



**The landscape of
gender research
at CIFOR
2013–current**

A selection of published,
to-be-published
and ongoing research





Gender implications of forest product value chains in the Congo Basin

As part of CIFOR's research project in West and Central Africa funded by the European Commission and the Common Fund for Commodities, this study analyses value chains of 13 non-timber forest products (NTFPs) from a gender perspective in the Congo Basin (Cameroon, DRC and Gabon). The major objective of the study are to: (i) explore gender relations in the NTFP value chains; (ii) identify benefits accruing to men and women in NTFP value chains originating in the Congo Basin and (iii) assess if and how interventions in the chains impact gender roles and benefits, and the opportunities and constraints to enhancing women's economic empowerment. The research methods included 8000 interviews, 61 focus group interviews, 7 situation/problem analysis workshops and participatory action research with honey, *Prunus africana*, fuelwood and charcoal actors.

The results of the study suggest that while NTFPs constitute an important income source for both women and men, women tend to harvest more for domestic consumption while men sell a larger share of their harvest. Men are overrepresented in harvesting and exporting of products of higher economic value; they participate more as the products increase in value, (male appropriation of resources) especially in instances when customary rules govern tenure and access, and they often profit more from the value chains. Women tend to support more household members with the revenue they get from NTFPs. The factors that prevent women from increasing their share of benefits from participating in these value chains include lack of customary ownership of trees, male appropriation of economically viable products, and difficulties in accessing credit.

Some of the policy guidance of the study includes:

- recognizing women's and men's roles in various value chains for targeted and effective interventions;
- supporting women to cultivate currently overharvested NTFPs;
- addressing customary gender norms preventing women's ownership of resources;
- supporting collective action in order to strengthen women's bargaining power;
- improving value-adding opportunities;
- providing women with access to credit.

To learn more about this project, contact Verina Ingram, v.ingram@cgiar.org

Ingram V, Schure J, Chupezi Tieguhong J, Ousseynou N, Awono A, Midoko Iponga D. 2014. In *Forests, Trees and Livelihoods*, 23(1–2):67–86. DOI: 10.1080/14728028.2014.887610

Published



Importance, determinants and gender dimensions of forest income in eastern highlands of Ethiopia

The case of communities around Jelo Afromontane Forest

Rural households across developing countries rely on diversified sources of income, and forest resources play an important role. This study was designed to assess the contribution of forests to the annual income of rural households and to identify its determinants using the case of Jelo Afromontane Forest in eastern Ethiopia. It also examined the gender dimensions of forest income, and how this income varies with the socioeconomic status of households. Key informant interviews, focus-group discussions and a household-based questionnaire survey were used to collect data.

The study's main findings include the following:

- On average, income from crop production accounted for 40.7% of the total annual household

income. Forest income was second in importance, contributing 32.6%.

- Fuelwood was the most used forest product and constituted the largest proportion (79%) of the total forest income. The contribution of forest income to the total household income varied significantly ($P < 0.05$) with wealth category.
- Forest income was more important for poor households (47.3%) than for medium (30.5%) or rich (20.2%) households. It was also more important for female-headed households (58.2%) than for male-headed households (29%).
- Female household members generated about four times more forest income (77% of the household forest income) than male members (23%). The gender of the household head ($P < 0.01$) and distance to the forest ($P < 0.05$) were the two

variables that significantly affected forest income out of the eight explanatory variables considered in the regression model.

Policies aimed at promoting new forest management arrangement such as participatory forest management (PFM) in Jelo Forest needs to consider the major forest users and the types of products they depend on; they should be accompanied with other poverty reduction measures so that improved forest conservation outcomes will not have negative consequences on local livelihoods, particularly on the poor and women, who depend most on the forest.

To learn more about this project, contact Habtemariam Kassa, h.kassa@cgiar.org



Asfaw A, Lemenih M, Kassa H, Ewnetu Z. 2013. In *Forest Policy and Economics* 28:1–7.
DOI: 10.1016/j.forpol.2013.01.005



Women's participation in forest management

A cross-country analysis

The paper examines what determines women's participation in forestry institutions and the effects of women's participation on institutional outcomes (particularly on levels of conflict and fairness of rules). The paper draws on a theoretical framework developed by Bina Agarwal (2001) which suggests that the following six factors explain women's participation in forest governance: (i) rules that exclude entry of women into the participatory process; (ii) social norms such as segregation, division of labor or gendered biases; (iii) social preferences that give more weight to men's participation than women's; (iv) entrenched claims by men who are hesitant to give power to women; (v) few personal endowments of property or social networks that would allow effective participation from women, and; (vi) household endowments or attributes that prevent effective participation (such as caste position or social status). The analysis

is based on a detailed household survey conducted with 1433 households in Bolivia, Kenya, Mexico and Uganda and a more aggregated data set from forest associations investigated by the International Forestry Resources and Institutions (IFRI) program in 10 countries.

The results show that women's participation is likely when institutions exist that are less exclusionary, when households have more education, and when there is a low level of economic inequality in general and across genders in particular. The study found that a history of women's participation, especially when women are seated on forest councils or hold leadership positions, is correlated with less disruptive conflicts.

At the individual level, the data implies a need to increase women's access to

education and skills. At a more aggregated level, institutional support to reduce the gender gap is necessary. Supply-side interventions that target gender bias in selection of council members and their leaders can help to increase the proportion of women serving in councils and as leaders. However, because barriers may originate from discriminatory attitudes and practices that are rooted in cultural norms (and not only the design of institutions), the provision of training, skills, and information for both men and women may be required.

However, the multiple pathways through which women's participation may translate into better institutional, economic and social outcomes for women in forestry settings still require more attention and empirical verification.

To learn more about this project, contact Esther Mwangi, e.mwangi@cgiar.org

Coleman EA and Mwangi E. 2013. In *Global Environmental Change* 23:193–205.
DOI: 10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2012.10.005

Published



Challenging perceptions about men, women and forest-product use

A global comparative study

Sunderland T, Achdiawan R, Angelsen A, Babigumira R, Ickowitz A, Paumgarten F, Reyes-Garcia V and Shively G. 2014. In *World Development* 64(S1):S56–S66.
DOI: 10.1016/j.worlddev.2014.03.003

Published

This study is a product of the CIFOR-led Poverty and Environment Network (PEN). PEN is a collaborative global project investigating the linkages between forests and livelihoods. It collected and analyzed socioeconomic and environmental household-level data from 8000 households in 24 countries in Africa, Asia and South America.

