

**INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT OF THE
PUTUMAYO-IÇÁ RIVER BASIN**

GENDER ACTION PLAN

**EXECUTING AGENCY
Wildlife Conservation Society - WCS**

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Bogotá - Colombia

Acronyms and Abbreviations

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| ASOMI | Asociación de Mujeres Indígenas de la Medicina Tradicional |
| CEDAW | Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women |
| Covid 19 | Coronavirus Disease of 2019 (also known as 2019 novel coronavirus or SARSCov-2) |
| FECONA | Federación de Comunidades Nativas del Ampiyacu |
| GAP | Gender Action Plan |
| GEF | Global Environment Facility |
| IWRM | Integrated Water Resources Management |
| MAE | Ministry of Environment of Ecuador |
| MESAGEN | Mesa de Género de la Cooperación Internacional en el Perú |
| MMFDH | Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights – Brazil |
| NPWP | National Plan for Women’s Policies |
| OAS | Organization of American States |
| OECD | Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development |
| ONAMIAP | Organización Nacional de Mujeres Indígenas Andinas y Amazónicas del Perú |
| SDGs | Sustainable Development Goals |
| SPM | Secretariat for Policies for Women |
| UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| WB | World Bank |
| WCS | Wildlife Conservation Society |

Introduction

This document sets out the Gender Action Plan (GAP) for the project “Integrated Management of the Putumayo-Içá River Basin.” The project aims to strengthen the enabling conditions for the participant countries to manage the shared freshwater ecosystems of the Putumayo- Içá basin in the Amazon region. This project will be implemented in both, regional and local scale. Regional scale refers to the implementation of the integrated basin management approach and local scale to the work in pilot sites related with the early warning system; the mitigation, remediation and restoration activities and the value chains for fisheries and other natural resources.

This GAP is intended to fulfill the GEF’s Policy on Gender equality (SD/GN/02)¹ as well as the World Bank Group Gender Strategy (FY16-23): Gender Equality, Poverty Reduction, and Inclusive Growth². Both the GEF and the World Bank (WB) recognize the importance of promoting gender equality³ and the empowerment of women.

It is important to highlight that *gender* refers to the roles, behaviors, activities, and attributes that a given society at a given time considers appropriate for men and women. In addition to the social attributes and opportunities associated with being male and female, and the relationships between women and men and girls and boys, gender also refers to the relations between women and those between men. Gender is part of the broader sociocultural context, including class, race, poverty level, ethnic group, sexual orientation, and age. In most societies there are differences and inequalities between women and men in responsibilities assigned, activities undertaken, access to and control over resources, as well as decision-making opportunities⁴.

In other words, gender is a social concept of the functions, behaviors, activities, and attributes that each society considers appropriate for men and women simultaneously, therefore it varies among cultures. It is a dynamic concept open to changes and it encompasses actors, governance, and territory. Thus, the GAP recognizes the diversity among male and female groups, for example that indigenous women may face additional challenges compared to men to participate in decision-making processes and in the fair distribution of the benefits of the project.

In this context, the project will promote a gender-responsive approach, taking into account the particular needs, priorities, power structures, status, and relationships between men and women to address them in the design, implementation, and evaluation of activities. This approach seeks to ensure that women and men are provided equal opportunities to participate in and benefit from the project activities, and to promote the empowerment of women⁵; including the analysis of the equitable distribution of responsibilities, opportunities, benefits and costs for men and women and recognizing the role of women in the use of natural resources and in generating family health and well-being. Responsive approach means “do not damage”, being aware of cultural differences, examining teaching materials and practice, and adapting

¹ Global Environment Facility. 2017. Guidelines on Gender Equality (SD/GN/02). GEF.

http://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/Gender_Equality_Guidelines.pdf

² World Bank Group. 2015. World Bank Group Gender Strategy (FY16-23): Gender Equality, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth. World Bank, Washington, DC. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/23425>

³ The state or condition that affords women and men equal enjoyment of human rights, socially valued goods, opportunities and resources.

⁴ GEF Secretariat. 2018. Guidance to advance on Gender Equality.

<https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/publications/GEF%20Guidance%20on%20Gender.pdf>

⁵ GEF Secretariat. 2018. Guidance to advance on Gender Equality.

