

# Gender-responsive Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM)

## Engendering national forest landscape restoration assessments

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### Key messages

- ▶ There are many entry points for mainstreaming gender throughout the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM).
- ▶ Conducting a gender analysis when implementing ROAM is necessary to reduce the risk of exacerbating existing gender inequalities.
- ▶ Gender-responsive forest landscape restoration assessment processes contribute to women's empowerment and gender quality outcomes, across sectors.

### Introduction

The forest landscape restoration (FLR) approach focuses on regaining ecological functionality and enhancing human well-being across deforested or degraded lands. It is a forward-looking and dynamic approach that strengthens landscape resilience while creating opportunities to optimise ecosystem goods and services to meet livelihood needs. The equitable and active involvement of all stakeholders in FLR decision making, goal setting and implementation is fundamental. In FLR, people's rights to land and resources must be respected, while understanding that equitable benefit-sharing between women and men is limited by persistent gender inequalities in the access to and control of resources.

To guide assessment teams through FLR planning, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the World Resources Institute (WRI) developed the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) (IUCN and WRI 2014). ROAM assists countries in identifying opportunities and priority areas for restoration and in designing and implementing FLR interventions.

To ensure these interventions - including in national strategies, policy uptake and land-use planning - are gender-responsive, the IUCN Gender Global Office (GGO) ensures developed relevant guidelines.

### The Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) through a gender lens

The design process for creating a gender-responsive ROAM methodology took place in two phases. In the first phase, gender specialists and FLR experts from various institutions attended a workshop with forest ministry representatives to review and propose actions to include in the ROAM methodology. Identified actions include:

- conducting a gender analysis to identify the root causes of existing gender inequalities or obstacles to women's empowerment
- equitable and active participation throughout the FLR process
- designing objectives to improve women's rights and empowerment
- employing gender indicators in monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

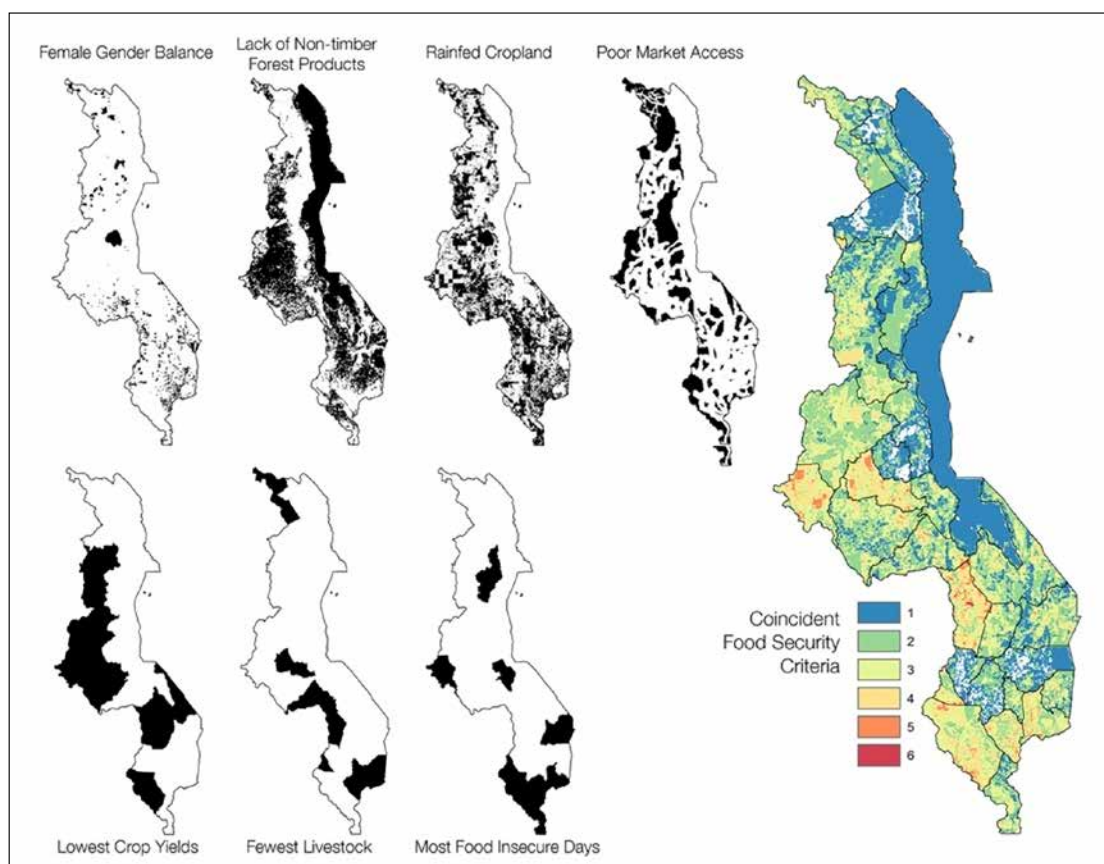
In the second phase, the ROAM methodology was carried out and tailored to national conditions in countries across sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America. In each country, IUCN worked with national governments to host pre-inception workshops on gender and FLR linkages, bringing together representatives from government ministries (gender, forestry and agriculture), women’s organisations, academia and environmental organisations. At each workshop, participants learned of the entry points to mainstream gender in FLR, as well as the risks of ignoring gender dimensions. Risks discussed included the limited sustainability and effectiveness of restoration measures and outcomes, in addition to the overall limited impact of improved livelihoods. Furthermore, country established a gender task force to gather information and contribute to developing a national assessment, such as through stocktaking and mapping, economic and finance analysis, and policy and institution review.