The literature in gender and forestry is dominated by broad generalizations stating that men generally manage and use high-value cash crops, while women focus more on subsistence agriculture and forest product collection, primarily for consumption or other subsistence use. In addition, women are often believed to lack access rights to natural resources, and collect mainly under common property tenure regimes. There is also an accepted assumption

that women possess limited decision-making opportunities. Using the household-level data generated by PEN, the research team analyzed gender differences in the access to forest products, collection and sale of forest products, as well as in community forest management, and came to some surprising conclusions.

While the generalization that women are the primary collectors of forest products seem to be true in Africa, data from South America indicates men dominate the collection of almost all processed and unprocessed forest products. In Asia, the burden seems to be shared quite evenly between men and women. The study shows that both sexes seem to collect predominantly for subsistence, and that men's share and diversity of collected products is in fact generally higher than that of women's.

In Africa, men utilized common property tenure regimes to a greater extent than women, and in South America, men dominated markets for forest products. We hope to challenge some of the conventional wisdom and generalities about gender roles in forestry and thus contribute to a more nuanced debate on the theme – gendered differences in forestry are not due to universal gender norms, but are rather highly contextual.

To learn more about this project, contact Terry Sunderland, t.sunderland@cgiar.org

For more info about the Poverty and Environment Network, visit the PEN website: <http://www1.cifor.org/pen>



The balance of power in household decision-making

Encouraging news on gender in southern Sulawesi

Women are often portrayed as homemakers and passive victims of gendered oppression in the literature on gender, forestry and agroforestry. Earlier studies aimed at including women in development have to some extent fed into this bias, focusing largely on women's contributions in the productive, traditionally 'male-coded' spheres, rather than appreciating women's roles in the reproductive, private spheres. This paper aims to examine the 'experienced involvement of women and men in decision-making in management of natural resources, and especially within the household'. To capture the gender dynamics at play, 15 male and 15 female respondents (not married to each other or part of the local elite) were chosen. The authors tried to replicate existing ethnic variation in the research population. Five study sites were chosen across south and southeast Sulawesi. The data was originally collected in order to provide indicators of change over time, working together with communities towards locally defined goals. To complement the participatory and survey work, the

authors reviewed social science literature on the research areas. This allowed them to critically assess global theories in the light of the local contexts, especially with regard to traditional Southeast Asian gender roles.

The respondents were asked to rank their level of involvement in decisions about food production and consumption; money management; life changes (e.g. choice of partner); and to describe their attitudes towards domestic violence. With some regional variation, the authors found that men seemed to dominate decision-making on upland fields and orchards, while women had a strong voice in the use of home gardens and food choices. Women also seem to dominate financial management, as it is an area that is traditionally disvalued by men. Income generation is broadly considered to be a right of both genders, while decision-making power about life changes varies regionally. In many cases it is not determined by gender, but by other hierarchical structures found within the families or in the communities. Both

men and women generally disapproved of domestic violence (even when it was broadly defined).

These findings imply that strong female voices in local decision-making can be found, making a case for a meaningful inclusion of women in landscape- and national level decision-making. This would require men to take more responsibility within the household, thus breaking down the gendered public/private dichotomy. Communication of results and discussion of alternatives with end users are crucial for the attitudinal change needed. Interestingly, of the groups studied, the least economically sophisticated were among the most inclusive in terms of decision-making. These systems need more attention in further research in order to both increase our general understanding as well as to do no harm.

To learn more about this project, contact Carol Colfer, c.colfer@cgiar.org

Colfer CJP, Achadiawan R, Roshetko JM, Mulyoutami E, Yuliani L, Mulyana A, Moeliono M, Adnan H, Erni. 2015. In *World Development* 76:147-164.
DOI: 10.1016/j.worlddev.2015.06.008

Published



The role of women in early REDD+ implementation

Lessons for future engagement

While the potential of REDD+ to help or harm forest-based communities has been widely discussed among researchers and practitioners, the authors of this soon-to-be published article argue that less attention has been devoted to potential gendered implications of the program. Based on research in 69 villages in 18 REDD+ sites across five countries (Brazil, Cameroon, Indonesia, Tanzania and Vietnam), the research focused on the following main questions: (i) Do women have a voice in decision-making in villages at REDD+ project sites in the sample? (ii) How do women use and manage forests and to what extent do they participate in forest rule-making?; and (iii) How do REDD+ project proponents address women's interests and how does knowledge of REDD+ project vary between women and men?

The research drew on gender-disaggregated data from village surveys and separate focus-group discussion with women and men to elicit data on perceptions of women's participation in community decision-making, use of forest products and knowledge of REDD+ processes at the planning stages of REDD+.

Some of the major findings of the study were as follows:

- The representation on village committees did not reflect the general perception about participation and influence in the village. Overall, the average share of women in the main decision-making body was 17%. And yet 61% of the participants agreed that women were sufficiently represented in important village decision-making bodies, 64% agreed that they were usually able to influence village decisions and 79% agreed that women participated actively in meetings. Across the 68 villages with a functioning main decision-making body, the degree to which women perceived themselves, as a group, to be sufficiently represented in the body was positively, but only weakly, correlated (0.17) with the share of women in the body. Further, the share of women that agreed that they were able to influence village decisions when they wanted to, was not correlated (0.03) with the share of women in the body.
 - There was no clear relationship between women's participation in forest-use decisions and how women and men used the forest. The data suggest that women were not included in forest resource decision-making, even when they went into the forest as much, or more often than men, with the exception of Cameroon.
 - There were fewer women with a basic understanding of REDD+ across the research sites and women's access to information on REDD+ lagged behind men's. Women's involvement was limited to participating in meetings or training sessions. Women played limited or no role in clarifying land rights, carbon monitoring and rule enforcement.
- The researchers conclude that promoting women's participation alone is insufficient and that REDD+ initiatives must explore the ways in which men and women differ with regard to key processes related to REDD+ implementation in their respective sites. This includes household and village decision-making, management of land and natural resources, and information dissemination. This information will be crucial in ensuring that REDD+ implementation on the ground can lead to the effective engagement of men and women, encouraging greater awareness and understanding of gender and forests, and laying the groundwork for community empowerment and informed participation in REDD+.

