



## Forests and SDG5: Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls UNFF12, Tuesday 2 May 2017

Reducing gender inequalities in the forest sector and mainstreaming gender issues in the implementation of sustainable forest management



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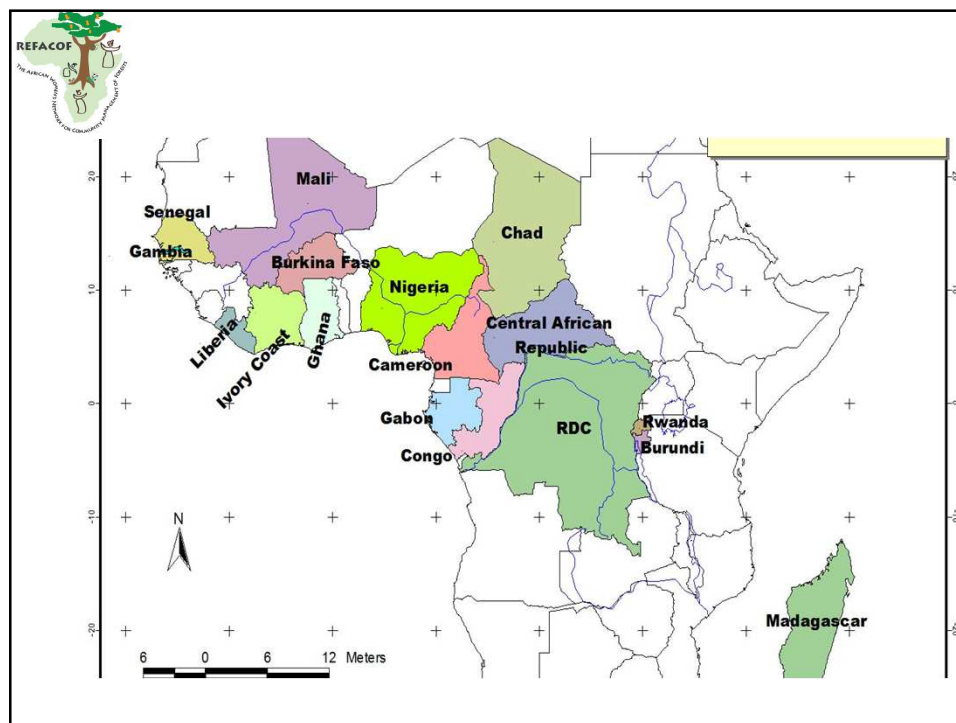


## The African women's Network for community management of forests (REFACOF)

- Moto: **Securing Women's Forest and Land Property Rights!**
- Created in May 2009 in Yaoundé, Cameroon
- Composed of 17 West and Central African countries and Madagascar
- REFACOF is **an advocacy platform** focused on African women's **tenure rights** in land and forest reforms

**Mission:**

- Promote women's rights in Africa and advocate to shape policies and practices for gender equity in relation to land and forest tenure
- 4 strategic pillars: Capacity building, Tenure reforms, Advocacy and Experience sharing





## Why does gender matter in the forest sector?

### What is Gender?

•We understand Gender as:

- Issues that focus on women and on the relationship between men and women, their roles, access to and control over resources, division of labour, interests and needs.
- Culturally and socially constructed difference between men and women that varies from place to place and time to time.

### What is Gender equality?

•Gender equality is achieved when women and men enjoy the same rights and opportunities across all sectors of society, including economic participation and decision-making, and when the different behaviours, aspirations and needs of women and men are equally valued and favoured.



## Why does gender matter in the forest sector?

- The World population by Gender 2012 from UN Population Division shows: Men: **50.4%** and Women: **49.6%**
- In most Sub Sahara African countries women represent **more than half** of the total population:
  - Cameroon: Female **50,53%** and Male 49,47%
  - Kenya: Female **50.1%** and Male 49.9%
  - Ghana: Female 49.1% and Male **50.9%**
  - Nigeria: Female 49.4% and Male **50.6%**
  - Ethiopia: Female **50.2%** and Male 49.8%
  - Tchad: Female **50.3%** and Male 49.7%
  - Senegal: Female **50.4%** and Male 49.6%



## Why does gender matter in the forest sector? (2)

- **Women in forest-related sectors:**

- Agricultural production: 60-70% of food production done by women
- Agriculture manpower: 60-70% is female
- NTFP exploitation: 80% controlled by women
- Women lives depend on forests and forest resources: food, firewood, water, soil, fodder, medicine, agricultural activities, ...



## Why does gender matter in the forest sector? (3)

- Women contribute very much to sustainable management of forests and ecosystems conservation: restoration, rehabilitation of degraded forest areas, reforestation, ...
- The Women's role in combatting climate change is proven to be very effective across countries and continents, ..
- ***Mainstreaming Gender is therefore so important to achieving sustainable use of forest resources and forest conservation:***
  - It will improve the management and governance of forests
  - It will improve the lives of local people, of the countries and that of the world's poor men and women



## Reducing gender inequalities and mainstreaming gender in the forest sector: Key issues

- Put in place political, legal and regulatory enabling environment that will address structural gender disparities and inequalities
- Promote access to productive resources and services and to adequate infrastructure for women
- Support women's full participation and leadership in decision-making processes
- Develop dedicated funding mechanisms to support women and gender activities



## Key issues (2)

- Train the general public, the youth, Program officers, Government staff, private sector, CSO, ... in Gender and gender-related concepts, tools and techniques
- Introduce Gender to the curriculum from primary school to build a gender-sensitive generation
- Involve Men, work with Men
- Build strategic partnership with Male Champions! And the private sector!
- Mobilize funding for Gender activities and get Gender implemented in the field!



### Key issues (3)

- Let's move from passive participation to active engagement for Gender equality!!
- Achieving Gender equality in the forest sector is a Must for sustainable management of forests!!



### Possible entry points

- Paris Agreement
- SDG's
- UN Strategic Plan on Forests
- **Start the implementation!! Stop talking!!**

 REFACOF  
Région de l'Est et du Centre-Ouest  
Association pour le Développement Rural

**Thank you for your attention!**

