



CIDT

GENDER & FOREST GOVERNANCE

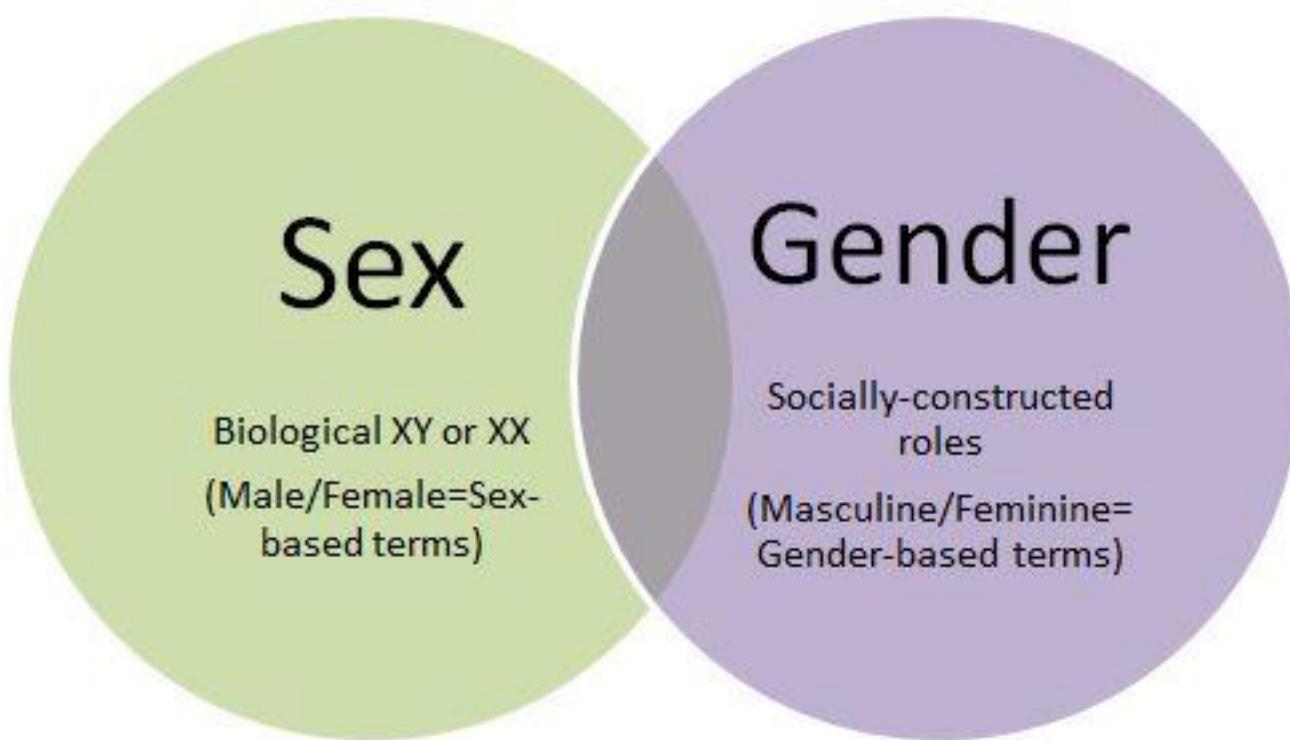


Session Objectives

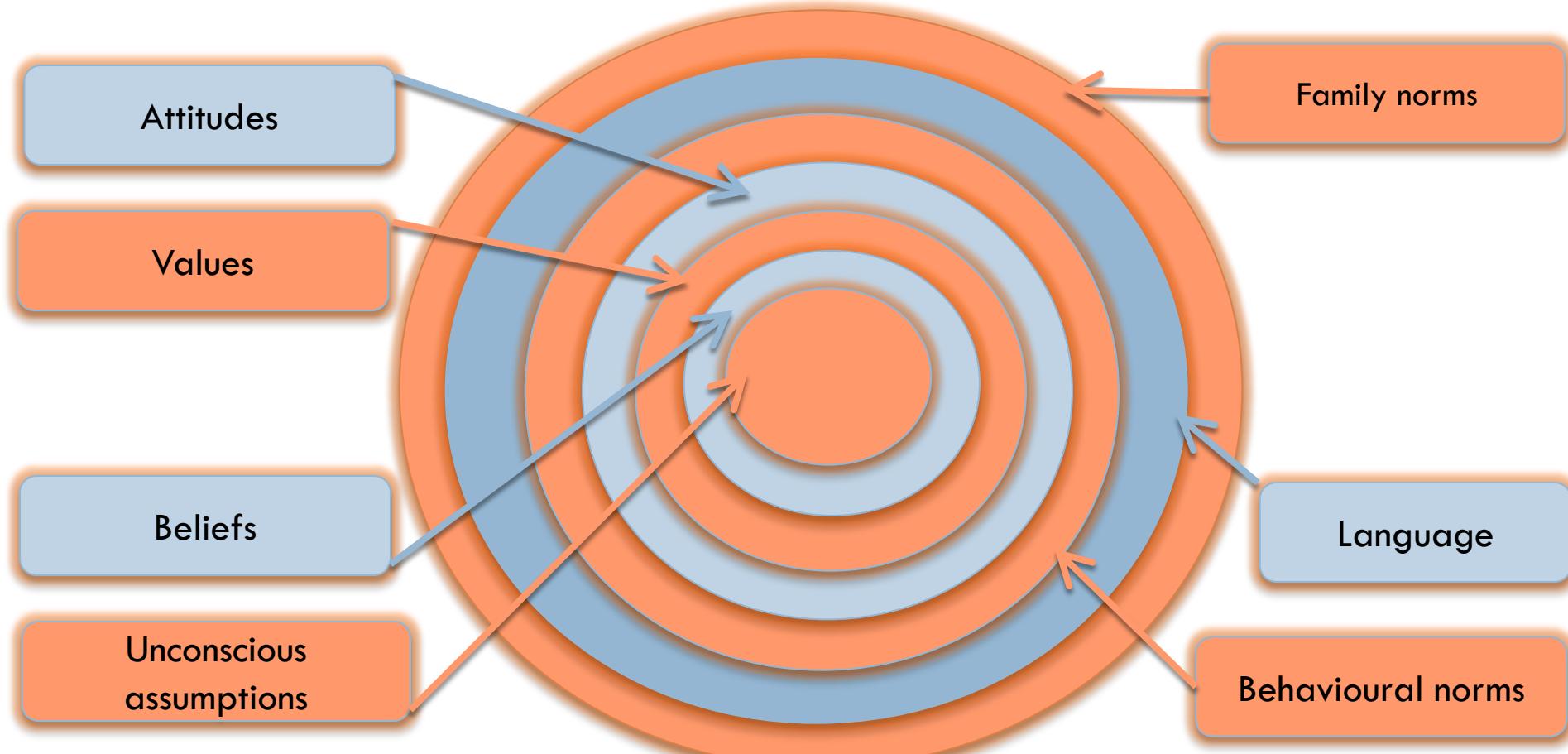
- Explore the reasons for, and importance of, taking a gender perspective in forest governance and management
- Appreciate the differences and complementarities between women and men with relation to access, use and management of forests



Sex or Gender?



Our unconscious perspectives on gender...Examples?



Definitions

- **Gender is socially constructed:** it refers to the interpretation of biological sex by any culture which is learned, changeable over time and may have wide variations between and within cultures
- **Gender Roles:** The roles ascribed to women and men within a culture. These roles are determined by that culture's assumptions about the potentials and abilities of women and men

Definitions

- **Gender mainstreaming:** Assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action. It is a strategy for making the concerns and experiences of women as well as of men an integral part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and taking action to address gender inequalities so that women and men benefit equally from any intervention.

Definitions

- **Gender Gap:** The disproportionate difference in attitudes and practices between women and men. A gender gap can exist in access to and decision-making over particular resources and services
- **Gender blind:** Programmes and projects that are *gender blind* do not see the differences between gender roles, including the gender division of labour and skills

Definitions

- **Gender awareness:** The conscious knowledge that households and communities are not homogenous and there are essential differences between different groups and individuals but especially between women and men and their access to and control of resources

- **Gender Responsiveness:** Gender responsive projects will not only recognise the differences, but also address the different needs, priorities and aspirations of those involved.

Activity

- In your groups brainstorm why it is important to consider gender dimensions in forest governance.
- You have 10 minutes for this activity.



