



CIFOR's Gender Research: Approaches, Achievements & Impacts

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CIFOR's Approach to Gender *at a glance*

- **Rights-based approach** with recognition that integrating gender critical for other conservation and development outcomes.
- **Investment in getting our house in order:**
 - People
 - Budget
 - Process across research cycle (proposal to M&E),
 - Investment in partnerships (research and boundary)
 - Innovative communication
- Investment in **deepening conceptual** (intersectionality, masculinity) **and methodological capabilities** (global quantitative datasets to locally rooted action-research)





8 reasons why gender matters to people and forests

1 Livelihoods

People often assume that women are the main collectors and gatherers of forest products. Yet a global comparative study found that men play a much more important and diverse role in the contribution of forests for livelihoods than previously reported, with strong differences across Asia, Africa and Latin America.

2 Tenure

In Nicaragua, national laws promote gender equity, but they do not extend to forests because they are still seen as men's areas. While in Uganda where there are efforts to include women in forest management, women are still shut out of decision-making and rarely have ownership of land or resources.

3 Governance

Across the world, education, inclusive institutions and lower income inequality helps increase women's participation in forestry institutions. Where women's participation was higher institutions had less conflicts. However more involvement of women did not lead to much change in user groups' perceptions of fairness of the rules and penalties.

4 Migration

In Nepal, the impact of male out-migration on women who are being left behind can be dramatically different depending on what forest management institutions and social structures they have in their communities.

5 Conservation

A global study found that where women are the majority, forest management institutions have stronger implementation of rules. This has an impact on the forests, as institutions where women had a majority also had forests with higher density of trees remaining.

6 Climate change adaptation

In Mali, male out-migration was a strategy to adapt to the changing climate. But this left women less able to adapt—as women lacked secure tenure and command over financial resources. Women's workloads also increased significantly in male absence.

7 Climate change mitigation

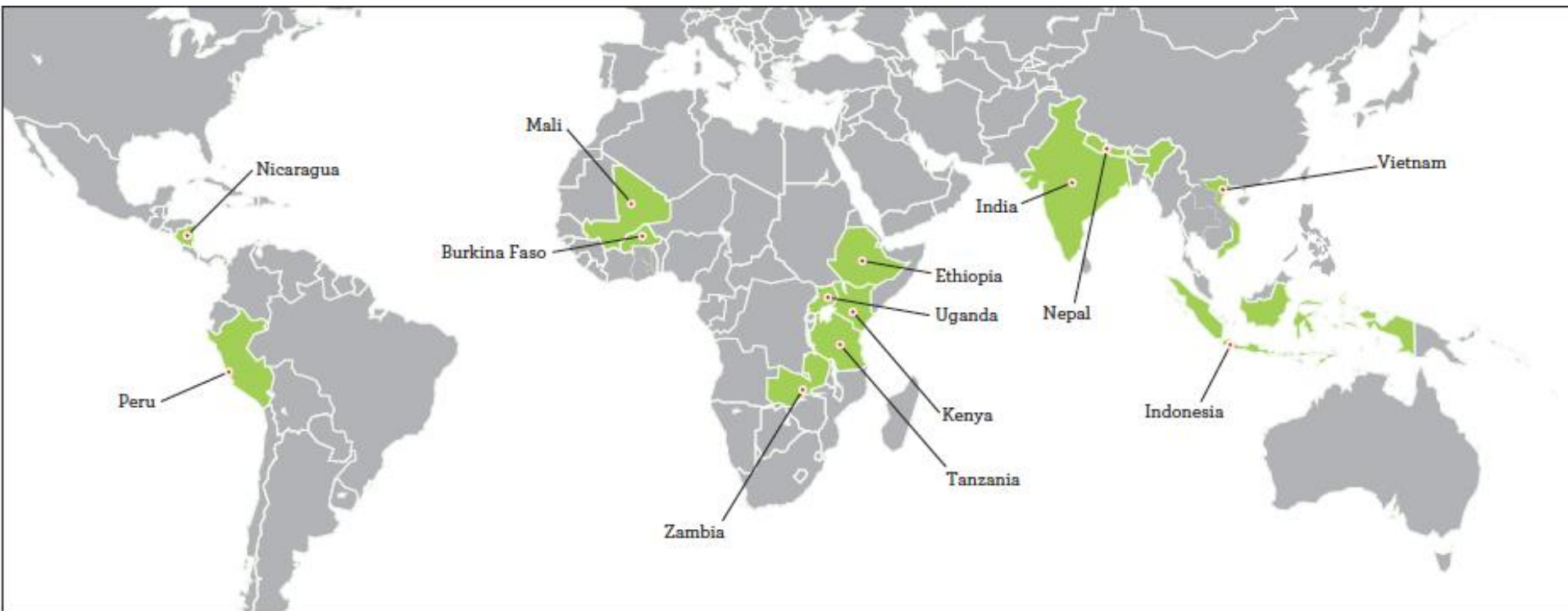
Research in 77 villages, 20 REDD+ sites across six countries found participation of women in REDD+ processes is often nominal and limited. However pushing for increased participation of women in REDD+ is not enough to protect women's interests and needs.

8 Land investments

Though a major driver of deforestation, the social and economic benefits of oil palm investments in Indonesia is real. But only certain social groups benefit. Landless women are particularly worse off as they are only able to get work in plantations with low wages, job insecurity and poor working conditions.

