well as a facilitator group of forest dependent women and men to carry forward the issue of gender mainstreaming in natural resource management in the Sundarbans.

Moreover, for the first time, a bonojibi woman was elected as member in the local government board (Union Parishad). She won the highest number of votes. Finally, the participation of local and national authorities in the workshops led to concrete results. Their level of knowledge and interest in the challenges faced by

the forest dependent people, and the women in particular, increased. This also led to specific commitments, for example by the Chairman of the Burigoalini Union (the last tier of local government) who promised to give priority to the forest dependent women in the country's so-called VGF (Vulnerable Group Feeding) and VGD (Vulnerable Group Development) programmes. Also, the Upazila (sub-district) Social Welfare Directorate Women and Children's Affairs Department agreed to better spread information on the different services of their departments which the community is entitled to. At the national level the forest dependent community is now recognised as bonojibi community by the Social Welfare Ministry and the creation of a special allowance for tiger widows has been announced.

Lessons learned

- The local level workshops created scope for the specific group of bonojibi women and men to gain knowledge on relevant services of different departments of the government that will help them to build relationships with those departments to seek these services (e.g. widow allowance, income generating trainings and maternity allowance for poor women). Participants of the workshops were informed about the Right to Information Act which they used to address the local government. Participants were able to identify the responsibilities of specific stakeholders and realize the necessity of influencing relevant stakeholders. The existing service mechanism however is still not sensitive enough to the issues of bonojibi community. Also, at national level women's equal rights to property should be addressed and policies and programmes are needed to increase employment generation for women and increase their participation in decision-making processes.
- Through the process of knowledge and information sharing in the workshops, a group of bonojibi women and men came to a consensus on the unequal gender relations existing in their community, and the need to address them. Still, to bring changes on a wider scale in deeply rooted cultural practices needs a long term process.
- Bonojibi women and men expressed confidence to change the unequal situation and take equal roles in all steps of resource management if they get opportunities and an enabling environment. Recently some women have been involved in NTFP (non-timber forest products) based entrepreneurship development and marketing with cooperation of NGOs like BARCIK.
- In the workshops' discussions both women and men agreed that both should have a Boat License Card (BLC) pass to enter into the forest. While this is a positive result, ensuring safety and security for the women when they enter into the deep forest will remain a challenge. This also depends on possible restructuring and strengthening the Forest Department.
- Through the step by step process, women leaders were created. Their expectation towards BARCIK is now high which can pose a potential challenge for BARCIK.

Follow-up

Bonojibi women have developed their own associations. A number of potential women leaders have stood up for advocacy. Some of the bonojibi men are also united. Now they jointly can manage some specific issues of gender but for the sake of sustainability still follow-up and links are required, including:

- Increased capacity of the specific group of bonojibi women and men on organization management.
- Build communities' negotiation and communication skills to develop a close working relationship with relevant stakeholders.
- Initiating a process to transform the activist attitude into a facilitating one by members of the bonojibi community who will carry forward the gender mainstreaming mechanism in the long run.

- Replication of the gender mainstreaming process in other communities.
- Development of self-controlled small women entrepreneurship.
- Advocacy for establishing and strengthening the social safety net for women jointly by BARCIK and bonojibi community.
- Enhancing the capacity of bonojibi women and men to develop linkages with different government projects and multilateral projects for ensuring their livelihood security.
- Initiating a social counselling process to reduce the relief dependent mentality among the bonojibi communities (which so often leads to apathy and lack of initiatives and responsibility) as they are living in the natural disaster prone area.
- Advocating at national level for an enabling environment, e.g. for a revision of the Forest Law of 1972 to protect the rights of forest dependent people, the inclusion of indigenous women's concerns in the National Women's Development Policy, and government support in developing forest based small enterprises and marketing products with a special focus on women's entrepreneurship.

3.3 The case of ANCE

Gender issues in Togo

As in many parts of the world, in Togo women are the guardians of water. They are responsible for water supply for families and communities and for the care of the sick. However, most of the decisions about water continue to be made by men. Few women are at the table when decisions are made about strategies on how to ensure clean water, how to slow global warming, how to maintain water as a public resource, or how to ensure that the delivery of water is a government responsibility rather than a profit-making enterprise.

Women need to be able to participate more meaningfully in decision-making on how water is managed, so that their extensive knowledge, skills and contributions are being used.

In 2008, ANCE launched an information campaign on the right to water. Only about 35% of the Togolese population has a source of drinking water. In Togo the human right to water is only indirectly acknowledged. Gender equity is acknowledged on paper, but not in practice.

For ANCE the point of departure in this project was the question:

How do we mainstream gender in our lobby campaign on the Human Right to Water in Togo to promote equal participation of men and women in decision-making over use and management of water?

Key steps taken and tools used

To address the critical problem of the lack of consideration of gender equality in water management in Togo, a step by step approach was adopted, consisting of the following steps:

- Training workshop on May 25, 2010 which brought together about forty participants including Ministries, NGOs working on environmental issues, academicians in the field of environmental and natural resources management, trade union organizations, women organizations, media and selected ANCE staff.
- Situational analysis on gender and water in Togo (June to December, 2010) which enabled the collection of data needed to understand the obstacles and opportunities to promote the right to water and the role of women in Togo. Studies were carried out by four national consultants.
- Organization of a validation workshop on February 28, 2011 attended by 40 participants who attended the first training workshop. During this workshop, all the stakeholders submitted their inputs and comments and the report of the studies was adopted.
- Organization of a stakeholders meeting on March 1, 2011 to elaborate and adopt an action plan to promote men and women's equal right to water in Togo.
- Organization of the final stakeholder workshop of evaluation and follow up on September 2, 2011.

The approach taken was to first collect sectoral data on access to water services, on the budget relating to water, and on the mechanism of participation in decision-making in the water sector. These sectoral studies were done by three independent consultants. The role of the gender expert was to identify the interactions between these studies and the correlation with gender equality. The main presumption was that availability of water at household level determines for

a large part the position of women, as women are responsible for provision of water and caring for the sick, so the need for good quality water. Management and investment decisions are however determined by male dominated institutions.

The gender analysis subsequently enabled the identification of lines of action to be taken by ANCE to mainstream gender in their lobby for the Right to Water. These lines of action changed in the course of the process based on incremental insights.

In the first workshop, it was decided to target the Government and the National Assembly to increase the national budget for the water sector to ensure more investments in the water sector, which would benefit women especially.

However this approach proved to have its limitations since it is extremely difficult for civil society to change policies at the national level. In the second workshop, it was therefore decided to instead advocate for the legal right to water for citizens of Togo. This seemed opportune as currently the water legislation is being revised. In the current legislation the right to water is only implicitly recognised. However, changing the water legislation appeared to be a technical matter, requiring heavy legal input from a specialist. Also, guaranteeing the legal right to water will only be a first step in actually improving the level of water services in Togo, as investments to ensure this right are determined by the financial position of a country, which in the case of Togo, due to debts, is limited.

Therefore, in the third workshop, ANCE decided to reorient the focus to the participation in decision-making on investments in water at the local level. At this level, results can be achieved in the short term and they are visible on the ground. The goal is to promote women's participation in the process of decision-making relating to water in the local management committees of water. ANCE now aims to join other organisations, including women's organisations, which are already active in developing water services, reinforce capacity building efforts and promote alliances creation and information sharing at the local level.

