



Challenges of securing women participation in
forestry and climate action and Prospects

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PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- ✓ Background
- ✓ Forest and Communities
- ✓ Climate Change + Forest + Community
- ✓ Women participation in forestry and climate action
- ✓ Challenges of securing women participation in forestry and climate change action and Prospects

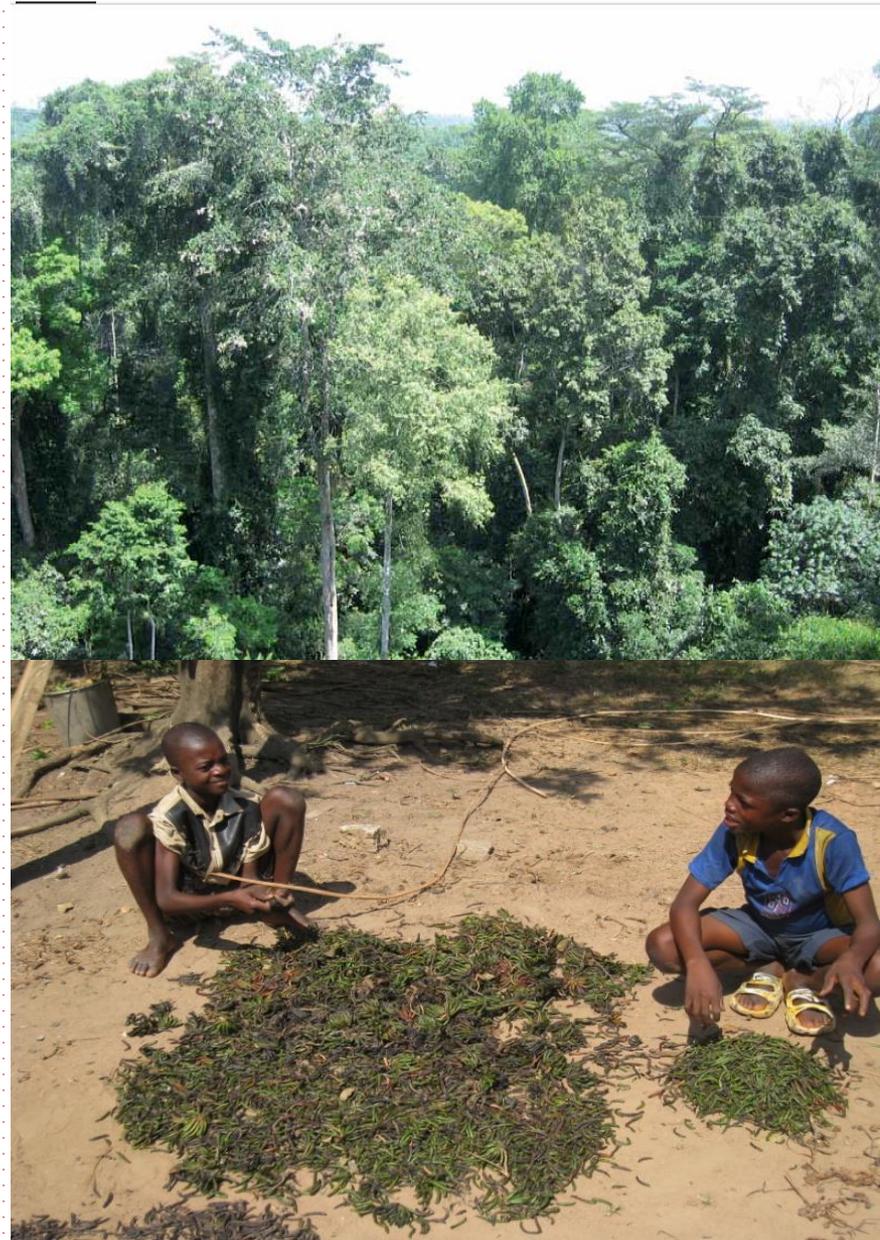
BACKGROUND

- ✓ Globally, forests cover 4 billion hectares (ha) of land, or 30% of the Earth's land surface
- ✓ Forest is the only weapon local people have in the fight against poverty
- ✓ Forests are source of:
 - Non-timber forest products (pepper, snail, etc.)
 - wildlife habitats,
 - oil and water protection,
 - biodiversity conservation,
 - recreation opportunities,
 - medicinal plants
- ✓ Climate change (sometimes called global warming) is the process of our planet heating up.
- ✓ Our planet has warmed by an average of 1°C in the last 100 years and if things don't change, it could increase by a lot more than that. 1°C might sound small but this is already having a big impact, making weather around the world more extreme and less predictable, causing our sea levels to rise and causing our ice to melt.



