



Equal opportunities, gender, justice and tenure

SDGs in focus



Read all Gender, justice
& tenure highlights:
ar2016.cifor.org/EGT

Forest communities have an intimate understanding of their natural resources and are more likely to manage them effectively when they have clear rights to their land. Women hold much of this knowledge and, when they are free to make key decisions, can help bring positive changes to the physical and cultural landscape. And when land and forest tenure laws are clear and rights are honored in practice, local and international investors will help sustainable forest-based enterprises grow.

As a cornerstone of sustainable forest management, the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) is committed to addressing the inequalities between the men and women who depend on forests for their homes and livelihoods.

Research priorities

Understanding obstacles to the return of local forest rights

- **The Global Comparative Study on Tenure:** In countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America, CIFOR is investigating reforms designed over the past 20 years to give local communities or local governments rights or ownership over forest lands. These reforms have often failed to devolve rights to communities as intended, and the expected benefits of conserving forest resources and boosting the livelihoods of local people have fallen short. CIFOR's research aims to find out why reforms have been poorly implemented, and how bureaucratic barriers to rights devolution can be overcome.

Promoting investment in forest landscapes

- **Land tenure in Nepal:** The country is a world leader in returning property rights to forest communities, having made reforms in the 1990s that resulted in 20,000 community forest user groups now managing 30 percent of Nepal's forest area. However, CIFOR's research revealed that tight regulations are undermining local attempts to establish sustainable forest product-based businesses. CIFOR researchers are working with local research partners and the Nepal forests agencies to consider regulatory reforms that facilitate new forest-based investments.

Integrating gender across all of CIFOR's work

- **Gender-specific research:** Researchers are investigating how forest tenure reform affects women's rights to land, monitoring the gender effects of climate

change mitigation and adaptation at the local level, and examining how large-scale land investments impact gender equality.

- **Integrating gender perspectives across CIFOR's research:** The equity and tenure team is measuring how forestry policies and interventions enhance women's opportunities, reduce their burden of work and boost their voice and influence in decision-making.
- **Women in forest management:** CIFOR is examining whether and how addressing gender equality – such as women's lack of participation in institutions set up to manage forests – affects management outcomes.
- **Gender as a cross-cutting theme:** As part of the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA) and the UK Department for International Development's **KNOWFOR** program, CIFOR builds capacity among its scientists to undertake gender-responsive research and to better engage with emerging debates and policy processes on gender.

The way we work

- **Collaboration:** CIFOR works closely with a wide range of research and development partners to ensure studies are aligned with, and guide, policy and practice. Noteworthy is CIFOR's partnership with the CGIAR Research Program on Policies, Institutions, and Markets (PIM) led by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). CIFOR co-leads with IFPRI the flagship on the Governance of Natural Resources.
- **Cross-cutting approach:** Activities are designed to operate across disciplines to maximize results.
- **Capacity building:** CIFOR cultivates relationships with students and early career researchers in developing countries, and provides analysis and support to government agencies and donors.

- **Sustainable development:** In order to achieve the greatest impact, all of CIFOR's work on equity and tenure is aligned with the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), particularly Goal 4: Quality education, Goal 5: Gender equality, Goal 10: Reduced inequalities, and Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions.

Outreach

The equity and tenure team partners with a wide variety of organizations at local, national and global levels, including

women's ministries and gender focal points in ministries of forestry and agriculture, the [FTA](#) gender integration team, international and national nongovernmental organizations, universities and research institutes, funding partners and UN agencies. The team convenes global events such as high-profile discussions at the [Global Landscapes Forum](#) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)'s Conference of the Parties ([COP](#)), synthesizes research findings and develops guidelines and toolkits for undertaking gender-responsive research.

Story of change

Women break new ground in Uganda

Policymakers are taking note of CIFOR's action research, which has women stepping up for forest restoration – and stepping into the political arena.

Six forest communities in Uganda have undergone a cultural shift since 2011, when CIFOR began working with Ugandan partners to see if the Adaptive Collaborative Management (ACM) approach could improve gender equity in community forest management. By fostering collaboration and building skills, ACM helped women and men see beyond the cultural norms that prevented women from exercising their rights to own land, plant trees and sell their products, and hold leadership positions.

Project: Gender, Tenure and Community Forestry (Phase II).

Country: Uganda.

Read more: ar2016.cifor.org/EGTstory

Assets for women

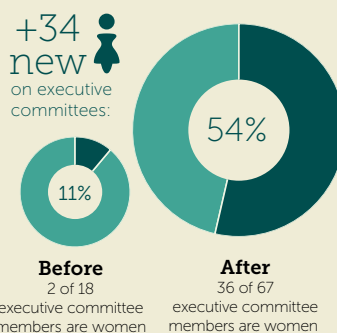
+2,340% From 350 to 8,541 trees planted and owned by women in the study groups

Number of women who own woodlots



Over 6 years:

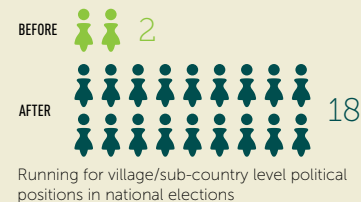
Women in leadership positions



Contribution of ideas by woman

1:1 Ratio of men and women at community meetings, and relative contribution to discussions

Women running for political office



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON Forests, Trees and Agroforestry

The CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA) is the world's largest research for development program to enhance the role of forests, trees and agroforestry in sustainable development and food security and to address climate change. CIFOR leads FTA in partnership with Bioversity International, CATIE, CIRAD, ICRAF, INBAR and TBI.



Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

CIFOR advances human well-being, equity and environmental integrity by conducting innovative research, developing partners' capacity, and actively engaging in dialogue with all stakeholders to inform policies and practices that affect forests and people. CIFOR is a CGIAR Research Center, and leads the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA). Our headquarters are in Bogor, Indonesia, with offices in Nairobi, Kenya; Yaounde, Cameroon; and Lima, Peru.

