



Social Equity Considerations for Cities' Decision Making Related to Inner, Nearby, and Faraway Forests

Purpose of this guide

This guide is developed by Cities4Forests to direct cities toward positive, equitable, and inclusive forest-related programs. This guide follows the [Learning Guide How Cities Can Strengthen Urban Forests](#) and serves as a reference point for cities to increase their awareness about social equity considerations related to their forest-related programs and policies. For cities that have already integrated some or all of the relevant considerations, this Learning Guide may serve as a checklist or a reminder to identify relevant social equity goals and provide additional resources to track progress on them. The topics covered here are intentionally broad in scope, and users are advised to adapt them to their own social, economic, cultural, and political context.

Who is this guide meant for?

City- and community-level leaders, urban planners, government and NGO officials, and other decision-makers and stakeholders involved in the planning, implementation, and management of urban forests.

What will you gain from reading this guide?

- A better understanding of the opportunities and challenges of including social equity considerations in cities' forest-related programs and policies

- An awareness of entry points, resources, and information to make forest-related programs and policies more inclusive and equitable across multiple forest scales
- Inspiration and insights from case studies to design and implement equitable forest-related programs and policies

Course Content

Cities4Forests - Commitment to Social Equity

[Cities4Forests](#), co-founded by Pilot Projects, REVOLVE, and World Resources Institute (WRI), is a voluntary coalition of more than 60 cities, supported by global regional, and local partners including Norway's International Climate and Forests Initiative (NICFI), the UK Government, and Fundación FEMSA. We work with cities to help them recognize their interdependence with the world's forests and use their political, economic, and cultural power to conserve, manage, and restore them. We raise awareness of the benefits of trees and forests (especially for the climate, water, biodiversity, and human health and well-being), and catalyze forest-positive city actions, policies, and investments by providing tailor-made technical assistance.

We recognize the triple bottom line benefits of equitable, sustainable, and efficient projects. To help our cities integrate [social equity](#) considerations in their forest-related work and other [nature-based solutions](#), this learning guide presents the latest research and resources to guide global cities toward positive, equitable, and [inclusive](#) forest-related projects.

This learning guide uses the Cities4Forests categorization of forest levels:

- **Inner Forests** — Trees and green infrastructure within city boundaries, including street trees, parks, and open green spaces
- **Nearby Forests** — Trees and forests adjacent to cities, such as in watershed areas
- **Faraway Forests** — Large, remote, intact or otherwise ecologically important forests, particularly tropical forests



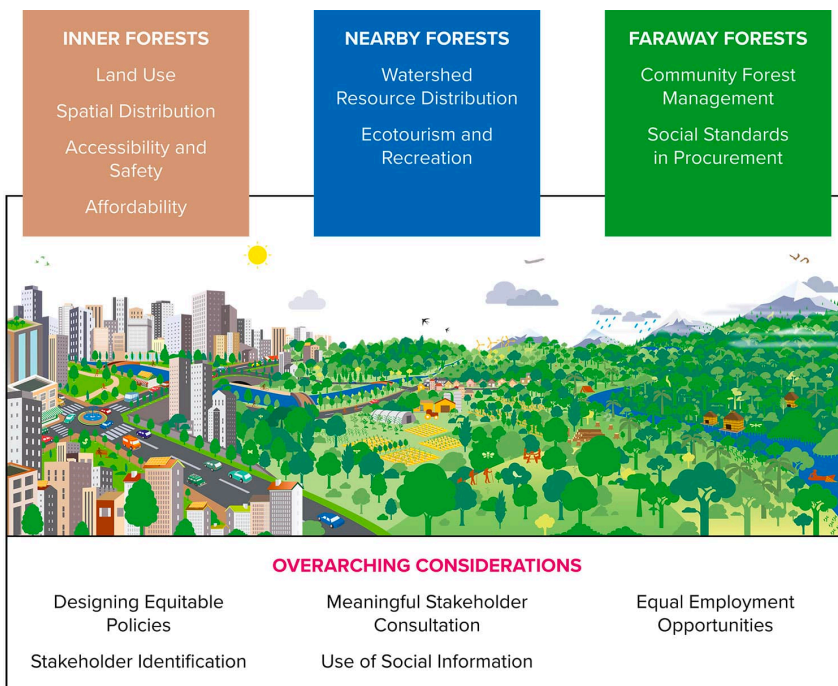
The three forest levels. Image: [Cities4Forests, 2020](#).

Outline

This learning guide starts with providing the background and rationale for social equity considerations. It covers:

- **Social equity concepts** and key relevant terms for the purpose of this guide

- **Approaches to enhance social equity** that can inform city policies and plans
- Information on key issues related to the **impacts of social equity**
- **Other benefits and considerations** of adopting a social equity approach



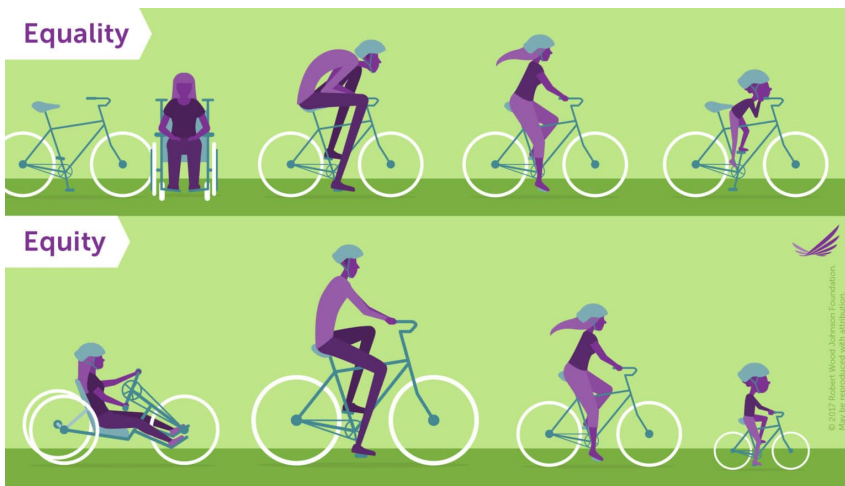
Social equity considerations described in this learning guide.
 Image: [Cities4Forests, 2020](#).

The following cards then delve into some overarching as well as forest-specific social equity considerations.

Apart from a description of social equity issues, most cards also include case-studies and a [Resources](#) section that links to tools, guidance, and research on how these issues can be addressed.

Social Equity Concepts

For the purpose of this guide, **social equity** is defined as the absence of avoidable or remediable differences among groups of people, whether those groups are defined socially, economically, demographically, or geographically. ([Wolch, Byrne, and Newel, 2014](#)) Equitable processes call for acknowledging that individuals or groups may have unequal starting points and require different levels of support based on their specific needs to achieve fairness in outcomes. ([CSSP, 2019](#)) Equitable and just processes need to be applied in pursuing **equality**, which is the state of all groups being equal in rights, status, and advantages.



“Equality” in processes would mean giving the same support to all individuals, overlooking their specific needs. “Equity” in processes would mean providing different support to different individuals based on their needs in order to reach a fair outcome. Image: [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#).

This guide focuses on various aspects of social inequity, including but not limited to those stemming from **gender**, **class**, **caste**, ethnicity/race/indigeneity, age, educational status, geographic location, migrant status, disability, or religion. We give special attention to gender inequality, given the pervasive nature of the issue across sectors and locations and within socioeconomic groups, and its tendency to be sidelined or ignored in the broader conversation on social equity.

Social equity issues vary depending on the social, economic, and political contexts of cities, and approaches to address these issues should be adapted by decision makers accordingly.

Resources

[Inclusion Matters — The foundation for shared prosperity | The World Bank](#)

[Concepts and Definitions | UN Women](#)

Processes to Enhance Social Equity

Processes to enhance social equity through policies and projects can range from [mitigating potential harm](#) to vulnerable populations, to advancing their social and economic status directly through policies and programs. This will look different in different cities and forests, depending on the local context.

Adopting a social equity lens early on and iteratively throughout the planning of a policy or project can ensure that equity outcomes are well integrated and budgeted for. Not all policies or projects may have the resources needed to achieve social equity or empowerment. In these cases, decision makers can aim for incremental changes — from avoiding being **socially blind** or **socially exploitative** to being **socially accommodating** or even **socially transformative**.

For example, when practitioners work with communities, they can choose methods that intentionally involve diverse stakeholder groups and that hold space for their opinions, needs, and knowledge before and during the project’s implementation. This is better than merely informing or consulting with them.*

INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION

	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
Public Participation Goal	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them with understanding the problem, alternative, opportunities, and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives, and/or decisions.	To work with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
Promise to the Public	We will keep you informed.	We will listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decision to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

Public participation methods. Image: [Cities4Forests, 2020](#).

