

MODULE
4

A gender-responsive approach to Forest Landscape Restoration

Decision-making and Distribution





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Authors (listed alphabetically)

Marlène Elias, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT

Molly Gilligan, EnGen Collaborative

Margaux Granat, EnGen Collaborative

Markus Ihalainen, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

Iliana Monterroso, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

Ana Maria Paez Valencia, World Agroforestry

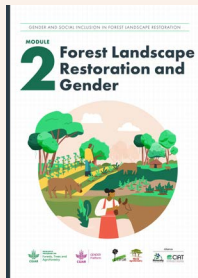
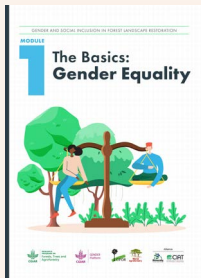
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Design and layout KANDS Collective
hello@kandscollective.com

About this guide

This guide supports the Gender and Inclusion in Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) e-learning course. The course aims to build the capacities and understanding of diverse stakeholders on the gender and FLR nexus and address inequalities for more equitable and sustainable FLR.



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PART ONE

Equitable decision-making



1 Equitable decision-making

When local women and men agree to changes in their land use or access patterns, their ability to exercise equal voice and influence in setting priorities and processes for FLR should be guaranteed.

This includes decisions on, amongst others:

- Restoration objectives
- Duration
- Approaches
- Location
- Scale
- Selection of species

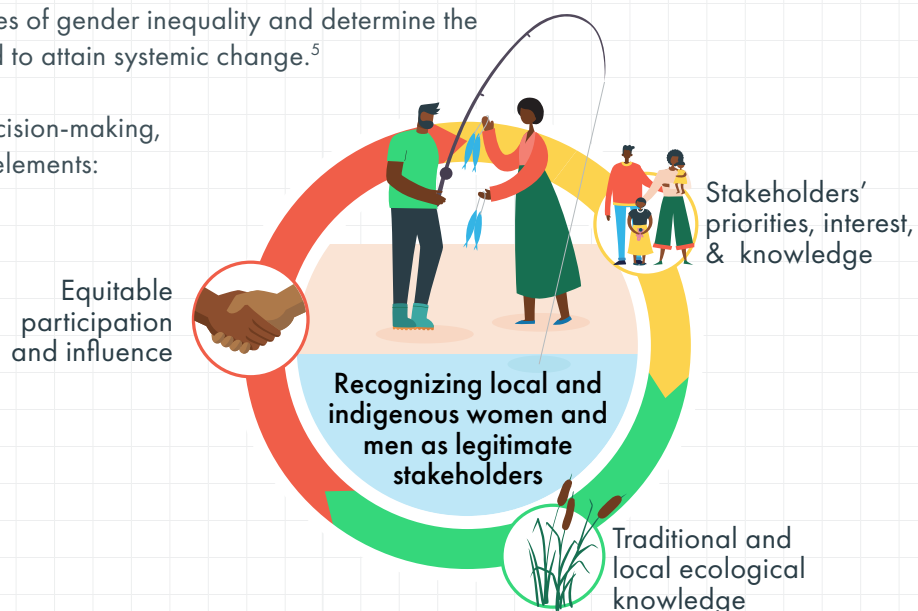
Active local participation in restoration initiative decisions is often either not realised or dominated by better-resourced, educated, land-owning men from privileged sociocultural groups. Other groups may not be consulted, even when the restoration initiative decisions entail real consequences for them.¹

Engaging men and women representing different social groups in the planning and implementation of restoration is needed to ensure that the knowledge and experience of all community members is harnessed to gain insights into the drivers of degradation and the strategies used by communities to manage and protect their land and forests.²

When it comes to participating in decision-making spaces, women are often included too late³ and not meaningfully engaged in **programme planning phases** because of social barriers. For example, a few women may be invited to attend a consultation meeting but not contribute because men are present,⁴ and so their participation is ineffective.

It is therefore critical to **move beyond attendance quotas** and instead address structural inequities from the **beginning** of an intervention, thereby avoiding implementation of an unsustainable programme. **Gender-power analyses** look at the root causes of gender inequality and determine the processes that can be supported to attain systemic change.⁵

When considering equitable decision-making, it is important to consider three elements:



KEEP IN MIND

Perceptions about land degradation and priority areas for restoration are influenced by gendered sets of knowledge, rights, roles and responsibilities. For instance, men and women observe degradation at the locations where they spend most of their time and effort.²

KEEP IN MIND

Historically, gender has been considered in interventions in a superficial way, such as by focusing on the numbers of men and women involved in a project. Transformational change requires considering gender as a power relationship between people.⁶

2 Stakeholders' priorities, interests and knowledge

Recognising the **environmental priorities, interests and knowledge** of local groups and stakeholders involved in FLR activities helps determine:

- the drivers of deforestation and degradation; and
- the implications of restoration options for men and women's livelihoods.