To learn more about this project, contact Anne Larson, a.larson@cgjar.org

Larson AM, Dokken T, Duchelle A, Atmadja S, Resosudarmo IAP, Cronkleton P, Cromberg M, Sunderlin W, Awono A and Selaya G. 2015. In *International Forestry Review* 17(1):43–65. DOI: 10.1505/146554815814725031

Published



Social impacts of oil palm in Indonesia

A gendered perspective from West Kalimantan

The growth of the oil palm industry has had both positive and negative effects on the livelihoods of different social groups in Indonesia. Drawing upon the research of Tania Li in West Kalimantan, this paper applies a gendered perspective to oil palm development, identifying the winners and losers among the actors in this sector. After disaggregating by gender, age, migrant status and labor arrangements, the study found that power disparities were especially prevalent among smallholders, women and plantation laborers. First, smallholders' income stability and ability to manage their land was dependent on their access to land, roads, rubber gardens and capital or credit. Local Dayak and Malay smallholders were more likely than Javanese transmigrants to have access to supports such as capital and credit; they were less vulnerable to price shifts in palm oil and rice. Second, women in all of the smallholder groups were excluded from land ownership and active participation in co-ops. While Malay and Dayak women had equal inheritance rights to land, their titles were usually lost through reregistration of plots in transmigration schemes. Failure to include women in co-ops was due to both cultural and bureaucratic tendencies to view men as heads of households. Finally, labor policies enacted by oil palm plantations were divided according to gender and ethnicity, relegating landless Malay and Dayak women to lower-paid, casual work, while migrant Javanese men were favored for contracted jobs. Both these trends increased the pressure on women to serve as household caretakers while their husbands and sons migrated to find work. Overall, the study depicts an industry in

which oil palm plantation owners make large profits by exploiting smallholder farmers and the landless, particularly women, ethnic minorities and migrants.

Based on these findings, Li presents four main recommendations for the Indonesian Government, civil society and scientific organizations:

1. **Policy options for palm oil expansion should be reviewed.** This could include decentralization of plantation licensing to provincial and district governments and allocation of funds for rural infrastructure and smallholder supports. Empowering marginalized groups will require strong advocacy to protect social and economic rights, especially those of women. To address the lack of research on the social impact of oil palm, researchers could use existing data on health, education and income to compare outcomes for women and men in various oil palm farming models.
2. **Recognition and restitution of customary land rights should be strengthened.** Communities need the legal capacity to accept or reject proposed plantation expansions. Women's land rights and presence in land-use negotiations must be established and reinforced. Groups advocating for indigenous people and land reform can play a key role in preventing land grabs and creating alternatives to plantation structures. Researchers can contribute to these alternatives by piloting different land distribution approaches.

3. **Smallholder support programs should be reviewed, upgraded and extended.** Smallholders already locked into deals with plantations need greater transparency over their agreements; correcting the power imbalance between plantations and smallholders requires strong government oversight. Women should receive land titles, leadership roles and direct payments wherever possible. New smallholder support schemes should expand profitable crop options and be monitored by civil society groups. Researchers should document the experiences of smallholders in plantation and independent schemes, and in pilot schemes that have an equity focus, disaggregating by gender, ethnicity and occupation.
4. **Plantation working conditions should be improved.** The government should better enforce labor laws to eliminate discrimination by gender and ethnicity, ensure that wages reach the minimum wage and supply sufficient housing, education, health, safety, disability, maternity and pension provisions. These rights are especially crucial for women, ethnic minorities and households fragmented by migration. Rebuilding and supporting plantation workers' unions will help bring these labor issues to public attention, as will research that investigates the working conditions, job displacement, palm oil value chains and their impacts on women and casual workers.

To learn more about this project, contact Tania Li, tania.li@utoronto.ca



Women and men in tropical dry forests

A preliminary review

This review brings together two topics that are receiving increasing attention in forestry research: recognition of gender issues in development and the needs of communities dependent on tropical dry forests. From ~130 selected publications that focused on both dry forests and gender, Colfer et al. identified seven recurring themes in the literature. These trends were not mutually exclusive or without contradictions but they revealed broad and informative patterns.

First, **population pressures** pose a threat to the already limited resources available in dry forests (compared to humid forests). This strain may trigger conflicts and changes in farming systems that disenfranchise women. Population pressures are closely linked to **migration**, the second theme this review highlights. This usually appears as male outmigration, resulting in household women having increased labor burdens. As these women take on previously male-dominated activities, their autonomy and decision-making power may increase, but not always. Third, **gender-based conflict** appears with striking frequency in both dry and humid forest literature, but conflict in dry forest environments tends to occur on a smaller scale, such as within households and communities. Often, domestic

violence toward women relates to men's reassertion of their masculinity and dominance, which they view as threatened by forest resource scarcity. Fourth, **social hierarchies** in dry forest communities, especially those based on age and caste, significantly affect power relations between men and women. Fifth, **gender differentiation** is often strict and explicit, including designations of men's and women's crops and exclusion of women from leadership positions. Sixth, the **commercialization of crops and forest products** tends to bypass and displace women in dry forests. Crops cultivated by men for profit may supplant women's crops produced for household consumption or traditional female products may become male-dominated when they gain economic value. The final theme concerns the specific forest product of **fuelwood**, which is widely collected by women. Women's responsibility for collecting fuelwood also affects household diet (depending on which foods take longer and thus more fuel, to cook) and constrains women's already limited time.

In addition to these common themes, the review highlights four approaches to

reduce gender inequalities in dry forest contexts. First, focusing on women's groups and collective action allows women to strengthen their existing capabilities while accessing networks and resources. Group-based approaches also reach more women (than individual approaches) and lay the groundwork for improving communications and relations between women and men. Second, traditional gender norms should be explicitly challenged. Stereotypes of masculine and feminine roles harm both women and men and changing these entrenched social constraints requires focused action. Third, a focus on the fields and products of interest to women, such as non timber forest products (NTFPs), fuelwood and home gardens, can help counteract the neglect and usurpation of women's economic activities. Finally, the closely linked issues of migration and population pressures can be addressed by limiting land grabs and male outmigration and strengthening women's rights to land, credit and family planning resources.

To learn more about this project, contact Carol Colfer, c.colfer@cgiar.org



Colfer CJP, Elias M and Jamnadass R. 2015. In *International Forestry Review* 17(S2):70–90.
DOI: 10.1505/146554815815834877



Preparing the ground for better landscape governance

Gendered realities in southern Sulawesi



Colfer CJP, Achdiawan R, Adnan H, Moeliono M, Mulyana A, Mulyoutami E, Roshetko JM, Yuliani L, Balang and LepMil. 2015. In *Forests, Trees and Livelihoods* 24(1):59–83. DOI: 10.1080/14728028.2014.951002.

In order to better promote effective and equitable landscape governance, this study aimed to understand the gendered social dynamics that affect community decision-making and politics in south and southeast Sulawesi. Surveyors in five communities asked both women and men to self-assess their community involvement (e.g. awareness of, participation in and leadership of meetings) and public decision-making skills (e.g. negotiating, self-confidence and leading groups). Survey results, in combination with ethnographic insights, revealed both community strengths that could fuel more equitable governance, as well as problems that may warrant community discussion.