Adapted from [International Association for Public Participation \(IAP2\)](#).

*See the card on [Meaningful Stakeholder Engagement](#) for more information.

Social Impacts of Equitable Policies and Programs

In communities everywhere, certain groups may be more vulnerable to adverse health, water, or climate impacts, for example due to greater exposure to air and water pollutants or less access to protective infrastructure. Almost one billion people in the world live in urban slums, and every fourth urban resident lacks access to improved water, sanitation, and durable housing, heightening their vulnerability to adverse health, water, or climate issues. ([Rangwala et al, 2018](#)) People and local communities hold rights to more than half of world's land mass, but legally own only 10 percent of the world's land. ([Rights and Resources Initiative, 2018](#)). These and other at-risk groups will not be able to benefit equitably from nature-based solutions that can improve health, provide refuge from heat or extreme weather, and improve access to water services.

When social equity considerations are meaningfully incorporated into policies and plans, vulnerable communities can gain many **direct and indirect benefits**. ([Munang et al, 2014](#); [World Health Organization, n.d.](#); [Zacarias & Loyola, 2017](#))

Direct benefits

- Job opportunities
- Better health outcomes
- Opportunity for recreation
- Equal access to land and resources
- Equality in rights
- Improved safety

Indirect benefits

- Representation
- Social mobility
- Political voice

Some direct and indirect benefits of equitable policies and programs. Image: [Cities4Forests, 2020](#).

For instance, the '[One Soul One Tree](#)' campaign in Surabaya, Indonesia, launched by Mayor Rismaharini after her election in 2010, helped achieve twin goals of enhancing city forests and creating alternative means of income for local residents. It protected 5,000 mangrove trees and encouraged residents to harvest syrup and create products using the trees.

In Africa, the [Green Belt Movement](#) offers an example that combines forest restoration with community empowerment, particularly of women, to conserve the environment and improve livelihoods. The Green Belt Movement provides women with new income-generating and training opportunities, and includes them in planning and project activities related to climate mitigation and adaptation.



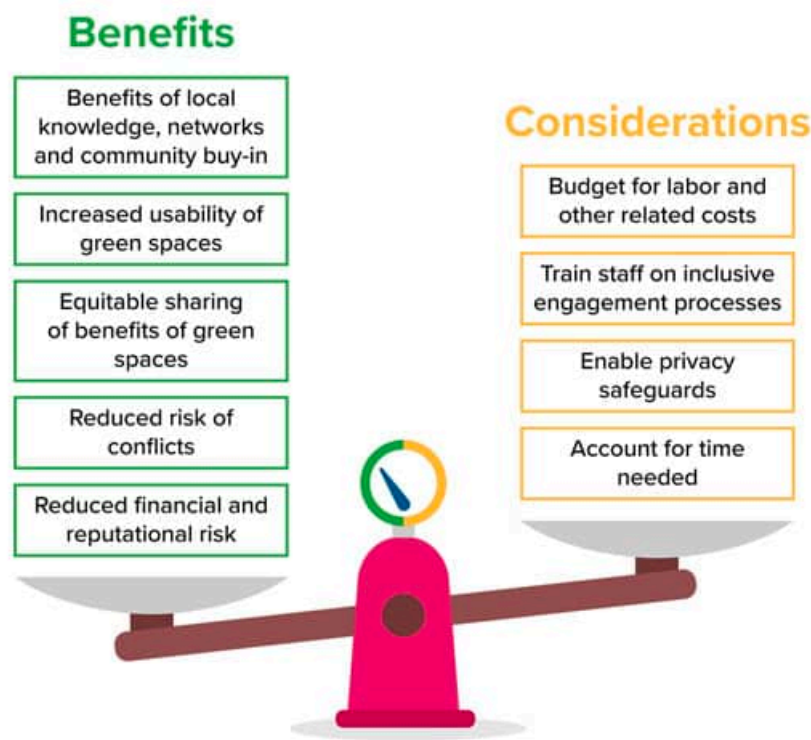
Green Belt Movement safari. Photo: [kasuga sho, Flickr](#).

Other Benefits and Considerations for a Social Equity Approach

Apart from improving socioeconomic outcomes, adopting a social equity approach may also lead to more efficient and sustainable project outcomes. ([United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2016](#); [UN-REDD Programme, 2011](#); [Wilson, 2009](#))

When forest-related services are designed considering everyone's needs, they can benefit from improved usability, especially services that rely on user fees or public participation for maintenance. ([UN-REDD Programme, 2011](#)) Solutions that integrate the voices and recognize the rights of marginalized groups like women and indigenous people can also benefit from their local knowledge and social networks. ([Blackman and Velt, 2018](#); [Leisher et al, 2016](#)) Incorporation and acknowledgement of local and traditional "know-how" can further lead to better decisions for forest governance and conservation. ([Rights and Resources Initiative, 2018](#))

Meaningful engagement with local communities, while recognizing their rights according to the local context, can create stronger community buy-in and better harmonization of interests and plans, reducing the risk of conflicts and reputational and financial losses in the future. ([Herz, Vina, and Sohn, 2007](#)) Cities can conduct cost-benefit analyses and proper budgeting to evaluate the resources required to engage in inclusive and equitable processes. For instance, engaging hard-to-reach groups can be lengthy and resource-intensive, and might involve costs for per diems and travel allowances, translation services, provision of child-care for participating women, and capacity building for stakeholders and staff. Officials should put in place adequate privacy and safety measures for stakeholders, and free, prior and informed consent should be secured during data collection processes.*



Benefits and considerations for a social equity approach.

Image: [Cities4Forests, 2020](#).

*See the section on [Meaningful Stakeholder Engagement](#) for more information.

Policy Commitments for Social Equity

Addressing social equity issues may require measures that compensate for historical disadvantages of marginalized or vulnerable groups.



Steps to inclusive and equitable climate policy. Image adapted from: [C40 Inclusive Planning Executive Guide](#).

To this end, **green policies can include equity goals and policy commitments** that are:

- **Transparent:** Equity goals that clearly designed to communicate the objectives, costs, and benefits of the policies or programs to all stakeholders, including local communities.
- **Inclusive:** Equity goals that promote equitable sharing of costs and benefits and seek to engage with communities in the planning and implementation processes.
- **Evidence-based:** Equity goals that target specific needs of communities and can be informed by gender and social assessments, and include tracking whether the policies or programs meet those needs. ([C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, 2019a, “Equitable Impacts”](#); [C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, 2019b, “Inclusive Community Engagement”](#); [C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, 2019c, “Roadmap for Inclusive Planning”](#))

The [C40 Climate Action Planning Resource Centre](#) provides additional resources and check-lists on designing equitable and inclusive policies.

According to the National Recreation and Park Association of the United States, only 40% of U.S. park and recreation agencies have a formal inclusion policy or goal. Portland, Oregon's [Urban Forest Management Plan 2003](#) explicitly includes spatial equity as one of its key goals and recognizes that "The urban forestry is unevenly distributed. Economically disadvantaged neighborhoods often have fewer trees than more wealthy areas."

Resources

[Investing in Equitable Urban Park Systems | Urban Institute, 2019](#)

[Parks for Inclusion Policy Guide | Initiatives According to National Recreation and Park Association](#)

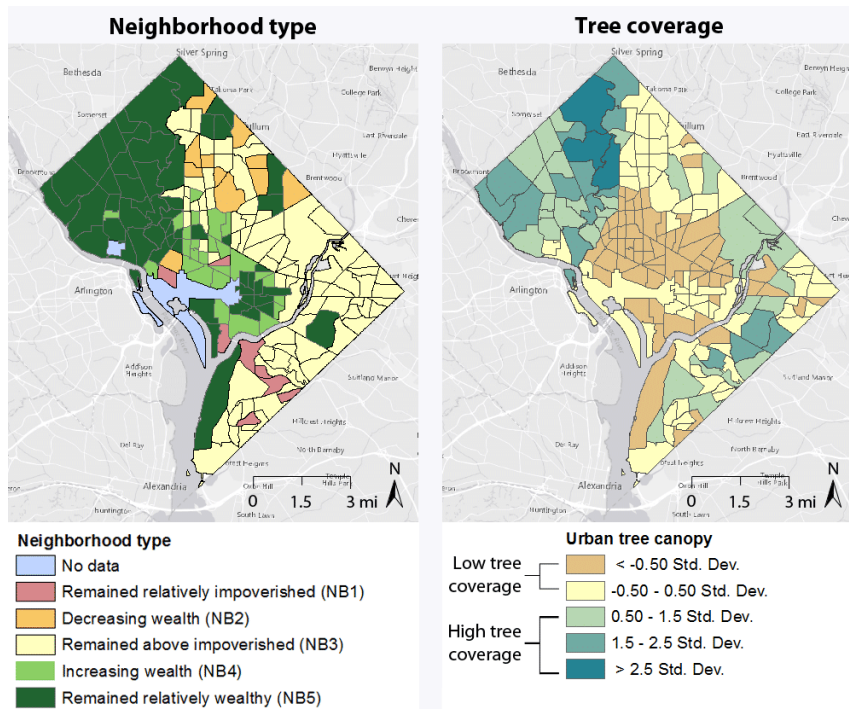
[Climate Action Planning Resource Centre | C40, 2019](#)