Key results

Increased insight in the Right to Water in Togo and the role of gender: this project has generated important data on the availability of water services in Togo, the status of the right to water and the role of gender in relation to water services. These data are useful not only for NGOs but for many stakeholders and decision makers in Togo. A short summary of the study can be found below in the box below.

Fruitful alliances established with more than 40 women and men groups: the project has allowed ANCE to establish fruitful relationships with more than 20 researchers from the University of Lomé and Kara, 10 women's groups, such as Wildarf Togo, "Groupement des Femmes pour la Démocratie et le Progrès (GF2D)" and the National Centre for Promotion of Gender (CNPGE), 1 lawyer circle, 4 trade unions, and 8 ministries concerned with gender issues (Social and Women Affairs, Environment, Water and Sanitation, Agriculture, Finance, Education, Local governance). It also built a fruitful partnership and cooperation with 3 networks of journalists, and more than 50 students.

Availability of water services in Togo and the role of women

The studies showed that there is no explicit recognition of the right to water in Togo although Togo has signed and ratified all international conventions and instruments on the right to water. The Law N° 2010-004 on Water Code, the Law N° 2009/007 of May 15, 2009 regulating the Health Code of Togo all recognize the right to water implicitly but not explicitly. The need to integrate gender in water resource management is explicitly recognised But this recognition is only on paper, not on practice, as the possibility to participate in national and local decision making on water and sanitation issues by women is still problematic.

Furthermore, the studies revealed that the annual budget on water is insufficient and does not allow meeting people's water needs and worsens the living conditions particularly of women (only 10% has access to water). For example, over the last decade, public investment in the water sector were 21.5 billion CFA (in euros?) only and are distributed as follows: 12 billion FCFA for Drinking water supply in rural areas, 60 million for the Drinking water supply in semi-urban areas, 4 billion for urban water supply, 5.5 billion for sanitation. The investment in water for agriculture is insignificant. The distribution of investments in water services in Togo is not equitable. Low levels of service are for respectively, the semi urban and rural areas in the Central region (52%, 41%), while the lowest are respectively the semi urban and rural areas in the Maritime region (10%, 15%). The allocation of the yearly budget to the Ministry of Water and Sanitation by the Ministry of Planning is not transparent.

At the local level, as part of decentralisation, a water management committee should be set up in each village. Most members in this committee are men. Membership is voluntary, but many women are afraid or not confident enough to say they want to join. So while women are in charge of water supply, the men make the decisions. Women, as caretakers of their families, are expected to take better care of their water resources and will have different priorities and take different decisions over investments in and use of water, when they join the water management committees. Municipalities by law are required to consult civil society when investing in water services.

Capacities of 40 stakeholders built on gender and water issues: The project allowed building the capacities of stakeholders on the role of gender in water services and management. About 45 people coming from 8 ministries, 10 NGOs, 2 journalist networks, and 2 trade unions were strengthened on the issues of gender equity and the right to water. Also the capacities of 8 ANCE staffs are built. The active participation of various Ministries gives hope that authorities in the future may seriously consider achieving gender equality as part of their policy making processes.

Networking and information sharing about lessons learnt with other groups through the ANCE's website and media: The project has generated much attention from the media and resulted in many publications in the private and public newspapers on the issue of gender equality and the right to water. In total 12 articles have appeared in national newspapers. In addition several interviews were granted to five radio and two television stations, including the national television TVT and TV7. Some clippings are appended to this report.

A Committee was established during the last meeting to follow up with the national assembly to lobby for increasing the water budget: A committee representing five organisations has been set up by ANCE in order to lobby the national parliament for the inclusion of the legal to water in the constitution of Togo. This committee has already met the President of the parliamentary committee on Legislative Changes and two parliamentary groups. Two other meetings are planned for the end of the year.

Lessons learned

It proved difficult to have the same participants in the three workshops. To manage this situation, the project team always provided a short review of previous activities in order to allow new participants to get an idea of what was already done.

Another challenge was that the budget available for the activities was insufficient for action at national level on gender mainstreaming in water management in Togo. To achieve its objectives, the project team has given a high importance to involving national level officials and the media.

Follow-up

As a direct result of the PSO project, ANCE now implements a project on gender and sanitation with the financial support of the World Health Organization (WHO), Togo office. Two other NGOs, GF2D and WILDAF Togo initiated two different projects following up on the discussions, one on building the capacities of parliamentarians on sustainable gender-sensitive water management, and the other on building the capacities of rural women on promoting gender equity.

Moreover, regarding the human Right to Water, a committee consisting of five people from five organisations will continue to promote the Right to Water including the equitable rights of men and women.

ANCE also intends to develop a gender policy to include gender considerations in all their programmes and activities, in biodiversity, water and sanitation, agriculture, pesticides and health.



4. Evaluation and lessons learned

In September 2011, an international workshop was organised to share the experiences in the three countries and to draw lessons on the capacity building trajectory: Was the approach indeed workable? What were crucial steps? Which elements were lacking? Which new insights and skills were gained from the cooperation with gender experts and women's organisations? What experiences do other NGOs have in integrating gender in their work?

Based on the discussions, a number of key lessons can be drawn in relation to the five key elements of the approach.

1. Engaging in a step-by-step methodology

- Since addressing gender inequity is such a complex and long-term process, it is important to **take it step-by-step and allow for learning by doing**. The implementing organisations perceived all the proposed steps as relevant. At the same time, they used the approach flexibly and added elements as they perceived useful and opportune. Methodologies, including this approach, should always be guiding only. In practice, one cannot prepare everything and needs and opportunities must be addressed when they arise.

1a. Conducting a gender analysis

- One of the key results for the partners has been the introduction to a number of **workable tools to conduct a gender analysis**. These include gendered resource mapping, activity profiles and calendars, stakeholder analysis, and problem tree development. In annex 2 a number of these tools can be found. These tools are easy to apply. Activity profiles and calendars are valuable to start discussions on gender-differentiated tasks and needs as it directly relate to people's lives. Stakeholder analysis is important to identify relevant stakeholders to target or involve in the process. Gendered resource mapping directly links gender relations to resources use, which is the key focus of the approach.
- A clear lesson that came out of the pilots is the **importance of involving the communities in the development and validation of the gender analysis**. This was not as strongly included in the original set-up of the approach. BARCIK has been strongest in involving the Bonojibi communities in the entire process. This has proven a key factor of success in the case of Bangladesh in terms of ownership and empowerment: when communities are actively involved and their rights are explained, the men and especially the women are empowered and speak up. This builds their confidence and their network and also creates a common understanding between the men and women. Also in the validation of the gender analysis and drawing up the work plan, the people it concerns should be involved. When community members gain knowledge on tools for analysis they can identify their own problems and solutions, also in the future. At the same time, one needs to be aware that involvement raises expectations. Also, one needs to be aware that the context, the needs, expectations and problems may be different from one village to another, as well as between women from different ages, classes and educational backgrounds.
- Apart from an analysis of the gender-differentiated access and control over resources at community level, **an analysis of the enabling environment at**

policy level is important to see where opportunities lie to claim rights or to identify gaps and obstacles. BARCIK for example carried out a desk study to analyse supportive legal commitments and policies of the Bangladeshi Government in favour of equal right of men and women. ANCE focused their analysis on the national level, but felt analyses at community level was missing. AMICHOCÓ on the other hand conducted an analysis with a number of local organisations only, and missed an analysis on national level.