- Proactive and responsive, high quality interdisciplinary research
- Gender mainstreamed across research programs
- Gender integrated in global comparative studies (PEN, REDD+, tenure) and meta-analysis (biodiversity and conservation)
- Gender specific research underway in key geographies

Geographies of gender specific research

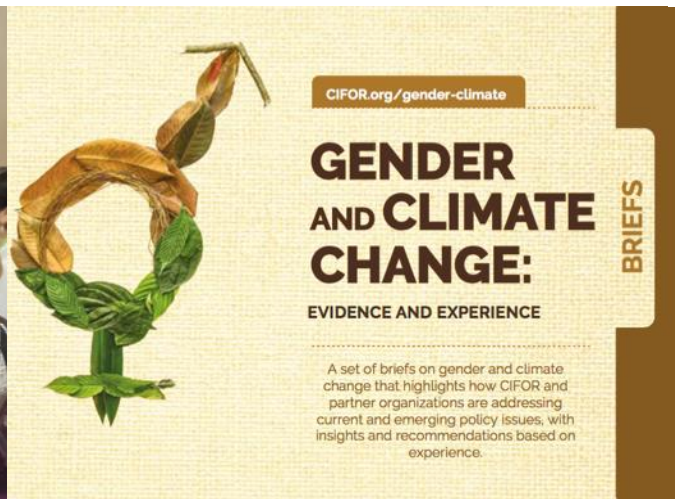
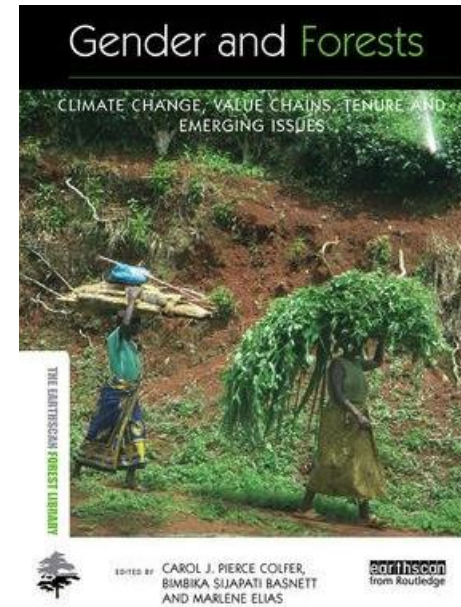


Building evidence base for including women
Bridging knowledge gaps
Visibilizing women's role and contributions
Reconciling women's rights with women's
positive role in conservation
Negotiating sustainable and inclusive change

Evaluating performance of interventions
as they unfold
Scrutinizing received wisdom
Infusing gender in key global debates
Partnering for uptake and influence

Some key achievements

- **Global knowledge hub on gender and forests** - high quality science, toolkits/guidelines, tailored products synthesizing research findings. Contributing to key policy reports
- **Communication for gender inclusive change** - expanded medium of **communication** – blogs, multi-media, photo essays, videos underway
- **Bringing together key stakeholders** at various levels – global to local – and contributing to change.



Research to Impact: Facilitating gender equality and women's empowerment through forests & trees in Uganda

Gender and youth progressive policy in place – tenure security, participation, attitudes and barriers. **But implementation weak** because of inadequate commitment, process, financial and human capacity.

Action research to strengthen women's rights, participation and benefits in Uganda's community forests through '**Adaptative collaborative management**' (ACM).

Lessons: safe/non-intimating space, capacity building and training, working with women and alongside husbands and other men, legal structure, involving communities in identifying problems and monitoring progress, prospects for integrating ACM approaches in planning and implementation of development projects for sustainability and impacts beyond study area.



INITIAL CONDITIONS PRE-ACM

GENDER SPECIFIC

- Weak rights for women (cannot plant trees due to gender biases)
- little to no involvement in forest/tree decision
- little to no attendance of meetings by women
- lack of confidence by women (hardly contributing in meetings)
- little to no women in leadership

COMMUNITY LEVEL

- 5 communities didn't have registered forest user group.
- Dissatisfied with lack of involvement in forest decision making.
- Poor or no relationship between community and forest agencies (DFS, NFA)

ADAPTIVE COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT

PROBLEM VISIONING & ACTION PLAN

TRAINING CAPACITY

- New knowledge, technology
- Sustainable land/forestry management.
- Alternative to forest resources

EXTERNAL LINKAGES

- Information on opportunities/institutions.
- Technical advice
- Implementation of action plan
- provision of resources

EXCHANGE & SHARING

- Exposure
- Confidence building

M & E

- Monitoring progress and trust building.
- participatory evaluation
- Internal participatory evaluation.
- reflection and learning

ENGAGEMENT & DISSEMINATION

- lessons learnt.
- Feedback.
- Policy/practice adoption

OUTCOMES

GENDER SPECIFIC

- Involvement of women in decision making.
- Women in leadership positions.
- On farm and off farm tree planting.
- Increased attendance of and commitment to group activities.
- Increased confidence in group discussion.

COMMUNITY LEVEL

- formal, legally recognized forest user groups in place
- local institutions in place for sustainable forest management
- communities involved in forest management through CFM arrangements
- improved relationships with external actors
- increased support, interaction from linkages to external actors

IMPACT

- 82 ha of degraded reserves reforested.
- women planted 8541 trees.
- men planted 41,370 trees.
- 26,600 trees planted central forest reserve.
- 23,311 trees planted on farm
- improved food security due to practice of Taundy

Figure 6: Different elements of the ACM process interacted to produce outcomes

I have been taken on a journey today. I have learned the complexities of doing gender research and how better gender research can change mindsets and realities for marginalized women at the very local level”

(Participant at CIFOR gender workshop, October 2016)

I am not educated. Previously I was shy and could say anything openly in a meeting but now I also talk in meetings and some of my ideas are taken seriously...I have never handled even shs 100,000 as my own but now I get even a million shillings...I have an asset of trees which I never thought I would own”

(woman research participant, Uganda, 2015)

THANK YOU



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RESEARCH
PROGRAM ON
Forests, Trees and
Agroforestry