[Equity Tool Kit | 11th Street Bridge Park, n.d.](#)

Use of Socioeconomic Information

Incorporating disaggregated socioeconomic information while planning, designing, analyzing, and budgeting forest-related programs can help ensure an understanding of differential social and economic impacts, costs, and benefits. Data may include demographic data, qualitative research, land ownership data, and crime and safety statistics, with due consideration of data privacy and anonymity. The [Green Bond Report](#) from San Francisco's Public Utilities Commission (Water Enterprise, 2018-19) provides an example of how social impacts of projects can be monitored. The annual report focuses on the social impacts that their policies and programs achieved in the past year, including specific benefits to local communities.

Vibrant Cities Lab's "[Where to Plant and Why](#)" provides more ideas on using social information for equitable planning, especially while mapping and siting. The government of King County, Washington (U.S.) [systematically overlaid data sets](#) like health and education metrics, disaggregated by race and region, and ethnic minorities' proximity to parks to better understand the distributional and equity impacts of public investments in community amenities such as parks and trails. This helped the county identify the need to set aside funding to further develop the underserved South Country Trail System.



Washington, D.C.'s distribution of urban canopy as related to wealth of neighborhoods shows that relatively impoverished neighborhoods have lower tree coverage than relatively wealthy neighborhoods. Image: [Casey Trees](#), adapted from: [Chuang et al, 2017](#).

Resources

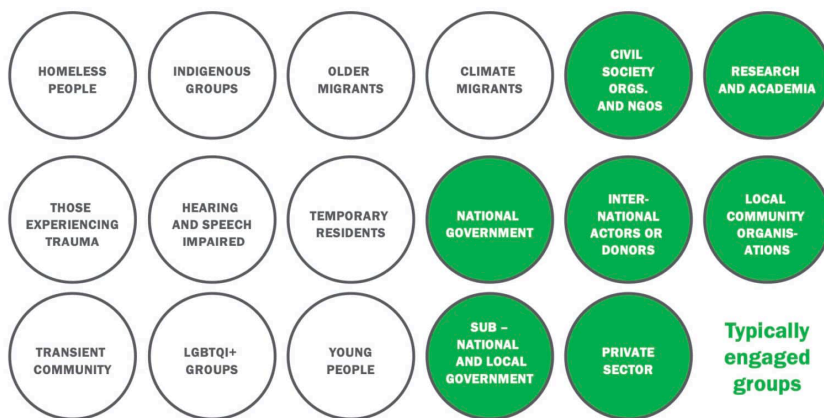
[Investing in Equitable Urban Park Systems: Case Studies + Recommendations | City Parks Alliance, 2020](#)

[Developing a Green Infrastructure Equity Index to Promote Equity Planning | Hecker, M. & Rosan, C.D., 2016](#)

Stakeholder Identification

Conducting thorough [social analyses](#), which may include gender analysis, social impact assessments, and vulnerability assessments, can help **identify and include all relevant stakeholders, especially the most vulnerable**. In some cases, it might be especially important to identify historically marginalized groups such as those living in informal housing, squatters, indigenous people, or women performing unpaid labor. These may be some of the most vulnerable groups and at risk of bearing unintended negative outcomes from programs and policies. ([Habitat International Coalition, n.d.](#); [IHC Global, n.d.](#))

Typically hard-to-reach groups



Typically hard-to-reach groups. Image: [C40's Playbook on Inclusive Community Engagement](#).

Policy effects usually vary across different groups. A social analysis can highlight power asymmetry and dynamics between stakeholder groups and within them. For instance, in Brazil's Galileia community in the middle of the Amazon, a [Social Landscapes Mapping exercise](#) showed that men and women accessed information differently. Women received information from secondary sources such as elders, children, the church, and community leaders, whereas men communicated directly with organizations providing information. This analysis, conducted to understand how best to spread forest and landscape restoration practices, emphasized the importance of communicating through different channels such as radio and brochures to improve women's knowledge around the restoration process.



Mapping social landscapes in Kenya. Photo: [Aaron Minnick, WRI](#).

Resources

[Mapping Social Landscapes Guide | World Resources Institute, 2018](#)

[Gender Analysis | European Institute for Gender Equality, n.d.](#)

[Gender Tool Box | Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, 2015](#)

[Gender Analysis Guidelines | Department on the Status of Women, City and County of San Francisco, n.d.](#)

[Social Impact Assessment | International Association for Impact Assessment \(IAIA\), 2015](#)

[Urban Climate Resilience Assessment in Vulnerable Neighborhoods \(UCRA\) | World Resources Institute, 2018](#)

[Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis Guidelines | World Food Programme, 2009](#)

[Guidelines for a Gender Sensitive Participatory Approach | International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development \(ICIMOD\), 2009](#)

[Playbook: Inclusive Community Engagement | C40 Cities, 2019](#)

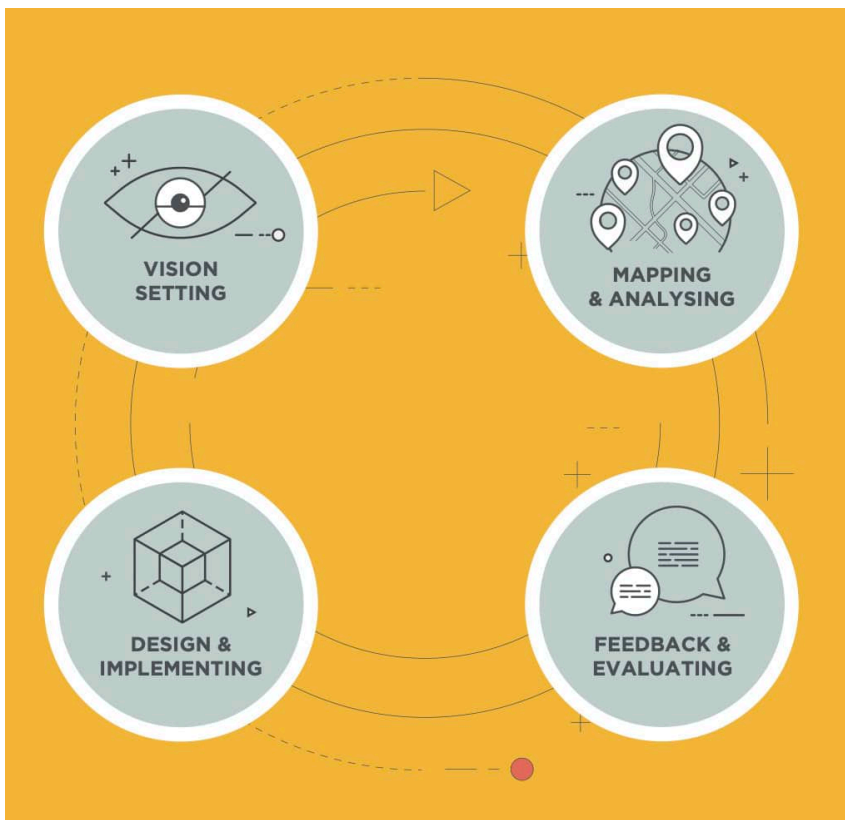
Meaningful Stakeholder Engagement

When not engaged in plans and policy development, local communities and vulnerable groups can be left out of the intended benefits or be negatively impacted. For instance, a WRI project with the [Gatsibo District's office](#) in Rwanda to understand local seed and seedling distribution networks found that farmers were not getting the seedlings they wanted, leading to a lack of interest in the forest and landscape restoration movement. This could have been avoided if the farmers were engaged in the planning and decision-making processes from the beginning.