It also fosters local stakeholders' active participation in decisions, ensuring that they benefit equally from restoration initiatives.⁷

The policy landscape of climate change and environmental degradation increasingly recognises the **role of women and diverse stakeholders in providing differentiated perspectives that contribute to more effective programme design**, thereby helping to ensure project sustainability.

To better identify the diverse users, formal and informal rights holders and/or other stakeholders that are likely to be affected under particular FLR scenarios, a thorough understanding of **land-use practices, claims, and customary and statutory tenure relations under different FLR scenarios is essential**. It is also essential for developing strategies to avoid or minimise displacement of all affected groups, particularly marginalised social groups.⁸

Understanding the diverse roles men and women play can:

- enable a more accurate analysis of the problem (e.g. who is driving deforestation, where and how?);
- help identify potential solutions; and
- allow interventions to be applicable and relevant at national and local levels.

KEEP IN MIND

If not managed responsibly, FLR can contribute to the exclusion of women and men from existing land use systems and livelihoods. Such exclusion can undermine the sustainability and legitimacy of FLR interventions.⁷

KEEP IN MIND

Women's subsistence activities and local knowledge of the forest can aid forest-related activities, such as species monitoring, soil management and forest restoration functions. This can contribute positively to the sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.⁹

3 Traditional and local ecological knowledge

Traditional and local land and natural resource managers, including indigenous peoples, local communities and women within those communities, hold knowledge that has often been passed down through generations regarding the use and protection of their lands. They are familiar with the:

- Importance of biodiversity
- Value of a well-balanced ecosystem
- Multi-faceted ways in which their community interacts with and relies upon ecosystems

By applying a just and equitable approach, **FLR interventions can embrace the opportunity to learn from these land managers** in order to ensure that restoration efforts protect the well-being of the ecosystem and the community.



4 Equitable participation and influence

The **lack of women's voices and influence** across areas of decision-making relevant to FLR, such as land use and control, priorities and approaches and the distribution of costs and benefits, is a persistent challenge and is the **product of interlocking inequalities** at the household, community, state and market levels.¹

Promoting women's continued and comprehensive engagement in FLR processes via equitable participation provides diverse perspectives and priorities. This in turn provides a range of valuable information on roles, perspectives, capacities and needs, to better define project or policy parameters. In increasing the value of women's inputs and interests, and the recognition and integration of identified issues in policy and programming, FLR policy and practice can provide more effective, sustainable and innovative solutions.

Since **women and men have different capacities and resources** (i.e., assets, time, knowledge) to participate in restoration initiatives, different measures are needed to encourage the participation of each.² For example, community meetings should be scheduled at times and in

places that allow women to participate while also completing their household/livelihood duties.⁶

Women's active participation and equitable decision-making can be fostered through:

- **Strengthening women's capacity to voice their interests in public fora**, challenging norms that limit their influence in community affairs.
- **Increasing women's participation and representation in decision-making processes and structures**, for example in watershed management groups or landscape restoration committees.
- **Politically empowering women** in local governance structures.
- **Raising awareness at the community level** of existing laws and policies on women's rights (in spaces like natural resource management committees, traditional councils, public meetings, churches and schools).
- **Engaging women's organisations**, women and gender-related groups, and national gender machineries in restoration initiatives.¹

HOW DIFFERENT ENGAGEMENT APPROACHES TRANSLATE INTO CONCRETE ACTIONS



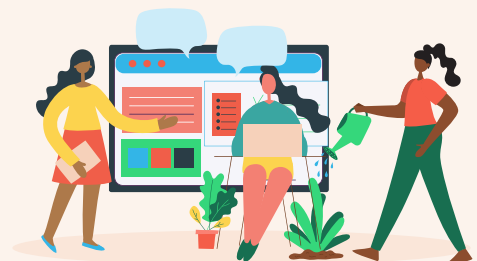
ONE-WAY ENGAGEMENT

A tick-box practice that provides information to stakeholder groups without channels for feedback.



CONSULTATIVE ENGAGEMENT

Creates space for incorporating feedback, ideas and concerns into the design and/or implementation of a project/plan and some method of accountability to ensure integration of this feedback.



MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT

Includes consultation, listening and integration of feedback with stakeholders' participation affecting initial design, decision-making in addition to ensuring consistent communication and partnership across the lifespan of a project.

