Gender Mainstreaming in National Forest Policy in Nepal

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...there is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women."

-- Kofi Annan
Forest management in Nepal

- 23% under protected area system
- 32% forests managed by community
- 8.7% protection forests
1. Overview of Forest Policy in Nepal

- Interim constitutions (2007) of Nepal is highly gender responsive, reserved quota for women
- Civil Service Act made reservation for women and deprived groups
- National Periodic plans (9th plan onwards-1990 onward) accorded high priority on women empowerment and gender equality
- Forestry sector prioritized on women empowerment with the initiation of community forestry programe in Nepal (1993)
# 1. Overview Contd....

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>Policy thrust</th>
<th>Gender mainstreaming</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970s</td>
<td>National Forestry Plan</td>
<td>• Scientific management by the state</td>
<td>• Gender and women issues remained silent</td>
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<td>1988s</td>
<td>Master Plan for Forestry Sector</td>
<td>• People's participation</td>
<td>• Participation and women involvement in forestry</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Community forestry</td>
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<td>• Basic need fulfillment</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>Revised Forest Policy</td>
<td>• Multiple models of community based management</td>
<td>• Gender and social inclusions</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Commercial forestry</td>
<td>• Empowerment</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>New forest sector strategy</td>
<td>• Sustainable management</td>
<td>• Inclusive development</td>
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<td>• Multi stakeholder approach</td>
<td>• Positive discrimination</td>
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<td>• Private sector participation</td>
<td>• GESI remain one of the guiding principle</td>
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2. Forest Policy Making Processes

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<th>Earlier (Before 2000)</th>
<th>After 2000</th>
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<td>Government led, command and control</td>
<td>Government on supportive role with multi-stakeholder involvement</td>
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<td>Top down, less consultative</td>
<td>Bottom-up, participatory and consultative</td>
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<td>Isolated and poor coordination</td>
<td>Inclusive and right based</td>
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<td>Human dimension poorly acknowledged</td>
<td>Focused on environment sustainability and economic growth</td>
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<td>Community as passive participants</td>
<td>Inter-sectoral coordination</td>
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<td>Active involvement of right holder groups</td>
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<td>Limited or no consultation with women, bureaucracy centric</td>
<td>Wider consultation and consensus oriented</td>
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<td>Role of <strong>women</strong> not visible, not acknowledge</td>
<td>Win-win situation</td>
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<td>Increased women involvement, views and concerns widely acknowledged and</td>
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<td>addressed</td>
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3. On-going Initiatives on Gender Mainstreaming in Forest Policy

• Gender mainstreaming initiated on 1988 with the promulgation of Master Plan for the Forestry Sector (33% women)

• Periodic plan and sub-sectoral strategy focused on women involvement and their active participation on forestry sector strategy
  – Community forestry
  – Collaborative forestry
  – Protected forests
  – Conservation area management council
3. On-going Initiatives Contd...

• In 2008, Ministry formulated Gender and Social Inclusion Strategy, focusing on 4 change areas,
  ➢ Gender and social inclusion policy, rules, regulations and directives
  ➢ Gender equity and social inclusion sensitive programs/budgets and monitoring

• Periodic policy review and assessment based on changed context, including GESI
3. On-going Initiatives Contd..................

- **Gender responsive institutional mechanism**
  - Inclusion of women on multi-stakeholder mechanisms formed at national, sub-national and district level
  - GESI core group formation under leadership of ministry with participation of civil society and conservation partners

- **Gender responsive budgeting**
  - 20% of programme budget focusing on women while government target is of 33%
3. On-going Initiatives Contd...

• **Improve access to and control over**
  - Leadership position (reservation)

• **Equitable sharing of benefits**
  - Positive discrimination (quota, reservation)

• **Women involvement on change process**
  - Strategy formulation (Forestry sector)
  - GESI strategy implementation status review
4. Challenges/Gaps

- **Policy and legislative issues**
  - Limited periodic assessment and revision
  - Inadequate will and enforcement
- **Institutional issues**
  - Male dominated forestry organizations, no gender balance at management level
  - Low focus on gender within the formal structure of MFSC
  - Inadequate knowledge and skills among forestry professionals
  - Limited human resources and budget constraints
4. Challenges/Gaps Contd.....

• Implementation issues
  – Policy provisions not fully implemented
  – No accountability mechanism established, ineffective monitoring
  – Insufficient/inconsistent practice of collecting disaggregated data
  – Weak monitoring

• Socio-cultural beliefs/attitudinal issues
  – Forestry professions not for women
  – Inadequate orientation to stakeholders
  – Stereo type attitude towards women
5. Recommendations

• Periodic assessment of policy implementation and revisions

• Institutional capacity strengthening for mainstreaming gender in organization

• Provide incentives for women in pursuing forestry education and higher courses
5. Recommendations Contd...

• Capacity building and sensitization on gender and change management on policy processes

• Coordination, communication and resource leverages