

**PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN FREE, PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT (FPIC) PROCESS OF THE UN-REDD PROGRAMME IN VIETNAM**

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**ABSTRACT**

Women play a crucial role in both protecting and managing forest resources. They have different roles, responsibilities, rights, needs and knowledge from men that could facilitate the sustainability and success of the REDD+ projects and programmes on the ground. To avoid future conflicts and unforeseen risks, their rights and responsibilities to land and forest resources need to be carefully considered. In line with this, the UN-REDD Vietnam Programme in 2010 has addressed the gender component by ensuring the participation of women in the decision making processes to reduce the emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in their community. However, the number of women participation cannot be considered as the effective and meaningful participation since women are to be involved in decision making in the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) process. Thus, this paper explores the participation of women in awareness raising events and village meetings in order to get the free, prior and informed consent from local people for the UN-REDD Programme in Vietnam. It also identifies the impediments for women's participation through consultation with experts who had facilitated the FPIC process in Vietnam.

**KEY WORDS: FREE PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT (FPIC)/ WOMEN PARTICIPATION/ HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH/ FOREST MANAGEMENT/ AWARENESS**

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