Inclusive and meaningful **stakeholder consultation** entails:

- Starting early in the project, and creating multiple, iterative opportunities for engagement and dialogue
- Securing free, prior and informed consent when applicable
- Actively overcoming barriers like cost, illiteracy, lack of official documentation, asymmetric information, exclusionary institutions, and discriminatory norms. For instance, World Bank projects have had to make special efforts to include poor women in [Nepal](#) in project planning. These women were usually not consulted in participatory decision-making on community forests because of prevalent social norms like women not being allowed to sit with men and being shut down by male participants during discussions.
- Ensuring that all stakeholders' opinions are heard and appropriately incorporated into the plans. In the case of a conflict of interests, thoughtful negotiation and conflict resolution may be required to come to a common decision that works for everyone.

These principles also apply to **resident and community engagement** activities to promote the benefits of urban forestry projects, which should be a two-way, collaborative dialogue between residents and officials with tailored outreach to different groups. ([CSSP, 2019](#)) This can also help identify local groups' knowledge, experience and willingness for involvement.



Cumulative (iterative) Process for Community Engagement.

Image: [C40 Inclusive Community Engagement Guide](#).

In [Porto Alegre and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil](#), 200 household surveys helped shape the cities' responses towards urban flooding. The same methodology (Urban Community Resilience Assessment) is being implemented by the Cities4Forests team in Kochi, India to help build a resilience roadmap for urban forestry projects.

Equal Employment Opportunities

Groups such as ethnic minorities, women, migrant communities, or those formerly incarcerated may also be excluded from equal employment opportunities due to [implicit biases](#) in hiring practices. This presents a barrier to designing equitable, inclusive projects to advance urban forestry and nature-based solutions. Programs such as those launched by the state forest service in [Baltimore \(Maryland\)](#) and [Philadelphia \(Pennsylvania\)](#), U.S. provide targeted training and can help boost these groups' career opportunities in this field.

Women are often underrepresented in the parks and forest service workforce given that these are traditionally male-dominated industries, and may be pushed into under-paid activities. Women can face threats of sexual violence and harassment in this sector, especially when they may need to work in remote, isolated places. Safety precautions, policies around behavior expectations and sensitizing men, and implementation of strict accountability measures are necessary. Sponsorship, mentoring programs, and family-friendly policies also help advance women's roles in the workplace. ([Bardekijan et al, 2019](#); [Jansson et al, 2013](#))

Identifying any structural barriers to the hiring or retention of minority groups in various capacities may include taking stock of the current diversity of the workforce, training teams to create an inclusive workspace, and creating a safe redressal mechanism for any complaints.

Resources

[Women in Urban Forestry and Arboriculture: Experiences, Barriers and Strategies for Leadership | Bardekjian et al, 2019.](#)

[Urban Forestry Toolkit \(Equity\) | Vibrant Cities Lab](#)

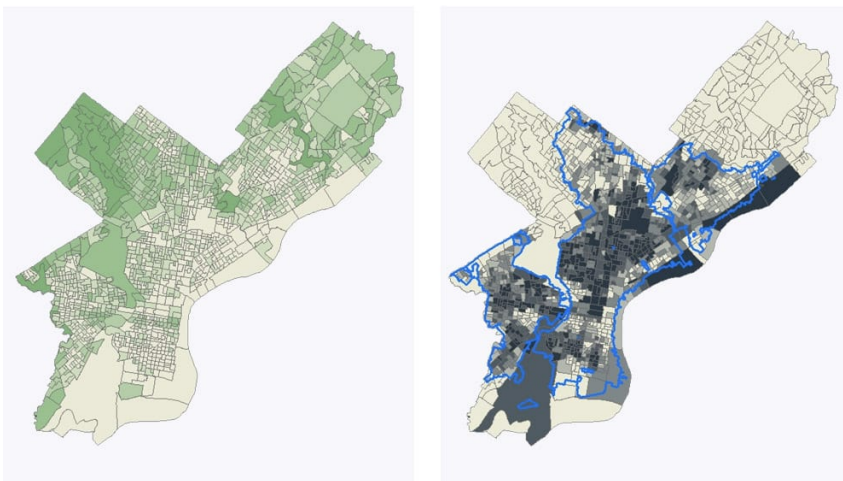
[Promoting Gender Equitable Opportunities in Agricultural Value Chains: A Handbook | The United States Agency for International Development \(USAID\), 2009](#)

[Gender and Racial Diversity in Environmental Organizations: Uneven Accomplishments and Cause for Concern | Dorceta E. Taylor, 2015](#)

[Time for Action: Changing the Gender Situation in Forestry | Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations \(UNFAO\), 2006](#)

Equity in Spatial Distribution of Inner Forests

Studies synthesized by [Vibrant Cities Lab](#) show that urban tree cover may be correlated with existing social and economic inequalities. Neighborhoods with higher incomes, education levels, home ownership, and populations of majority ethnic groups may have higher proportions of tree canopy cover. This furthers the economic and social divide between communities, as the groups that are most in need of forest benefits like shade are deprived access to them.



Maps of Philadelphia showing the sparse distribution of green spaces in predominantly low-income areas. Image: [EPA/ EJ Screen](#).

Studies from [Guangzhou \(China\)](#) and [Philadelphia \(U.S.\)](#) show how creating an equity index can help achieve equity in the spatial distribution of green infrastructure. However, if planning and implementation ignore socioeconomic conditions, well-intentioned actions may in some cases result in ‘green gentrification.’ For example, an investment in new street trees for a poor neighborhood could drive up property values, squeezing out lower income residents.*

Along with spatial equity, **equitable access to a bundle of rights**, such as the rights to trees, water, and benefits provided by inner forests should also be considered. Additionally, **resources to implement and maintain green infrastructure projects** in socio-economically disadvantaged areas may also be important to consider. For instance, homeowners may be more incentivized to maintain street and yard trees than short-term renters or rental property owners.

*See section on [Affordability](#) for more information.

Resources

[Urban Forestry Toolkit \(Equity\) | Vibrant Cities Lab](#)

[Environmental Justice | Community Commons](#)

[Tree Equity Career Pathways Action Guide | American Forests and Vibrant Cities Lab](#)

[The Dimensions of Urban Green Equity: A Framework for Analysis | Nesbitt et al, 2018](#)

Land Use in Inner Forests

Spatial land use analyses are frequently used in plans to protect, manage, and restore forests. **Complementing these with social analyses*** can help gather additional information on who uses the land and how. In some cases, this may involve identifying informal or extra-legal users of the land, like slum-dwellers and squatter groups, or displaced and migrant communities whose land tenure rights may be constrained. These may be some of the most at-risk groups given their lack of resources or vulnerability due to factors like race, ethnicity, education, etc. In [Mumbai, India](#), for example, governmental action to protect mangrove forests resulted in the destruction of slums, whereas high-end development continued to be allowed in mangrove areas.

Failing to apply a social equity lens to land use decisions can risk inefficient decision making for tree stewardship or site selection for parks and other green spaces. Consider [urban greening efforts in Detroit, U.S.](#): between 2011-2014, 24% of residents contacted refused to plant trees on their streets as a part of a local non-profit organization's initiative because "they were left out of the decision-making process" and distrusted relevant authorities in the community.

*See card on [Use of Socioeconomic Information](#) for more details.

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John Kost, left, and Barry Johnson, citizen foresters for the nonprofit group The Greening of Detroit, plant a tree in the Osborn neighborhood in Detroit in 2016. // Carlos Osorio/AP

Why Detroit Residents Pushed Back Against Tree-Planting

BRENTIN MOCK JANUARY 11, 2019

Detroiters were refusing city-sponsored "free trees." A researcher found out the problem: She was the first person to ask them if they wanted them.

Residents push back on tree planting. Source: screenshot

of [CityLab news article](#) about Detroit's failed tree planting.