<https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/publications/GEF%20Guidance%20on%20Gender.pdf>

interventions, as appropriate, to respond to different needs and contribute to reduce gender gaps.

Objectives

The GAP aims to integrate the gender approach during all the project, from its design, implementation and monitoring, to achieve better project outcomes during the five years of implementation, so that both women and men receive culturally-compatible economic and social benefits.

To accomplish this general objective, the GAP will:

- Contribute to the deepening of knowledge and the development of innovative strategies to deal with the inequalities observed between men and women in the basin;
- Identify and address gender gaps in terms of participation and leadership in decision-making processes, access to opportunities, rights, incomes and benefits, and control and use of resources;
- Design and incorporate affirmative actions aimed at reducing gender inequalities across the components of the Project;
- Use participatory methods to guarantee equal opportunities for women and men to participate and contribute to project design and implementation;
- Identify opportunities to empower women to support project success and sustainability.

Gender-related considerations

The GEF's Policy in Gender identifies three specific gender inequalities and gaps as particularly relevant to its work and programming strategy, including:

- (a) Unequitable access to and control of natural resources,
- (b) Unequal opportunities in environmental decision-making and leadership,
- (c) Uneven access to socio-economic benefits and services.
- (d) Gender-differentiated impacts of water pollution and climate change

According to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), although research suggests that women's active participation in the management and conservation of biodiversity improves local resource management and conservation outcomes, in reality women's participation and leadership remains low in national and international environmental platforms. Consequently, women's knowledge, values and experiences related to biodiversity, as well as their needs and priorities, may not be reflected in policies and programs on biodiversity and natural resource management. This whole situation has been identified by many countries as a challenge for biodiversity conservation⁶.

Further research supports the case of incorporating indigenous women's knowledge and leadership for achieving positive outcomes for people and nature. A 2016 study of the science literature⁷ suggests that including women in natural resource management, value their contributions and promote their participation, can lead to better governance and conservation,

⁶ Convention on Biological Diversity, 2018. Towards a gender-responsive implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Note by the Executive Secretary. Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/34b8/2445/f3c7ee9df40a841577c51638/cop-14-inf-21-en.pdf>

⁷ <https://environmentalevidencejournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13750-016-0057-8>

taking into account the critical role of the women in the networking between clans and exchange, and in the daily supplying food for their communities, with understanding of and responsibility for forest resources, which are critical for food security and for sustainable management of community resources. This review also highlighted that conservation activities have a much higher potential for contributing to more enduring conservation outcomes and generating positive social impacts when the connections among conservation activities, gender equity and indigenous knowledge are understood and addressed. In this sense, supporting indigenous women and aligned with their vision for the future is key to ensuring the conservation of strategic ecosystems like the Amazon rainforest.

Legal and institutional framework for gender equality

The project will contribute to the objectives of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The CEDAW, adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly and ratified by Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Brazil, provides the basis for realizing equality between women and men through ensuring women's equal access to, and equal opportunities in, political and public life as well as education, health and employment. On the other hand, the Objective 5 of the SDGs aims to end all forms of discrimination against women and girls worldwide. Additionally, the legislation and institutional framework related to gender is already in place in the four countries involved in the project, as follows:

- **Brazil** has made substantial advances in gender equality over the last two decades. Institutional advances include the creation of a Secretariat for Policies for Women (SPM). SPM is charged with mainstreaming gender equality and, along with several partners, outlining the nation's course for improving gender equality through National Plans of Policies for Women, which are carried out in a participatory process with civil society representatives. All states have created similar specialized government institutions for mainstreaming gender equality. Other major achievements to date includes the closing (and in some cases even reversing) the gender gap in education.

In 2019, the Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights ('Ministério da Mulher, da Família e dos Direitos Humanos - MMFDH) was created. This Ministry merged four gender and HRR-relevant public institutions a) the Secretariat for human rights; b) the Secretariat for Women's Policies; c) the Secretariat for racial equality policies; and d) the National Secretariat for Youth ('Secretaria Nacional da Juventude - SNP'). Presently, the main goal of the MMFDH is to promote policies for inclusion of so-called minority groups – women, blacks, indigenous and persons with disabilities, children and youth⁸.

