Integrating Gender into Carbon Credit Projects (Webinar) | Q&A

Q1 Is anyone specifically focused on gender and inclusion in International Cooperation/market mechanisms under Art 6.2?

If so, we are keen to connect

Unfortunately, we cannot provide any insight to this. However, as per decision 2/CMA.3, annex, para. 18(i), participatory Parties shall provide a description of how each cooperative approach will "*reflect the eleventh preambular paragraph of the Paris Agreement*", where gender is mentioned. The exact text says: "*Acknowledging that climate change is a common concern of humankind, Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity;*".

An attendee provided the following reply in the chat:

UNDP has a high integrity carbon market (HI-CM) initiative (https://climatepromise.undp.org/highintegritycarbonmark ets), in which support is being provided to countries on Article 6.2, among other areas within CMs. Within the HI- CM, there is a large component on providing support on social integrity, in which gender is a strong component as well.

Q2: Would love to hear if you have examples of projects that got better pricing or ratings due to integration of gender or co-benefits?

We don't have examples of specific projects, but at a general level, crediting activities with additional social and environmental benefits gained a 78% price premium in 2022, and those that could prove notable contributions to the UN's SDGs saw an 86% premium. Data shows that

carbon projects which contribute to SDG 5 (Gender Equality) carry the highest average price premium, compared to projects contributing to the other SDGs (see the Guidance p.12 for more details).

Q3: Is this approach widely adopted by the most known standards or do we need to additionally align it with?

Some of the steps included in the guidance are included within market standards, such as the prevention of harm and equal work opportunities which would have to be met in order to be certified under some crediting programmes. However, a lot of the guidance areas go beyond what is required and showcase ways for projects to embed best practice gender equitable approaches into their activities. These steps would be additional to the alignment with market standards.

CCP-Eligible standards incorporate a minimum set of gender requirements under the 7.8 Gender Equality criterion, including provisions to ensure that mitigation activity proponents and project developers provide equal opportunities in the context of gender, protect against and respond appropriately to violence against women and girls, and ensure equal pay for equal work.

Q4: What do you think is the role of the Standard and how it can actively impact project designs?

The role of the standard, or carbon-crediting program, is to establish gender-related requirements within its general framework, ensuring embedded safeguards for all projects seeking to issue credits.For CCP-Eligibility, standards must include gender safeguard requirements, including those outlined under Criterion 7.8 of the ICVCM Assessment Framework. By making gender safeguards a mandatory element, the standard ensures that project developers systematically incorporate gender considerations into their project design, including the necessary activities, tools, governance structures, and mechanisms to align with these requirements.

As highlighted during the session, the requirements under the Assessment Framework are grounded in the "Do No Harm" principle. However, we encourage project developers to go beyond this baseline by adopting the WOW guidelines. These guidelines promote gender-positive projects that not only avoid harm but also actively create tangible benefits for the women impacted and involved.

Under the current Assessment Framework, carbon-crediting programs must require carbon project developers to report on qualitative positive SDG impacts (as per Criterion 7.11). Carbon

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project developers also have the opportunity to have CCP-labelled credits tagged with an attribute (known as CCP Attribute 3) when they provide quantitative reporting on positive SDG impacts. However, these are not gender-specific requirements.

Q5: It would be great to hear about involvement of women actively in value chains of carbon project. So, women's role in data verification, monitoring, and other green jobs that might have emerged from carbon project.

The case studies in the guidance (see p.57-59, p.65, p.75-76) include some examples of the roles women are holding in carbon projects, including leadership roles. In terms of women in verification and monitoring roles, PowerSouth has conducted a study with project monitors for a project with Udaipur Urja Initiatives (UUI) in India: Empowered Women at the forefront of Carbon Market

Q6: Will the report be released in languages other than English?

Currently, the document is only available in English. However, the team appreciate that English may not be the first language for many of the project developers and local implementing, so we are looking into whether further versions could be created to accommodate this.

Q7: Is there any guidance for projects to strike a balance between being culturally sensitive and advancing gender equality on their projects? Any previous known examples on how that has been approached?

The guidance includes overarching principles about building gender strategies based on the local context, and working with local women's organisations, gender/social specialists and partners committed to gender equality. This is key to finding the right balance - listening to those with a deep understanding of what is possible and desired within the local context, feeding in their expertise into gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) analysis, and basing the Gender Action Plan on this. The case study on p.65 of the guidance gives an example of setting targets based on the local context and hiring a Women & Youth Community Organiser.

Q8: Thank you very much for this very interesting presentation! Do you have any feedback on field implementation? Was it well received? Any obstacles?

As the guidance was only published in October, it is still too early to tell the impact this may have had on the ground. The guidance was based on conversations with a number of standards

organizations, project developers and implementing partners to ensure that barriers and challenges they were facing were addressed within our toolkit. We are hopeful that any

obstacles that may be faced would have relevant actions included in the guidance to overcome these. It would be great to hear any further feedback from audience members to see if when put into practice the tool really supports action in this space.

Q9: We know that in nature based projects it is particularly important to ensure gender equity, and for this purpose to make the relevant analyses and plans... etc. but for other types of projects e.g. renewable energy, waste management, etc. how can this approach be ensured in a more practical way?

The guidance focuses on nature-based solutions projects, but is also relevant to other sectors. We recommend to go through the same process, starting with a GESI analysis to feed into a Gender Action Plan. Since the GESI analysis might find low levels of women's formal employment in renewable energy, waste management, etc. the actions taken and targets would be different.

Q10: Are you considering any guidance on how to increase gender participation on project ownership and development in addition to participation as a community stakeholders and not just as a service provider.

Within our guidance we have included a section on to support projects are gender participation within formal project employment. There is also guidance included relating to women taking more leadership roles and providing additional support through training to provide women with these more senior responsibilities.

Q11: How do you think collecting such gender sensitive indicators can avoid questions on lack of transparency, in a market that now focuses on digital instead of analog approaches?

Including indicators which relate to gender increases the transparency of the project, specifically on how it is impacting different community members.

Q12: I'd be glad to getting some guidance or assistance from one of your panellist to better make this real in some carbon credit projects I'll be working on shortly. How to connect for that purpose?

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