1b. Organising a series of inclusive workshops

- Gender relations are about power relations, and therefore always a sensitive issue. In all the cases, the gender experts and partner organisations did **not start discussing gender issues upfront**. Instead, the topic was slowly introduced in a discussion on common or more neutral issues. A good option is to start with a joint problem analysis avoiding the use of gender jargon. The problem analysis engages the people. Then slowly the differences between men's and women's problems can be addressed. Another option is to work on activity profiles listing all the daily activities of men and women. This is a neutral way to start discussing differences in tasks, roles and needs of men and women, and to create awareness about these differences. For example in Colombia and Bangladesh, when writing down the various activities, they could all see how much women do in comparison to men. It is important to create a friendly learning environment among the participants.
- Obviously, it is important to **include both men and women** in the workshops from the start. However, it may be important to have **separate meetings for women only** next to the mixed meetings, as women often do not dare or are not used to or allowed to speak up in public when men are present.
- When inviting women in workshops organisers must realize they may need someone to take care of their children, and should either **offer childcare** or try and make it possible to take their children to the workshop. In the gender policy of AMICHOCÓ, the suggestion was included to organize educational and creative activities for children for the duration of the meeting (for example on environmental topics) so that women can take their children with them. Another option to pay one person from the community a small fee to take care of the children while the women are participating in the workshop.
- Both ANCE and BARCIK invited a much **larger group of stakeholders** to their workshops. This is further discussed below.

1c. Developing a concrete work plan to start integrating gender issues

- Gender mainstreaming should best take place at both community level as well as at higher policy levels. **In other words, up-scaling is needed for sustainable changes**. BARCIK started their discussions with the community. They asked them to describe their own problems. Then they invited other stakeholders as identified relevant by the communities (Forest department, Social Welfare Department, Department of Children and Women Affairs, Local administration amongst others), and later moved up to the national level. This led to expressed interest and commitments of national authorities to address inequities and other pressing issues raised by the communities in the Sundarbans. ANCE on the other hand started focusing on the enabling environment at the national level, i.e. the level of the Ministerial budget for Water and legislation related to the Right to Water. Changes in this budget and legislation will have an important effect on the level and quality of water

services and thus on the life of women who are responsible for the water needs of their families. National Ministries did not want to present at the meetings organised by ANCE as civil society is not expected to deal with national budgeting affairs. However, representatives of eight Ministries did participate in the meetings and appreciated and supported the aims of ANCE to enhance water services and the role of women in the management of water. In the end, both levels are crucial and should be addressed, not necessarily by one organisation or network but in cooperation with others. A key challenge may therefore be to link up with organisations working on other levels to achieve more effective and sustainable results.

Find creative ways

- To enhance gender awareness, AMICHOCÓ in cooperation with Antorcha Films developed a documentary about the lives of women in the Chocó. These films are an important tool to initiate discussions about the daily realities of men and women. They can see for themselves, reflect and validate their culture.



- Participants in a workshop organised by BARCIK all wrote down their commitments to address gender inequality on a big cloth and presented this cloth to the local government (see the picture on the left).

- Original group exercises and role plays (men -women, community-government) take people out of their comfort zone and create an open learning environment.

- In all cases, a first identified need was **awareness raising**, reaching both men and women. Awareness on gender inequality includes understanding cultural and social norms, insights into gendered resources use and control, and knowledge on institutional frameworks and legal rights and services. There are several ways to start raising awareness. Automatically, in starting the discussions in the workshops and conducting the joint gender analysis, awareness is raised. In the cases, an emphasis was also put on finding creative ways to start discussing or address gender inequities (see the box). This is useful to open up discussions with communities, but also to reach out to others. In line with the previous point, awareness raising is important both at local level, and national level, for example by organising gender trainings and workshop for ministries and parliamentarians.
- Due to the process and the awareness raising activities, women gain confidence. Before, in the case of Bangladesh, when women participate in workshops, they cannot talk in presence of their husbands. Now they dare to talk and demand their rights. They also formed women's associations. In sum, **women's empowerment is crucial**, amongst others by creating self-help groups, opening up markets, networking, training, and skill development.

- An important lesson from a sustainability point of view is to **find 'change agents', 'champions', or male or female leaders** who can inform other men and women about gender issues, advocate changes in the government or act as a role model (see for example the personal stories of Sajida Begum, a Bonojubi woman elected in the union parishad (local government) and Boruna Munda, a young student girl who got inspired by the gender workshops (see annex 3). BARCIK deliberately gave a number of women a leadership role, so that they can spread their knowledge to their communities. During the workshop they persuaded the women to take the floor and speak up or facilitate sessions to build their confidence.
- AMICHOCÓ drew up a promising gender policy. Still, to be able to implement such a policy all staff members of AMICHOCÓ will need to be made aware of this policy and equipped with the analytical power and tools to include gender in their projects. A lesson is to ensure to involve ideally all or at least a substantial group of staff members in the process to start working on gender issues in an organisation. Or to find good ways to **spread the knowledge within the organisation itself**.
- What was lacking in the original set-up, but taken up in the cases anyway was the **active involvement of a much broader group of stakeholders in the process**: young people, students, lawyers, media, government officials and others were involved at some stage. The processes of ANCE and BARCIK were widely covered in the media. The media is useful to inform a broader public, to create awareness and to increase pressure on government officials to address gender inequities. Students and youth are important to involve the next generation who are often more open to change and ready to act. Interestingly both in the case of Togo and Bangladesh, not only ANCE and BARCIK committed itself to concrete actions, also the other involved stakeholders did. In this way, up-scaling already started.

Closing communication and information gaps

Due to the workshops organised by BARCIK, community members and the forest department in Bangladesh were put in contact. Now, when community members, men and women, encounter a problem they have the phone number of the forest guard and ask for help. Also, community members are now aware of existing services they are entitled to and can find their way to the services providers.

2. Involving a local gender expert

- The **longer-term involvement of a gender expert** who is knowledgeable about the area proved valuable. Ideally, there is a continuous collaboration between the gender expert and the environmental organisation. The gender expert learned the organisations how to collect data and how to bring up and analyse gender relations.

3. Explicitly linking gender equity to natural resources management

- To specifically **link discussions about gender relations to access and control over natural resources** on which communities depend for their livelihoods has proven **an effective entry point** to address this sensitive issue of gender.

- In the final workshop in Amsterdam in September 2011, the question was raised why, apart from social justice, it is important to include women in decision-making over natural resources: how the involvement of women changes the way resources are used. The group concluded that it is important to include women in natural resources management, as **women identify different needs and solutions** and this leads to improvement of the way resources are being managed. Women know the key challenges when it comes to water resources as they are the ones responsible for providing water to their communities. They consider physical capabilities of women in the choice of water supply systems and mechanisms. They know which seeds are most suitable to grow in which time and area as they collect and dry these seeds. Also, women are more often seen to reinvest their money back into their families and communities while men tend to spend it on themselves. Obviously, women can only prove their potential if they get the opportunity and gain skills. More generally, working on gender opens your eyes for social differentiation, also in terms of age, background, and class etc. Still, more documented evidence is needed to demonstrate how a gendered approach to natural resources management contributes to increased efficiency, visible impact and sustainability.
- In one country, **gender relations can vary widely between one region to the other**, amongst others based on the quantity and quality of the available resources. The national gender analysis taken up by ANCE, showed high variations in terms of gender-differentiated access to water services in cities and countryside. The water system in the cities is managed by technical services that are part of the city administration. On the other hand the communal wells in the countryside set up with funding from foreign donors usually are participatory. Differences also exist between ecological zones. In the mountainous areas, rainfall is relatively plenty provided the natural resources are well managed. In the savannah areas, rainfall is lower and in case of cultivation of cotton a conflict may arise between agriculture and household water needs.
- Access to resources relates directly to other key elements such as access to information and rights, **access to capital, know how, technology and (political) influence**.
- **Institutional frameworks** for resources management often **reflect prevailing (patriarchal and religious) values** and traditional norms, so are deeply rooted and not easy to change.

