

Applying a gender lens to community fire management and peatland restoration in Indonesia

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Intro to this talk

We are practitioners, researchers of forests, policies, soils, people, economics, knowledge systems, fire behaviour

We are working (together? along side each other?) to incorporate gender into our research (and to integrate our research)

Project

Lessons from the beginning

Actions underway

Recommendations for others



Intro to our research



Australian Government

**Australian Centre for
International Agricultural Research**

“Improving Community Fire Management and
Peatland Restoration in Indonesia”

Explicitly multidisciplinary

Explicit gender lens from project development phase



Themes – disciplinary centred research

Fire

Example activity

- Obtain a detailed understanding of causes of peat fires and peat fire behaviour characteristics

Project Team 3F 16M

Literature 35% F

Soil and water

Example activity

- Spectroscopic studies of soil chemistry (MIR, NMR)

Project Team 9F 12M

Literature 31% F



Themes – disciplinary centred research

Livelihoods

Example activity

- Better understand the physical and social transitions required for adoption of key livelihood options in the key peatland systems.

Project Team 11F 10M

Literature 35% F

Policy

- Review of existing (national and local) policies and regulations relevant to fire and peatland management and restoration

Project Team 6F 9M

Literature 30% F

Knowledge management

- Develop and provide knowledge management self-assessment templates across the project

Project Team 5F 10M

Literature 30% F



Lessons from our experience of beginning a large multidisciplinary project with an explicit gender lens

- Considerable capacity building is required
- External expert input in isolation is not effective in generating ownership, understanding and implementation of gender equity, and women's empowerment



To take forward as research progresses

- Learning together
- Incremental steps
- Patience to enable whole team to progress
- Continual revisiting and refining of disciplinary and gender integration



Recommendations for agro-forestry research-for-development practitioners on how best to integrate gender into disciplinary research

- Aim high
- Strong guiding policies
- Build learning opportunities for researchers throughout project
- Look inwards as well as outwards as research teams who experience and understand the importance of gender equity will strive to effectively integrate gender into their research