Strengths:

- While women reported less involvement and fewer skills than men, these differences were often statistically insignificant. Women's relatively high status and capabilities should be a source of pride and foster greater empowerment.
- Communities in southeast Sulawesi reported higher political skills than those in south Sulawesi. Recognizing

the relative egalitarianism of these communities could help elevate a currently marginalized ethnic group.

- Women in south Sulawesi can wield influence through their roles in negotiating marriages and organizing weddings. Recognizing the skills women demonstrate through these experiences could lead to broader political empowerment of women.
- Many cultures in Southeast Asia place high value on the brother-sister relationships between men and women (in contrast to the high status of husband-wife relationships in the West). These strong sibling-based kinship networks could be the basis of more cohesive governance groups.

Problems:

- There were high rates of gender differentiation in multiethnic communities, which could be improved by better communications between ethnic groups with different gender norms.
- Language used by the Bugis ethnic

group reinforced the marginalization of Bugis women.

- The Bugis-Makassar ethnic group have a concept of 'white blood' that suggests some individuals (usually men) are inherently better suited for leadership. This belief undermines true democracy and silences potential leaders.
- The Bugis-Makassar also hold a set of beliefs known as siri which perpetuates stereotypes about women's supposed obedience, timidity and passivity and links honor to virginity.

One way to partially address the above concerns is through sensitively facilitated group discussions.

As a general recommendation beyond Sulawesi, the paper urges development and conservation efforts to recognize the importance of including ethnographic insights when collaborating with local communities.

To learn more about this project, contact Carol Colfer, c.colfer@cgiar.org



Why would she? Polygyny and women's welfare in Ghana

Some scholars have suggested that polygynous marriages (those between one man and two or more women) can yield economic and social benefits to the household, as compared to monogamous unions. However, this study finds no evidence that polygynous marriages benefit women, based on microeconomic analysis of households in Ghana. The study considered three possible scenarios to explain why women would enter polygynous unions:

1. Polygynous households produce more food, thus women in these households enjoy greater wealth.
2. Women in polygynous households have a smaller labor burden because

they can share their workload with their co-wives.

3. Women in polygynous households are trapped in a social system of oppression.

The study found no evidence to support the first two hypotheses, as women in polygynous households did not enjoy greater consumption rates or leisure time. However, the results did show evidence to support the third hypothesis. Compared to monogamous unions, polygynous women were more likely to experience domestic violence, to believe that they deserved it and to come from households in which their mothers experienced domestic violence. They

were also less likely to have the power to make decisions over their own health and large household purchases.

While Ickowitz and Mohanty conclude that polygynous marriages do not benefit Ghanaian women, they also warn that the elimination of polygyny in Ghana alone does not preclude its replacement with another disempowering social structure. Efforts to end women's oppression must not only prevent polygyny, but also take other measures to increase women's empowerment.

To learn more about this project, contact Amy Ickowitz, a.ickowitz@cgjar.org

Ickowitz A and Mohanty L.
2015. In *Feminist Economics*
21(2):77–104.
DOI: 10.1080/13545701.2014.
992931.

Published



Does the gender composition of forest and fishery management groups affect resource governance and conservation outcomes

A systematic map protocol

There is a growing awareness that gender influences resource use and management. Several studies argue that empowering women in resource governance can lead to beneficial outcomes for resource sustainability and biodiversity conservation. Yet, how robust is the evidence to support this claim? Here, we focus on the forestry and fisheries sectors to answer the primary question: What is the evidence that the gender composition of forest and fishery management groups affects resource governance and conservation outcomes? We aim to produce a systematic map of the evidence highlighting, *inter alia*, the geographic distribution and quality of the evidence, the consistency and robustness of the findings and where further research is needed.

The search terms used to identify relevant articles were developed in an iterative process using the phraseology of the primary question, Boolean operators and a list of synonyms for each term. The search terms were used to identify relevant articles in CAB Abstracts, Scopus, AGRIS, AGRICOLA, Google Scholar and Google. A test library of 12 articles ensured that the search captured the relevant literature. Searches were conducted in English but were not restricted by publication date. The websites of 22 international organizations with a known interest in gender-related issues was screened for relevant documents.

The gender-focused researchers in large, conservation NGOs, the members of the poverty and conservation learning group and the members of the gender and environment working group were invited to submit relevant documents. The list of references of included articles was screened to identify other relevant articles in a 'backward snowballing' approach. The inclusion criteria were that an article

referred to: women or gender, forests or fisheries, a resource management group, a quantitative comparison and an environmental governance or biodiversity conservation outcome in a non-OECD country. A data extraction template with 27 variables was used to assess the included articles. The output was a narrative report with descriptive statistics and an evidence-gap map.



Leisher C, Temsah G, Booker G, Day M, Agarwal B, Matthews E, Roe D, Russell D, Samberg L, Sunderland T and Wilkie D. 2015. In *Environmental Evidence* 4(13). DOI: 10.1186/s13750-015-0039-2.

To learn more about this project, contact Terry Sunderland, t.sunderland@cgiar.org



Promoting women's participation in forest tenure reform processes in Odisha, India

The context of this study is the Forest Rights Act (FRA), passed in 2006 in India (that came into force in 2008), which legitimizes marginalized groups' access to ancestral forested lands, promotes collective management of forests and provides tribal and other groups with the option of pursuing individual and community-owned land titles through the establishment of claims committees. Complementing existing research on the *critical mass* of women in decision-making, this qualitative case study, conducted in four districts of the southeastern state of Odisha, examines: 'To what extent are critical actors and acts able to produce positive processes and outcomes for women in Odisha's forest tenure reform process?' Data collection took place at different intervals between February 2013 and March 2014 in the form of key individual interviews, focus-group discussions and participant observations. The units of analysis were the FRA claims committees, from the community level to the district level, which have a major stake in deciding which individuals and communities receive land-user rights.

The study finds that meaningful participation of women in the FRA claims committee process at the district, sub-divisional and village level was limited

due to the State dominated forest tenure reform process, patriarchal strongholds (especially at the community level), and continued patterns of tokenism in terms of female membership in the committees. Nevertheless, there are examples of better functioning FRA claims committees, especially at the village level, thanks to critical actors who consistently put women-friendly issues on the agenda and attempt to mobilize female committee members on a regular basis. Critical junctures such as the FRA amendment rules ensured that most FRC committees have one-third female membership exists; progressive leadership at the district magistrate level can create critical acts, leading to more positive FRA implementation outcomes for both men and women.