Resources

[Know Your City | Slum/Shack Dwellers International \(SDI\)](#)

[Mapping Social Landscapes Guide | World Resources Institute, 2018](#)

[Where to Plant and Why | Vibrant Cities Labs](#)

[Roadmap for Inclusive Planning | C40, 2019](#)

[Handbook for Preparing a Resettlement Action Plan | International Finance Corporation \(IFC\), 2002](#)

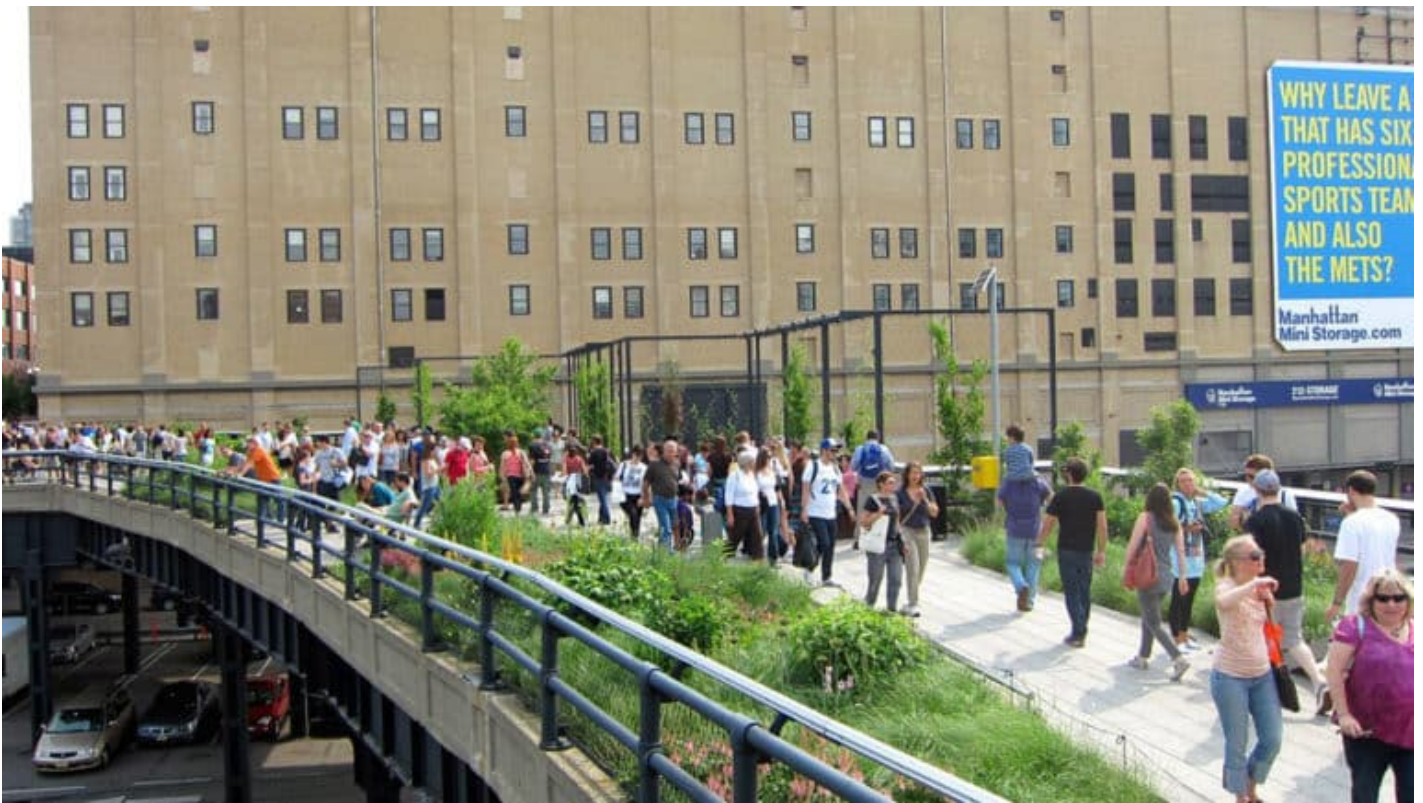
Affordability Considerations in Inner Forests

Installation and maintenance of green infrastructure may involve **high costs**, which communities may not be able or willing to pay. Additionally, while upgrading and expanding inner forests can benefit some residents by increasing real estate prices, “**green gentrification**” may unintentionally outprice low-income residents and businesses. ([Hart, Du, Coccoli, 2020](#))

Depending on the context, cities can address these issues through interventions such as:

- Engaging low-income residents in the design of the projects to cater to their needs and preferences.
- Identifying and responding to the needs of underserved communities, for instance, by creating employment opportunities and affordable housing for low-income residents. This may lead to additional socioeconomic benefits, such as in the case of [eThekweni Municipality's](#) restoration project at Buffelsdraai in South Africa, where local impoverished communities benefitted from improved schooling, transport, and food supply in the first two years of the project.
- Calculating costs and benefits to all groups involved, especially low-income populations.
- Conducting negotiations for compensating the cost-bearers or subsidizing their economic burden.

[C40's Roadmap for Inclusive Planning](#) sheds light on other key affordability and equity challenges to urban green infrastructure.



Following the redevelopment of the High Line in New York City, housing prices climbed by 103 percent between 2003 and 2011 – even during a period of economic downturn. ([World Health Organization, n.d.](#)) Photo: [Allison Meier, Flickr](#)



In Seoul, South Korea, the ecological restoration of the Cheonggyecheon Waterway led to an increase in property values and a shift in land use from industrial to commercial, serving more affluent stakeholders. ([World Health Organization, n.d.](#)) Photo: Cheonggyecheon Waterway, Seoul; [Kaizer Rangwala, Flickr](#).



Washington D.C.'s [11th Street Bridge Park Project](#), scheduled to be completed in 2023, set up a community land trust, made affordable housing investments, and prioritized training and park jobs for low-income residents. One million U.S. dollars have also been set aside for small business development, including for micro-loans and technical assistance. Image: [Urban Institute](#).

Resources

[Roadmap for Inclusive Planning | C40, 2019](#)

[Investing in Equitable Urban Park Systems | Urban Institute, 2019](#)

[Pathway to Parks & Affordable Housing Joint Development | LA THRIVES and Los Angeles Regional Open Space and Affordable Housing \(LAROSAH\), n.d.](#)

Accessibility and Safety Considerations in Inner Forests

Like other public spaces, it is important to **design inner forests to meet the needs of all users, including women, the disabled, the elderly, and children**. Gathering information from these groups or conducting safety audits will help respond to their specific needs, such as infrastructure needs like lights, benches, ramps, and restrooms. ([Habitat International Coalition, n.d.](#))

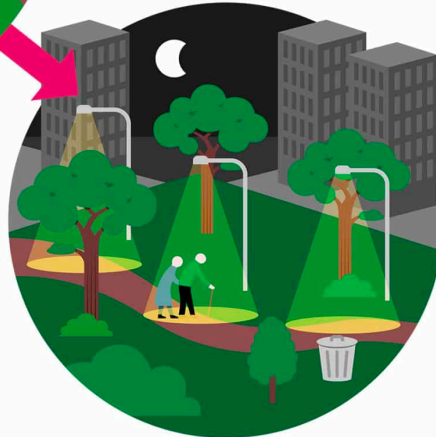
Simultaneously, it is important for city leaders to have plans in place to limit actions that discourage potential harmful uses, such as drug dealing and crime. ([Mummert, 2018](#))

Fear of Crime



Dark, dense forests may be perceived as a place for criminals to hide, and may cause psychological distress due to fear of crime, in women, the elderly, and other groups.

Regular maintenance, and the addition of lights may reduce fear of crime. Removal of dense shrubs at eye-level near trails may also help.



Potential accessibility and safety-related design elements may include benches, clearer pathways, fewer dense bushes, restrooms, etc. Image: [Cities4Forests](#).

Studies have shown that the type, density, and maintenance of vegetation affect perceived personal safety, which includes fear of crime and violence, varying by the gender, age, and socioeconomic status of the users. ([Baran et al, 2018](#); [Johansson, Johansson, and Andersson, 2018](#)) A [mapping activity](#) conducted by Plan International in 2018 revealed that in Delhi, Sydney, and Madrid, women perceived urban parks comprised 20% of all unsafe public spaces, characterized by the incidence of physical and sexual assault.

Example of a mapping exercise. To see additional city examples, click on the city names in the map legend. Source: [Plan International](#).

Resources

[Best Management Practices for Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design in Natural Landscapes | Green City Partnerships, 2019](#)

[Building Safe and Inclusive Cities for Women: A Practical Guide | Jagori, 2011](#)

[Parks for Inclusion Resources | According to National Recreation and Parks Association \(NRPA\)](#)

[Creating Safe Park Environments to Enhance Community Wellness | According to National Recreation and Parks Association \(NRPA\)](#)

Ecotourism and Recreation in Nearby Forests

Activities in nearby forests such as watershed management, ecotourism, and recreational services can provide co-benefits such as new employment opportunities to forest-reliant communities. However, when

communities are not engaged in decisions, it may endanger their access to the watershed's resources or ability to utilize non-timber forest products and services. ([Abu Baker, 2018](#); [Zacarias & Loyola, 2017](#)) Kenya Forest Service provides a positive example through their [Participatory Forest Management Plans](#), which have guidelines on local community engagement and allows for them to harvest honey, grass, fuel wood, and medicinal herbs in forest areas with ecotourism programs.



Ecotourism's effective on local communities, conservation and policy & planning. ([Zacarius & Loyola, 2017](#)) Image: [Daniel A. Zacharias, Researchgate](#).