Stakeholder participation and engagement should move away from one-way engagement approaches (i.e. sharing of information) towards meaningful engagement (i.e. consultation, consent, integration of feedback, equitable decision-making roles and leadership) for more inclusive and sustainable outcomes.

5 Equitable participation and decision-making

Ensuring increased participation, active engagement and equitable decision-making capacity of diverse stakeholders provides richer and more differentiated perspectives and priorities. This engagement should lead to increasing the value of inputs and interests, and integration of the identified issues in policy and programming. Such **recognition and inclusion of diverse groups advances FLR policy and practice with more effective, sustainable and innovative solutions.**²

It is important to recognise that all stakeholders have a role to play in mainstreaming and addressing gender and social inequities toward positive outcomes. Community organisations should ensure women are involved and engaged in restoration activities, and project implementers should work to promote women's participation in project activities. Stakeholder engagement and consultation during the planning phase will guide effective preparation

and development of the technical needs assessment and the gender analysis. Engagement with diverse stakeholders will provide a range of valuable information on roles, perspectives, capacities and needs to define project or policy parameters.²

Decision-making capacity is often a constraint for women's engagement and participation in FLR efforts due to societal norms dictating the roles that women play in a community.

Barriers are often in place which hinder women's abilities to participate and lead. These include community meetings being held at a time or location that does not accommodate women who are caretakers for children or elderly; language barriers for FLR events and resources; and social norms pertaining to men's authority in decision-making at multiple scales (household, community and beyond).



CASE STUDY: WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN MANGROVE RESTORATION IN GUYANA ^{9,15}

Gender entry points: From the beginning, the project recognised that women were at higher risk from the impacts of flooding and coastal erosion and needed to be prioritised in restoration management strategies.

Actions to promote gender-responsive FLR:

The project provided resources to strengthen economic empowerment and conduct capacity building trainings on various subjects, including mangrove seedling cultivation and beekeeping. Women made up 80% of participants and successfully organised Village Mangrove Action Committees—women-led volunteer organisations involved in continued mangrove awareness and restoration activities. With the help of these women leaders, the project planted over 460,000 mangrove seedlings, restoring over 10km of coastal mangrove forests, thereby increasing the resilience and security of coastal communities.

The project's support also allowed women to set up various businesses including honey production, tourism activities and mangrove cultivation. The active participation of women even led to the establishment of a women-led volunteer organisation for mangrove awareness and restoration as well as the Mangrove Cooperative Society to support other women with training and resources on beekeeping.

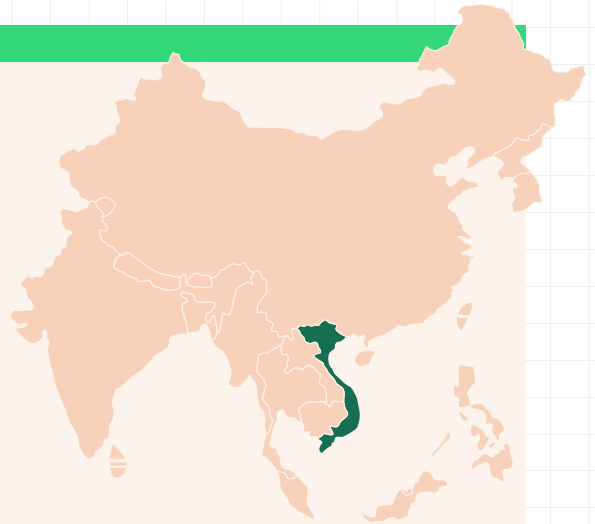
CASE STUDY BACKGROUND

In Guyana, 90% of the population lives along the coastline, which falls 1.04 meters below sea level. These low-lying communities are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of global climate change, including flooding, storm surges, and sea-level rise. Many of the country's existing sea defense structures need updating as storm surges are exceeding their capacity. The Guyana Mangrove Restoration Project (GMRP) addressed the threats to coastal Guyana by championing community cultivation of mangrove trees, which aid in wave attenuation, decreased erosion, and provide a buffer during storms.

CASE STUDY: WETLAND CO-MANAGEMENT IN VIETNAM¹¹

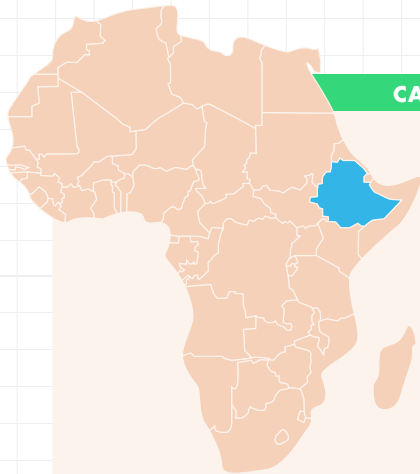
Gender entry points: Impoverished local fisher women rely on shellfish and molluscs in the park's core zone for income and to meet their household's nutritional needs. They lacked support to enhance the sustainability of their harvesting patterns and livelihood activities and did not have a voice in decisions over mangrove management, including harvesting rules and monitoring.