The study thus makes the following policy recommendations:

- At the national level, there is a need for another round of amendment rules to be issued, providing specific guidelines for the formation of claims committees. Specific recommendations include increasing women's quotas within each committee, and rotating leadership of committees between men and women.
- At the State and district level, more lessons learned and best practices exchanges on the integration of women and other marginalized groups are needed.
- Increased consultations are needed within the nongovernmental sector on women's role as critical actors and actors in the FRA process.
- NGOs should consult women in the community to understand what the customary land boundaries are, whether there are any female claimants that have been left out, and what type of future strategies they have for forest management, protection, biodiversity and dealing with negative interference from external actors. It is also important to involve them in project work as much as possible.
- Finally, we must place more emphasis on process versus outcome developments in future research, which addresses women's meaningful participation and their role in forest tenure reform processes. Further research on key critical actors and critical junctures is needed in order to understand when and how enabling factors are created.

To learn more about this project, contact Priyanka Bhalla, piya.bhalla@gmail.com





Forests, food security and nutrition

What's gender got to do with it?



Shattuck A and Asher K

Hunger remains a key development problem in the twenty-first century. Ensuring food security for the world's population is compounded by the rapid rates of climate change, the environmental, economic and social effects of which are borne unequally across the world. Within this context, there is renewed attention on the importance of forests, especially their role in supplementing the food and nutritional needs of rural populations. With a concurrent uptake of "gender mainstreaming" for sustainable development, there is also a call for understanding the gendered dynamics of forest management and food security.

This study reviews the emerging research on forests and food security, and on the ways gender is said to matter. This literature echoes insights from early gender scholarship that women have key roles and responsibility in agricultural production and resource management; gender disparities are pervasive, and influence efforts to improve food security and forest management. The analytical and empirical work on gender also reveals that there is much heterogeneity among women, and that their social positions depend not just on their relations with men, but are interconnected with their class, ethnicity, geographic location and

age. In order to understand and address the increasingly urgent problem of hunger, we need to revisit the critical lessons from 40 years of gender and development scholarship.

To learn more about this project, contact Annie Shattuck, ashattuck@berkeley.edu



Gender and women's participation in REDD+ national decision-making in Vietnam

Despite the vast range of conceptual and empirical studies on women's participation in decision-making bodies generally and particularly in forestry, very little of this knowledge and experience has been applied to REDD+ decision-making at national level, where different types of organizations (governmental and nongovernmental) are represented in structures and processes that define policies, strategies and frameworks for subnational and local-level implementation of REDD+. This study uses Vietnam as a case study to analyze factors that influence women's participation in REDD+ decision processes at national level. Since REDD+ is embedded in the forestry sector, we first conducted a literature review on women's participation in forest management decision-making. As a second step, we reviewed policies and legal frameworks surrounding REDD+ to establish how and in what way gender has been integrated into current policies. Lastly, we conducted policy network

analysis and key informant interviews using structured and semi-structured techniques to analyze the relative involvement of women and men in REDD decision-making processes at national level.

The study shows that while there are opportunities to transform women's bargaining power in decision-making (such as legal frameworks to incorporate gender issue in REDD+), a relatively high number of women participating at REDD+ political events and overall less gender discrimination due to cultural and social norms, women in Vietnam still face numerous challenges. Due to the recruitment protocol that doesn't favor and support women's development in the forestry sector, women are rarely appointed to leadership positions and their participation in REDD+ working groups is just short of nominal. Legal frameworks supporting REDD+ are gender neutral and Vietnam has not successfully implemented policies on

mainstreaming gender in the REDD+ process. Women's participation in REDD+ decision-making structures does not equate with increasing influence. The capacity and concern about gender issues in organizations in Vietnam working on REDD+ is low and there is a lack of consultations with gender focal groups. Data is required to monitor the implementation of government commitments to the increased participation of women in decision-making positions and to redress the lack of data on many aspects of women's participation in leadership and decision-making positions. Indicators should be created to measure meaningful outcomes of women's political participation and to value women's role in public life and politics.

To learn more about this project, contact Pham Thu Thuy, t.pham@cgiar.org



Thuy PT, Yen MH, Moeliono M and Brockhaus M



Challenges for women's participation in communal forests

Experience from Nicaragua's indigenous territories

Attention to improving the participation of women in decision-making about forest resources has recently gained prominence, as organizations, researchers and policy makers look to integrate gender strategies and priorities into their research, planning and policy decisions. However, studies on the topic have focused on experiences in Southeast and Southern Asia and in Africa and little research exists on indigenous women's participation in forest use and management on communal lands in Latin America.

This paper analyzes the results of policy action research conducted in 2010 in the Miskitu and Mayangna communities of Nicaragua's North Caribbean Autonomous Region. The goal of the research is to understand sex-differentiated use, decision-making and perceptions of communal forests and encourage more meaningful and equitable participation. Methods included a survey with 300 randomly selected respondents from 11 communities, focus group discussions, participant observation and the

facilitation of adaptive collaborative management (ACM) processes over a 2-year period.

The survey found that a much higher percentage of men than women participated in the harvest of eight forest products. However, women participated substantially in product sales and had some control over the income earned. The survey found that while a majority of men and women believed that women participated in decision-making, that participation was of low quality or effectiveness. Qualitative methods revealed that women faced significant obstacles to effectively participate in forest decision-making at the community level, including weak community organization, pressure from spouses and difficulty in self-organizing. Differentiated gender roles are related to women's subordination; women suffered sanctions not just for the act of stepping out of predefined social boundaries but also for the specific, legitimate concerns they raised about community leadership and governance.

Improving the meaningful participation of women in decision-making requires that the challenges and obstacles are addressed at multiple levels; obstacles at the communal level, where the future of the region's forests will be decided, cannot be overcome without first examining the household dynamics. Full internalization of women's fundamental rights, as guaranteed by law and embraced in spirit by community tradition, would mean that women's participation would transcend from simply being present at meetings, to more influential activities, such as generating proposals, planning and developing strategies of collaboration and negotiation, not only for the use and access of natural resources, but for decision-making about the future of the region's communal forests.

To learn more about this project, contact Anne Larson, a.larson@cgjar.org



Evans K, Flores S, Larson AM, Müller P, Marchena R and Pikile A



Gender and local environmental governance

Women's participation can be both a goal (a descriptive representation) and an instrument to achieve more sustainable resource outcomes (a substantive representation). The former is linked to discourses and realities of equity, empowerment and rights, while the latter is instrumental. This paper aims to identify the substantive effect of women's participation on local resource conditions.

This paper examines how women's control of forest governance translates into environmental policy outcomes. The authors use data gathered through the International Forestry Resources and Institutions (IFRI) program. The IFRI database is the most complete comparative worldwide database on local forest. All of the information in the database is collected using a common set of protocols, ensuring

it is comparable across sites. The IFRI database is comprised of information about institutional effectiveness in forest across 14 developing countries (in South America, East Africa and Southeast Asia).