Video



A Fair Climate: Gender Equity in Forestry and REDD+ RECOFTC

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=z7wsl_AP4Qs

Questions

1. What are the key messages in the video?
2. Why is gender equity important for forest-based and/or climate change initiatives?
3. What are the consequences of not considering the perspectives of women in decision-making?
4. Is it important to develop the capacity of women to engage in decision-making processes? Why? What are their capacity needs?
5. Is it important to develop the capacity of men to engage in decision-making processes that leads to gender equality? Why? How should men be involved?
6. How are women engaged in decision-making processes in your target area?

Multi-level Gender Analysis

- All societies are permeated by gender inequalities and differences
- Formulation of local, national and international policies are often shaped by the gendered conditioning, often unconscious, of those who formulate them.
- **There is no country in which the outcomes of public policy are equal for men and women**, but the dimensions of these inequalities are often so deeply embedded that they are difficult to perceive

Multi-level Gender Analysis: Why?

- To reveal the connections between gender relations and the development problem to be solved
- To “surface” the fact that gender relations are likely to have an impact on the solution to the problem
- To differentiate the different needs, interests, concerns and potentials of women and men at all levels
- To differentiate possible impacts of policy and strategy on different groups of women and men
- To increase the likelihood that decisions taken are able to rebalance some of the inequalities, so that women as well as men are able to benefit
- Where necessary, to identify strategies and actions that will impact positively and increase equality of inputs and outcomes

Macro Level Gender Analysis

- This refers to international treaties and agreements, national laws and policies, the legal structures, sociocultural, economic, demographic, political and religious factors, macroeconomic policy, forestry and agricultural policies which may influence gender relations at micro level.

Macro Level Gender Analysis

- International treaties and agreements which the government has signed/ratified that might impact on forest governance and gender
- The extent to which national forest policies take into account women's participation and representation in forest management structures and decision-making processes and access to and control over forest resources.
- Who (which women and men and how many of each) took part in the negotiation

Macro Level Gender Analysis

- The national laws and policies that exist to protect women (or men) or that deal directly or indirectly with gender relations
- Political factors which affect gender roles and gender relations
- Economic factors which affect gender roles and gender relations
- Any national level inheritance and land tenure laws, rules and patterns which determine who owns, and who inherits what
- The proportion of male to female politicians in power

Meso-Level Gender Analysis

- Analysis of the key intermediary stakeholder organisations, especially those involved in any multi-stakeholder consultations. This analysis involves a systematic examination and identification of the NGOs, Private Sector and Government involved in supporting forest governance initiatives

Meso-Level Gender Analysis

- Proportion of men and women in the forestry profession in general
- Separately for NGOs, Government and Private Sector, assess:
 - The proportion of men and women that work with forestry communities and take part in any multi-stakeholder consultations (separate out implementer and management levels)
 - The perceptions and attitudes of men towards women in the implementing institution,
 - Their knowledge of gender issues and their skills in implementing gender sensitive policies

Meso-Level Gender Analysis

- Relationships between women and men within the organisation
- Which women and/or men have access to information
- Which women and/or men are involved in making which decisions
- Organisational constraints and opportunities for implementing a gender sensitive programme.
- How each type of organisation seeks the views of women as well as and separately to, men, in forest-dependent communities
- How and who in the organisation represents these views

Micro (Community) Level Analysis

- The customary laws and traditions which set out how women and men should behave and how they relate to one another (including trends and how this has changed over time)
- Religious beliefs and practices which affect gender roles and gender relations
- Gender division of labour and workload generally (in forestry, in the community and the home)
- Local level inheritance and land tenure patterns which determine who owns, and who inherits what
- Roles and relationships within the household and the community

