

Systematising of the WWF screening regarding experiences/information on Indigenous Peoples, Gender and Natural Resource Management. Questionnaire 2 on WWF organisations' work and experience.

I. Quantitative Information from Questionnaire 2:

The 2nd Questionnaire was sent to the 14 WWF offices that qualified for providing more qualitative information. They are continentally distributed as follows:

Africa: Nigeria, South Africa

Asia: Indian, Pakistan, Mongolia, Nepal

The Pacific: Solomon Islands, Philippines

Latin America: Chile, Ecuador, Central America, Peru, Colombia

Europe: United Kingdom

Furthermore, two persons related to the Arctic Fisheries Project (not a WWF project) – one in Canada and one in Norway – likewise received the 2nd Questionnaire.

All together 16 questionnaires were sent out and 11 answers were received after a few reminders in order to get a response. 9 of the answers came from WWF offices in UK, South Africa, Nigeria, Indian, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Colombia, Peru, and Central America. The last 2 answers came from the Arctic Fisheries Project persons in Canada and Norway.

The answers were distributed into three categories according to the usefulness of the information provided on indigenous peoples, gender and natural resource management:

Category 1: Useful and valuable information and experiences on all three issues:

- Norway, Canada, Colombia, Central America, Solomon Islands

Category 2: Information on natural resource management and indigenous peoples, but very incipient gender orientation:

- Philippines, Peru

Category 3: Information on natural resource management and indigenous people – no gender orientation:

- UK, South Africa, Nigeria, India

It has to be noted, that the answers to the Questionnaire 2 were of a very varying quality and thoroughness. It seems that the more thorough the answers, the more experience with the integration of all three issues. However, it might be the case that the answers that seem to include little information and experience, have not been transmitting the real experience of the organisation in question. Nevertheless, there has been no time to investigate further if the questionnaire answers actually correspond to the different organisations' working experience.

II. Documentation of experiences:

The Questionnaire 2 specifically asked for documentation of the mentioned experiences with indigenous peoples, gender and natural resource management with a view to include it in the web site database and State of the Art Paper.

Almost all the answers included articles, reports and other types of documentation. Some of them were forwarded by e-mail to WWF Denmark or availability on the internet was indicated. Some books were mentioned, but copies were not sent to WWF Denmark and therefore could not be screened for their relevance. However, the titles of the books were all related to natural resource management and there was no mentioning of gender or women's perspective. Therefore, they were not included in the list below.

The following is the list of documents all related somehow to IP, gender/women and NRM. They are all available in WWF Denmark, in the Danish Institute for International Studies or on the project's web site:

Country	Document Title
Colombia	1. Artículo sobre el Conversatorio de Acción Ciudadana, de Carmen Candelo (Coordinadora Fortalecimiento de Capacidades- WWF Colombia), Noviembre 2003 – word doc.
Colombia	2. Nota de prensa, Diciembre 5 de 2003 – word doc.
Colombia	3. Artículo “Mujeres y manglar, una relación por la vida” de María Ximena Galeano (Asistente de Comunicaciones - WWF Colombia) - word doc.
Colombia	4. Acuerdos del conversatorio, Diciembre 11-12 de 2003 – word doc.
Nicaragua	5. Análisis del sector turismo de la Asociación de Mujeres Indígenas de la Costa Atlántica - www.wwfca.org – PDF doc.
Solomon Islands	6. Gender Equity Plan and Gender Equity Action Strategy – 2001 – two word documents
Solomon Islands	7. Kalgovas, V. 2002. Gender and Conservation: A Solomon Islands' Perspective. (Development Bulletin 2003) – word doc
Arctic Area	8. Gender and decision-making in arctic fisheries, article in WWF Arctic Bulletin No. 3 – 2003
Norway	9. Report on Women's Participation in decision-making processes in Arctic Fisheries Resource Management – will be published at www.kun.nl.no by November 2004.
Denmark*	10. Soraya Yrigoyen Fajardo: Estudio sobre Género en Pacaya Samiria, Iquitos, Peru 2003. Book. Available in PDF on http://www.wwf.dk/25c000
UK People and Plants	11. PEOPLE AND PLANTS WORKING PAPER 8, DECEMBER 2001 Ethnobotany of the Loita Maasai P. MAUNDU - WP8.pdf document - http://www.kew.org/peopleplants/wp/wp8.html