The analysis finds that when women have a slight majority in local forest governance, these forests have significantly more basal area (a biophysical proxy for aboveground biomass) and more stringent institutions. These results suggest that women's control of local forest institutions can have a significant, positive effect on forest outcomes. This paper causally identifies the effect of women's control on forest outcomes through the use of a regression-discontinuity design.

Over the past two decades, a substantial body of work has repeatedly demonstrated that women's ecological

knowledge and their roles in forest management are significant across diverse settings; policy and practice have consequently focused on promoting women's participation to achieve equity and empowerment. This study builds and extends this body of work to consider the impacts of women's participation on resources. It suggests that addressing inequalities and women's exclusion in forest management and decision-making has benefits that go beyond equality and empowerment to include quantifiable benefits in forest conservation. It demonstrates that where women are part of the rule-making structure, there are key advantages to resource conservation.

To learn more about this project, contact Esther Mwangi, e.mwangi@cgiar.org



Coleman EA and Mwangi E



Engendering social and environmental safeguards in REDD+

Lessons from feminist and development research

Drawing on feminist and development literature, this paper suggests several important lessons and considerations for building equitable approaches to REDD+. It illustrates the conceptual and practical significance of women's participation in achieving the goals of REDD+ as well as the limits and opportunities for gendering participation in REDD+. We argue that the standing debates over how and in what context gender becomes instrumentalized, technicalized or institutionalized in development provide important cautionary tales for implementing and reporting REDD+ safeguards. This paper contributes to the growing literature on gender, development, natural resource management and REDD+.

To learn more about this project, contact Bimbika Sijapati Basnett, b.basnett@cgiar.org



Basnett BS and Bee B

Does gender affect access to and use of forest assets and what is the impact on household food and nutrition security?

A systematic map protocol

The significant role that forest products play in ensuring food and nutrition security, especially for rural women, has been widely documented; less widely known is how gender affects the use and/or access to forest resources across middle- and low-income countries. A number of region-specific studies have shown that forest resources, especially timber-based activities, predominantly provide livelihood opportunities for men. Similarly, studies on value chains that examine forest activities from production to the market reveal that relative to men, women participate at the lower end of the value chain with minimal economic benefits. The scale and role gender plays in access to and use of forest assets and its effect on household food and nutrition security outcomes, especially in low- and middle-income countries, is not well understood. This paper aims to produce a systematic map of the literature that describes where and how studies examine the relationships between gender and access to or use of forest resources and how these impact household food and nutrition security.

Chiwona-Karlton L, Clendenning J, Ellingson C, Kimanzu N, Lidestav G, Bergman Lodin J, Mkwambisi D, Mwangi E, Nhantumbo I, Ochieng C, et al.



To learn more about this project, contact Jessica Clendenning, j.clendenning@cgiar.org



Gender-equitable rights and access to forest and tree resources and benefits

A mixed methods approach in Uganda and Nicaragua

Although the policy environment for addressing gender inequity has improved over the past decade, women continue to be disadvantaged by insecure access and property rights to forest, trees and land resources; by discrimination and male bias in the provision of services, including credit and technology; and by exclusion from decision-making at household, community and national levels. Changes in tree cover and loss of community access to forests and trees can have a disproportionately adverse impact on women, with indirect impacts on households, and on the livelihoods of up to 5–10 times as many people. Effective gender inclusion can enhance the prospects for sustainable forest and tree management, and provide a solid foundation for more equitable benefit distribution, as well as household food security and nutrition. It enhances the credibility of policy and practice and allows for better targeting of interventions.

The research project aims to: understand women's participation in forest decision-making at multiple scales; analyze the role of external actors in supporting participation; facilitate community-level participation through adaptive collaborative management (ACM) methods (method and process for encouraging collaborative problem-solving and learning among actors); recommend policies and practices to improve participation; and evaluate impact.

A mixed-methods approach is being used that includes: reviewing and analyzing policy instruments for establishing the framework for gender equity, conducting focus-group interviews on women and men's participation in decision-making, and interviewing relevant actors at national and sub-national levels. ACM was conducted in 15 of the 36 study sites during the second year of the project. The purpose of ACM was to identify and implement actions that were intended to strengthen women's rights and access to forests, and to improve their participation in and influence over decision-making. To enable monitoring and evaluation, sex-disaggregated household-level surveys were conducted to establish a baseline as well as to capture impacts. In addition, partnerships have been established with local universities and women's organizations.

The project has a strong scientific component and aims to link research with action. Women in Nicaragua seemed to be more involved in decision-making on household- and community levels than women in Uganda. However, in both countries, women experienced a decline in their involvement in decision-making when moving up the scale from the household level. Nicaraguan respondents also reported that they had a more abundant supply of resources than Ugandans, and were more willing to restrict their consumption to increase

sustainability. These differences may be because land is communally owned in Nicaragua, whereas the State-owned land in Uganda provides little security. In addition, women traditionally are not allowed to plant trees on household land either. Women's membership in forest organizations was highly correlated with resource harvesting, and the participation in the sale of products was linked to women's control of incomes.

The ACM process has resulted in: increased confidence of women in sharing their ideas, even among men; improved leadership and effectiveness of women, and increased acceptance of men; and enhanced coordination among forestry agencies, research organizations and NGOs involved in forestry. In both Uganda and Nicaragua, communities have leveraged resources. For example, Nicaragua's National Forestry Institute donated 10,000 seedlings for reforestation, and collaboration agreements have been signed between communities and organizations, such as local universities. In Uganda, the National Forestry Authority organized for community training in tree nursery establishment and beekeeping, while SCC-VI Agroforestry and Tree Talk provided up to 10,000 seedlings for communities.

To learn more about this project, contact Esther Mwangi emwangi@cgiar.org



Mwangi E and Larson A



Gender and oil palm in Indonesia

The rapid expansion of oil palm in Indonesia, the largest oil palm exporting country globally, remains highly contested from a forestry and development perspective. On the one hand, as the cheapest edible oil, oil palm has become the primary cooking oil for millions of poor people in developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The oil palm sector in Indonesia contributes significantly to the economy by employing over 3 million people and accounting for roughly 4.5% of the GDP. It has become a highly lucrative and desirable business for both smallholders and commercial growers alike. But much of the current expansion of oil palm has been on forested land. The budding literature on the impact of these investments on local livelihoods shed light on the resultant dispossessions in land, water and common property resources. And yet, the gender

dimensions of these processes and impacts remains largely unexplored.