In some cities, access to ecotourism and recreation may be affected by costs related to gear, equipment, and travel. ([Mummert, 2018](#)) The government can potentially alleviate these challenges by partnering with private entities and introducing subsidized recreational programs targeting low-income communities.

Resources

[How Ecotourism Affects Human Communities | Zacarius and Loyola, 2017](#)

[Guidelines for Community-Based Ecotourism Development | WWF](#)

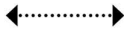
[Gender-Responsive Toolkit on Ecotourism Planning and Management | Philippine Commission on Women](#)

[A Toolkit for Monitoring and Managing Community-Based Tourism | SNV and University of Hawaii](#)

[Linking Communities, Tourism & Conservation: A Tourism Assessment Process | Conservation International, GWU, USAID](#)

Cities' Engagement with Faraway Forests

Forests located far from major cities include some of the most essential ecosystems for supporting life on earth. Cities and faraway forests can have a mutually beneficial relationship.



Cities

- Demonstrate creative climate leadership
- Access to boutique city-branded sustainable products
- Municipal procurement innovation
- Help meet SDG targets
- Research and education opportunities
- Cultural enrichment and exchanges
- Support eco-tourism
- Health and wellbeing benefits from increased engagement with nature and community
- Support for local biodiversity through increased attention and awareness

Faraway Forests

- Access to global market for their sustainable forest products.
- Recognition for their vital contribution to global forests, climate and stewardship.
- Opportunities for innovative work, especially for youth.
- Access to science and technology to sustain biodiverse forests.
- Connections to global culture that build on, rather than undermine, local culture, skills and knowledge

Mutually beneficial relationship between cities and faraway forests. More on this at <https://cities4forests.com/forests/>. Image: [Cities4Forests, 2020](#).

A city or municipal government's political and financial support of faraway forests can be an important way to mitigate deforestation, climate change, and biodiversity loss. Cities' political support can include advocacy and support for the protection of local rights to forest resources. For instance, cities could use their political capital and resources to support policies such as the [Forest Rights Act](#) in India, a piece of landmark legislation that seeks to reverse historical injustice towards tribal and other traditional forest dwellers, and recognizes and vests their right to forests and ensures support for their livelihoods.

Cities' financial support for faraway forests may include providing access to markets for the sale of certified products, including sustainable wood for city infrastructure. City governments can also foster ecotourism programs, meet their climate commitments, and broaden communication campaigns to raise their residents' awareness of forest-related benefits.

The next two cards describe general social equity considerations pertinent to faraway forests that city-level decision makers should be aware of, followed by a card specifically on how city-level decision makers can practice equitable procurement to advance the socioeconomic wellbeing of relevant communities

Community Forest Management in Faraway Forests

Indigenous people and local communities can be some of the most effective stewards of natural resources when given adequate support and agency. ([Ding et al, 2016](#)) This may include affirming their tenure rights and establishing enabling conditions that ensure tenure security. In Ethiopia, the [Land Investment for Transformation](#) program provides special support to women who are vulnerable to dispossession of land due to widowhood, divorce, and lack of documentation, among other reasons.



Community chief and members in Peru's forests. Photo: CIFOR, Flickr.

For projects and policies on managing, protecting, and conserving forest and water resources, including representatives from all identified stakeholder groups in the forest's community management is important. Including these groups can make for better decision-making, and improve local livelihoods and protect forests. For instance, studies from [Kenya, Uganda, Bolivia, and Mexico](#), show that when both men and women participate in forest user groups, the user groups are more likely to adopt behaviors that enhance the forest's resources.

Indigenous and rural women as agents of change. Source: [Rights and Resources Institute](#).

In the [Solomon Islands](#), even when women were included in community meetings, they were consistently less likely than men to speak up and substantively participate. This pointed towards the need for different types of support for proper stakeholder engagement, including holding meetings at times that are compatible with family schedules, providing child-care services, and covering wages for the day.*

*See section on [Stakeholder Identification](#) and [Meaningful Stakeholder Engagement](#) for other resources.

Resources

[Mapping Social Landscapes Guide | World Resources Institute, 2018](#)

[Gender Analysis | European Institute for Gender Equality, n.d.](#)

[Gender Tool Box | Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, 2015](#)

[Gender Analysis Guidelines | Department on the Status of Women, City and County of San Francisco, n.d.](#)

[Meaningful Stakeholder Consultation | Inter-American Development Bank, 2017](#)

[Guidelines on Free, Prior, and Informed Consent | The United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation \(UN REDD\), 2013](#)

[Guidelines for a Gender Sensitive Participatory Approach | International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development \(ICIMOD\), 2009](#)

[LandMark | World Resources Institute](#)

[Power and Potentia: A comprehensive Analysis of National Laws and Regulations Concerning Women's Rights to Community Forests | Rights and Resources Initiative, 2017](#)

Faraway Forest Protection and Use Policies

People living in and near forests may be extremely poor and might traditionally rely on the forest for their livelihoods, nutrition, and spiritual practices. Strict forest conservation and protection policies may restrict their access to forested areas and forest products, lowering their income and wellbeing outcomes. (Poudyal et al, 2018) For instance, in [Madagascar's Ankeniheny-Zahamena Corridor](#), conservation restrictions and inadequate compensation distributed to forest communities resulted in households losing 27-84% of their total annual income after the protection policies were put in place.

Policymakers can mitigate negative impacts on communities by maintaining access to ecosystem services, providing adequate compensation, or introducing new livelihood options.* (Pullin et al, 2013)



A community member near protected forest land in Colombia.

Photo: [James Anderson, WRI Flickr](#).

[A global study](#) showed that households that were allowed employment opportunities in ecotourism services near protected forests had lower poverty and malnutrition rates, with no negative impacts to

forest outcomes, compared to households living near strictly protected forests.

*These decisions should be taken when all stakeholders are effectively engaged – see section on [Meaningful Stakeholder Engagement](#) for more information.

Promoting Social Standards in Procurement

Instruments like forest sustainability certifications and eco-labeling can help identify sustainable sources of forest products and thereby forest conservation. However, high costs of obtaining these credentials may be prohibitive for many small and medium-sized enterprises. ([Macqueen, Dufey, & Patel, 2006](#)) **Compensating or subsidizing smaller enterprises or collectives** to meet sustainability standards, or direct farm-to-buyer relationships can help address these barriers.



How cities can support procurement decisions.

Image: [Cities4Forests, 2020](#).

Applying fair trade social standards to procured products can also make urban supply chains more equitable.

https://vimeo.com/199811744?width=1000&height=562&color=00adef&portrait=1&title=1&byline=1&autoplay=0&loop=0&player_id=vimeo-199811744

Promoting Social Standards. Source: [Fairtrade International](#).

[National Australia Bank](#) incorporates social and sustainability standards in their procurement policies and practices. They purchase fair trade tea, coffee, hot chocolate, and sugar for their staff across Australia, making them the country's largest fair-trade workplace. Through their Reconciliation Action Plan, they are now exploring inclusion of indigenous businesses in their suppliers list to support employment of indigenous people.

Resources

[Fairtrade Standards | Fairtrade International](#)

[Exploring Fair Trade Timber: A Review of Issues in Current Practice, Institutional Structures and Ways Forward | International Institute for Environment and Development \(IIED\), 2006](#)

[Exploring Gender and Forest, Tree and Agroforestry Value Chains – Evidence and Lessons from a Systematic Review | Center for International Forestry Research \(CIFOR\), 2016](#)

Summary

- Social equity issues will vary depending on the social, economic, and political contexts of cities, and approaches to address these issues must be adapted accordingly. These approaches can range from mitigating harm to vulnerable groups to actively empowering them through meaningful engagement in programs.
- There are many benefits that arise from adopting a social equity lens. Projects can achieve their goals more successfully if they implement inclusive processes. Equitable, sustainable, and efficient projects can offer many social, economic and sustainability benefits, but there may be financial and logistical considerations associated with addressing social equity issues in forest-related programs and policies.
- Some overarching social equity considerations applicable to engagements with all forest levels include:
 - Designing equitable forest-related policies and plans;
 - Using social information in decision making and for monitoring progress;
 - Conducting effective stakeholder identification and ensuring inclusive participation;
 - Providing equal employment opportunities.
- **At the inner forest level**, social equity considerations for programs and policies revolve around land-use decisions, affordability, accessibility, safety, and spatial distribution of urban green spaces.
- **At the nearby forest level**, community engagement can make ecotourism and recreational activities more inclusive.
- **At the faraway forest level**, forest management, protection, and use policies have social impacts on forest-reliant communities. Promotion of fair social standards in procurement of forest products can help cities engage in a mutually beneficial relationship with faraway forests.

