

WHAT IS GENDER AND WHY IS GENDER IMPORTANT TO CEPF?

Gender refers to the social and cultural attributes of being a man or a woman. **Gender differs across cultures, it is learned and it changes over time.** When we talk about gender, we are talking about both women and men, and not just about women.

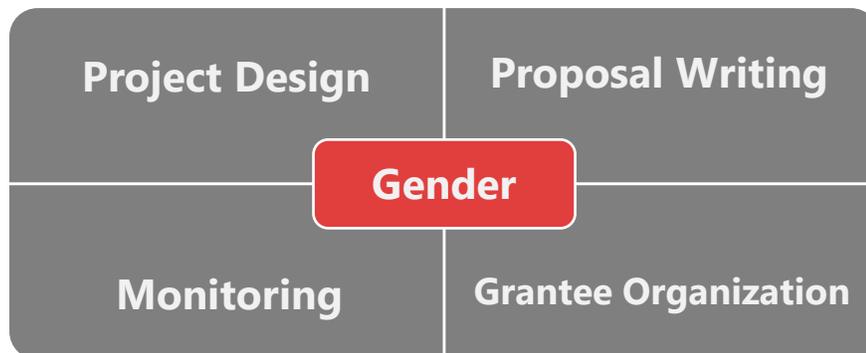
Sustainable conservation cannot be achieved without gender balance; so ultimately it affects a project's long-term success.

CEPF is interested in gender because it can influence natural resource use, needs, knowledge and priorities. Gender can also influence power, access, control and ownership over natural resources. Consideration of gender can affect the quality of stakeholder engagement and participation, the quality of social outcomes, and the delivery of benefits to project participants. Additionally, it can affect the sustainability of conservation outcomes. Gender can play an important role in achieving long-term conservation goals and objectives.

INTEGRATING GENDER INTO YOUR PROJECT

- Consult with local partner organizations or government institutions for in-depth socio-cultural information, if needed. In some cases, it may be advisable to conduct focus group sessions with project beneficiaries to better understand the local context.
- Remember that the most effective way to ensure that gender inequalities are addressed is to emphasize community participation combined with transparent and participatory stakeholder analysis.
- There are barriers to gender mainstreaming but there are ways to circumvent those barriers. Check the Gender Toolkit to learn about what could be done in specific situations.
- Gender must be mainstreamed into ALL grants (large and small) awarded by CEPF on these four levels:

Truly integrating gender into a project goes beyond just engaging women's groups and counting women involved in activities.



Consult CEPF's Gender Toolkit for more information about mainstreaming gender into your environmental programs.

ADVICE FOR APPLICANTS: REGARDING GENDER, WHAT CEPF IS LOOKING FOR IN A PROJECT