* Although WWF Denmark has not answered the Questionnaire 2 for obvious reasons, this book is mentioned as the only WWF Denmark gender oriented document related to IP and NRM. It is an external gender evaluation of the “Pacaya Samiria Programme for Development and Conservation” in the Pacaya Samiria Natural Reserve in Peru – 1993 - 2003.

III. Qualitative Information:

The 2nd Questionnaire included four qualitative questions. Consequently, the systematising of the questionnaire answers will follow this pattern.

Question 1. *What are the constraints/problems in applying a women's perspective or a gender perspective in the work with IP and NRM both within IP communities/organisations, within your organisation's field staff and management staff as well as within governmental sectors?*

a) within IP communities/organisations:

- * IP have radically different understandings of gender and of the importance of gender studies and thus resent the "Western" gender concept. International NGOs working with a gender perspective may seem intrusive or bullying to the IP organisations.
- * The interpretation of a "women's perspective" and a "gender perspective" varies culturally and may also vary according to gender and age.
- * Women in Arctic fisheries management are "doubly invisible" by being indigenous and women.
- * Some indigenous organisations may still be driven by male-dominated views and thus, women's perspectives may not be deemed of importance and interest.
- * Although indigenous women often work both in agriculture, in fisheries, in the domestic scene and in child bearing and caring, they are excluded from the decision making process and from the rights that men have.
- * Promoting roles for women outside their traditional roles, can be an added burden to already busy lives.
- * Indigenous women can be very shy towards strangers and only speak their own language.
- * Boys and men receive most of the education opportunities

b) within Field and management staff:

- * Lack of a common understanding of what gender and gender perspectives entail cause problems and misunderstandings between field staff and informants
- * High turn-over rates in NGOs sometimes causes inconsistency in implementing gender equality policies.
- * Lack of constant gender training of staff in NGOs.
- * Disagreements among NGO staff on the importance of gender considerations - male-dominated Western societal views still prevail in some NGOs.
- * Few women in decision-making positions in NGOs.
- * Male professional staff in NGOs or indigenous field promoters have difficulties in accepting female professional staff / indigenous female promoters as equally competent.
- * Male staff in NGOs sometimes appears uninterested in working with indigenous women.
- * Sometimes difficult to find professionally qualified indigenous and non-indigenous women as field workers in projects.

c) within Governmental Sectors:

- * Different understandings of gender and ignorance of indigenous traditions (example: Norwegian reindeer herder law of 1973, where women were passed over in cases of inheritance and ownership of reindeer herds, thus upsetting the social system among reindeer herding Sami.
- * Entrenched male-dominated views at governmental levels, few women in senior government positions, fear of altering the status quo
- * Lack of money to conduct gender-based analysis within governmental programmes and policies and for training of staff.
- * Lack of confidence from governmental officials towards female leadership in forest management programmes
- * Male decision makers may not take female NGO staff seriously
- * Militarism and violations of human rights in IP and rural areas
- * Government sectors tend to focus on capacity building of local field promoters and these are always men

Question 2. *What are the positive and negative lessons learned of your experience with IP, gender and NRM in terms of:*

a) Organisational strategy and approach? (Are the definition of organisational strategies and approaches useful for promoting gender or women's aspects at the practical level in project/programme activities related to IP and NRM? In which way and why?)