4. Seeking cooperation with women groups and other stakeholders

- The intended cooperation with women's organisations did not always work out. In Colombia, women organisations and others did not continue to be involved in the process due to a lack of time and resources. BARCIK and ANCE did strengthen cooperation with national and local women's (rights) organisations. The challenge is to **find clear common goals and link expertise and work fields**. Women's groups in Togo for example mostly focus on the local level, supporting their members in accessing small pumps and training in proper sanitation behaviour. Many of them are not aware of decision-making processes at the national level, where ANCE can play a role.
- As noted previously, the organisations included many other relevant stakeholders, such as government officials, students and media who bring in their own knowledge and networks. This way knowledge sharing, awareness

raising, outreach and ownership were maximised. The civil society organisation is best able to communicate with the communities. The women's organisations know best how to empower women. Gender experts know how to bring up power relations and work on them. A lawyer may know all about human and women's rights and how to use these rights. An anthropologist has insight in the historical social structures in a community or region. And a CSO working in another area may have useful experiences in addressing similar issues. **Taking this expertise together in a longer-term process** allows for shared learning and networking, and **can achieve greater results.**

5. Emphasising documentation and monitoring & evaluation

- The emphasis on **continuous documentation, and monitoring and evaluation** through workshops, interviews and questionnaires, **increased ownership and transparency and allowed for sharing with others.** Process documentation is important. Not only on paper but also on film. Visual documentation is highly effective for communities, as well as others to see how tools were used, how people talk about gender relations etc.

5 Conclusion and follow-up

The relatively short project has shown considerable results. In Bangladesh, awareness on gender inequities in the use and management of resources in the Sundarbans was raised and women's empowerment led to the formation of women's organisations and the creation of female leaders. Linkages with government officials and service providers helped the community, both men and women, in claiming their rights.

In Colombia, AMICHOCÓ developed a promising gender policy for their organisation, as well as film material to use as awareness raising material to initiate discussion on gender relations in the Chocó. It already became possible to talk about gender with community leaders who showed much resistance at the start of the process.

In Togo, the gender analysis has guided the strategy development of ANCE in promoting the Right to Water. The process led to increased insights into the level of water services in Togo and the role of women and a widespread awareness on these issues in the media, and among national authorities and other organisations. Together with women's organisations and others, the key lines of action identified are now taken forward.

The pilots show the approach is relevant and workable. They also provided important insights into ways to improve the approach and practical experiences which can be instructive and inspirational for others who are interested to start integrating a gender perspective into their work on natural resources both on the local level and the national level.

AMICHOCÓ, ANCE and BARCIK will each continue their valuable work in their own areas. Both ENDS seeks to further support their efforts as well as those of other environment and development organisations with an interest to integrate gender considerations in their activities. More cooperation will be sought with women's (rights) organisations, other CSOs, researchers and policy makers to join hands in addressing this complex issue.

As was proposed by participants in the public sharing meeting in September 2011, a key focus for follow-up will be on identifying and sharing both the practical tools and methods and the positive results, strengthen our arguments to underline the importance of mainstreaming gender, and share this with a broader audience.

Annexes

Annex 1: Gender concepts and definitions

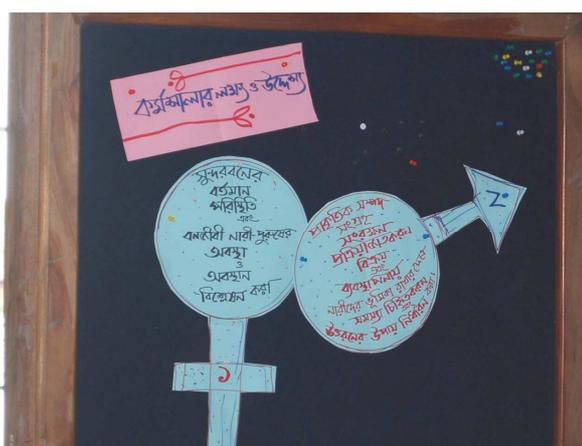
Gender	<p>Gender refers to the roles and responsibilities of men and women that are created in our families, societies and cultures. Gender roles and expectations are learned; they can change over time and vary within cultures. It is not biologically pre-determined or fixed forever.</p> <p>The concept of gender includes the expectations about the characteristics, likely behaviours and aptitudes of men and women, boys and girls (femininity and masculinity).</p> <p>Systems of social differentiation such as political status, class, ethnicity, wealth, age, physical and mental ability etc. modify gender roles. When applied to social analysis, the concept of gender reveals the patterns of subordination and domination between women and men.</p>
Sex	<p>Sex relates to the biological differences between women and men.</p>
Division of Labour	<p>Gender division of labour refers to the areas of work in the household, community, and society allocated or deemed appropriate for women and men, boys and girls.</p> <p>Gender division of labour is specific to particular communities, social groups and periods of time.</p>
Productive and reproductive gender roles	<p>Productive role is associated with generating income and contributing to the household and national economy.</p> <p>Reproductive role: Biological (child bearing, early nurturing) and household: work related to daily maintaining of the family and household.</p>
Community role	<p>Community role involves contributing to (organizing and participating) in social/cultural, civil society and political events and processes.</p>
Access to Resources	<p>Access to resources refers to gender based differentiation of access to productive/social resources such as land, production inputs, technology, credit, markets, income, information, training, education, health services.</p>
Control of Resources	<p>Control of resources refers to the differential ability to make independent decisions to the use and management of the resources.</p>
Condition	<p>Condition refers to the differential day-to-day physical/social situation of women's and men's lives.</p>
Position	<p>Position refers to the differential status and level of influence/power of women and men and of different economic groups.</p>

Practical Needs	Practical needs are the immediate, material needs related to gender roles and individuals that are required for daily living and that can be met through short-term practical solutions
Strategic interests	Strategic interests relate to improving the position and equality of disadvantaged societal groups, involving longer-term processes that change restricting laws, policies, structures and attitudes.
Gender Equity	<p>Gender equity is the process of being fair to men and women. To ensure fairness, measures must be put in place to compensate for the historical and social disadvantages that prevent men and women from operating on a level playing field.</p> <p>A gender equity approach recognizes women's disadvantages and includes pro-active, women-focused measures to increase women's capacity, experience and opportunity – to create a more equal playing field. Equity is a means of achieving equality.</p>
Gender Equality	<p>Women and men have equal conditions for realising their full human rights, for contributing to and benefiting from economic, social, cultural and political development.</p> <p>Gender equality refers to equal valuing by society of the similarities and the differences of men and women, and the roles they play. Gender equality is based on women and men being full partners in their home, community and society.</p>
Empowerment	Empowerment is a process of building capacity, confidence and experience to exercise greater control over the social, economic and political aspects of one's (or a group's) life.