In each country, IUCN, with the support of each gender task force, conducted a gender analysis to identify the root causes of existing gender inequalities and barriers to gender equality in both the local and national contexts. In Malawi for example, national data on gender and socio-

*A gender analysis* is a tool to identify root causes of existing gender inequalities or obstacles to women’s empowerment within local contexts at the landscape level. This is done by examining the differences between the roles that women and men play in forest communities and societies; the different levels of power they hold; their different needs, constraints and opportunities; and the impact of these differences on their livelihoods. A gender analysis can also identify potential impacts and/or risks of gender-based exclusion that could result from planned strategies and activities - such as reducing women’s access to forest resources.

economic issues, such as access to markets, food security and population density, overlaid with sex-disaggregated population statistics, were collected for the first time. As a result, a multi-criteria map (Figure 1) was developed to highlight areas for prioritising food security interventions, including the areas where women could be specifically targeted for enhanced impact.

In developing a gender-responsive National Landscape Restoration Assessment (NLRs) for each



**Figure 1: Multi-criteria analysis to highlight areas for prioritising food security interventions in Malawi**

(Source: IUCN 2017)

This map shows the geographic frequency of overlap among various vulnerabilities with areas where there is a higher ratio of women-headed households (as represented in the graphic as Female Gender Balance). Darkened areas represent the density of studied criteria and vulnerabilities. The multi-coloured map shows the areas wherein the various criteria and vulnerabilities are concentrated.

country, certain enabling conditions contributed to facilitating a gender-responsive approach. Access to funding to carry out all activities, particularly the local training workshops and the opportunity to gather data and experience from local women, proved to be invaluable. National governments' willingness to participate in the trainings and attendees' readiness to apply their new knowledge in their work contributes to delivering gender-inclusive FLR processes.

The following table is a selection of 'gender golden procedures', a checklist of effective approaches for gender-responsive FLR results:

**Table 1. Examples of the 'gender golden procedures' for FLR assessments**

Women are empowered and leading as major stakeholders	Identify potential groups (NGOs, government officials)
	Ensure women's participation in all events organised by the project
	Build the capacity of women to empower them and ensure meaningful participation
Capturing the success stories of women in restoration, analysing impact and monitoring	Document and systematise success stories as part of monitoring and evaluation
	Elaborate gender indicators to show impact on women and men
All policies or related operational documents (national, sub-national) must be gender-responsive	Establish an advocacy group on gender
	Gender specialist of working groups provides inputs
	Circulate to national gender/women's experts/ advocacy groups (gender focal point at ministries)

Source: IUCN 2017

## Recommendations

- Women can be empowered in the design and implementation of FLR processes by:
  - Identifying the country-specific cultural and gender-related barriers women face to equitable participation and benefit-sharing;
  - Implementing leadership capacity-building trainings where women can share knowledge, develop skills, and learn about their rights; and
  - Developing incentives and actions for women to implement FLR practices without increasing their labour burdens.
- Practitioners should collect sex-disaggregated data and employ gender indicators during the development of the Assessments and the application of the ROAM guidelines.
- Policy makers should consider existing national cross-sectoral policies (i.e. National Biodiversity Strategies and Adaptation Plans (NBSAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), national forestry policies and national gender policies) to recognise the linkages across sectors and to design tailor interventions that respond to women's needs in relation to food security, water, energy access and livelihood needs.
- Policy makers in the environment sectors should increase their capacity to understand the linkages between gender and FLR by:
  - Developing ministerial gender policies and action plans;
  - Hosting trainings on methodologies and tools on how to mainstream gender;
  - Designating a gender focal point for each ministry; and
  - Liaising with ministries of gender/women's affairs.



Women focus group consultation done by Tangu Tumeo, Department of Forestry Malawi (Photo by J. Siles)

## References

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and World Resources Institute (WRI). 2014. *A guide to the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM): Assessing forest landscape restoration opportunities at the national or sub-national level*. Working paper (road-test edition). Gland, Switzerland: IUCN and WRI. At <https://www.iucn.org/theme/forests/our-work/forest-landscape-restoration/restoration-opportunities-assessment-methodology-ream>

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### About this brief series: Lessons for gender-responsive landscape restoration

Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) aims to achieve ecological integrity and enhance human well-being in deforested or degraded landscapes. Evidence shows that addressing gender equality and women's rights is critical for addressing this dual objective. Against this backdrop, CIFOR and a number of partners hosted a Global Landscapes Forum workshop on FLR and gender equality in Nairobi, Kenya in November 2017. The objective of the workshop was to identify and discuss experiences, opportunities and challenges to advancing gender-responsive FLR in East African countries, as well as to join together various stakeholders working at the interface of gender and FLR as a community of practice. This brief set is a tangible outcome of this collaboration, featuring a number of useful lessons and recommendations rooted in the experience and expertise of partners in civil society, multilateral organizations, research community and private sector – all working in different ways to enhance the gender-responsiveness of restoration efforts.

**The Global Landscapes Forum (GLF)** is the world's largest knowledge-led multi-sectoral platform for integrated land use, bringing together world leaders, scientists, private sector representatives, farmers and community leaders and civil society to accelerate action towards the creation of more resilient, equitable, profitable, and climate-friendly landscapes.



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