- * Organisational strategies are not really useful for promoting gender or women's aspects. They may evolve, change over time or may be interpreted differently by staff. Funding for programmes and initiatives change over time due to fluctuating governmental support. However, organisational strategies can provide a framework at the outset, but it should be monitored and evaluated throughout the project.
- * Organisational strategies can be very useful for promoting gender and women's aspects, i.e. show in practise that women are just as capable as men to implement forest management programmes or targeting skills training for women to put less pressure on some natural resources.
- * Organisational strategies in favour of gender aspects can put some gender balance into the situation by giving priority to projects that enhance opportunities for indigenous women. For example: experiences in Solomon Islands show that benefits from income-generating projects targeting indigenous women flow deep into the communities.
- * A rights based approach is useful for promoting participation and ownership in natural resource management and for achieving changes in the social, political and environmental spheres.

b) Project/programme guidelines, methodology, techniques and tools? (Are they useful? Why? How? Please specify your experience and enclose copies if possible)

- * Important to have these, but it is critical to monitor and evaluate the usefulness throughout the

project and not just at the end of it.

* A bottom-up approach is more beneficial for the project in order to involve indigenous peoples at all stages of the process as well as NGO field staff.

* Methodologies and techniques should be adapted/developed to the indigenous and cultural context, i.e. what makes more sense for the communities and promote participation from all participants (men and women). Also include considerations for the individual and the collectivism. PRA techniques and tools are useful as well as opportunities for reflection and documentation of experiences.

* Important to consider gender training also for indigenous men.

* Manuals can be useful in providing guidelines and case-studies for working with different sections of communities, e.g. looking at knowledge distribution in societies, and also power relations.

* Different tools and techniques can promote a high degree of participation among grassroots women.

* Tools can help to understand and document many of the community practices related to natural resource management.

c) Training and capacity building?(Are gender training and capacity building of staff, counterparts, IP organisations, governments etc. useful? In what way and why? Please specify your experience.):

* It is essential to develop a common gender understanding and approach among all persons involved in the projects and to ensure that “Western” concepts of gender equality are not imposed on the IP communities. Work should be done with community members to ascertain what their concept of gender equality is and make sure that project staff work on the basis of that.

* Training (gender and other types) should transform communities and inspire change, not only pass on knowledge and awareness.

* All staff persons in NGOs should receive gender training and capacity building – this is not the case at present. Typically only a few staff persons have gender competences (normally female staff) and that is not satisfactory.

* Capacity building is a key part of conservation action. It is important that those involved in conservation of natural resources recognise how gender aspects influence e.g. knowledge, decision-making, interests in different natural products etc.

* It is important to promote the opportunity for both IP men and women to make their own decisions regarding the relationship between all members of the ethnic group to which they belong and identify themselves.

Question 3. *According to your experience what are the characteristics and roles of IP men and women in the management and ownership of natural resources, that projects/programmes should respect and/or take into account?*

a) Gender characteristics and roles in management of NR. (Do indigenous men and women relate differently to natural resources? How? Why? What are the consequences? Do indigenous men and women have different roles towards the management of natural resources? How? Why? What are the consequences?):

- * There are significant gender differences regarding how women and men relate to the management of natural resources, but it varies greatly according to geography, culture, type of natural resources etc.
- * men relate to wood chopping in the mangrove swamp, hunting and fishing – activities that need physical strength. Women relate to the gathering of shellfish and snails – activities that require endurance and resistance. However, men are beginning to help out in the gathering of snails.
- * Both men and women work in agriculture and fishing. Additionally, the women are responsible for washing, child caring and cooking and have important knowledge of the use of forest products. The women's work and knowledge constitute the families' means of support.
- * Women play a central role in providing the families' nutrition, health and income needs through fishing, indigenous agriculture, collecting water and firewood, gathering medicine plants in the forest and natural medicine products from marine resources, as well as converting natural resources to products for sale in local and global markets. Supporting IP women might easily result in a well-managed environment and in social and economic well being for the community.
- * Men are responsible for hunting – women are responsible for cooking and deciding what should be hunted. Awareness activities to discourage the hunting of particular species should be targeted towards both men and women and sometimes also children.
- * Women are often much more concerned about the long-term sustainability than men. Men feel much more threatened by outside interventions. Men traditionally fish, whilst women harvest on the shores.

