



African Union
Commission



African Development
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Economic Commission
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ClimDev-Africa

REDD++ AND GENDER IN AFRICA

Terhas Hagos



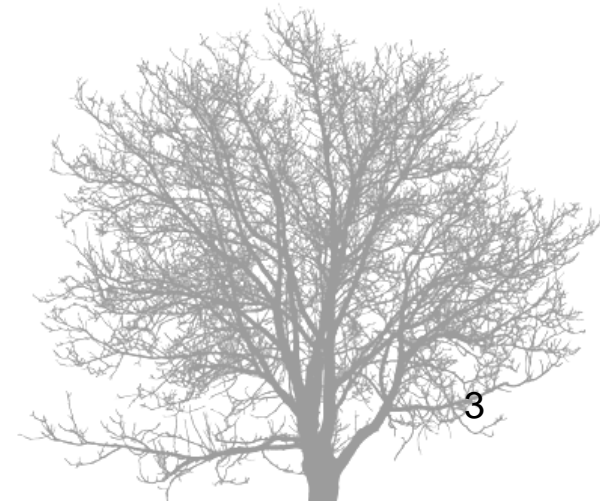
Introduction

- REDD will be crucial to address adverse effects from climate change, because as much as a quarter of all GHG emissions stem from deforestation and forest degradation, making land cover change the second largest contributor to global warming.
- Although the Bali Action Plan called for an agreement on REDD, it has become a matter of controversy; since carbon trading is critically approached by many observers for fear of the corrosion of the traditional rights of indigenous peoples. Indigenous rights are crucial since forests are home to around 300 million forest-dwelling peoples worldwide and due to the importance of forest products.
- Women's role is crucial as it is recognised that women rarely have legal tenure or ownership rights over forests and thus it is argued that “these facts on the ground have to be taken into account in a comprehensive gender assessment of possible impacts, policies and compensation structures”



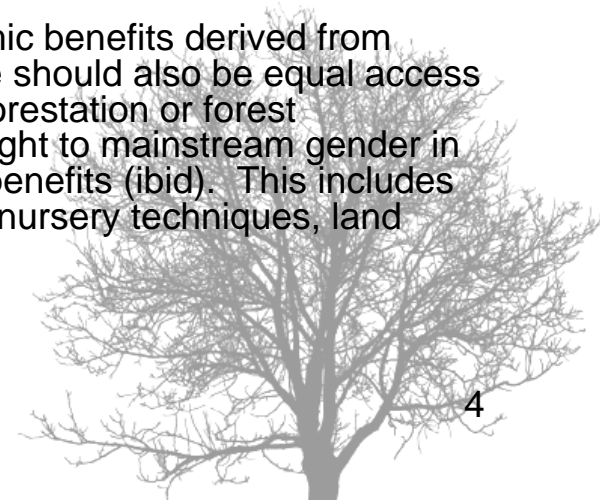
Findings

- There is a knowledge gap and lack of statistical data on the role of women in forestry which handicaps policy planning and means women's contribution is “undervalued and under-reported” (FAO, 2007b).
- The need to start mobilising the women's organisations to get involved in REDD, facilitating the building of networks on gender and REDD, as well as developing guidelines on how to integrate gender into REDD guidelines and lobbying for the inclusion of women's interests.
- Many of the Gender Strategies needed in REDD projects are **just good development** and not only specific to REDD. However REDD gives excuses **to look again** at things people have been ignoring for ages.



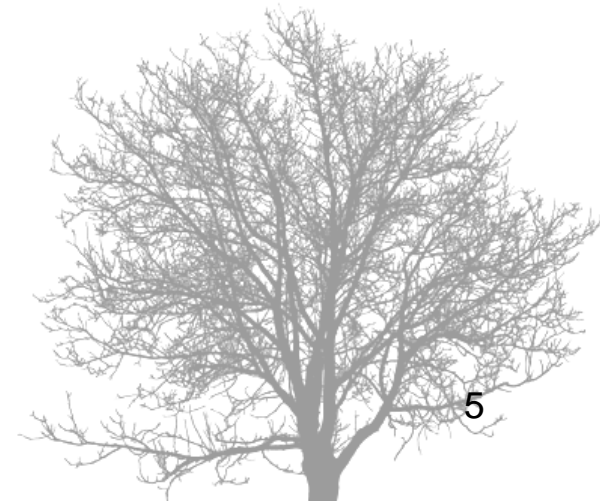
Recommendations

- Full participation and integration of women in policy design as well as implementation in local indigenous communities must be ensured. A gender perspective should therefore be included in existing international standards and guidelines on REDD to ensure that women have equal access to REDD benefits.
- 'Gender mainstreaming tools' including gender analysis, gender differentiated data and “gender-sensitive participatory tools” should be used in projects to assess and include women's perspectives. Thus mainstreaming of gender across all “readiness components” is recommended; in:-
 - (1) monitoring indicators
 - (2) payment structuring
 - (3) benefit sharing arrangements
 - (4) stakeholder participation processes.
- There should be “equitable access to, and distribution of, the economic benefits derived from forest services” which are provided to mitigate climate change. There should also be equal access to the rights to land ownership. Hence, projects for afforestation, reforestation or forest preservation that receive payments for ecosystem services (PES) ought to mainstream gender in the design and implementation of projects, as well as distribution of benefits (ibid). This includes equal training for women and men in techniques for forestry such as nursery techniques, land preparation, planting and maintenance.



Practical issues to be implemented

- Barriers to women's equitable involvement need to be addressed in order gender and REDD related goals to be achieved.
- Women's networks ought to be able to participate in REDD consultations and have information and transparency.
- Monitoring and evaluation systems ought to include a gender target or assessment of the inclusion of women in the program.
- REDD standards and safeguards are useful entry point.



Thank you

Contact details:

Email:- terhasina@hotmail.co.uk
terhasina@gmail.com