Annex 2: Gender analysis tools and methods used

When analysing gender equity in relation to Natural Resources Management, four elements are important:

1. *Roles and needs*: Men and women perform different tasks and roles in different societies, which lead to women and men having different experiences, knowledge, talents and needs. Gender analysis explores these differences so policies, programmes and projects can identify and meet the different needs of men and women. Gender analysis also facilitates the strategic use of distinct knowledge and skills possessed by women and men.
2. Crucial for achieving gender equity in NRM is equal *access and control* of men and women over the available resources in a particular community, village, or region. Often, both access and control over resources are unequally distributed, or access may be equal, but not control, i.e. both women and men may be able to access irrigation pumps, only men may decide on when and for what type of crops the irrigation water is used.
3. With control and ownership often comes *voice and power* in decision-making. In politics and institutions at all levels, women are often weakly represented. In other cases women can participate in meetings and discussions on the way resources are managed, but their actual decision-making power is limited due to the social and cultural setting. In water user associations in patriarchal societies for example, women are afraid or not allowed to speak up.
4. Finally, natural resources management may have very different *impacts and benefits* for men and women. Policies on natural resources management are often so-called gender-neutral: described in general terms without taking into account the different impact on and benefits for women and men. In practice, these policies may be beneficial to some, but detrimental to others. For example, the conversion of natural forests into large-scale plantations provide profits to large companies, but threatens access to Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), food and clean water of communities that depend on the forest.



The cultivation of soy and palm oil competes with local food production, and large dams threaten local supply of fish and water. These outside interventions have a harmful effect on people's livelihood. Since women play an important role in subsistence farming and water management, the interventions have a direct impact on women's livelihoods and therefore on their families and their social position in the community.

Harvard Analytical Framework

The Harvard Analytical Framework is a tool to collect data at the community and household level. It has three main components:

1. An activity profile that determines 'who does what?' with sex-disaggregated data which includes gender, age, time spent and location of activities.
2. An access and control profile ('who has access and who controls what?'), which identifies the resources and benefits used to carry out the work in the activity profile and access and control over their use, by sex.
3. An analysis of influencing factors ('how does gender influence the profiles?'), which charts past, present and future factors that influence gender differences in the above two profiles. These can include factors of change or constraints or opportunities that impact women's equal participation and benefits.

See also:

- A Case Book: Gender roles in Development Projects, edited by Overholt, Anderson, Cloud, and Austin (1985, Kumarian Press, West Hartford, Connecticut); or
- <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/mdtmanila/training/unit1/harvrdfw.htm>

Gendered resource mapping

Gendered resource mapping is a method of visually presenting who uses, and who has access to and control over different natural resources. These resources may be pastoral lands, water, trees, minerals, plants, and so forth. When working with the community, producing a participatory resource map may take several days or weeks.

The first step in gendered resource mapping is to list the various resources that are present in and around the community, and used by the people. Next, indicate for each resource who has rights of access or ownership. Note that different people can assert different rights over one resource. A single tree in Kenya, for example, may have a male "owner", be cared for by a woman borrowing the land on which the tree is found, provide fruits to her and to another woman who lived on that plot when the tree was planted, and furnish small sticks and other fuel to all in good standing in the community. The map-maker will need to find a way to represent all these different uses and rights on the map.

In the field, key informant interviews, focus groups, transect walks with local women and men, and participant observation may all be used to collect data about the landscape and rights of use and control. Once the information is collected, there are several options for converting it into useful and representative images. Researchers may try to do this on their own, generating diagrams, sketches, and maps based on the data collected from narrative sources and observations. The advantage of doing so is that it may represent the best match of media and skills with informants and researchers. Particularly when informants are elderly or do not have formal school experience, they may be much more eloquent, and feel more at ease, expressing their ideas verbally rather than visually. This can be true whether they are asked to use paper and pen to create images of their landscapes, or "found" materials such as leaves and pebbles.

Many researchers working in rural areas, however, have preferred to encourage representatives of various resources user groups to develop images themselves. Again, there are decisions to be made as to whether or not the researcher should guide the sketching and mapping exercises based on his or her specific interests; whether and when women should be asked to make maps separately from men; and at which scales local images should be created. No matter who is actually doing the drawing, the process can be more or less interactive, depending on the time available for gathering data and the patience of both researchers and local informants. Maps drawn by researchers on the basis of local interviews and observations, for example, can be brought back of informants for comment, editing, and enhancement. Images produced by various user groups can also serve as a basis for further interviewing. A related method for eliciting and summarizing information about access to and control over features in the landscape is using felt boards and symbols of plants, animals, buildings, and other landscapes features, both built and natural. Using these boards, small groups of men and/or women can recreate the past, explain the present, or create new landscapes.



In creating maps, we have to keep in mind that no single map is "correct" or "final". As social and ecological conditions change, the terms on resource use and management may be renegotiated, necessitating the redrawing of our maps.

Activity profiles and calendars

The development of activity profiles and calendars is closely linked to resource mapping and can be done in sequence. In drawing up activity profiles, one first lists all activities and tasks that women (wives, daughters, grandmothers) and men of those families perform on a typical day. These activities would be elicited from women and men during focus group sessions. Think about roles in the household and the community, and about reproductive (related to child birth and care), productive (labor to produce food, obtain goods, or earn cash), and community (politics, social work, organization) tasks. Next one would list who is responsible for what activity.

Even though one of the sexes may have the final responsibility over a certain (production) sector, another person may take part in manual labor or in decision making. In the Suriname interior, for example, women are primary responsible for subsistence agricultural production, but men may help decide where a new field will be planted, burn the field, and may occasionally or regularly lend a hand. Drawing up profiles helps understand who does what, who is responsible for what, and if necessary, what are alternatives.

Activity profiles can be turned into calendars by asking when a certain activity is performed. For people not used to thinking in months, one can also work with rainy and dry seasons, or descriptive phrases such as 'when the first rains fall'. The Calendars can be drawn with the community, and have different shapes; as a line, a circle, something with different layers, different colors for activities performed by women and men, etc.

The activity profile of men and women in the Sundarbans listed the following activities of women's and men's daily works.

Women: Cleaning house, washing clothes, prepare food, taking care of the children, husband and other family members (e.g.: father in-law, mother in-law, sister in-law, brother in-law), guest entertainment, poultry rearing, vegetable gardening, fuel collection, drinking water collection, seed preservation, grabbing crab, catching small prawn, rowing boat, weaving net, making pickle, helping in husband works.

Men: Fishing; planting, threshing and cutting paddy; honey collection; selling fish and honey; shopping; rowing boat; participating in village arbitration, visiting the local government representatives and the forest department when necessary; taking family members to the doctor, watching film.

On gendered resource mapping, activity profiles and other tools see also:

- Slocum, L., L. Wichart, D. Rocheleau and B. Thomas-Slayter. Eds., 1995. *Power, Process and Participation: Tools for Change*. Intermediate Technology Publishers. London, <http://140.232.1.5/~rslocum>

Stakeholder analysis

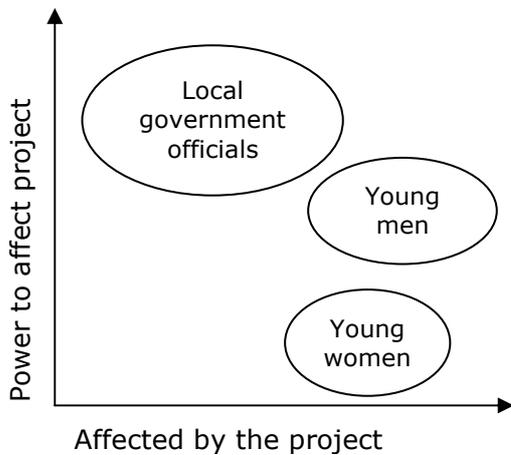
The goal of a stakeholder analysis is to gain a better understanding of the positions of, and relations between, all persons and institutions that may be directly or indirectly affected by a project or have the power to affect it. The first step in a stakeholder analysis would be to list all stakeholders or people with certain interests in the project. This can occur through key informant interviews and group interviews.