Actions to promote gender-responsive FLR: Under the project 'Sustainable use of mangrove resources to benefit poor women through a co-management pilot in the core zone of Xuan Thuy National Park', local fisherwomen were able to build sustainable livelihoods while actively contributing to the park's conservation. Local women were included in pilot policy design and became co-responsible for the programme's oversight. The women included in the programme served as important liaisons, facilitating communication for law enforcement and the local community. They were granted legal access to XTNP lands to support their livelihoods, with certain restrictions as to where, when and how fishing may occur, which was paired with enhanced awareness about mangroves and sustainable fishing methods. The women involved also had access to small loans from the Local Initiative Fund to improve their livelihoods and ease the stress on XTNP's resources. A community-based monitoring system included the local women and men in stewardship of the wetland while also expanding vigilance and protective capacity.



CASE STUDY BACKGROUND

Xuan Thuy National Park (XTNP) is a vast wetland that provides essential ecological services to Vietnam. In 1989, the area was declared the country's first Ramsar site and the government has since established new laws, policies and initiatives to preserve it. Yet, continued fishing and harvesting of shells, molluscs and crabs from the wetland degrades the area's natural resources, rendering local people's livelihoods and incomes increasingly precarious.

CASE STUDY: MULTI-STAKEHOLDER FORUM PARTICIPATION IN ETHIOPIA²¹

Gender entry points: A review of CIFOR's 2014 multi-stakeholder forum (MSF) in Ethiopia found that the implementation of the forum's outcomes are limited by gender inequity and insufficient livelihood alternatives for women and youth. Although MSF participants perceived the forum as equitable, the MSF paid little attention to the needs and perspectives of women and youth. Addressing gender inequity, important in and of itself, is also vital to any successful campaign to stop land degradation and relieve stress on the forest.

Actions to promote gender-responsive FLR: The MSF enacted a quota for women's inclusion in participatory forest management cooperatives. It also sought to enhance participatory decision-making approaches and strengthen negotiations of multiple stakeholders' interests through dialogue.

Yet, underlying inequalities persist. Aims set by the MSF are limited in their efficacy as women continue to depend on the forest as their only resource for meeting their families' daily energy and fuel needs. In the future, achieving the desired MSF outcomes will require mechanisms to support women's economic empowerment and reduce their forest dependence, greater attention to women's participation in the MSF, and more attention to women's roles in forest management and their objectives in the MSF.

CASE STUDY BACKGROUND

Land degradation threatens the food security and livelihoods of rural communities in Ethiopia. While there have been interventions to address the issue, these initiatives have sidelined stakeholders and failed to address underlying causal political and sociocultural challenges.

PART TWO

Equitable distribution of costs and benefits



1 Equitable distribution of costs and benefits

Restoration benefits play a key role in incentivising diverse stakeholders to adopt more sustainable practices or compensate them for potential trade-offs. From a gender perspective, there are a number of important points to consider in relation to costs and benefits:

- **Gender influences the distribution of costs** associated with the implementation of different restoration approaches, as well as access to and control over potential benefits.¹⁰
- **Inequalities persist with respect to women's and men's access to and control over restoration benefits.** For example, men tend to be overrepresented as landowners, so that cost and benefit analyses may be biased towards counting costs and presenting benefits that are most applicable to men.
- Forest landscape restoration initiatives must recognise that gender inequalities, and the extent to which different social groups have a voice in and influence over FLR processes and decisions, affect people's capacities to access restoration benefits.

KEEP IN MIND

Gender-blind restoration efforts risk excluding women from benefits generated, while further heightening women's overall work burden. Restoration programmes must recognise the efforts of women and men within a community and ensure that they are each fairly compensated for their time, labour and financial investments.

Lessons from past restoration efforts have shown that, although women are mobilised to provide labour and skills for restoration initiatives, they usually have less opportunity to benefit than men.¹¹ Hence, **responsibilities for restoration are devolved, but rights to benefit equally from restoration are not.** Mechanisms and measures at various scales are required to develop and implement initiatives that equitably benefit all members of participating communities.