On the other hand, a National Plan for Women's Policies (NPWP) was adopted in 2004. The NPWP reaffirmed the commitment of the Brazilian federal government and other governmental bodies to incorporating a gender perspective into public policies. The NPWP prescribed several concrete actions to be implemented by different government sectors in

⁸ European Commission. 2020. Evaluation of the EU's external action support to gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment (2010-2018). Final report. 352 p. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/gender-evaluation-2020-final-report-volume-4_en.pdf#page=65&zoom=100,90,400

cooperation with the private sector and addressed specific needs of mothers, particularly health care before and during pregnancy and at birth, as well as child care and education⁹.

- **Colombia** has acknowledged a number of international women's rights commitments. The country is part and signatory to the main international initiatives in this area, including the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (1996), the Belém Do Pará Convention to Prevent, Sanction, and Eradicate Violence against Women (ratified in 2014), the Regional Consensus adopted after the Ninth Regional Conference (Mexico, 2004) and the Tenth Regional Conference (Quito, Ecuador, 2007) on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and other international commitments such as the Beijing Platform for Action, the Millennium Development Goals (2000) and the Sustainable Development Goals (2015). Colombia has also translated such commitments into national laws and has a very comprehensive and advanced legal framework for gender equality in place. This framework includes legislation preventing all forms of discrimination in the economic, social, and political spheres. Colombia's principal law on preventing violence and discrimination against women is Ley 1257 / 2008¹⁰. This Law establishes the right of a woman to live a life free of violence as a fundamental human right that is also protected by Colombia's Constitution, and imposes an obligation on the Colombian State "to prevent, investigate, and sanction all forms of violence against women" under Article 6. Also, an earlier law, Ley 294 de 1996¹¹, established the crime of domestic violence and the ability of women to seek an order of protection, and required officials issuing protection orders to refer domestic violence reports to prosecutors. At the institutional level, the Presidential Council for Gender Equity, which is part of the Administrative Department of the Presidency, is tasked with assisting the President and the national government in the design, management, and monitoring of pro-equality public policies. Its mandate also includes promoting and strengthening research concerning women's status. Finally, it's important to highlight that the National Development Plan 2018-2022 includes for the first time a chapter on Gender Equity. The main pillars of the agenda include: increasing the educational and economic empowerment of women to eliminate gaps in labor markets; the articulation and coordination of systems and policies related to care; the political empowerment of women; the promotion of women's welfare and health; the recognition of rural women as pillars of development; and, gender equity for peace building. Recently, the Government has also launched the so-called High Instance for Gender (Alta Instancia de Género), comprised by representatives from the Presidency, the Council, and other agencies. Its mission is to coordinate and ensure the application of a gender approach in the implementation of the peace agreement¹².
- **Ecuador** has ratified and/or signed many key international conventions, treaties and plans of actions on gender equality, women's empowerment and human rights, including the UN

⁹ Agénor, P. & Canuto, O. 2013. Gender Equality and Economic Growth in Brazil. The World Bank, No. 109. <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/369341468222895907/pdf/758350BRI0Box374351B00PUBLIC0OEP109.pdf>

¹⁰ Por la cual se dictan normas de sensibilización, prevención y sanción de formas de violencia y discriminación contra las mujeres, se reforman los Códigos Penal, de Procedimiento Penal, la Ley 294 de 1996 y se dictan otras disposiciones. https://www.oas.org/dil/esp/LEY_1257_DE_2008_Colombia.pdf

¹¹ Ley 294 del 16 de julio 1996 por la cual se desarrolla el artículo 42 de la Constitución Política y se dictan normas para prevenir, remediar y sancionar la violencia intrafamiliar.

¹² World Bank Group, 2020. Colombia Gender Assessment. World Bank, Washington, DC. 108 p. <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/665381560750095549/pdf/Gender-Equality-in-Colombia-Country-Gender-Assessment.pdf>

Declaration on Human Rights; The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; The Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence against the Woman "Convention of Belém do Pará"; and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Also, the Ministry of Environment (MAE) has developed a Strategy for the "Institutionalization of Gender and Interculturality Approaches in the Formulation of Plans, Programs and Projects". Through this Strategy, MAE assumes responsibility and leadership for compliance with the constitutional mandates and international agreements signed by Ecuador regarding gender equality, management environmental and sustainable development. The Strategy promotes the mainstreaming of gender in the MAE for the achievement of gender equality goals, wherein gender is an integral part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of environmental policies.