In partnership with researchers at the University of Indonesia, University of Brighton and University of Toronto and as a subcomponent of the USAID-funded project on 'Economic Choices and Trades to REDD+ and low Carbon Investment in Asia', the research project on gender and oil palm in Indonesia is exploring how different modalities of oil palm implementation – from state-sponsored, private and smallholder schemes – are affecting the terms and conditions of women and men's work, access to land and distribution of benefits. Drawing on five case studies in east and west Kalimantan, the methodological framework of the research project builds on a CGIAR global comparative study on the role of gender norms in economic decision-making related to agriculture

and natural resource management. The fieldwork is in its final stages.

Two research reports together and at least one peer-reviewed journal article will be available by the end of the year.

To learn more about this project, contact Bimbika Sijapati Basnett, b.basnett@cgiar.org



Basnett BS, Obidizinski K and Pacheco P



Gender, migration and forest governance

Lessons from Nepal

Rural livelihoods in the global South are becoming increasingly diversified and are no longer derived exclusively from farming and land. Seasonal and circular migration of some of the members of the household has become the main livelihood strategy. Household income is sourced from multiple localities, often beyond rural boundaries. And yet, social and community forestry policies in many developing countries continue to be underpinned by the notion that rural households are physically and socially bounded. These trends are particularly apparent in countries such as Nepal where, despite the significant contribution of migration to the country's GDP and livelihoods of rural households, there is little

acknowledgement of its role in forest governance in policies and policy-oriented literature.

Drawing on four case studies of community forestry user groups in the middle hills of Nepal, this study explores how migration influences who governs forests, how forests are governed and their implications for gender equity and sustainability of forest resources. It uses a mixed method approach, building on IFPRI's 'Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index' and IFRI's methodology on institutional and resource sustainability of forest user groups. The study is being carried out in partnership with the Social Science Baha in Kathmandu, Nepal.

A research project and at least one peer-reviewed journal article will be available by the end of the year.

Ongoing

Basnett BS and Padoch C

To learn more about this project, contact
Bimbika Sijapati Basnett, b.basnett@cgiar.org



Gender dynamics in consultation and decision-making mechanisms in forest concessions in the Republic of Congo

Despite years of 'gender mainstreaming' being a buzzword in the development community, the author of this study argues that we are crucially lacking gender-disaggregated statistics on participation levels in forest management. The context to the study is the implementation of REDD+ in the Congo Basin. For the program to be successful, understanding women's and men's needs, roles, uses and knowledge are key, as failing to include women in decision-making could potentially result in gendered impacts that are harmful to women. The objective of the study is to "identify the gender dynamics in the consultation and decision-making processes in a certified and a non-certified forest concessions in the Republic of Congo".

The author conducts 30 gender-disaggregated intra-household interviews,

and discusses issues relating to sexual and reproductive health and rights as well as participation with some 130 women. Data is differentiated and analyzed along ethnic lines, i.e. indigenous people and Bantu people. Preliminary results indicate that while the legal framework for natural resource management contains concepts of inclusion of both women and indigenous people in decision-making processes, unclear customary principles often tend to overrule national legislation, favoring men of the majority ethnic group (Bantu). Women, even when included formally, lack a voice in consultations. In addition, indigenous people were largely invisible in decision-making processes, largely due to lack of consultation. Other constraints to participation, especially among indigenous women, were shame, dominant or restrictive husbands and in some cases intimidation by the Bantu.

Based on these results, the author calls for mainstreaming gender into national and local policies and programs, such as REDD+ and working with local people to both build women's capacity to meaningfully participate in decision-making and to change attitudes and customary principles currently barring women from doing just that.

To learn more about this project, contact Eulalie Guillaume, eulalieg@gmail.com

Ongoing

Guillaume E



Gender, forest management and climate policy in Burkina Faso

This study is part of ongoing collaboration between the University of Gothenburg and CIFOR to develop indicators or ways to measure impacts from Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) interventions in Burkina Faso. Focus will lie on different ways of analyzing impacts on time use and division of labor for natural resources. The division of labor can provide a useful measure of inequality or changing gender roles. It is also crucial for highlighting the intersection of natural resources and gender relations. Analyzing gendered divisions of labor will serve as input into a discussion of how policy processes related to natural resource management can take gender issues into account in a meaningful way.

The REDD+ program in Burkina Faso aims to modify and expand an existing participatory forest management scheme, which gives local forest management groups the right

to manage State forests. The focus is on extraction of fuelwood that is sold in urban areas. With the REDD+ program, cutting quotas will be reduced and more attention is to be paid to alternative sources of incomes such as non-timber forest products (NTFPs). Certain NTFPs are predominantly collected and processed by women. Because of this, there seems to be expectations among donors that women will play an active part in the REDD+ program and in protecting the forests. However, little is known about how the participatory forest management scheme has affected gender relations to date. In the first stages of Burkina Faso's REDD+ program, development gender is reduced to a technical matter and issues of power are ignored. Women are expected to participate because there are potential economic benefits, but the consequences of their participation in terms of time use, burden of labor

and responsibility for household chores etc. are not mentioned in the project documents.

The aim of this project is twofold: to explore in what way gender relations and forest management are intertwined in rural Burkina Faso; and develop and test relevant methods for collecting and analyzing data on these relations as well as how they might change in the context of climate change policy interventions in Burkina Faso. Data collection methods will include household surveys, individual interviews and participant observation. An important part of the analysis will be the methodological discussion, aimed at developing appropriate tools for bringing gender issues into the policy process.

To learn more about this project, contact Lisa Westholm, lisa.westholm@economics.gu.se

Ongoing

Westholm L



Gender integration in the Nyimba Forest project, Zambia

The project 'Developing models for measuring, reporting and verification (MRV) for REDD+ in the Miombo socioecological system: utilising opportunities under Zambia's UN-REDD+ quick-start programme', known as the Nyimba Forest Project (NFP) is implemented by Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) with support from USAID/Zambia Economic Growth Program. The main focus of the project is to provide support to Zambia's REDD+ Readiness Programme by conducting additional in-depth studies and assessments on livelihoods, forests resources and providing recommendations for incorporation into the design of the national REDD+ strategy for Zambia. To ensure that the National REDD strategy is inclusive, one of the outcomes of the project was to develop methods and strategies for mainstreaming gender in the national joint programme (NJP) and produce guidelines on addressing gender issues in REDD+ activity implementation.

The main frameworks that have been used in analysing gender are (i) Harvard Analytical framework (ii) the Moser framework and (iii) the social relations approach to gender and development. The CIFOR gender strategy, national gender policy and other gender related materials have been used as reference materials in the implementation of the project. The strategies used aimed to ensure equal participation in project activities, use gender as a criterion to obtain gender specific information, disaggregate project information by gender, form partnerships and work with gender experts.