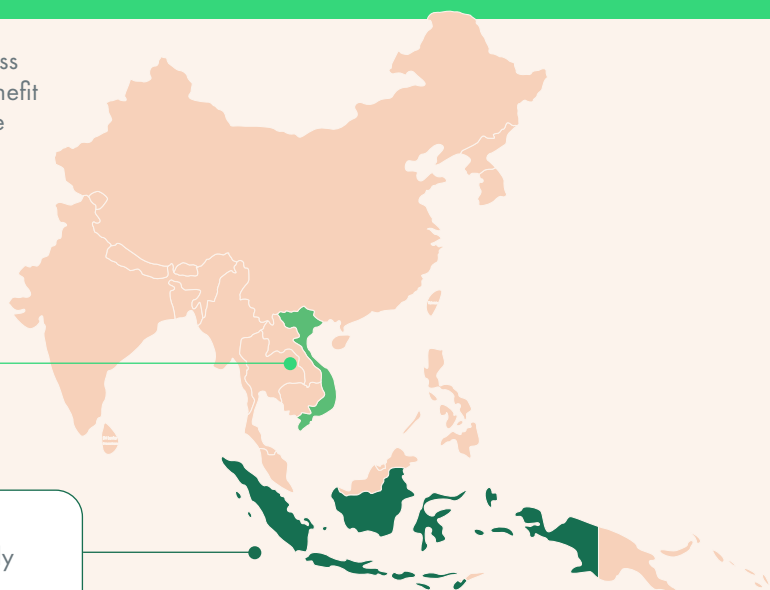
CASE STUDIES^{10,22}



Women in many parts of the world control less land than their male counterparts, so that benefit schemes based on land ownership or relative contributions of land to restoration may have significant gender implications.

In **Vietnam**, women were not able to enjoy cash benefits derived from payments for ecosystem services, negatively affecting their willingness to participate in the scheme in the longer term.

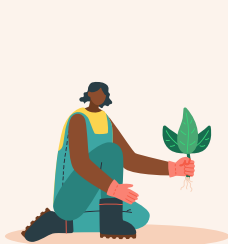
In **Indonesia**, the promotion of cash crop trees for farmland restoration predominantly benefited men. In the absence of suitable benefits, women — who mostly depended on non-cash income from agriculture — were forced to clear more land.



Engaging as full participants in FLR, with a voice and influence in decision-making structures and processes, often enables more equal access to resources and a more equitable sharing of benefits for women.

IMPACT OF RESTORATION ACTIVITIES ON WOMEN'S OVERALL WORKLOAD

Whether or not they benefit from FLR, women's engagement in restoration activities is likely to have an impact on their overall workload.



LABOUR

Many restoration initiatives rely on women's labour. However, women's lack of secure tenure means they do not always have rights to benefit from the trees when grown.



AGROFORESTRY TECHNOLOGIES & PRACTICES

These practices are often knowledge and labour intensive, agroforestry technologies and practices may involve long-term investment with delayed returns.

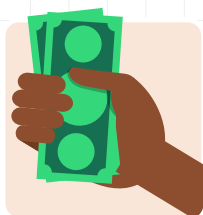


SUBSISTENCE & SOCIAL REPRODUCTIVE SPHERES

Monetary cost-benefit analyses may neglect the opportunity costs, including time and labour, and changes in cash and non-cash income that women face.

2 Potential benefits from gender-responsive FLR

Ideally, FLR should contribute to a number of benefits, including:



Income-generating opportunities



Improved ecosystem services



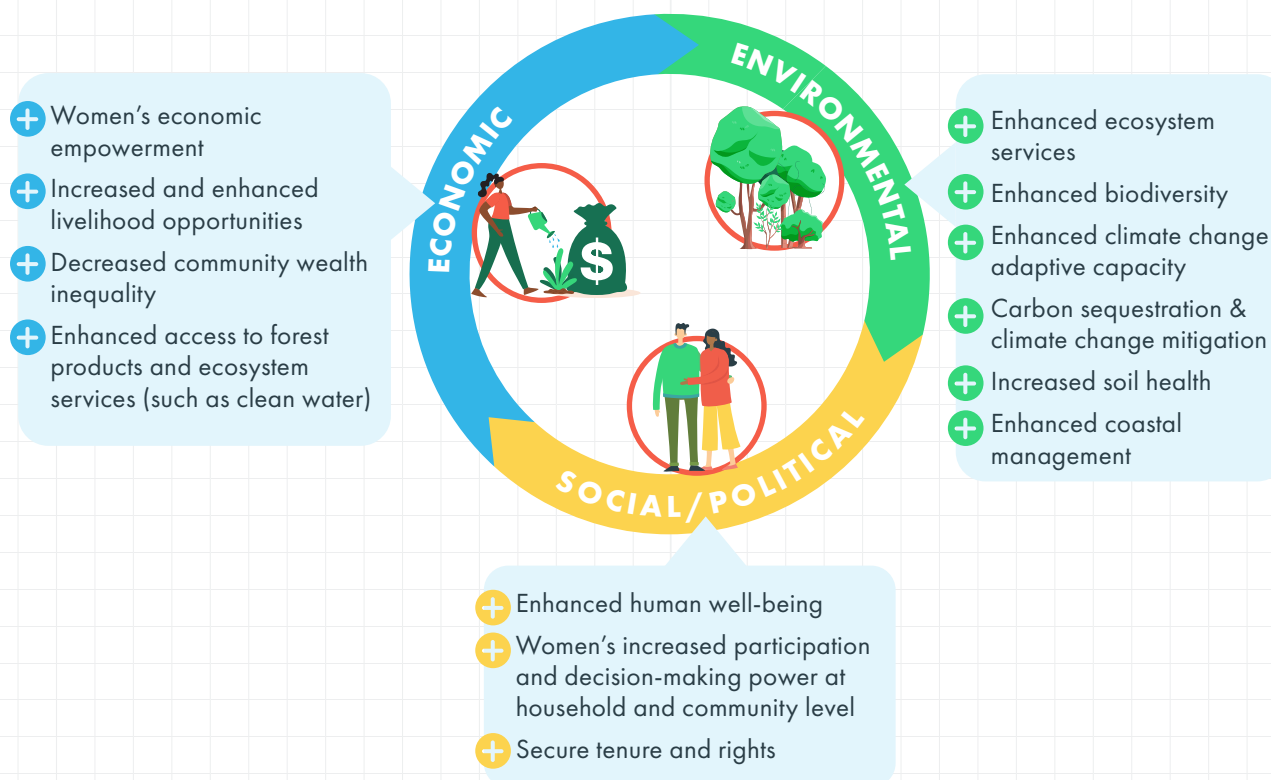
Enhanced knowledge and skills on farming or resource management techniques



Security of tenure

Forest landscape restoration initiatives must recognise how **gender differences and inequalities affect the capacities of both women and men to access these benefits**, and place all genders on an equal playing field to improve the livelihoods of all.²

When carefully managed, mutually reinforcing interactions among benefits from gender-responsive FLR can include:¹²



ECONOMIC BENEFITS: EMPLOYMENT INCOME

Local communities may knowingly and freely agree to changes in their land through restoration activities, when **benefits derived from FLR exceed the costs associated** with the land-use change.¹ Such benefits range from cash transfers, employment, income-earning opportunities, infrastructure, access to basic services, and enhanced access to forest products and ecosystem services (such as clean water). Past experiences demonstrate that **initiatives seeking to generate**

'co-benefits' to local stakeholders tend to achieve more sustainable restoration outcomes than those focused on carbon sequestration alone.

This is one of the major reasons why REDD, initially designed to reduce deforestation and degradation in developing countries, evolved into REDD+, with safeguards and co-benefits viewed as integral components.¹⁰



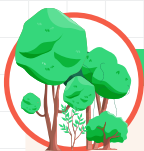
SOCIAL/POLITICAL BENEFITS: HUMAN WELL-BEING

Social/political and economic benefits are crucial to not only meet the integral objective of FLR of enhancing human well-being, but also as a means of incentivising stakeholder engagement in FLR.²

- **Livelihoods:** Gender-responsive FLR efforts may provide alternative and enhanced livelihood opportunities for women and men in indigenous and local communities.
- **Food security:** The landscape approach to restoration supports sustainable agricultural

practices, enhancing food security while protecting ecosystems.

- **Health:** Restoring robust, balanced ecosystems contributes to increased human health by mitigating challenges caused by landscape degradation, such as expanded vector- and water-borne diseases and increased impacts of weather-related disasters.²



ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Equitable participation in FLR interventions generates broader local buy-in and enhanced capacities. This, in turn, improves prospects for both socioeconomic development and environmental outcomes.

- **FLR enhances the conservation, recovery, and sustainable management of forests and other ecosystems.** It has the potential to enhance landscapes in ways that ensure lasting environmental benefits such as forest protection and restoration, soil conservation, water source

protection, air quality improvement, carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation.