Next one would try to establish connections between these people and define their level of interest. This may be done in different ways. One might use matrixes, diagrams, graphs, or descriptions (see examples below). In ranking or ordering the stakeholders in some sort of model, it is useful to use index cards or pieces of paper that can be physically moved.

Stakeholders table

	Power to affect decisions	Expected positive effects from the project	Expected negative effects from the project	Conflicting interests with...
Elderly women in the community				
Local government officials				
Community leaders				
Etc. etc....				

Stakeholders graph



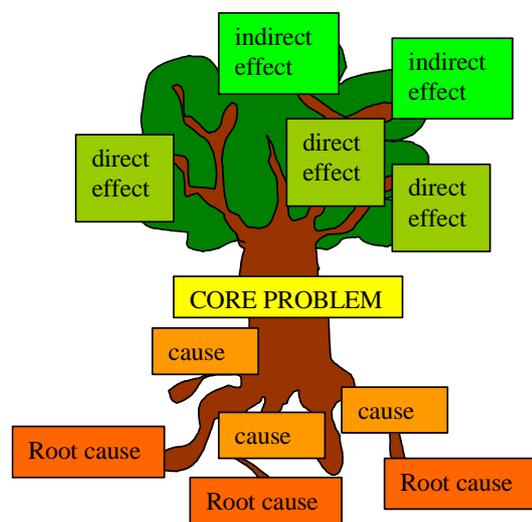
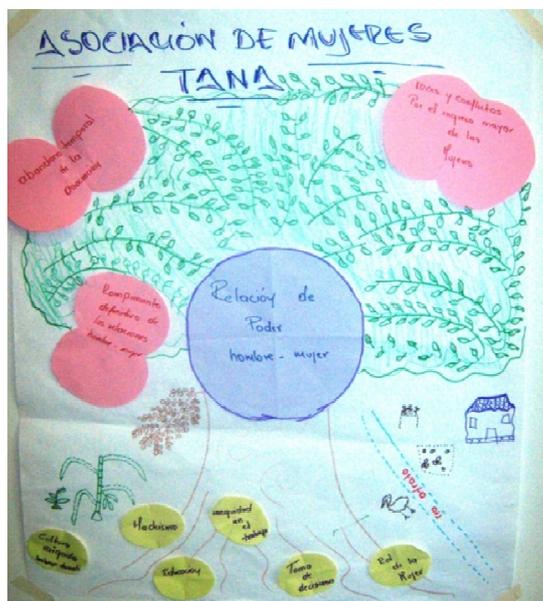
Stakeholders matrix

	High benefit	Low benefit
High power	Community leaders	State government
Low power	Local women Local children	Hunters

Problem Tree development

Problem tree development is a tool to guide a group of people in identifying and discussing the roots and effects of a certain core problem. The first step in this process is identifying the problem. Many issues that people may consider as problems may in fact be caused by one core problem. For example, poor harvests by subsistence farmers, having to walk too far to the subsistence plot, and frequent flooding of the fields may both be outcomes of a deeper core problem: poor access to suitable land for subsistence agriculture. Once the problem and the immediate effects have been listed, we can 'climb the tree' to look at indirect effects of this problem. If women farmers spend more time walking, for example, they may have less time to fetch water or need to rely on others to be home when their children come from school.

The core problem may have various causes or roots, such as -in the mentioned example- increasing infringement of mining on agricultural lands, the lack of land rights for women, and the higher importance attributed to commercial activities. The roots, in turn, may have deeper-laying roots. It is useful to work an actual cut-out tree which is stuck to the wall when doing this exercise, but one can also opt for drawing a more abstract schema.



Annex 3: Personal stories of people involved

Comments from participants in Colombia

In the documentary made by AMICHOCÓ, the personal story of several men and women can be seen. AMICHOCÓ received some comments of several persons who were involved in the project on this documentary:

“This is to recognise what we have and what we need to change”
Manuel, Community leader, Tadó

“Through this project we are showing both ourselves and the world who we really are”
Omar, Oro Verde gold miner, Condoto

“Gaining visibility is a means of communication to obtain support”
Américo, Oro Verde gold miner and Community leader, Tadó

“Telling the story of Belarmina is telling the story of the entire Chocó region”
Jhony Hendrix, director of Antorcha Films

Personal stories of two women from Bangladesh

Sajida Begum: a Bonojibi woman leader. When she speaks she speaks with confidence and courage. She said in the local level first workshop, “We, the women, we can do everything. If the men can do 100 works we can do 101 works.” She is Sajida Begum, a bonojibi woman leader.

She lives in Datinakhali village of Burigoalini union at Shyamnagar upazila (sub-district). When she passed class-

viii in 15 years of her age she got married with a bonojibi man. His name is Shahabuddin Morol. He is a honey collector. Sajida Begum is now 44-45 years old (estimated). In 2006 Sajida competed in women’s reserve seat of union parishad (last tire of local government) but she did not win. She realized that acceptance in the community is an important factor to win in the election. After 14 years in 2010 Sajida stood again in the local government election as member in the reserve seat for women and won with a large number of votes. She is the first woman from muslim bonojibi community who took part in the political process.

What is the reason behind Sajida’s inspiration? In a sharing Sajida Begum said, “Through step by step process BARCIK created space for gaining knowledge on gender equality and I felt necessities of making my community aware about their rights, specifically women’s rights. Gradually I became skilled and confident to unite women for the sake of their own rights in natural resource management. I obtained recognition as a strong bonojibi woman in my community. I felt empowered and that pushed me to take the challenge of competing in the election”



Sazida Begum facilitating a session

Now Sajida Begum is a role model of women leadership. She is now assigned as panel chairman and selected as the president of the project committee in the union parishad. Beside her specific tasks she continues to discuss the issue of equal rights. She jointly with others takes initiatives against the incidences of violence against women. She inspires other women to be vocal and raise demand for justice. Sajida had a long struggle to reach this position. BARCIK played a catalyst role to bring gradual change in Sajida's knowledge, skills and confidence level.

Boruna Munda: a potential young leader. Belonging to a bonojibi munda (indigenous) community, Boruna is a college girl. She lives in Burigoalini union of Shyamnagar sub-district.

In April 2010, like other participants from the bonojibi community, Boruna participated in the local level workshop on equal rights of women and men on natural resources. For the first time in her life



Boruna Munda (left) facilitating a session

she realized the existing patriarchal nature of inequality between women and men. She understood the causes behind this and its effects on individuals, family and the community. Many questions were raised in her mind. Why women will be discriminated, why women will be violated, why they will not get equal access to education, why they do not have equal rights in natural resources management? She concentrated on the issues of gender and became enthusiastic that these are created by the society and so they can be changed. In the second workshop she became a very active and vocal participant. She initiated discussions on gender issues in her community. Then in the steps of developing a workable approach to establish equal rights of women and men on natural resources Boruna played the role of a facilitator. She became a potential young leader in her community and in the process initiated by BARCIK. Now she is doing her graduation course in a college of Satkhira district.

