SRJS and gender webinar – June 2018 – 2nd session

[Recorded June 26, 2018]

Speakers:

- **Cate Owren**, Senior Gender Programme Manager at IUCN
- **Rajab Bwengye Yusuf**, Project coordinator at the National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) in Uganda
- **Preeya Rampersaud**, Senior Coordinator for SRJS at WWF Guianas in Guyana
- **Sharda Ganga**, Director at Projekta in Suriname

**Key takeaways from Cate’s presentation**

(Starting at 2 minutes 45 seconds)

- From the beginning, SRJS has aimed to embed gender as a key and guiding principle in its programming. Activities need to ensure that they recognize gender issues and do not exacerbate inequalities
- SRJS promotes gender-responsive action by identifying gender gaps and then taking steps to improve them: do no harm, and then do better.
- Gender inequality is among the most persistent forms of discrimination around the world and is a significant barrier to economic, social, and sustainable development.
- Women and men bring different needs, priorities, and knowledge to developing sustainable solutions. As we have seen, bringing gender capacities, perspectives, and expertise into projects is making a difference in SRJS.
- Gender equality benefits everybody: it is an accelerator and an amplifier for sustainable development and conservation.

**Key takeaways from Rajab’s presentation**

(Starting at 12 minutes and 10 seconds)

- Strategies for mainstreaming gender:
  - Enhance capacity for women to participate in political decision-making
  - Involve men and engage them in the importance of gender mainstreaming
  - Collect sex-disaggregated data
  - Engage women at the grassroots level as local leaders
  - Create gender champions to mainstream gender throughout the landscape
  - Allocate specific budget for gender activities and strategies
- Challenges for gender mainstreaming:
  - Women make up the poorest members in the community
  - Dominant patriarchal mindsets that consider women subordinate to men
  - Absence of gender mainstreaming strategy
  - Limited space for women in decision-making spaces
  - Lack of resources to implement gender activities
- Actions to promote gender mainstreaming in Uganda:
  - Compiled gender concerns and submitted them to the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development
  - Developed gender indicators for monitoring gender mainstreaming in the SRJS project
  - Proposed gender inputs to the Environmental Bill
Next steps are to build and strengthen women’s grassroots movements to tackle gender injustices, but there is limited budget for these gender movement activities.

**Main takeaways from Preeya’s presentation**

*(Starting at 44 minutes and 30 seconds)*

- Project goals for gender are inclusive across the Guianas eco-region: Guyana and Suriname. But, each country has a country specific approach.
- In Guyana, they are taking a dual approach: direct interaction and engagement with SRJS partners (CSOs) and engagement at the national level to bring attention to gender issues in this sector.
- Started by having a gender framing workshop with SRJS partners from government, academia, NGOs, and community-based organizations to have a common understanding of concepts of gender and inclusiveness and develop a gender action agenda to guide gender mainstreaming.
- Actions identified in the workshop included increasing gender awareness and inclusiveness at all levels, building capacity of partners to apply and integrate gender into their work, developing support tools to engage minority groups within a community, and mainstreaming gender in policies and programmes.
- Next steps and continued action:
  - Performed gender audits with SRJS partners (results are currently being analyzed)
  - Engaged the University of Guyana to undertake a gender equality study in the sciences and integrate a gender component in science courses
  - Planning a public conversation on gender and inclusiveness focused on the environment and natural resource management
  - Engaging at the national level to revise the national gender policy and becoming a member of a gender community of practice to support gender mainstreaming processes.
- Challenges:
  - Risk of disenfranchising men
  - Balancing gender inclusiveness and cultural and traditional practices
  - Lack of human and financial resources within the country to advance and mainstream gender

**Main takeaways from Sharda’s presentation**

*(Starting at 1 hour, 1 minute and 35 seconds)*

- In Suriname, Projekta sees an opportunity to strengthen long-term gender capacity for partners and using SRJS to promote organizational change on working on gender
- Projekta is working on gender in SRJS in four parts:
  - Conducting capacity assessment of partners;
  - Making recommendations to improve gender responsiveness of SRJS program;
  - Building gender capacity of partners to implement gender-responsive programming; and
  - Advocating for gender-responsive policies
- Through the capacity assessments, it was found that many organizations saw gender as the number of women present. It was also expressed that gender wasn’t necessarily seen as an issue and there was unease around trying to change traditional and cultural understanding of gender roles
• To address this, Projekta created awareness in partners by explaining gender and linking it to rights and inclusiveness, as well as improved quality of outcomes.
• Now, Projekta is working on building capacity for gender analysis, data collection in the field, tools for gender-responsive programming, and organizational gender action plans.
• The next strategy will be advocacy for gender-responsive policies and programs through thematic sessions on topics such as forestry, natural resource management, climate change, etc; policy analysis and monitoring; and conducting training for change agents.
• A main question to ask partners, “Who benefits from your intervention?”
  o This makes people think about the intervention through a different perspective.
  o There is a quick understanding that developing programs through a gender lens affects the designs of programs.
• There is still a challenge on protecting indigenous culture while promoting gender equality.