



CONCEPT NOTE

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE:
ADVANCING WOMEN IN AFRICAN FORESTRY
IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

11-21 JULY 2022 | VIA ZOOM

I. BACKGROUND

The climate crisis continues to impact lives, with many people around the world already living on the front lines of climate disaster. According to UN Women Watch (2009)¹, the negative impacts of climate change are both of long and short term. While short term implications may include natural hazards, such as landslides, floods and hurricanes; long term ones include gradual degradation of the environment.

Climate change affects every facet of life with detrimental effects being recognized in many areas including, agriculture and food security; biodiversity and ecosystems; water resources; human health; human settlements and migration patterns; energy; transport and industry.

Adaptation to climate change is gendered and in many cases, women and youth are disproportionately impacted and more vulnerable to the effects of climate change than men. This is partly due to them constituting the majority of the world's poor and are more dependent for their livelihood on natural resources that are threatened by climate change. Furthermore, they face social, economic and political barriers that limit their coping capacity.

Approximately 1.2 billion people around the world-mainly in the tropical region depend on agroforestry farming and forest resources for their livelihood of this, 50percent are women (Colfer et al, 2016)².

This notwithstanding, participation in forestry and climate action is gendered and the role of women in forestry has historically remained hidden and underappreciated, especially from governance perspectives making women underrepresented in forest decision making. The contribution of women to the forestry sector and their critical role as key actors has been traditionally ignored over the years, and this has inhibited their ability to gain equitable benefits from the forests, as well as optimise their potential as powerful agents of change in society.

This situation has arisen partly due to the presence of a number of gender-based barriers across major international and national policy processes within the sector which prevents inclusive participation of all actors.

Men, women, children have different needs, and aspirations from the forest, uses and knowledge of forest resources. They also have different roles in managing forests due to their differentials in their experience on use and conservation of forest and tree resources. This notwithstanding, the needs and contributions of women in African forestry are often overlooked, while the inequalities of their roles, rights and responsibilities shape the ways they participate in decision making, benefit from forest and tree resources, and ability to cope with the adverse effects of the changing climate.

¹ http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate_change/

² Carol J, Colfer P, Basnett, and Elias M). (2016). Gender and forests, climate change, tenure, value chains and emerging issues. DOI [10.4324/9781315666624](https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315666624)

Mai et al, (2011)³ asserts that ‘the integration of gender into the forestry sector is constrained by the perception that forestry is a male-dominated field; lack of clarity among researchers on the concept of gender; and lack of technical skills, interest and awareness on gender’. Not including such groups in decisions-making in forestry implies lost opportunity for capitalizing on their worth of knowledge and experience (Colfer et al, 2016). Integrating gender equality issues in forestry development contributes to meeting environmental targets, avoiding adverse impacts on women, improved gender relations and achievement of broader social goals such as social protection of families, communities and national economies.

Including women in forest governance is critical for sustainable forest management. This is because women have an understanding of, and appreciation for, forests as multifunctional, rather than just as a commercial resource. The empowerment of women through education, continuous learning and information sharing offers a potential pathway for inclusion in higher-level institutional decision-making in the forestry sector and for climate action. This will also reduce their vulnerability to climate change and make them resilient to its impacts.

II. AIM OF THE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

The overall goal of this engagement is to highlight the challenges and opportunities of securing women’s participation in African forestry while enhancing their capacity to adapt to the effects of climate change and contributing to mitigation effects. Specifically it will showcase:

- The role of women in forest resource management and conservation amidst climate change crises
- How women are disproportionately affected by climate change
- Contribution of forest and tree resources on enhancing the resilience of women and youth to climate change
- Challenges and opportunities for securing participation of women in forestry and climate change discourses
- The need for involvement of women in climate governance and action

The Community of Practice offers opportunities for practitioners, researchers and policy makers to understand the realities of gender in forestry, conservation and the climate debate and promote gender transformational attitudes.

III. METHODOLOGY

The sessions are scheduled to last for 3 hours per day, starting from 8:00 am (GMT) / 11:00a.m (Nairobi time) and running from 11th to 21st July 2022. These sessions which will be held online each targeting a specific subject area. Since participants are expected to be adults and mostly practitioners, the sessions will integrate presentations, group sessions, and experiential sharing to enhance participatory learning.

³ DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1505/146554811797406589>

IV. REGISTRATION

All interested actors are invited to register for the Communities of Practice (CoP) using the following link:

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

When: Jul 11, 2022 11:00 AM Nairobi

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAscO2hqTMtGtVL5Cs4lvKQ5ZJ4i_4O0yqT

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE:

“ADVANCING WOMEN IN AFRICAN FORESTRY IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE”
11-21 JULY 2022 VIA ZOOM | 11.00A.M-2.00P.M (NAIROBI TIME) / 8.00A.M-11.00A.M (GMT)

PROGRAMME

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION TO GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Day	Presentation topic	Short description	Key discussion points	Speaker	Institution	Country
11 th	Basic concepts of gender in the context of climate change	The concept of gender is misinterpreted in most cases and made to be synonymous with feminism. This mostly creates confusion among practitioners, create reluctance among a group of actors who perceive this to be wrestle of power between males and females. The session is to address the misconception of gender and bring basic understanding of the concept.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of gender • Terminologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Equity ○ equality ○ mainstreaming, ○ Gender harmful ○ Gender neutral, ○ Gender sensitive ○ Gender responsive ○ Gender transformation 	Doreen Asumang-Yeboah	RAIN	Ghana
12 th	History of gender studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition of gender • Gender intersectionality 	The concept of gender has been with us and being practiced unconsciously since time immemorial. It is however in recent time that attention is and advocacy is	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of gender • Gender intersectionality etc. 	Lawrence K. Brobbey (PhD)	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology	Ghana

		being heightened. This session will send participants into memory on some of the developments in the gender studies				
13 th	Challenges of women in forestry and climate change	The forestry sector is dominated by males with some women trying to break the barriers. This is however not without challenges. The session unravels the daily challenges of women in the forestry sector at the various levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the daily struggles that women face at the local and professional field in relation to forestry, natural resources and climate change? • What/ who are cause of these • How can this be changed 	Cecile Ndjebet	AFF (Women in Forestry Chapter)	Cameroon
14 th	Climate change and impacts on women	The impact of climate change varies from one location to another and from one group to another. Unfortunately, women and youth are disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change. This session focuses on how and why impacts of climate change vary amongst actors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to resources (land, forest, water, capital) • Access to extension services • Access to decision making spaces • Socio-cultural issues • Finances 	David Michaels		Nigeria
15 th	AFF's focus on gender			Doris Mutta	AFF	Kenya

WEEK 2: ENHANCING THE CAPACITY OF WOMEN FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION

Day	Presentation topic	Short description	Key discussion points	Speaker	Institution	Country
18 th	Role of women in climate change adaptation and mitigation	The critical role of women and their contribution women to the forestry sector as key actors has been traditionally ignored over the years, and this has inhibited their ability to gain equitable benefits from the forests, as well as optimize their potential as powerful agents of change in society. This session aims to bring out the roles that men, women and youth could play in forestry and agriculture for adaptation and mitigation to climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is climate change adaptation • What is climate change mitigation • What actions can promote adaptation and mitigation of climate change • What are the roles of men, women and youth 	Faith Muniale	Tropical Biology Association	Kenya
19 th	Challenges of securing women participation in forestry and climate action and Prospects	The session will make participants understand The extent of women participation in forestry and climate. It focuses among other things on decision making and governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socio-cultural barriers (norms that define roles of men and women in society) • Social and financial status as barrier • Power struggle with men in position unwilling to share with women 	Loretta Pope-Kai	Foundation for community Initiatives (FCI)	Liberia
20 th	Enhancing the capacity of women	After understanding the barriers that limit participation of women and youth in climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who has to enhance women's participation? 	Roselyn Fosuah	Director, Climate Change	Ghana

	to adapt to climate change	change, there is the need to address them. This session presents how women could be involved in forestry and climate action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What actions need to be taken • Who has to take the actions? 		Unit, Forestry Commission	
21 st	Training: <i>Gender mainstreaming for AFF GC members and stakeholders in African forestry</i>				AFF	Kenya