Parallel Panels 3
Gender and REDD
“Gender is yet to receive attention in REDD+ discussions, decisions, and information. Women are generally not given key and decision-making roles wherever financial flow exist. Overall, there is a need to accelerate the building of women’s networks and circles to make a space for women’s voice at the organizational as well as community level.”

Parallel Panels 4
Gender and Climate Change Adaptation in Different Ecosystems
“The Lawuba wetlands in Swaziland have been protected due to women’s efforts. A range of products are produced from wetland grass, and these have significantly enhanced women’s income to USD 100 per month on average.”

Gender and Income Generation
“In Madagascar, men saw women’s bean seed business as attractive and some did not hesitate to participate.”

Gender and Water
“The knowledge for mainstreaming gender into water management exists and to some extent there is commitment to do it, but the challenge is that we are not able to adequately put the knowledge into action.”

Gender and Indigenous Communities
The session focused on the role of women and gender in indigenous communities, looking at the issues of political participation, advocacy for land protection, income generation, and the sharing of traditional knowledge. While there have been positive developments in the increased participation of women in politics and income generating activities in some communities, a number of challenges remain. Power dynamics between indigenous groups, within groups, and between genders in these groups must be well understood and overcome. This will ensure not only that women’s valuable knowledge effectively contributes to the management and wellbeing of communities over the longer-term, but also that objectives of different programmes are achieved.

“Knowledge is embedded in power relations and culture. It is critical to understand this, to ensure that knowledge is effectively transmitted.”

Gender and Governance
“Over the last two decades, we have reached the stage where decision makers can no longer say no to the gender agenda. Many progressive policies, acts, and guidelines have been made; but mountain women’s identity and issues are yet to be recognized.”

Parallel Panels 5
Gender and Forests
The role of women in the management of community forests has varies among regions and countries. In some cases the role of women has been historically important – particularly where men have migrated seasonally for work leaving women to tend and manage the land. In other cases the participation of women has been marginalized. Reasons for lack of engagement range from lack of confidence to take on a decision making role, to being forbidden to do so, to lack of knowledge and interest. Specific capacity building and empowerment activities can help overcome these barriers, and are under development in a number of community-led forest programmes.

Parallel Panels 6
Gender, Development Policies, and Best Practices
Practices and policies that have been introduced to integrate gender issues in development programmes range from embedding specific women’s participation targets into projects, to educating and empowering women, to approaches that ensure that gender issues are considered throughout all programmes and activities of organizations, irrespective of their focus. Despite the introduction of these good practices, it remains a struggle to bring lasting change and empowerment for women, in particular over the longer term after specific project interventions have ended.

“Critical review of ‘best practices’ is needed to ensure that the challenges involved are taken into account and lessons are learned, and that these are shared publicly.”

Gender, Atmosphere, and Carbon in a Changing Climate
“Black carbon from cook stoves, brick kilns, diesel, and industry absorbs sunlight and contributes to glacial melt. The gender dimension is significant for cook stoves; indoor air pollution affects women and children more.”

“Yesterday in southern Bhutan, haze from the plains beyond Phuentsholing crossed the border without a visa, before rising up the slopes and over the ridge and up the Wang Chu Valley into Central Bhutan, reducing visibility.”

Gender and Agriculture
“Now in the new commercialized structure of agriculture, it is a few men who run off with the profit and leave marginalized poor men and women back.”

Gender and Migration
“Men keep control over the bigger decisions from abroad, over their mobile phones. Women only get to make small decisions.”

A mixed message about girls’ education: “A man said, ‘my son will inherit this shop. All I can give my daughter is a good education’.”

Gender and Adaptation to Climate Change
“Whether climate changes or not, local people have to adapt to changes in their own indigenous ways. Most of them are unaware of climate science; therefore, climate science needs to be translated into local language.”

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