The women in decision-making positions in the project have been working with Chieftainess Mwape (one of the four traditional leaders in the district), board members from development partners Community Youth Concern, District Women's Development Associations and village headwomen. However, chiefs and headmen/women in Nyimba are more conservative and the presence of woman in leadership positions does not necessarily translate into gender equity. The project has established that naturally forming activity groups (e.g. resource user groups) at the village level are gender insensitive and do not take into account gender policy provisions.

Traditionally, the *Nsengas*¹ are matrilineal and women have power to make decisions. For example, the *mbumba* (aunts to the prospective chiefs) are in charge of chief successions. They choose the chiefs and they can dethrone the chief if there is just cause to do so. At the household level, women own household resources; they are heads of households and their children take the mother's *mwene* (clan family names). However, the project shows that gender and social norms in Nyimba are reinforcing each other to exclude or marginalize women. Migration into Nyimba has diluted women's voices as other ethnic gender norms often clash with the *Nsenga* culture. The act of assimilation is leading to fragmented voices of women.

For policy, the study makes the following recommendations:

- To address gender issues at local/household level, there is need to understand the roles of individual members at that level and ensure a balance between the roles of girl and boy children and female and male adults.
- There is a need to review relevant policies of all the sectors that are part of the NJP and ensure that they are gender sensitive.
- Ensure more focused gender incorporation in the policies of the sectors in the NJP through a specific gender policy framework for the natural resources sector, to guide the engendering of all the sector policies within the NJP.
- There must be explicit guidelines for inclusion of gender at policy implementation framework level to ensure that gender does not evaporate at this stage, as most good policy intentions are not followed through in practice at implementation level.
- At national level, there is a need to address the culture and national policy interface by sensitizing communities about the limited knowledge of the provisions of various gender enabling regulations e.g. gender policy means that gender issues are not actively addressed at the local level as most naturally forming activity groups (e.g. resource user groups) at the village level are gender insensitive.

¹ *Nsenga* is the dominant ethnic group in Nyimba district



Investigating gender in climate change adaptation and mitigation processes in the COMESA-EAC and SADC region

CIFOR is providing technical and scientific support to the programme on COMESA climate change adaptation and mitigation in Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA-EAC-SADC). This project, which will be implemented from 2015 to 2016, is part of the broader COMESA climate change programme. The Programme on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation is implemented through a tripartite arrangement involving the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). Its aim is to contribute towards the projection of a unified African position on climate change in all post-2012 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) global agreements, with a view to ensuring that sustained productivity and livelihood improvements for hundreds of millions of climate-dependent dryland farmers in the region are secured. It is a response to addressing the obstacles countries in this region face with respect to climate change issues. The broad objective of COMESA's climate change programme is to address the impacts of climate change in the COMESA-EAC-SADC region through successful adaptation and mitigation actions that develop economic and social resilience for present and future generations. CIFOR's role under this program will be "to contribute scientific data and information

to the COMESA climate change adaptation and mitigation programme".

Guided by the objectives of the COMESA's climate change programme, CIFOR will focus on:

- facilitating capacity building of individuals, organizations and systems to participate in scientific research activities and processes aimed at supporting the COMESA climate change programme
- providing technical support to selected member countries in COMESA in the preparation and submission of NAMAs
- research to develop methods, tools, models and modalities for monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) to achieve efficient, effective and equitable REDD+ across COMESA
- developing regional prototypes and databases for adoption by the COMESA approval system.

CIFOR will: pilot forestry and land-use change mitigation solutions and share the results; support the design of national REDD strategies; implement forestry carbon enhancement pilot projects and strengthen women's organizations to engage in initiatives for forest management, regeneration and reforestation. These activities will address the major gaps identified in the availability of scientific information and the limited capacity of women to engage

in policy processes such as Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation-REDD+ and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions, NAMAs.

The gender outcome of the project will involve the review of women's involvement in climate change adaptation and mitigation activities and most importantly, how they are engaged in forest management processes such as REDD+ and NAMAs. The review will go beyond looking at gender mainstreaming in programming and focus on understanding the opportunities available and the impediments that organizations promoting women causes face in the international climate change negotiation processes.

The regional workshop and other consultative meetings aim to solicit input from women to develop a regional position document that highlights women's participation in climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives and puts forward proposals for sustained future engagement, especially in the negotiation processes. The information will provide background data for the development of a strategy for gender-sensitive participation in REDD+ and NAMA processes as well as info and policy briefs.

To learn more about this project, contact Davison Gumbo, d.gumbo@cgjar.org

Ongoing

Mwila RM and Gumbo D



Gender and illegal timber value chains in Cote d'Ivoire

Many nodes (such as harvesting, processing and transport) along the timber value chains are often perceived as heavily male-dominated, especially due to the physical nature of the work required for producing the timber. Scattered information exists about the role women play in trading and selling timber products. However, to date, little, if any qualitative and quantitative data exists on the participation and roles of women in timber value chains, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. This study was conducted in Cote d'Ivoire, which has recently entered into negotiations with the European Union regarding a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA). The aim of the VPA is to certify the legal origin of domestic industrial and artisanal timber production. However much of the timber in the artisanal domestic markets is currently produced through

small-scale operations and is largely illegal, undocumented and neglected in the policy. Unraveling the social, economic and political dimensions of the informal timber value chains is of crucial importance for providing policy makers with options for improving and formalizing the modus operandi of these activities in an equal and sustainable manner. As part of a larger ITTO-funded study on the informal, domestic timber value chains in Cote d'Ivoire, this paper focuses on the gender dimensions of the value chain. In addition to collecting sex-disaggregated data on participation in various parts across the value chain, in-depth interviews will be conducted with operators across the value chain to reveal possible socioeconomic, cultural and institutional barriers to gender equal participation. Special attention will be paid to documenting ways in which marginalized groups negotiate and

maneuver their ways around barriers. The results from this paper will be integrated into the larger study on the domestic timber market to ensure that policy recommendations are taken into account to promote more gender-equal timber value chains.

To learn more about this project, contact Markus Ihalainen, m.ihalainen@cgiar.org

Ongoing

Ihalainen M and Cerutti P



RESEARCH
PROGRAM ON
Forests, Trees and
Agroforestry

This research was carried out by CIFOR as part of the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (CRP-FTA). This collaborative program aims to enhance the management and use of forests, agroforestry and tree genetic resources across the landscape from forests to farms. CIFOR leads CRP-FTA in partnership with Bioversity International, CATIE, CIRAD, the International Center for Tropical Agriculture and the World Agroforestry Centre.



cifor.org

blog.cifor.org



Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

CIFOR advances human well-being, environmental conservation and equity by conducting research to help shape policies and practices that affect forests in developing countries. CIFOR is a member of the CGIAR Consortium. Our headquarters are in Bogor, Indonesia, with offices in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