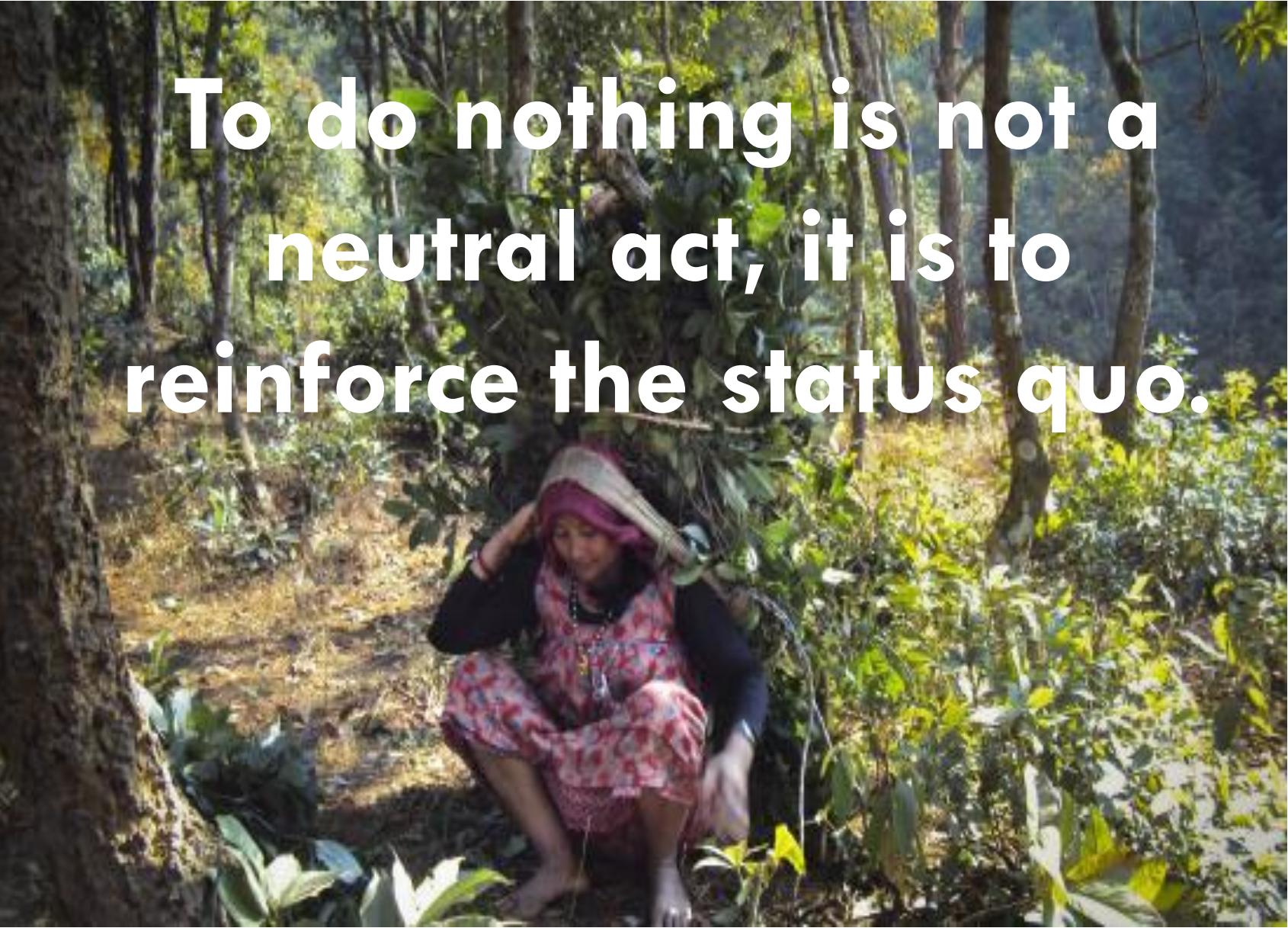
Micro (Community) Level Analysis

- Women's practical and strategic needs
- Gender-related access to and control over resources, especially forests, and services including benefits derived from their use
- The impact of the changing environment (such as climate change, increased violence) on forest-related activities of women and men
- Women's active participation in decision-making in forest governance
- Images and self images of women (including levels of confidence)

Take Away Points

Because women are forest users – the major users in many cases, sustainable forest management needs to include:

- a) greater recognition of women as legitimate stakeholders in sustainable forest management,
- b) women's decision-making influence on forest policies and programs
- c) equitable rights to fair benefit-sharing mechanisms from forest management and climate change initiatives

A photograph of a woman in a pink floral dress and a pink headscarf, carrying a large woven basket on her head, walking through a dense green forest. The forest floor is covered in fallen leaves and green undergrowth. The background is filled with tall trees and sunlight filtering through the canopy.

To do nothing is not a
neutral act, it is to
reinforce the status quo.