There are other national policies, laws and legislation frameworks which also support gender equality and women's empowerment in Ecuador. These include: Organic Law of the National Councils for Equality; National Agenda of the Nationalities and Peoples of Ecuador; Plurinational Agenda for Equality; National Environmental Policy; National Climate Change Strategy; Organic Code of Territorial Organization, Autonomy and Decentralization; and the Organic Law of Intercultural Education¹³.

- **Perú.** The Ministry for Women and Vulnerable Populations is the main agency in the area of gender equality in Peru. Created by Decree N° 1098, the Ministry is in charge of the integral development of women, the strengthening of families and of equality of opportunity between men and women. The law on its Organization and Functions specifically establishes that the Ministry is the ruling agency with regards to the national and sector policies on women. Other relevant institution for the promotion and protection of gender equality is MESAGEN (Mesa de Género de la Cooperación Internacional en el Perú). This is an international assistance and coordination group that promotes gender equality and empowerment of women, girls, and adolescents in Peru through collaboration with public, private, and civil society organizations; and its main priority areas are gender-based violence prevention, political participation of women, gender mainstreaming in public policy, and gender sensitive educational policies. At the regional level, Perú has Regional Councils for Women which are present in 19 Regional Governments as consultative and interlocution spaces with women.

In addition, Perú has signed and ratified all the most relevant international instruments in gender equality, including the Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Sanction and Eradicate Violence against Women - Convención Belém Do Pará (1996); the UN Declaration on Indigenous Women (2012); the Sustainable Development Goals (2015); and the Inter-American program on the promotion of the human rights of women and gender equality and equity adopted in 2000 (OAS).

Finally, some of the key norms and policies that guarantee the right to equality between men and women include: Law on Equal Opportunities between women and men (Law N° 28983, 2007); Law on the Organization and Functions of the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations (2012); Law on the Promotion of Education among rural girls and adolescents (2001); The National Plan on Violence against Women 2016-2021 and Regional

¹³ United Nations Development Programme, 2019. Gender assessment for Ecuador REDD-plus RBP. Quito, Ecuador. 22 p. <https://www.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/gender-assessment-fp110-undp-ecuador.pdf>

and local equal opportunity plans to promote the reduction of gender gaps in accordance with the constitutional mandate of the right to equality and non-discrimination by sex. Local equal opportunity plans have been approved in 56 local governments of Lima, Ancash y Cajamarca out of a total of 195 provincial municipalities and 1637 district municipalities¹⁴.

Context in the Amazon and Putumayo-Ica Basin

Despite global recognition of the importance of gender roles and relationships to forest related issues, and the differential risks and opportunities faced by women and men in different contexts, there has been little systematic research on gender and forests in the Amazon region. This also applies to the Putumayo-Ica basin. In the basin, women play important roles and activities in indigenous and *campesino* smallholder families that are not always fully recognized and thus, interventions do not respond to differentiated approaches. According to the study developed by Schmink and Gómez-García (2015)¹⁵, women represent half of the population in the Amazon region, and their knowledge, work and commitment are essential for securing the sustainable management of Amazonian forest resources.

Since the 1970s, evidence from existing literature suggests that gender relations have been changing across the Amazon as part of the greater socioeconomic and ecological transformations underway throughout the basin. Some women have found greater visibility for their productive activities, interests and capabilities, they have developed ways to contribute more effectively to the livelihoods of their families and communities and the sustainable management of their forests. In the process, they have contributed to their own empowerment by securing greater access to critical resources, and their improved levels of self-confidence have helped them to negotiate their interests in different arenas. For instance, gender analysis conducted in Brazil in fishing value chains illustrated the importance of women's participation in specific processes improving, allowing them to play a key role in the establishment of fishing agreements.