She is very much confident to disseminate knowledge and information on gender issues to a broader community and make them aware to address those issues. When she was asked about change in herself she said, "My traditional thinking about the role of women and men, thinking about the issues of equality has been changed. Now I am a changed person. Regularly I discuss these issues with my friends and my community people." Her dream is to be a lawyer, because her community do not get justice in any incidences of rights violation, especially the women. She wants to work for them. Boruna is the first girl who is graduating coming from the munda community. Every day she is breaking different kinds of traditional barriers in the way of women's advancement by raising voice, questioning and taking initiatives with others. She is creating an example of encouragement and braveness. This example can inspire her community to establish equal rights on natural resources.

**Article in The Financial Express, national newspaper in Bangladesh,
December 2010**

Many kinds of knowledge, many kinds of ignorance

Nerun Yakub

There are many kinds of knowledge and there are many kinds of ignorance, said one development philosopher sometime in the 1980s. A national workshop conducted by BARCIK (Bangladesh Resource Centre for Indigenous Knowledge) last Sunday (November 28, 2010), brought home this profound truth once again -- to those who cared to listen and reflect. BARCIK, a research-based, non-profit organisation, has been quietly working among rural folk, trying to sensitize everyone, including the indigenous women and men themselves (in this instance, of the Sunderbans, the world's largest mangrove forests) to their right to the forest resources. They have been tapping these quite sustainably, based on their own knowledge and wisdom, acquired over generations of interaction with nature.

Last Sunday's workshop was essentially a follow-up of two earlier ones that looked into the socio-cultural, not to forget, political, impediments to true conservation, that is, the exploitation of forest wealth in ways that leave room for ecological regeneration rather than depletion. Unlike the insensitive and ignorant commercial plunderers and pirates, traditional foragers do not generally fell whole trees for fuelwood, nor do they kill the bees when collecting honey for their sustenance.

There are many other do's and don'ts that forest people abide by religiously in this unique world of theirs which they share with many wild flora and fauna, notably the Royal Bengal Tiger. Bonbibi, (the Lady of the Forest), believed to be their guardian, comes riding on this beautiful beast and all indigenous forest people, irrespective of faith, worship her. Cultural life revolves around appeasing the deity through various rituals, for example, by following rules like entering the forest area with the right foot and leaving it with the left. The abiding emotion is one of respect for mother- nature, the sustainer, symbolized in the figure of Bonbibi.

A number of indigenous women and men spoke with surprising forcefulness at the workshop, testifying to the findings of the researchers regarding their livelihoods, the problems they face and how they have been gaining confidence with growing awareness about national and international laws and rules, treaties and charters and their own rights and responsibilities. All this new-found confidence has been due to the support of BARCIK, and the speakers did not fail to mention it. While many different NGOs and other interest groups are active in the region, it appears the indigenous people stand to lose more from them than otherwise. One speaker claimed that BARCIK, on the other hand, had managed to free at least a hundred honey collectors from the clutches of loan sharks who prey on forest people in the guise of do-gooder NGOs.

BARCIK has reportedly helped the local folk become self-reliant and confident, and to earn the respect of their families as well as the community. This research-oriented centre appears to have taken an active stand against self-seeking groups and organisations that are holding the forest people hostage on the pretext of helping them. Since 2008, BARCIK has been steadfast in its efforts to secure the rights of the forest people to their own natural resources; to opt for sustainable exploitation of those resources; for coordination between the forest department and forest people's livelihoods; and, most importantly, for the dissemination of 'the scientific study' of indigenous knowledge and wisdom.

The Sundarbans is a unique ecological niche of a variety of biological riches -- at least 334 plant species, 395 species of animals, 35 species of reptiles, 41 different kinds of mammals, 210 species of fish, 28 kinds of shrimps, 14 different crab varieties, 43 kinds of mollusks and countless insects and other life forms. Some six hundred thousand people, spread over the south-western region, depend on the forest wealth. Although governments since the British period have been adept in collecting revenue from these forests, the rights of the indigenous people have hardly been considered. There is however good news. A draft Forest (Amendment) Act 2010 is reportedly in the pipeline at the moment, although the forest people as usual know nothing about it. When asked by the chief of BELA (Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association) whether they have any clue about the said draft, they unanimously said that they did not, and that they have not been 'consulted'!

Indeed, the draft act has neither been put on the relevant website for the information and input of the public till date (Wednesday 01/12/10). This is the typical top-down manner of the ruler-ruled equation that should have been thrown out long ago under a truly democratic, pro-people dispensation. However, the government seems willing to learn, and hopefully, the gaps will be bridged forthwith, to put in place a truly inclusive Forest Act that does not leave the indigenous people in the lurch nor trivialize their native knowledge base.

Exclusion is particularly acute for the females of the forest who end up becoming underdogs of the underdogs under the prevailing socio-cultural conventions that, like the rest of the country, continue to prioritize male needs and elevate their status in ways that are prejudicial to women's well-being and security. Thus, when husbands fall to the tiger's jaws the poor widows are ostracized on the superstition that somehow the wife must have been responsible for the husband's ill luck! The tiger widows therefore are obliged to roam the forests as pariahs, left to fend for themselves without support or recognition from anywhere.

Then again research findings show that while both genders are marginalised in the national context, the females get the shortest shrift, so to say. Women folk have been found to do most of the work, almost three-fourths, yet their contribution to the family or community is not recognised. It remains invisible simply because women's work has not been monetised yet. On the basis of these and other significant findings the BARCIK workshop came out with a list of proposals and recommendations that deserve consideration.

Such as:

- state recognition of forest-based livelihoods as professions
- inclusion of indigenous women's concerns in the national women's development policy
- provisions for compensation and rehabilitation of tiger-(or any other wildlife) widows or wounded
- removing legal barriers (if any) to women's equal right to exploit forest resources
- government support in developing forest-based small enterprises and marketing products with special focus on women entrepreneurs
- guaranteeing overall security for all forest people, specially the protection of women and girls against oppression, violence and discrimination
- the state must ensure people's equitable ownership over forest resources as stipulated in the 1992 UN Biodiversity Convention
- forest people's access to laws and rules must be facilitated, etc, etc

The list is a long one and should serve to open the eyes of the non-forest public to the legitimate concerns of the people of the mangrove forests. In fact, it should concern every thinking citizen of this tropical, agrarian and deltaic country, situated as we are in an extremely vulnerable geographical spot. The ecological implications of ignoring the concerns are bound to be dire for our entire habitat. It is hoped the government too would be motivated to attend to these concerns.

Feedback from ANCE, Togo

Ebeh Kodjo (ANCE): What I liked during the time of the implementation of this project is the commitment of the participants. Women or men, representatives of the ministries or the private sector, the atmosphere was very special. Participants expressed their gratitude to ANCE for giving them the tools to advocate for gender mainstreaming as a whole and especially for gender mainstreaming in the sustainable management of water in Togo. Several articles in the press talking about [... an innovative project], others speak [... an innovative and ambitious project] and so on. Our joy is full to have implemented such a project and we thank Both ENDS and PSO for giving us the financial and technical support for this project.

