



Institute of
Development Studies

**BRIDGE *Cutting Edge Pack*:
Key Messages and Inspiring
Examples**

Date: 08:11:2011

What is the Gender and Climate change *Cutting Edge Pack?*

- A major output of a two year programme on gender and climate change
- Collaborative process involving an expert advisory group and a community of practice
- Work on the ground with organisations in India and Colombia

Why is climate change a gender issue?

- Unequal gender power relations affect the way men and women experience and are impacted by climate change
- Climate change magnifies the underlying gender inequalities in women's access to and control of resources
- Because women and girls are often responsible for most of the unpaid care work in the household their lives are often directly affected by climate change
- Women are an important part of climate change solutions

How is climate change policy taking gender dimensions into account?

Adivasi indigenous communities in Madhya Pradesh, India have been rarely included in consultation or implementation of local forestry and alternative energy projects that directly affect them. Indigenous land is being used without their consent,

Women and sometimes children from the communities have been employed on a seasonal basis to plant seeds in the forest without even being informed of their role in a larger carbon storage project.

Market-based policies are reinforcing social - and gender - inequalities

- *'This new carbon economy... has difficulties in incorporating local ecological and social realities, particularly in terms of losers and winners at the local scale. This is partly because carbon markets do not spontaneously emerge; they are created by global and national institutions. Their creation may involve changing property rights, often overturning long-established traditional management and property rights regimes... The ability of the "new carbon economy" to provide real benefits for sustainable development may ultimately be constrained by the nature of the market itself.'* (Brown and Corbera 2003)

Gender impacts of market-based forest policies

'The new emphasis on market-based forest policies marks a shift away from public policies for forest conservation. Instead of an integrated community forest management approach, the new approach is a payment for environmental services and the creation of a market for these services. Whereas community projects took account of gender and women's rights, new market-orientated approaches are more commercial and tend to disadvantage women who have less money, less land and less power in the market..'

(Simone Lovera, personal communication 2010)

What needs to change?

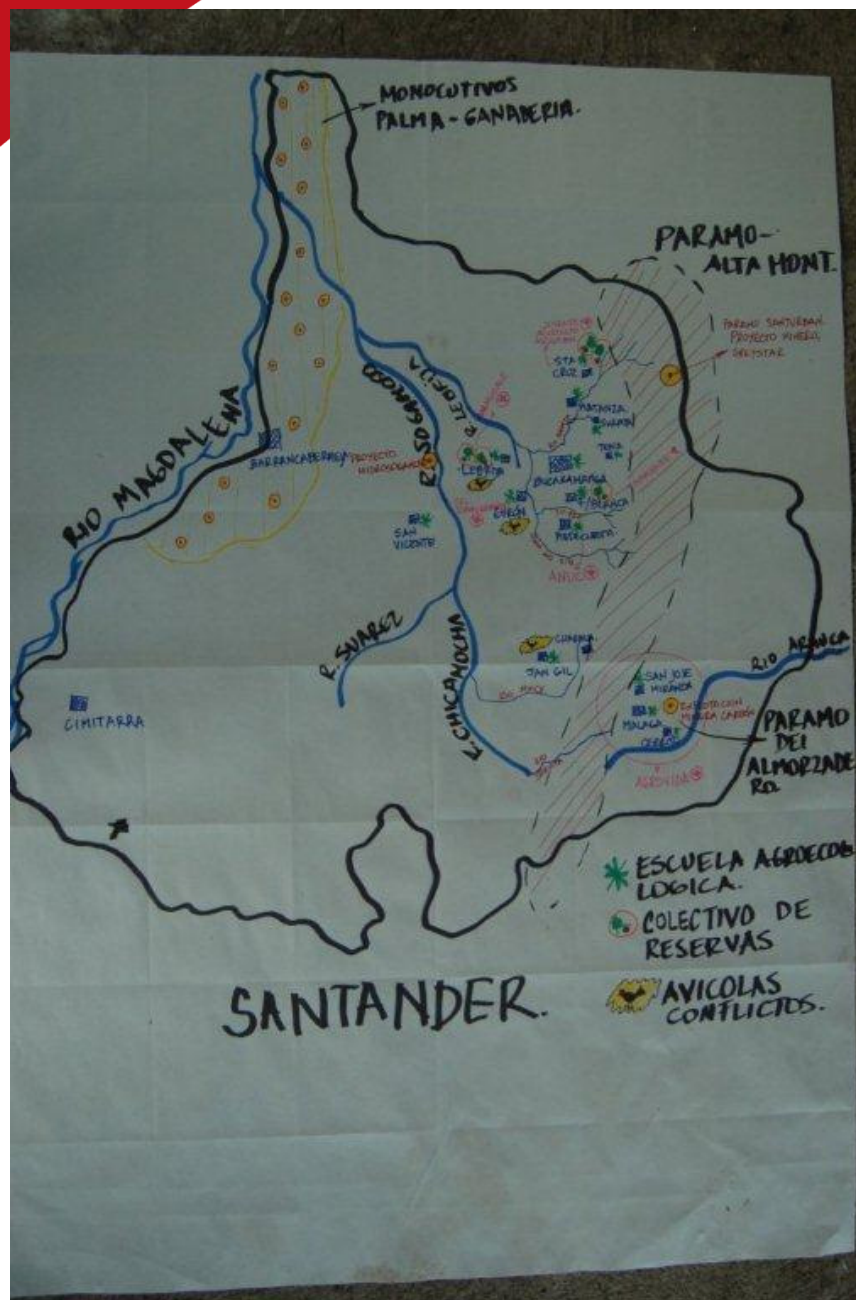
- Climate change policies and processes will be neither effective nor fair unless they become more gender aware from the outset
- Climate change responses can play a gender transformative role
- Much can be learned from initiatives that are emerging at all levels
- It is vital to create stronger links between global policy and these local level realities and innovations

















- **How can we build on examples of what is already happening at local and national levels and ensure that local knowledge (and voices of women) play a more effective role in climate change solutions?**

BRIDGE Cutting Edge Pack available at:

**[http://www.bridge.ids.ac.uk/go/bridge-
publications/cutting-edge-packs/gender-and-
climate-change](http://www.bridge.ids.ac.uk/go/bridge-publications/cutting-edge-packs/gender-and-climate-change)**

THANK YOU!