The path has been opened by some and there is the need to strengthen and scale up, but it is not the case for all women groups and ethnicities in the region including the Putumayo-Ica basin. Men continue being the central figures in decision-making within indigenous communities and women are often marginalized from these processes, and their work remains invisible¹⁶. Patriarchal traditions, with resulting limited voice and participation for women are still to be addressed. Gender strategies have been implemented by government agencies and development organizations, but there are still unbalances to be addressed, and such strategies need to be implemented/scaled up by projects like this proposed one. In this context, support is needed for building stronger communities and empowering women to control their own environmental and economic futures, increasing their participation and recognition at the local and regional level.

¹⁴ World Bank Group, 2018. Gender gaps in Perú. An overview. 68 p. Washington, DC. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/31820/Gender-Gaps-in-Peru-An-Overview.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

¹⁵ Schmink, M. & Gómez-García, M.A. 2015. Under the canopy: Gender and forests in Amazonia: 41p. CIFOR Occasional Paper No. 121. Bogor, Indonesia: Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR). <http://dx.doi.org/10.17528/cifor/005505>

¹⁶ Indigenous Women: Keepers of the Amazon Rainforest. The Nature Conservancy, 2019. <https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-insights/perspectives/indigenous-women-xikrin-amazon-rainforest/>

Notions about gender within indigenous communities need to be also revised under cultural and historical perspectives, acknowledging the historic transformation of gender roles for the sake of increasing interactions and coordination with the non-indigenous world for the sake of influencing policies and decision making. For example, in Colombia's north-eastern amazon, the conformation of contemporary indigenous governments and organizations, and the separation between political and ritual spaces, diminished the political participation of women. Exclusive female roles like the "maloquera" who were traditionally in charge of the distribution of resources and work was interlinked with the realm of rituals. Nowadays, with the import of western notions about politics, "representation" was left in the hands of men captains and leaders who interact with the "outside" world. Throughout this historical process, indigenous women were increasingly distanced from these "democratic" literate spaces, where Spanish is spoken and foreign terms are used. To counteract this, indigenous women have worked to strengthen and qualify their participation in order to restore the balance¹⁷ between men and women, thereby strengthening socio-political organization, as well as territorial and environmental governance in the pursuit of equity and effective autonomy of indigenous peoples.

In addition, women suffer impacts from environmental threats in the basin differently. For example:

- Indigenous peoples who for cultural reasons depend more on fish consumption are more vulnerable to fish contamination from water pollution than others who depend more on other resources for their livelihoods. Pregnant women who are or have been exposed to mercury can transmit the toxins to their fetuses, which can impair the development of their nervous systems. In this sense, pregnant women and fetuses are among the most vulnerable groups to mercury exposure¹⁸. According to the World Health Organization, 62.4% of infants in fishing communities of the Brazilian gold mining region would experience a loss of at least two IQ points due to mental retardation caused by mercury exposure¹⁹.
- Indigenous women have guaranteed food security for their families, through conservation of traditional agricultural systems (chagras) and are also in charge of daily activities such as the washing of clothes, among other activities highly dependent on water. Unfortunately, the contamination of water resources and the monopolization of the use of water from the mining industry's extractive project endangers the quality and availability of the minimum resources required to preserve the lives of families in these areas, and raise the risk of women's diseases²⁰.
- Within indigenous communities, women and girls are more vulnerable to contamination and they required additional care.
- Illegal mining has caused greater insecurity for women and teenagers, human trafficking, prostitution, and violence.

¹⁷ Gender Balance prevents conflicts. The intersection of stronger women's organizations (with increased financial resources) with men-led political instances could cause power conflicts. Guaranteeing qualified participation of women, emergence of new female leaders is to be encouraged, while recognizing the importance of men's political roles.

¹⁸ WWF, GAIA Amazonas and UN Environment. 2019. The Amazon Biome in the face of mercury contamination. An overview of mercury trade, science, and policy in the Amazonian countries. 168 p.

¹⁹ Poulin, J., & Gibb, H. (2008). Assessing the environmental burden of disease at national and local levels. World Health Organization.

²⁰ Bermúdez, R., Rodríguez, T. & T. Roa. 2012. Mujer y minería. Ámbitos de análisis e impactos de la minería en la vida de las mujeres. Enfoque de derechos y perspectiva de género. 24 p. Colombia.

