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Gender Considerations in Forest Management

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Introduction

- Why Gender Should Be Considered in Forest Management:
 - ✓ Ensuring **gender equality** and **social inclusion** in forest management **promotes justice, fairness, and human rights.**
 - ✓ Recognizing **gender differences** and addressing **gender imbalances** can lead to more **effective** and **sustainable forest management practices.**
 - ✓ **Women** often have **distinct knowledge, skills, and perspectives** that contribute to **better decision-making** and **resource management** in forests.
 - ✓ **Gender-inclusive** forest management can **empower women** economically by providing **equal access to forest resources, income-generating activities, and financial opportunities.**





Introduction

- Why Gender Should Be Considered in Forest Management:
 - ✓ Promoting **gender equality** in forest management can **enhance livelihoods** and **improve the well-being of communities** dependent on forest resources.
 - ✓ **Women** are often **primary users** and **custodians of forests**, and involving them in **decision-making** processes can lead to **better conservation** and **sustainable use** of forest ecosystems.
 - ✓ **Gender-sensitive** forest management can **mitigate gender-based violence**, **discrimination**, and **inequalities** that may arise in the context of forest resource utilization.
 - ✓ Involving **women** in **forest restoration** efforts can contribute to **biodiversity conservation** and **ecosystem resilience**.





Introduction

- Why Gender Should Be Considered in Forest Management:
 - ✓ Considering **gender** in forest management is essential for **meeting global commitments on gender equality, sustainable development, and climate action.**
 - ✓ By recognizing and addressing **gender disparities**, forest management can contribute to achieving multiple **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, including **SDG 5 (Gender Equality)** and **SDG 15 (Life on Land)**.





Existing situation

- Based on Nzunda 2022 we have the following situation:
- Gender imbalances exist in ownership, access to land, and user rights for forest management.
- Men generally have more access to and ownership of land and forest resources compared to women.
- Men harvest forest products with higher value for shorter times and distances than women, limiting women's access to financial resources.
- Gender imbalances vary across countries depending on peace, political stability, and the influence of customary and religious traditions versus formal institutions.





Existing situation

- Forest degradation and deforestation place an additional burden on women, increasing distances to forest resources.
- Women play a significant role in conservation work to recover from forest degradation and deforestation.
- Information on gender policy and legal environment is provided for all countries studied, but data on division of forest management labor vary.
- Forest management is sometimes covered under agriculture, making it challenging to compare gender data across studies.





Proposed guidelines

- Based on Nzunda 2022, we the proposed guidelines are:
- Present **gender considerations** in forest management, including **ownership, access to land, distribution of labor, and types of forest products harvested.**
- Strive for **more gender-balanced access** to and **ownership of land and forest resources** to improve **women's access to financial resources.**
- **Promote peace and political stability** to increase **gender balance** in forest management.
- **Discourage customary and religious traditions and formal institutions** that perpetuate **gender imbalances.**





Proposed guidelines

- Prevent, stop, and reduce forest degradation and deforestation to improve gender balance.
- Strive for gender balance in conservation efforts to recover from forest degradation and deforestation.
- Provide information on gender policy and legal environment in forest management documents.
- Separate gender information related to forest management from agriculture, recognizing the unique features of forestry.
- Establish a standard format for reporting gender considerations in forest management to facilitate comparability across studies.





References

- 1. Nzunda, E.F. 2022. Assessment of forest planning and management in different forest types in selected African countries. AFF Working Paper. African Forest Forum, Nairobi





THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