BACKGROUND

- ✓ Forests are important carbon sinks(about 160 tonnes of carbon per hectare)
- ✓ Forests are rich in biodiversity. The continent's tropical forests are estimated to harbour 12 000 plant species
- ✓ Forests are also a major source of medicines in the form of leaves, roots, tubers and bark: 70–80% of Africans are estimated to depend on plant medicine for their health care.



Forest and Communities



1. Major source of income generation

Forest and Communities

2. Wildlife



Forest and Communities

3. Medicine & Food crop



Forest and Communities

4. Recreation & Tourism



CLIMATE CHANGE + FOREST + COMMUNITY

1. **Disrupt ecological calendars and traditional planting seasons leading to increased food insecurity**



CLIMATE CHANGE + FOREST + COMMUNITY

2. Impact wild plants and animals, resulting in decreased agricultural yields and loss of hunting opportunities



Women participation in forestry and climate action

- ✓ Forests can only be managed sustainably when their value and benefits are realized by all segments of society. Evidence suggests that women and men make different use of forests, and have different knowledge and priorities for them
- ✓ women who depend on forests are under-represented in forest governance at the local, national and international levels. Their lack of involvement in decision-making leads to a lost opportunity to capture their knowledge and experiences, and undermines efforts for the sustainable management of forest resources.
- ✓ Men and women play different roles in forestry and climate action. Compared with men, women are frequently disadvantaged – for a range of interrelated cultural, social, economic and institutional reasons – in their access to and control over forest resources, and in the economic opportunities available to them.

Why does it matter?

- ✓ Climate change is damaging natural environments across our planet.
- ✓ It's causing more extreme weather events. Forest fires, floods, heat waves and droughts are becoming more common which can be extremely dangerous and results in millions of people having to leave their homes, towns and villages every year.
- ✓ Women play a unique role in the fight against the climate crisis by speaking out to demand climate action from our leaders. As mothers, caregivers, and heads of family, they know how seriously climate impacts the health and wellbeing of our society

Challenges of securing women participation in forestry and climate change action and Prospects

- Women's vulnerability to climate change and forest governance stems from a number of factors -- social, economic and cultural.
- Women predominate in the world's food production (50-80 per cent), but they own less than 10 per cent of the land.
- Women represent a high percentage of poor communities that are highly dependent on local natural resources for their livelihood, particularly in rural areas where they shoulder the major responsibility for household water supply and energy for cooking and heating, as well as for food security.
- women contribute up to 50 per cent of the agricultural workforce. They are mainly responsible for the more time-consuming and labour-intensive tasks that are carried out manually or with the use of simple tools. Women are mainly engaged in subsistence farming, particularly poultry and raising small livestock for home consumption.

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- Women have limited access to, ownership rights to land and forest resources
- Women have limited participation in decision-making, and are not involved in the distribution of environment management benefits, climate actions agreement and have limited represented in the leadership of forest governance structures at the community level
- gender considerations are often either insufficiently addressed or missing entirely
- in the design and implementation of forest-based climate action plans.

Improving women's adaptation to climate change

- ✓ in spite of their vulnerability, women are not only seen as victims of climate change, but they can also be seen as active and effective agents and promoters of adaptation and mitigation
- ✓ Women's priorities and needs must be reflected in the development planning and funding.
- ✓ Women should be part of the decision making at national and local levels regarding allocation of resources for climate change initiatives.
- ✓ ensure gender-sensitive investments in programmes for adaptation, mitigation, technology transfer and capacity building.
- ✓ Funding organizations and donors should also take into account women-specific circumstances when developing and introducing technologies related to climate change adaptation and to try their best to remove the economic, social and cultural barriers that could constraint women from benefiting and making use of them.

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- Involving women in the development of new technologies can ensure that they are adaptive, appropriate and sustainable.
- At national levels, efforts should be made to mainstream gender perspective into national policies and strategies, as well as related sustainable development and climate change plans and interventions

Recommendations

- Strengthen women's climate leadership and help ensure that climate investment Funds (CIF) implementation is increasing the agency of women in climate governance and green growth markets.
- Secure land ownership rights to local communities especially women
- Donors must motivate governments and implementing agencies to ensure women's representation and protection in ongoing reforms through improved monitoring and impact evaluations and channeling of funds.
- Engage in direct dialogue with local community women to make certain this bottom-up approach recognizes their leadership, expertise, and vision in promoting climate smart action
- Devote funds to developing women's organizational capacities and administrative systems as a clear way to establish future pathways for them to secure sustainable resources

The End



Beginning!