b) Gender characteristics and roles in ownership of NR. (Do indigenous men and women have the same access to ownership to natural resources? Please specify how, why and the consequences?):

- * Usually, IP men and women do not have the same access to ownership to natural resources, but it varies from IP group and kind of natural resources.
- * Yes, IP men and women have the same access to ownership, but the differences lie in the specific activities that they carried out in relation to specific natural resources. To develop a joint responsibility between men and women for the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources is another way of achieving long-term environmental impact.
- * Natural resources are equally owned by the community, so the access to land, forest, marine and fresh water resources is collective.
- * Different traditions for patrilineal or matrilineal ownership, and even for particular clan ownership, but many others might have rights to usage of the resources. Different rights of usage allow varying degrees of participation in decision-making processes affecting natural resources. In addition, there is not a comfortable fit between constitutional law and customary law.
- * In some cases, women are entitled to keep the money from sales of wild medicinal plants and mushrooms, while men are entitled to keep the money from sale of timber.

Question 4. *According to your experience what is the best way to secure gender/women's perspectives in activities related to IP and NRM?(What advice could you share with us with a view to secure both indigenous men's and women's knowledge, relationship to natural resources and involvement in NRM project/programmes?)*

Answer:

- * Ask them. Work with the IP organisations, design projects aimed at depicting the full width of NRM, both traditionally, in modern relations and in a “Western” perspective as well as an IP perspective. Use the resources inherent in IP organisations, they have great capacity and interest in having their traditions documented. The challenge is to do this while respecting different traditions and points of view. Traditional knowledge is central in developing sound management of natural resources, but in order to be visible it must be documented and challenged.
- * Ensure development/assistance programs are culturally sensitive i.e. that increased opportunities does not result in altered dynamics in households which results in increased domestic violence, etc. Ensure that development/assistance programs are planned with the input of community members at all stages and can be sustained in the long-term after the external funding has been depleted. Ensure community ownership of the programme.
- * Ensure an understanding that in some areas different provision will be necessary to deal with the different capabilities, knowledge and attitudes that male and female staff bring to work activities, within the NGO and partner organisations and encourage and support female and male staff and partners to participate in a wide range of experiences which broadens their view of what is acceptably feminine or masculine enabling them to take an active role in both the paid work force and in the wider society.
- * Build on actions which are already under way and outline new priorities and strategies for future actions mainstreaming professional responsibilities for all staff at all levels and secure ongoing capacity building and professional development.
- * Increase women’s access to decision-making roles, increase educational opportunities for both women and men ensuring support for childcare while attending school and providing incentives for women to further their education. Accept that it is a long process.
- * increase gender awareness through on-going gender training of programme/project staff and of indigenous communities and organisations. Secure funding for gender training.
- * Training and capacity building in terms of gender and other project issues must consider all key players along productive chains, from the moment when the resource is harvested or hunted to the moment when it is consumed or marketed.
- * NRM is closely tied to land rights and tenure is important for NRM to succeed. The very foundation of rights to livelihood and life of IPs are their rights to the land. It may be that IPs in some areas may not respect women’s rights or that discrimination among themselves result in human rights violations. The merger of both western ideas and IP knowledge systems could benefit conservation. More studies in this regard is needed.
- * The role of women in natural resource management urgently needs to be highlighted both at the local and governmental levels. Through intensive capacity building especially designed to secure increased participation of women, as well as the active integration of women into other capacity building courses and participatory diagnostics being undertaken in indigenous communities, it will

be possible to increase their participation in decision making and secure the integration of a gender perspective into natural resource management projects.

* Continuous interaction with both men and women after winning their confidence is a way to promote gender equality.