This guide is a living document, so please reach out with any feedback to our team by contacting Ayushi Trivedi (ayushi.trivedi@wri.org)”

This Learning Guide is a work in progress. Help us improve by [submitting feedback](#).

Selected Resources Part I

Social Equity Concepts

- [Inclusion Matters – The foundation for shared prosperity](#) | World Bank
This report provides a comprehensive review of topics in social inclusion, and the trends and policies that shape the need for inclusion.
- [Concepts and Definitions](#) | UN Women
This webpage defines ‘gender’ and ‘gender equality’ and lists several fact sheets on the subject.

Policy Commitments for Social Equity

- [Investing in Equitable Urban Park Systems](#) | Urban Institute, 2019
This report highlights innovative case-studies around funding strategies and models that place equity and communities at the center of park investment decisions.
- [Parks for Inclusion Policy Guide | Initiatives](#) | National Recreation and Park Association

This web-page links to several NRPA initiatives that focus on creating more inclusive parks, ranging from resources on equitable access to the 'Parks for Inclusion' pledge.

- [Climate Action Planning Resource Centre](#) | C40, 2019
A set of tools and resources on inclusive community engagement, inclusive planning and equitable impacts of climate action, including roadmaps, needs assessment modules, action analysis modules and indicator modules.
- [Equity Tool Kit](#) | 11th Street Bridge Park, n.d.
Washington DC's 11th Street Bridge Park project created an Equity Took Kit that documents their process of creating and implementing a community-driven plan for their park.

Use of Socioeconomic Information

- [Investing in Equitable Urban Park Systems: Case Studies + Recommendations](#) | City Parks Alliance, 2020
This short document includes seven case studies of American cities that are leading the way in using data-driven approaches to ensure more equitable distribution of funding.
- [Developing a green infrastructure equity index to promote equity planning](#) | Heckert, M. & Rosan, C. D., 2016
In this academic paper, the authors develop a 'Green Infrastructure Equity Index' that uses social and economic data to identify and empower communities with high need.
- A variety of sources can be used to gather relevant social information. Examples include: [Know Your City](#) (SDI), [National Equity Atlas \(U.S.\)](#), [Safetipin](#), [LandMark](#), [Rights and Resources Initiative](#), [CUNY Institute for State and Local Governance \(ISLG\) Equality Indicators](#), [Demographic and Health Survey](#), [Living Standards Measurement Study](#), [Human Development Data](#), [FAO Gender and Land-rights Database](#), relevant national, regional or local statistics or research institutions, expert interviews, and results from gender and social analyses.

Stakeholder Identification

- [Mapping Social Landscapes Guide](#) | World Resources Institute, 2018
This guidebook provides the methodology to conduct social network mapping in order understand stakeholders, specifically their priorities, values, and connections.
- [Gender Analysis](#) | European Institute for Gender Equality, n.d.
This short guidance tool lays out the basic steps to conduct a gender analysis, and presents the best known gender analysis frameworks and additional resources.
- [Gender Tool Box](#) | Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, 2015
This brief defines and explains the key principles and elements behind conducting a gender analysis.
- [Gender Analysis Guidelines](#) | Department on the Status of Women, City and County of San Fransisco, n.d.
These guidelines describe clear steps for conducting a gender analysis, providing suggested questions to ask for each step.
- [Social Impact Assessment](#) | International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA), 2015
This report provides guidance for assessing and managing social impacts of projects related to infrastructure, agriculture and forestry.
- [Urban Climate Resilience Assessment in Vulnerable Neighborhoods \(UCRA\)](#) | World Resources Institute, 2018
This report describes the UCRA tool, that helps cities measure vulnerabilities, resilience capacities, access to information and services across neighborhoods. The report also demonstrates the application of the UCRA tool in poor communities of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Surat (India), and

Semarang (Indonesia).

- [Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis Guidelines](#) | World Food Programme, 2009
This report provides information on the importance and methodology of evaluating communities' food security and vulnerability, and provides recommendations on interventions that can help address it.
- [Guidelines for a Gender Sensitive Participatory Approach](#) | International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), 2009
This short document provides basic guidelines on implementing a gender-sensitive participatory approach, including a description of relevant tools and resources, and a checklist of considerations.
- [Playbook: Inclusive Community Engagement](#) | C40 Cities, 2019
This guidance document presents a suite of resources to be used for inclusive planning.

Meaningful Stakeholder Engagement

- [How to Engage Diverse Communities: A Toolkit](#) | Vibrant Cities Lab
This toolkit describes models for community change, assessment strategies and communications aimed at promoting public input and engagement.
- [Meaningful Stakeholder Consultation](#) | Inter-American Development Bank, 2017
This publication provides the principles and methodology on meaningful stakeholder consultation, consistent with IDB's environmental and social safeguard policies.
- [Guidelines on Free, Prior and Informed Consent](#) | The United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN REDD), 2013
This guidance document provides a framework for projects to obtain free, prior and informed consent as part of their meaningful stakeholder engagement processes.
- [Handbook for Preparing a Resettlement Action Plan](#) | International Financial Corporation (IFC), 2002
This World Bank guide provides guidance on involuntary resettlement to improve the livelihoods of those involved and minimize adverse effects.
- [Guidelines for Integrating Gender & Social Equity into Conservation Programming](#) | Conservation International, 2019
This document aims to guide conservation practitioners in recognizing and integrating gender and social equity dimensions into community-based conservation projects.
- [Inclusive Community Engagement: Executive Guide](#) | C40, 2019
This guidance document presents a suite of resources to be used for inclusive community engagement.
- [Guidelines for a Gender Sensitive Participatory Approach](#) | International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), 2009
This short document provides basic guidelines on implementing a gender-sensitive participatory approach, including a description of relevant tools and resources, and a checklist of considerations.
- [Urban Community Resilience Assessment](#) | World Resources Institute, 2018
This report describes the UCRA tool, that helps cities measure vulnerabilities, resilience capacities, access to information and services across neighborhoods. The report also demonstrates the application of the UCRA tool in poor communities of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Surat (India), and Semarang (Indonesia).
- [A Seat at the Table](#) | World Resources Institute, 2010
This report highlights the barriers to access rights for poor communities, including access to information, participation and justice, and suggests relevant policy responses for the same.
- [Everyday Ethics in Community-based Participatory Research](#) | Banks et al., 2013
This article explores a range of ethical issues related to community-based participatory research,

complemented by cross-sectoral case-studies.

- [Gender Matters in Forest Landscape Restoration: a Framework for Design and Evaluation](#) | Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), 2017
This report provides a framework and set of recommendations for enhancing gender equality and women's rights in and through forest landscape restoration initiatives.

Equal Employment Opportunities

- [Women in urban forestry and arboriculture: Experiences, barriers and strategies for leadership](#) | Bardekjian et al, 2019
This academic article explains the barriers for and strategies to create more inclusive environments for women in their urban forestry and green jobs sectors.
- [Urban Forestry Toolkit \(Equity\)](#) | Vibrant Cities Lab
An introduction to incorporating equity concerns during urban forest planning by the Vibrant Cities Lab.
- [Promoting Gender Equitable Opportunities in Agricultural Value Chains: A Handbook](#) | The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), 2009
This handbook introduces the importance of considering gender in agricultural value chains.
- [Gender and Racial Diversity in Environmental Organizations: Uneven Accomplishments and Cause for Concern](#) | Dorceta E. Taylor, 2015
This article explores the lack of representation of women and minorities in environmental organizations, particularly in leadership roles.
- [Time for Action: Changing the Gender Situation in Forestry](#) | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UN FAO), 2006
In this document, experts survey existing disparities in employment and experience for women in forestry and identify the drivers necessary to catalyze change.

Selected Resources Part II

Equity in Spatial Distribution of Inner Forests

- [Urban Forestry Toolkit \(Equity\)](#) | Vibrant Cities Lab
An introduction to incorporating equity concerns during urban forest planning by the Vibrant Cities Lab.
- [Environmental Justice](#) | Community Commons
Community Commons offers a compilation of resources and tools, including factsheets and educational videos, related to environmental justice.
- [Tree Equity Career Pathways Action Guide](#) | American Forests and Vibrant Cities Lab
This guide provides a step-by-step approach to developing urban forestry and urban greening career pathways that prioritize equity.
- [The dimensions of urban green equity: A framework for analysis](#) | Nesbitt et al. 2018
This academic article offers a framework for equity analysis related to urban greening.

Land Use in Inner Forests

- [Know Your City](#) | Slum/Shack Dwellers International (SDI)
SDI supplies data related to informal settlements.
- [Mapping Social Landscapes Guide](#) | World Resources Institute, 2018

This guidebook provides the methodology to conduct social network mapping in order understand stakeholders, specifically their priorities, values, and connections.