- **FLR supports climate change mitigation and adaptation while enhancing ecological and livelihood values** for the landscape and its people. The improvement of forest and other resources through FLR processes can reduce disaster risks such as floods, droughts, and landslides that have both ecological and socio-economic implications.¹³

3 Identifying opportunities to enhance benefits

Identifying opportunities to enhance multiple functions of landscapes and generate wider benefits that can be realised by different social groups, is essential for incentivising the sustainable engagement of various stakeholders in FLR.⁴

There are a number of pathways through which FLR can generate environmental, economic and social/political benefits. For example:

PATHWAY 1

Direct forest mechanisms

- Planting, including intercropping, plantations, regeneration
- Removal of unwanted species, partial canopy removal
- Site preparation, including mulching, fertilising, burning, draining, connecting hydrological networks

PATHWAY 2

Direct livelihoods, well-being and resilience mechanisms

- Livelihood, including cash transfers, business and value chain development, certifications, tenure security
- Well-being, including local participation in land-use planning, training, clarification of stakeholder rights and responsibilities
- Resilience, including alternative employment and income opportunities, adaptive management planning

PATHWAY 3

Indirect impacts

- Enhanced well-being and resilience through more sustainable forest use and more effective land management
- Improved forest ecosystem function through enhanced biodiversity, soil stability and fertility, reduced erosion, improved water flow, enhanced biomass production and carbon sequestration



4 Lessons from REDD+¹³

Despite social safeguards, women and other marginalised groups have often been left out of REDD+ benefits.

In CIFOR's global comparative study, women knew much less about REDD+ than men across REDD+ sites, reflecting their **lack of voice and influence in REDD+ community decision-making processes**. A follow-up study three years later found that women in REDD+ intervention areas were more

likely to report a reduction in overall well-being than women in control areas. This was later attributed to the **lack of gender-responsiveness** from the outset of REDD+ initiatives.

Inequalities also exist among women. In Nepal, for instance, Dalit women are the most marginalised in terms of accessing REDD+ benefits compared to women from other social groups.

5 Potential benefits from FLR

CASE STUDY: LEVERAGING ADAPTATION-MITIGATION SYNERGIES IN BURKINA FASO¹⁴

Gender entry points: The research compared different restoration efforts including mango, cashew and eucalyptus plantations and found that while establishing monoculture tree plantations may allow for slightly enhanced opportunities for carbon sequestration, as opposed to other land use options, they provided a lower increase in women's adaptive capacity and few opportunities for diversifying livelihoods. In contrast, women's adaptive capacities were significantly higher in indigenous tree-based and small-scale restored lands.

Actions to promote gender-responsive FLR: The findings suggest that incorporating multiple voices and preferences in restoration planning from the outset can allow initiatives to optimise mitigation-adaptation synergies in an inclusive manner.

Landscape approaches to mitigation should take into account the safety net role of forests, especially for food security, and include the concepts of adaptive capacity and vulnerability to produce win-win gender-environment outcomes.

CASE STUDY BACKGROUND

One of the main outcomes of restoration efforts is carbon sequestration, which contributes to climate change mitigation. Restoring the ecological functioning of landscapes in the face of global change can both mitigate the causes of climate change and support ecosystems and communities in adapting to its impacts, thus building their resilience. Burkina Faso has high vulnerability to climate change, making mitigation and adaptation key priorities. Within their REDD+ efforts, CIFOR used a gender lens to consider co-benefits of an adaptive capacity approach focusing on carbon stock for mitigation.



CASE STUDY: GENDER INTEGRATION AND PARTICIPATORY, COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACHES TO INCREASE WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT¹⁵

Gender entry points: Women and men in coastal communities are often closely connected to their coastal ecosystems and gender roles are often traditionally identified and clearly divided. Women and men differ in how they interact with and depend upon mangroves – how they use the ecosystem, which mangrove products they choose, and the benefits they receive.

Actions to promote gender-responsive FLR:

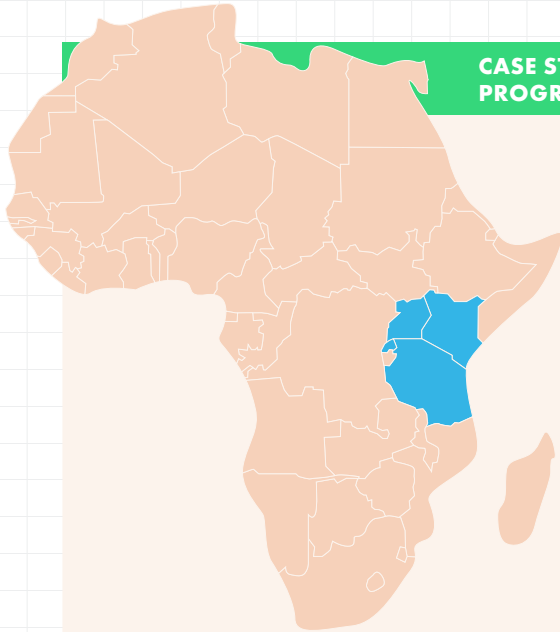
The MFF initiative adopted gender integration as a core strategy, as well as adopting participatory, community-based approaches to ensure that women's and men's voices were considered equally, while also to improving women's social and economic empowerment. Some MFF projects supported women through sustainable livelihoods and financial leadership training, which provided them with income opportunities. For example, where women have received training on the advantages of cultivating mangrove plants, the resulting increases in fish stocks have provided an additional income opportunity. Moreover, their newly acquired financial skills have ensured higher business success.

