

GEDSI Learning and Leadership Hub: GEDSI Mainstreaming in UK PACT Projects

Key learnings from the meeting held on 28th October 2025.

Guidance on Mainstreaming GEDSI in UK PACT Projects

Rebekah Martin, UK PACT GEDSI Manager

Our latest UK PACT GEDSI mainstreaming report provides guidance for integrating GEDSI at each stage of the project cycle, including design, implementation, and monitoring, evaluation and learning. It provides practical guidance tailored for UK PACT with checklists, example actions, guidance on key GEDSI activities such as conducting GEDSI analysis and developing GEDSI Action Plans, and links to further resources. It is designed to be used as a reference with readers returning to review the different sections throughout their projects. It is suitable for everyone to use – no prior GEDSI knowledge needed!

You can read the [GEDSI Mainstreaming Guidance](#) on the [UK PACT GEDSI resources web page](#).

Checklist – Project Design

- ☐ Conduct a GEDSI analysis to understand key issues and identify barriers for different socially excluded groups in your context. Ensure your analysis is intersectional.
- ☐ Include GEDSI activities in your planning.
- ☐ Allocate budget for GEDSI activities and expertise.

A shortened version of the project design GEDSI checklist.

GEDSI Mainstreaming in developing Measurement, Reporting and Verification systems in Bolivia

Amanda Luna Mera, Senior Manager, Carbon Trust and Shirley K. Pazos Bashualdo, Bolivia Country Director, Practical Action

Amanda and Shirley shared learnings from the UK PACT Amazon Fund project – “Enhancing actions towards sustained GHG emissions reductions in Bolivia and Ecuador by strengthening Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems in Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU).” This session focused on how the project’s approach to GEDSI mainstreaming, particularly how they worked with the Tacana indigenous communities in Bolivia. **The approach was simple but powerful: put climate data in the hands of those who live with the forest, and ensure everyone has a voice in shaping its future.**

First, we focused on co-creation instead of consultation. We co-designed a local MRV system with the Indigenous Council of the Tacana People (CIPTA) and the Council of Tacana Women (CIMTA). Together, men, women, and youth defined what to measure, how to collect data, and how it should reflect their worldview of *Vivir Bien* “Living well”. Out of that process came *Nuestro*



"We used to want to improve only as individuals. Now we also want to improve as entrepreneurs. We have a voice and a vote" - Mariela Chipunavi.

Ejije, "Our Forest" in the Tacana language, a mobile app that allows Indigenous monitors to track deforestation, biodiversity, and land use.

Second, we invested in inclusive capacity-building that made participation possible for everyone. Trainings were held in local languages, scheduled around community life, and offered spaces for mothers and youth alike. This practical inclusion shifted social norms: 70 percent of the environmental monitors are women, many entering technical roles for the first time and becoming role models for younger girls. Women hold 25 % of community board seats and youth hold more than 20% of leadership roles.

Third, we connected monitoring to inclusive livelihoods. We strengthened women-led enterprises, under the *Tacana Brand*, to keep producing deforestation-free soaps and forest-based products. These businesses are not side activities; they represent economic empowerment and reinforce the principle that caring for the forest can also sustain families.

Fourth, we promoted collective advocacy and policy influence. Using data generated by the communities themselves, CIPTA and CIMTA engaged directly with the Plurinational Authority of Mother Earth (APMT). Their evidence and proposals helped shape Bolivia's National Strategy on Forests and Climate Change, ensuring Indigenous and gender perspectives are recognized in national policy.

Finally, we nurtured intergenerational exchange. Young people brought digital and mapping skills, while elders shared ecological knowledge passed down through generations. Together they built a bridge between tradition and innovation, between *Vivir Bien* and the Paris Agreement, showing that true GEDSI mainstreaming means not only participation, but transforming who holds knowledge and power. Read more on our approach [here](#).

Throughout the process, we learned that:

- **GEDSI is a strategic enabler, not an add-on.** Integrating GEDSI and cultural perspectives from the start strengthened both the *legitimacy* and *effectiveness* of climate action, turning participation into ownership and results into transformation.
- **Economic empowerment drives environmental commitment.** Sustainable enterprises under the Tacana Brand showed that income generation and conservation can reinforce each other, particularly when women lead.
- **Policy engagement amplifies community voices.** When local data informs national strategies, as with Bolivia's Forests and Climate Change Strategy, GEDSI becomes institutional, not project-bound.



Young people now hold more than 20% of community board seats.