- [Where to Plant and Why](#) | Vibrant City Labs
How can we prioritize urban forest plantings where the need is greatest? This guide outlines the necessary steps.
- [Roadmap for Inclusive Planning](#) | C40, 2019
The C40 guide to putting people at the center of climate action.
- [Handbook for Preparing a Resettlement Action Plan](#) | International Financial Corporation (IFC), 2002
This World Bank guide provides guidance on involuntary resettlement to improve the livelihoods of those involved and minimize adverse effects.

Affordability Considerations in Inner Forests

- [Roadmap for Inclusive Planning](#) | C40, 2019
The C40 guide to putting people at the center of climate action.
- [Investing in Equitable Urban Park Systems](#) | Urban Institute, 2019
This report highlights innovative case-studies around funding strategies and models that place equity and communities at the center of park investment decisions.
- [Pathway to Parks & Affordable Housing Joint Development](#) | LA THRIVES and Los Angeles Regional Open Space and Affordable Housing (LAROSAH), n.d.
This publication provides a framework for addressing urban greening and sustainable housing simultaneously.

Accessibility and Safety Considerations in Inner Forests

- [Best Management Practices for Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design in Natural Landscapes](#) | Green City Partnerships, 2019
Complete with abundant photos, this guide outlines best management practices to creating safe and inviting natural landscapes in urban parks.
- [Building Safe and Inclusive Cities for Women: A Practical Guide](#) | Jagori, 2011
This guide offers practical tools and resources to help build safer and inclusive cities for women.
- [Parks for Inclusion Resources](#) | National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA)
These downloadable resources empower the user to design inclusive policies in parks and recreation agencies and programs and encourage their adoption by community and staff alike.
- [Creating Safe Park Environments to Enhance Community Wellness](#) | National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), n.d.
This issue brief provides an overview of the findings of a taskforce on park safety by the National Recreation and Parks Association, including several illustrative case studies.

Ecotourism and Recreation in Forests

- [How Ecotourism Affects Human Communities](#) | Zacarius and Loyola, 2017
This book chapter analyzes the role of ecotourism in empowering local people, discusses the economic benefits of ecotourism, and offers case studies of how ecotourism has been used.
- [Guidelines for Community-based Ecotourism Development](#) | World Wildlife Fund, 2001
These guidelines offer practical considerations for expanding community-based tourism, based on the experiences of World Wildlife Fund projects throughout the world.
- [Gender-Responsive Toolkit on Ecotourism Planning and Management](#) | Philippine Commission on Women, n.d.

This toolkit recommends strategies for ensuring that ecotourism planning and management respond to gender issues and achieve gender equality.

- [A Toolkit for Monitoring and Managing Community-Based Tourism](#) | SNV and University of Hawaii, 2007
This toolkit provides step-by-step guidance for setting up a monitoring program for community-based tourism projects.
- [Linking Communities, Tourism & Conservation: A Tourism Assessment Process](#) | Conservation International, George Washington University, and The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), 2005
This guidebook supports field practitioners interested in launching a tourism activity by first assessing a conservation location's potential for tourism, the impacts to biodiversity, and the social, cultural, and resource challenges.

Community Forest Management in Faraway Forests

- [Mapping Social Landscapes Guide](#) | World Resources Institute, 2018
This guidebook provides the methodology to conduct social network mapping in order understand stakeholders, specifically their priorities, values, and connections.
- [Gender Analysis](#) | European Institute for Gender Equality, n.d.
This short guidance tool lays out the basic steps to conduct a gender analysis, and presents the best known gender analysis frameworks and additional resources.
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This publication provides the principles and methodology on meaningful stakeholder consultation, consistent with IDB's environmental and social safeguard policies.
- [Guidelines on Free, Prior and Informed Consent](#) | The United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN REDD), 2013
This guidance document provides a framework for projects to obtain free, prior and informed consent as part of their meaningful stakeholder engagement processes.
- [Guidelines for a Gender Sensitive Participatory Approach](#) | International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), 2009
This short document provides basic guidelines on implementing a gender-sensitive participatory approach, including a description of relevant tools and resources, and a checklist of considerations.
- [LandMark](#) | World Resources Institute
This online, interactive platform provides maps and other critical information on lands that are collectively held and used by Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- [Power and Potential: A Comparative Analysis of National Laws and Regulations Concerning Women's Rights to Community Forests](#) | Rights and Resources Initiative, 2017
This report analyzes 30 low- and middle-income countries to understand how their national laws and regulations address women's rights to community forests, with a special focus on indigenous and rural women.

Faraway Forest Protection and Use Policies

A variety of sources can be used to gather relevant social information. Examples include: [LandMark](#), [Rights and Resources Initiative](#), [Demographic and Health Survey](#), [Living Standards Measurement Study](#), [Human Development Data](#), [FAO Gender and Land-rights Database](#), relevant national, regional or local statistics or research institutions, expert interviews, and results from gender and social analyses.

Promoting Social Standards in Procurement

- [Fairtrade Standards](#) | Fairtrade International
These standards outline recommendations and requirements for products to achieve the Fairtrade Standard label.
- [Exploring Fair Trade Timber: A review of issues in current practice, institutional structures and ways forward](#) | International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), 2006
This report analyzes the progress and potential of fair trade timber, offering recommendations on how to ensure fair trade delivers social benefits to producer communities.
- [Exploring gender and forest, tree and agroforestry value chains - Evidence and lessons from a systematic review](#) | Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), 2016
This systematic review explains the gender differences and inequalities in the value chains of forest, tree, and agroforestry products, analyzes the factors that influence these differences, and recommends interventions that can foster greater gender equity.

Definitions

- **Caste:** A complex form of stratified social hierarchy, often referring to a system of social stratification in Hindu India (adapted from the [Oxford Dictionary of Sociology](#))
- **Class:** Social groups' standard of living as defined by their household income, wealth, and consumption in terms of nutrition, education, and health services, language proficiency, etc. (adapted from [ILO](#)). Sub-categories may include upper/elite class, middle class, and working class. People's socioeconomic status is a reflection of what they can or can't do based on their class.
- **Gender:** The social attributes and opportunities associated with expressing as male, female, or non-binary and the relationships between and among them, in conjunction with other characteristics such as age, race, class, and/or other expressions of identity. These attributes, opportunities, and relationships are socially constructed, and can change over context and time. (adapted from [UN Women](#)) Depending on the context, information on "sex" may be used to collect information on gender outcomes. For instance, "sex-disaggregated data" analyzed with other demographic variables and socioeconomic variables and socioeconomic indicators may identify gender gaps and patterns of social disparities.
- **Implicit biases:** Having a preference for, or aversion to, a person or group of people, or associating stereotypes with them without conscious knowledge. (Adapted from the [Perception Institute](#))
- **Inclusive:** The multi-dimensional process of improving the terms of full and active participation in civic, social, economic, and political activities. Social inclusion also includes improving the terms of participation in decision-making processes for all people, especially those who are disadvantaged on the basis of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other status, through enhanced opportunities, access to resources, voice and respect for rights. Thus, social inclusion is both a process and a goal (adapted from [UNDESA](#)).
- **Nature-based solutions:** Actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, which address societal challenges (e.g. climate change, food and water security, or natural disasters) effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits ([IUCN](#)).

- **Social analyses:** A process designed to identify the social dimensions of projects and policies by analyzing stakeholders' perspectives. It asks: Who is likely to benefit from the decisions? Who may be adversely impacted? How and why are these groups going to be positively or negatively impacted?
- **Social equity:** The absence of avoidable or remediable differences among groups of people, whether those groups are defined socially, economically, demographically, or geographically. ([WHO](#)) Equitable processes call for acknowledging that individuals or groups may have unequal starting points and require different levels of support based on their specific needs to achieve fairness in outcomes. ([Center for the Study of Social Policy](#))
- **Socially accommodating:** Approaches that work around social differences, norms and inequities, and meet people where they are to achieve project outcomes. They do not attempt to reduce the social differences, but also do not exploit or exacerbate them. ([USAID](#))
- **Socially blind:** Approaches that do not see social equity as something important to consider; assumes that if something works for one group, it will work for everyone. ([USAID](#))
- **Socially exploitative:** Approaches that take advantage of existing inequalities, behaviors, and stereotypes in pursuit of project objectives. They reinforce unequal power in the relations between men and women or other social groups and potentially deepen existing inequalities. ([USAID](#))
- **Socially transformative:** Approaches that explicitly engage all social groups to examine, question, and change institutions and norms that reinforce inequalities, and as a result achieve greater social equity through project objectives. ([USAID](#))

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