Article in L'Humanite, national newspaper in Togo, September 2011

L'Humanité

Actualités

4

Promotion du genre et l'eau au Togo : L'ANCE et les bénéficiaires du Projet PSO font le bilan des activités

L'Alliance Nationale des Consommateurs et de l'Environnement (ANCE-TOGO), avec l'appui financier de Both ENDS basé en Hollande, a organisé ce vendredi 02 septembre 2011 dans la salle de conférence de la Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie du Togo, un atelier qui avait pour thème « Evaluation du plan d'action des Organisations de la Société Civile sur le genre et l'eau au Togo ». Cet atelier a connu la participation d'une trentaine de participants représentant les ONG, les médias et les services techniques de l'Etat. Il a pour but de procéder à l'évaluation des différentes actions des différents acteurs de la société civile sur la question du genre et de l'eau au Togo et marque ainsi la fin d'un processus engagé par l'ANCE-TOGO et ses partenaires depuis 2010. Le droit à l'eau permet à chaque individu d'avoir suffisamment accès à l'eau et l'Etat est sensé être responsable de réaliser ce droit pour tous sans aucune discrimination et sur une base non lucrative. Le mouvement pour la justice mondiale de l'eau oblige l'ONU à aborder le sujet du droit à l'eau ; mais ce sujet n'est pas encore inscrit dans une convention intégrale de l'ONU. Au Togo, l'égalité entre les sexes et le droit à l'eau sont reconnus d'une manière indirecte ; mais pas par la loi.



Vue partielle des participants

La loi 2010-004 portant code de l'eau au Togo reconnaît le principe d'équité dans la gestion de l'eau, c'est-à-dire le traitement équitable de toutes les catégories sociales de la population vis-à-vis de l'eau, incluant le droit d'accès

des sexes est reconnue sur papier, mais pas dans la pratique. Il en résulte que le genre n'est pas pleinement intégré dans les stratégies de gestion de l'eau. Les femmes ne sont pas suffisamment impliquées dans les prises de décision

Barick (Bangladesh) et ANCE (Togo) ont initié un projet pour expérimenter une approche innovatrice qui consiste à renforcer la capacité des ONG de l'environnement et de développement en vue d'intégrer le genre dans leur travail. Spécifiquement, l'ANCE-TOGO voudrait expérimenter l'intégration du genre dans la promotion du droit à l'eau au Togo.

Le but du projet est d'impliquer les femmes et les activistes des droits de l'homme et de la femme dans la campagne et s'assurer que cette campagne porte sur les différences de participation et de prise de



M. Ebeh Fabrice, D.E. de l'ANCE (extrême droite)

participation et de prise de décision dans l'utilisation et la gestion de l'eau. Phase 2: Analyse approfondie

Cette phase a consisté à la réalisation de quatre (4) études sectorielles à savoir l'étude sur le genre et l'eau au Togo, l'étude des aspects sanitaires du secteur Eau et Assainissement, l'étude sur les barrages et l'accès à l'eau au Togo et l'étude juridique du droit à l'eau au Togo. Les résultats des différentes études réalisées ont été compilés dans un seul document. Phase 3: Atelier à mi-terme et plan de travail

Au cours de cette phase, un atelier a été organisé le 28 février 2011 et a permis de valider les différen-

tiels acteurs de la société civile sur la question du genre et de l'eau au Togo, de rassembler les conclusions et les difficultés rencontrées par chaque acteur et de procéder à une mise à jour spécifique du plan d'action pour l'avenir.

Les résultats obtenus sont multiples. Le projet a permis de renforcer les capacités des acteurs togolais sur le droit à l'eau. Ils ont bien appréhendé le concept « genre et eau » ont affirmé leur disponibilité à œuvrer pour promouvoir le concept dans leur organisation et aussi à partager les informations et enseignements reçus avec d'autres groupes.

Le rapport d'étude constitue une base de

l'équité dans la répartition de l'eau à des fins domestiques ou productives.

Toutefois, des études montrent qu'au Togo, 39% de la population n'a pas accès à une source d'eau potable. 57% de la population rurale n'utilise pas de source d'eau d'approvisionnement améliorée comparé à 10% en milieu urbain, seulement 5% des ménages utilisent une méthode appropriée de traitement de l'eau, un quart de la population togolaise ne dispose pas, à moins de 30 minutes de marche, d'une source d'eau potable, 7 personnes sur 10 n'ont pas accès à des installations saines d'évacuations des excréments et seuls 10% des togolais disposent d'installations sanitaires améliorées en milieu rural. Pour ce qui concerne le genre, les femmes représentent 51,3% de la population togolaise et sont chargées d'approvisionner les familles et les communautés en eau potable. Cependant, l'égalité entre les

concernant l'eau même si elles restent les principales actrices par l'approvisionnement des ménages. De plus, cette implication est plus remarquable dans la gestion des points d'eau (puits, forages) que dans la gestion des barrages.

Par ailleurs, les investissements dans le domaine de l'eau demeurent insuffisants. Au cours des dix dernières années (2000 à 2009), les investissements publics dans le secteur de l'eau ont été de 21,5 milliards de FCFA seulement et se répartissent de la manière suivante : 12 milliards de FCFA pour l'AEP rural, 60 millions pour l'AEP semi-urbain, 4 milliards pour l'AEP urbain, 5,5 milliards pour l'assainissement ; les investissements dans les domaines de l'hydraulique agricole et pastorale sont demeurés insignifiants. Quant aux investissements privés, ils sont restés marginaux.

C'est dans ce contexte que Both ENDS (Pays Bas) et ses partenaires Amichoco (Colombia)

et la gestion de l'eau.

Les activités réalisées sont réparties en 4 phases:

Phase 1: Atelier initial
Avec l'appui financier de Both ENDS, l'ANACE a organisé le 25 Mai 2010 un atelier de renforcement des capacités des acteurs sur le concept « genre et eau ». Le but de l'atelier est d'impliquer les femmes et les activistes des droits de l'homme et de la femme dans la campagne et s'assurer que la campagne porte sur les différences de

pillées en un seul document et d'adopter un plan d'action des ONG sur le droit à l'eau au Togo pour la période 2011-2015. Le but du plan est de promouvoir le droit et l'accès à l'eau potable et à l'assainissement au Togo par l'intégration du genre.

Phase 4 : Atelier d'évaluation final et de suivi

Un atelier d'évaluation du plan d'action des OSC sur le genre et l'eau au Togo a été organisé le 02 septembre 2011 afin de procéder à l'évaluation des différentes actions des dif-

domées sur le genre et l'accès à l'eau au Togo qui sera utile à tout acteur qui souhaiterait intervenir dans le domaine. En le parcourant, on se rend compte de l'insuffisance des investissements dans le domaine de l'eau potable et l'assainissement et de l'intégration du genre dans les structures décisionnelles.

Grâce au projet, les différents acteurs ont pu ressortir les actions que leurs organisations ont menées sur le terrain et les difficultés qu'elles ont rencontrées. Les difficultés que rencontre le Gouvernement à répondre au problème de l'eau et de l'assainissement au Togo a été mises en relief et les différents acteurs se sont engagés à faire des efforts pour apporter leur contribution dans la résolution de ce problème. Les efforts se feront par la prise en compte du genre dans les actions des OSC. Les réponses aux questions contenues dans le questionnaire d'évaluation ont per-

Suite à la p. 5



ATION DU PLAN D'ACTION DES OSC SUR LE DROIT À L'EAU AU TOGO
LE MARDI 02 SEPTEMBRE 2011

Photo de famille des participants