- The impacts of climate change, including biodiversity loss and constraints on access to productive and natural resources, amplify existing gender inequalities and jeopardize the well-being of all²¹. While climate change affects everyone, its impacts on food security are not gender neutral. Women in indigenous communities are often largely responsible for tasks such as sowing and providing food for their family and community²², which will become more difficult as the effects of climate change become more severe. Also, as agricultural work becomes more labor-intensive or alternative sources of food and income need to be found, the burden of additional work often falls on women. The gender gap in agriculture, a pattern documented worldwide and one which means women have less access to productive resources, financial capital and advisory services than men, will be disproportionately exacerbated by climate change. In addition, there are gender-differentiated risks for reproductive health in particular. For example, pregnant women are especially susceptible to malaria-carrying mosquitoes; this puts them at particular risk in the context of the global temperature rises expected as a result of climate change, which are also expected to lead to shifts in water-borne and vector-borne diseases²³.
- Throughout the region, the Coronavirus Disease of 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has generated significant and diverse challenges for indigenous women and their conservation activities with dangerous health risks, restrictions on their mobility and income earning potential and wholesale changes in access to markets (cf. ONAMIAP 2020)²⁴. In April 2020, Brazil's health ministry confirmed the country's first indigenous case of COVID-19 in Santo Antônio do Içá district (State of Amazonas); a 20-year-old indigenous woman from the Kokama tribe. Since then, Brazil's health authorities warned that COVID-19 could pose a significant threat to Brazil's indigenous people and specially women and children, who are particularly vulnerable to infectious disease outbreaks. The pandemic also exposed inequalities and challenges for women in Amazon conservation due to the impressive digital gender divide in Latin America and, in particular, in rural and remote locations (OECD 2018)²⁵.

Potential beneficiaries

In the analysis conducted within project preparation, examples of women associations that are present in the basin and who would benefit from project activities include the following:

1. Indigenous Women Association of Traditional Medicine “La Chagra de la Vida” (Asociación de Mujeres Indígenas de la Medicina Tradicional – ASOMI- Colombia). ASOMI²⁶ was created in 2004 after an alert from traditional authorities that their communities were at risk of disappearing due to violence in their territories and environmental degradation. Since then,

²¹ UNFCCC (2015). United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: The Paris Agreement. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9485.php

²² GAIA Amazonas. Chagra: food source, integrated system and foundation of life. https://www.gaiamazonas.org/en/noticias/2019-01-14_chagra-food-source-integrated-system-and-foundation-of-life/

²³ UNEP 2016. Global Gender and Environment Outlook. UN Environment, Nairobi, Kenya. <https://www.unep.org/resources/report/global-gender-and-environment-outlook-ggeo>

²⁴ ONAMIAP June 26 2020 "Mujeres indígenas y la conservación de los bosques en el contexto del COVID-19". Webinar. Lima, Peru. (Organización Nacional de Mujeres Indígenas Andinas y Amazónicas del Perú). Access: https://www.facebook.com/ONAMIAP.pe/videos/1485525921635152/?comment_id=1485619671625777

²⁵ OECD. 2018. Bridging the Digital Gender Divide. <http://www.oecd.org/internet/bridging-the-digital-gender-divide.pdf>

²⁶ ASOMI; Mujeres que siembran en sus chagras tradición, conocimientos y comunidad. <https://www.amazonteam.org/maps/asomi/>

ASOMI promotes the recovery of indigenous women's cultural identity, knowledge and traditional practices, working with women from Inga, Kamëntsá, Siona, Koreguaje and Kofán ethnic groups in San Francisco, Sibundoy, Colón, Puerto Asís, Mocoa and Santiago municipalities in Colombia. Elder women guide ASOMI members, using the perspective of traditional knowledge for their cultural revitalization, through the recuperation of traditional production practices, led by women, as the key element for the improvement of their livelihoods and their protection of local natural resources.

