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# **Gender issues in evaluation of Supporting Forests and Biodiversity Project**

**October 2015**



## The Project



- Supporting Forests and Biodiversity (SFB)
- \$20 million, 4-year Cooperative Agreement
- Improves conservation and governance of the Eastern Plains and Prey Lang landscapes to reduce deforestation, mitigate climate change, and conserve biodiversity
- Improves participation of communities in forest management decisions and builds capacity for community members and officials of sub-national authorities to effectively manage these critical resources



## The Evaluation

- Mid-term evaluation
- September – November 2014
- 6 evaluation questions
- Mix methods
  - Document review
  - Interviews with organizations/agencies (30), Commune Councils (6) and supported communities (15)
  - Questionnaire Survey
  - Extensive field work





## Gender evaluation question



- How has SFB's design and implementation taken into account differences between stakeholder populations in terms of access, control, and ownership of natural resources, or their participation in relevant governance processes? Have project outcomes (intended or unintended) been different for different populations in the target area?



## Findings

- Strong project gender strategy based upon best practices
- Successful in reaching, and sometimes exceeding, its targets for 30% female participation in trainings
- Produced important success stories supporting female leadership
- Women described difficulty in participation in the larger groups out of embarrassment
- Due to illiteracy, training material difficult for many women to use
- Women stated preference for small-group training
- Participants saw need for increased youth engagement





## Action Plan to address findings

- Focus on field implementation of the gender strategy
- Hired gender specialist, 100% in the field
- New approaches to engaging women in the communities
- Hiring more female field staff (ongoing challenge)
- Created new partnership with organization that provides community development training to project and sub-grantee field staff to improve capacity to successfully engage all stakeholder groups



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# Thank You

