

REDD⁺ and Ecosystem Restoration: Status and challenges in regards to forestry and gender perspectives

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Forests and gender equality: climate change actions



- Forest- and tree-based landscapes are critical for mitigation and adaptation
- All 1.5C pathways are projected to rely heavily on AFOLU-measures, including afforestation, reforestation, restoration and conservation (IPCC 2018)
- Gender equality and land-use based climate action are indispensably linked
- SDG 5 on gender equality and women's empowerment includes targets of equal participation in decision making (5.5.), equal rights to resources (5.a.) and policies to promote equality and empowerment (5.c.)

Lessons from REDD+

- Gender often addressed superficially, assumptions that participation will automatically lead to equity and sustainability (Bee and Sijapati Basnett 2016)
- Women's participation often not effective as underlying inequalities are left unaddressed (Larson et al 2015)
- Gender-blind initiatives can often rely disproportionately on women's labor (Westholm and Arora-Jonsson 2016)
- Women are often left out of REDD+ benefits (Howson 2017; Ickowitz et al. 2017; Sarmiento Barletti and Larson 2017)
- Gender differences in preferences regarding benefits are not considered (Pham et al 2016)
 - Decreases women's willingness to participate over time
 - Risks negative well-being and equality outcomes

Gender, efficiency and sustainability

Key dimensions:

- **Land rights and tenure security** (e.g. Quisumbing and Kumar 2014)
- **Gender division of labor** (e.g. Ihalainen 2018, Westholm and Arora-Jonsson 2016)
- **Decision-making** (e.g. Shrestha et al 2010, Khadka and Verma 2012)
- **Benefit sharing** (e.g. Howeson 2017, Pham et al 2016)



Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) is a planned process that aims to regain ecological integrity and enhance human well-being in deforested and degraded landscapes.



- Embedding gender into FLR activities offers considerable opportunities for leveraging synergies between restoration commitments, climate change action and global commitments to sustainable development.

GLOBAL, NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PLEDGES, SUCH AS THE BONN CHALLENGE, REFLECT THE INTENTION TO RESTORE LARGE AREAS OF DEGRADED AND DEFORESTED LANDS.

SAFEGUARDS



Therefore, different social groups of women and men must be entitled to 'free prior and informed consent'.



In case of displacement of land or livelihoods fair and legitimate compensation must be offered to all those affected.



There needs to be an adequate, accessible and effective grievance system.

However, these areas are claimed, used or accessed, formally and informally, currently or in the future.

OPPORTUNITIES



Restoration efforts must reflect the priorities, interests and knowledge of both women and men.



Restoration efforts must recognize and compensate both women's and men's efforts (labour, financial and/or in-kind contributions) equally.



Restoration benefits must be equitably distributed.



Both women and men must have equal say in all decisions related to FLR.

RESTORATION BENEFITS



CASH TRANSFERS



JOB



SECURE TENURE



INCOME EARNING OPPORTUNITIES



IMPROVED ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

GENDER-RESPONSIVE RESTORATION SHOULD INVOLVE...

Understanding the roles, rights and responsibilities local women and men have across the stakeholder groups, in particular as regards land use;

Identifying of primary and secondary stakeholders (including those likely to be displaced);

Identifying the drivers of deforestation and degradation;

Identifying potential synergies and tensions between multiple FLR objectives;

Jointly developing, implementing and monitoring locally relevant FLR options.

RISKS RELATED TO IGNORING GENDER ISSUES IN RESTORATION MAY INCLUDE...

Increased women's workload without proper compensation;

Imprecise identification of the primary stakeholders of forests, forest management, agricultural practices, drivers of deforestation, and appropriate options for restoration;

Limited sustainability and long-term effectiveness of restoration;

Increased marginalization of women in decision-making;

Establishment and/or reinforcement of inequitable systems for sharing of benefits.

Key messages

The essence of gender-responsive in REDD⁺ and Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) is:

- **safeguarding the rights** of local and indigenous women and men;
- ensuring that women and men at all levels have **equal voice and influence** in strategic decisions related to FLR, and that this contributes to substantive equality in outcomes for women and men;
- ensuring **equitable distribution of costs and benefits** at local level.

Lessons

- Failing to address gender in forest policy and programming can have detrimental impacts on women's wellbeing and program delivery
- Tokenistic, add-on approaches are not sufficient for safeguarding women's rights
- Participation is not a substitute to context-specific gender analysis or a guarantor for equitable and sustainable outcomes
 - Synergies need to be built
- Need for substantial, proactive targets and indicators for gender equality
 - Shift towards 'gender-transformative'
- Need to continuously collect and analyse data to monitor progress
- Allow for adaptive learning



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