2. Colombian ASOMIJERES²⁷ was created in 2012 to generate spaces for women participation within the municipalities of Santiago, Sibundoy, Colón, San Francisco, Mocoa and Villagarzón department of Putumayo), and Pasto (department of Nariño). This association with over 300 members supports training activities with indigenous women, farmers and victims of armed conflict, in human rights, peace building, ancestral culture and financial education for social business models. Currently, they have ventures in traditional fabrics, loom, handmade jewelry in seeds, transformation of fruit trees, wines, jams, among other natural products under the brand 'Wise and magic Putumayo'.
3. In the Peruvian Loreto region, an organization has been created with the participation of 180 women from 53 communities, self-organized in surveillance committees. With the support from the Government of Loreto, these women hold the same opportunities as men in receiving training to use GPS technology, maps and smartphones in order to monitor and control environmental threats, and exercise territorial control and governance.
4. In the communities of Tres Esquinas and San Martín, in the Peruvian Putumayo Province, 35 women have organized to work hand in hand with their husbands and children on the management and commercialization of the arawana fish species. The adequate management of the fish during the storage process is crucial to ensure high quality and acceptable quantities required to be exported to Japan.
5. Federación de Comunidades Nativas del Ampiyacu (FECONA) is one of the strongest federations in Loreto, which has been active under the leadership of two women leaders. Liz Chicaje, who was FECONA's President during the period 2015-2019 and who has been recognized by the Peruvian, German and French governments as an outstanding human rights defender after leading an international advocacy strategy for the creation of the Yaguas National Park in defense of their territory, culture and livelihoods.

It is important to highlight that during the project implementation, more women associations can be identified as potential beneficiaries. In those cases, an assessment of their vulnerability conditions and project's possible impacts will be carried out, as first step to include those associations as beneficiaries.

Gender sensitive²⁸ activities

Despite advances of organizations like the ones above, achieving gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls ensuring their full and effective participation and balanced

²⁷ Women entrepreneurs who reduce social gaps in Putumayo. <https://www.reconcolombia.org/mujeres-emprendedoras-que-reducen-brechas-laborales-en-putumayo/>

²⁸ Based on GEF's Gender Equality Policy (207), gender sensitive refers to the act of recognizing the differences, inequalities and specific needs of women and men, and working on this awareness.

Integrated watershed management of the Putumayo-Içá river basin (P172893)

opportunities for leadership at all decision levels in political, economic and public life it is still a challenge. By involving organizations like these ones as project beneficiaries, and allowing them to be active participants of the decision-making processes and working groups, the project will contribute to strengthen their capacities and empower women to control their own futures, increasing their participation and recognition at the local and regional level.

In this context, the project will apply gender equality as a principle to enable men and women to enjoy equal opportunities, rights, benefits and resources. Therefore, measures will be identified to compensate disadvantages to enjoy equitable conditions within the project.

In general, and taking into account the GEF's Policy in Gender, the project will:

- Use participatory methods to guarantee equal opportunities for women and men to participate and contribute to project design and implementation;
- Assess potential barriers for women to participate and contribute to project planning and implementation;
- Identify and consult with gender experts, local civil society organizations and women groups, to help identify key gender issues and also opportunities to empower women to support project success and sustainability;
- Consider a gender-balanced Project Management and Implementation Unit and use of local gender experts;
- Define responsibilities for integrating gender aspects into project implementation, ensuring that job descriptions and terms of references are explicit;
- Allocate sufficient funds to implement the gender action plan.

Specific gender sensitive activities at component level are listed in the following table.

| Components and outcomes | Gender sensitive activities |
|--|--|
| <p>Component 1. Strengthen governance and capacity for informed decision making on IWRM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish and agree on guiding inclusive principles for information management. - Systematization and analysis of existing relevant knowledge for IWRM. - Conduct basin-scale studies and analyses relevant for IWRM. - Develop knowledge exchange events. - Establish/strengthen thematic multisectoral and regional working groups and round tables to agree on action plans aligned with a common vision. - Design the strategic action plan for the basin. - Promote sectoral agreements towards best practices and territorial planning. - Activities to advance on implementation of relevant multinational agreements. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invitations to participate in the project activities will be directed equally, to men and women of communities. - A cultural and gender approach will be included in assessing traditional knowledge and into the IWRM, assuring women's participation in events for scientific and traditional knowledge exchanges. It includes to consider conditions particular to women and restrictions for travel, or gaps in literacy or educational level. - The project will tailor training and assistance to women needs and interests. - Women's' traditional knowledge and practices that have allowed the survival of their communities' identity, specifically in some practices like medicine, care and upbringing, among others, will be recognized. - Specialized knowledge indigenous women have related to the cultivation and production of food, seeds and medicinal plants will be recovered. - A gender-balanced governance structure will be promoted, including the participation of women as community monitors. |