CASE STUDY BACKGROUND

Mangrove forests are particularly rich in directly harvestable seafood, as well as timber, firewood and other plant products. They also provide vital protection against floods and storms and buffer against sea level rise. Especially in developing countries, coastal communities are directly dependent on products and services provided by mangrove forest ecosystems. Unfortunately, many years of unsustainable human use has led to large-scale overexploitation and destruction of mangrove forests. Mangroves for the Future (MFF) is an initiative co-chaired by IUCN and the UNDP to run mangrove restoration and sustainable development projects, engaging with local communities to reverse this trend in several Asian countries.



CASE STUDY: LAKE VICTORIA FARMERS' ORGANISATION AGROFORESTRY (FOA) PROGRAMME ¹⁷



CASE STUDY BACKGROUND

Between 2012 and 2017, Vi Agroforestry and partners supported the development and implementation of the Lake Victoria Farmers' Organisation Agroforestry (FOA) programme. In cooperation with 40 member-based farmer organisations spread across Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda, approximately two million female and male farmers, school children and young people were mobilised to implement agroforestry and sustainable agriculture land management practices in different agroecosystems of Lake Victoria's catchment areas, to help farmers restore degraded land for improved livelihoods.

Gender entry points: Addressing the concerns of both women and men is important for restoring land, improving food security and embracing alternative income streams, but women were underrepresented in farmer organisations and had little say in decision-making. Moreover, farmers (particularly women farmers) did not have access to financial support that would allow them to invest in land productivity.

Actions to promote gender-responsive FLR: Under the programme, partner organisations adopted a collective approach to strengthen farmer organisations' governance capacities and mainstream gender into their activities, which enabled both women and men to participate in decision-making and improved democracy and transparency. The initiative also aimed to provide adequate financial and non-financial support through a Village Savings and Loans financial model, to enhance farmers' access to affordable financial services.

There has been a significant change in attitudes among farmer organisations with regards to gender, as can be seen in the deliberate efforts to involve women more actively in decision-making. The percentage of women in farmer organisation boards and management positions increased from 8% to 42%, with financial resources allocated to women increasing from 41% to 52%. One of the programme's key ecological achievements is the considerable reduction of soil erosion – the inclusive leadership and management approach and access to additional financial resources helped farmers take steps to reconstruct and rehabilitate important soil structures.



CASE STUDY: LAND RESTORATION RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR GENDER EQUALITY IN KENYA ¹⁸

CASE STUDY BACKGROUND

An IFAD-EC funded initiative aimed at scaling land restoration activities by testing promising restoration options across a range of contexts. In Kenya, the project worked with over 2,000 farmers to implement on-farm comparisons of different tree planting practices. By monitoring the performance of the comparisons, the project aimed to better understand which restoration options work best where, why and for whom.

Gender entry points: Efforts to restore degraded agricultural lands are often knowledge and labour intensive, and risk increasing women's already heavy workloads and reducing their available time for other economic and non-economic activities. Gender dynamics within a household can also limit women's participation in decisions about the use of a technology and their access to its benefits.

Actions to promote gender-responsive FLR:

The project assessed the risks and opportunities that tree planting presented for men and women farmers. Particular attention was devoted to assessing changes in women and men's time use and labour, as well as control over resources and benefits. The project noted that:

- In some cases, planting practices shifted labour between men and women by increasing women's involvement in land preparation activities. This had two implications: on the one hand, an increase in women's already heavy workloads, but on the other hand, more autonomy over decisions around these activities.
- Decisions regarding the uptake of new technologies were largely made jointly between husband and wife. Farmers perceived a trend towards more joint decision making and recognised that women's participation in agricultural trainings had helped increase their involvement in farming decisions.
- The assessment confirmed that efforts to restore agricultural land at the farm scale require a context-specific understanding of intra-household decision-making dynamics and gender relations.



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