Integrated watershed management of the Putumayo-Içá river basin (P172893)

| Components and outcomes | Gender sensitive activities |
|---|---|
| <p>Component 2. Enhance key management interventions towards shared IWRM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote best practices among key sectors responsible for water pollution. - Conduct joint efforts for prevention and control. - Capacity building activities for law enforcement and prosecution. - Set-up an early warning system for water pollution in priority sites. - Mitigation, recovery/remediation activities for water contamination. - Design NTFP and fisheries management plans. - Capacity building activities for key stakeholders (including local communities). - Activities to boost selected regional value chains for fish and NTFP. - Alternative livelihood activities promoting food security. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The participation of women’s organizations based on a bottom-up approach starting with women’s empowerment processes in the communal and local level will be promoted. - A gender approach will be used to analyze land tenure, use and control over the natural resources and value chains in order to document inequality and women’s contributions in different activities. - Women will be the beneficiaries of subprojects and of the improvement of chagras and food security. - Explore new and unforeseen opportunities emerging for digital commerce in some areas that could open doors for women to learn new skills and diversify their livelihood base. - In order to reduce gender gaps in natural resource management, specific women’s initiatives and community-based initiatives promoting the participation of women will be encouraged and supported. |
| <p>Component 3. Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creation of the Project Coordination Unit. - Implementation of a communication strategy. - Project’s monitoring and evaluation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To promote gender equality and women empowerment across the project, the project’s team will receive training about gender and natural resources management at the beginning of implementation. - The GAP will be presented to partners, associates, consultants and local communities since the beginning of the project, and when hiring its personnel. - The communication strategy will take into account gender considerations. - Community communication will be participatory, inclusive and sensitive to gender and cultural issues, and will seek to train assistance to beneficiaries in communication techniques and tools to better convey their activities and processes. - Some indicators in the results framework will be evaluated by gender. - Documenting people’s participation, by sex, in meetings as well as in the economic incentives provided will be key part of the project monitoring plan. |

Implementation and supervision of the GAP

Implementation of the GAP will build on the vast experience of the countries and project partners, and further specific guidelines will be developed and compiled, and additional information on gender gaps will be generated.

In this context, women’s active participation will be ensured during the project implementation, monitoring and evaluation, according to the GEF Policy on Gender Equality and the Stakeholder Engagement Plan of the Project Putumayo-Içá. These activities will be under the responsibility of the Project Management and Implementation Unit led by WCS, and will be delegated to the

project's social specialist, which will be a person with gender skills within the structure of the project.

The social specialist will be in charge of developing surveys and activities (workshops, meetings, among others), in order to promote women's participation and to receive their feedback on the advances and results of the gender strategy and the project's activities. Since women generally have less mobility than men outside their communities due to household duties and child rearing, the project will consider bringing the activities to the communities as much as possible. As a result, the strategies to adapt the gender approach into the project will be analyzed and monitored every three months during the project's lifetime, and will be evaluated yearly by the project team, including key project partners or consultants. Also, measures will be identified in a participatory way with women, to compensate possible disadvantages and gender-based inequalities to enjoy equitable conditions within the project. The advances will be presented to the Regional Steering Committee of the Project and to the WB through the semester and annual reports.

In addition, the Project's framework includes the following indicators with a gender approach:

- Women actively participating in the working groups (Percentage).
- Women direct beneficiaries as co-benefit of GEF investment (Percentage).

The project will also track women organizations that will be involved in the subprojects to be delivered by the project.

Finally, it is important to highlight that the gender strategy will be considered a living document throughout the project's lifespan, since the strategies will be developed each year as part of the project annual plans. Therefore, activities will be adapted for the achievement of the project's results, products, and indicators.