



**PROFOR**

INNOVATION AND ACTION  
FOR FORESTS

# GET FOREST SMART



## DESIGNING GENDER-RESPONSIVE FOREST PROGRAMS

### FACT

GENDER  
CONSIDERATIONS  
ARE STILL NOT BEING  
INCLUDED IN MANY  
FOREST NATIONAL-  
LEVEL POLICIES AND  
PROGRAMS IN THE  
GLOBAL SOUTH. OUT  
OF 26 SURVEY  
RESPONSES,

### ONLY 7 NATIONS

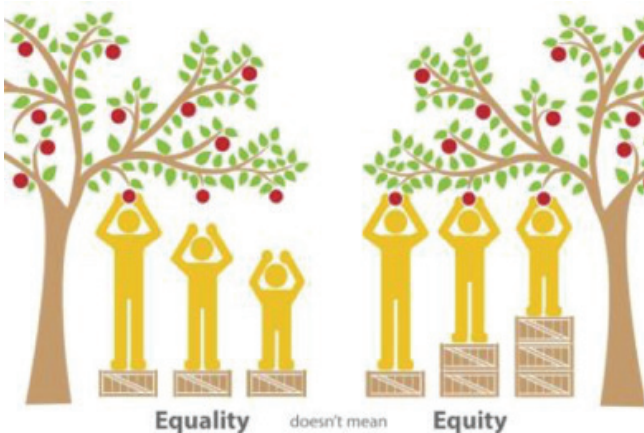
INDICATED THAT  
THEIR MINISTRY OR  
AGENCY OF  
FORESTRY HAD A  
FORMAL GENDER  
POLICY, AND 10  
REPORTED HAVING  
INCORPORATED  
GENDER  
CONSIDERATIONS  
INTO FORESTRY  
POLICIES AND  
PROGRAMS  
(IUCN, 2015).

### Context & Facts

- Forest landscape development efforts that do not address persistent gender gaps miss opportunities for greater poverty reduction impacts.
- Key forest-gender issues include the exclusion of women from forest management decision-making bodies and user groups, weak land and tree tenure rights, inequitable access and benefits, gender-differentiated roles and division of labor and knowledge.
- Women make significant contributions to forest and agroforestry value chains that contribute to household incomes and food security, yet tend to be poorly supported by policy-makers and rural and forest advisory services.



In gender-equal forest landscapes, women and men have equal access to trees, forests, land, forest and agroforestry services and equal opportunities in other spheres of life.



In gender-equitable forest landscapes, women and men would be treated fairly, according to their respective needs from, and uses of, forests, trees and their products. This often requires extra measures to compensate for the historical and social disadvantages faced by women or men.

Source: Adapted from Holimon at: <https://diningforwomen.org/international-womens-day-womens-equity-vs-equality/>

### WHAT IS FOREST SMART?

"Forest-smart" is a development approach that recognizes forests' significance for sustaining growth across many sectors, including agriculture, energy, infrastructure, and water. It transforms how sectors operate by identifying opportunities for mutual benefit and creating practical solutions that can be implemented at scale. Forest-smart solutions support development outcomes and impact such as improved food security, green growth, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

## Why Design With Gender in Mind?

Women play an essential role in forest landscape management and often have highly specialized knowledge of trees and forests in terms of biological diversity, sustainable management, use of forest products and conservation practices. Yet despite a shift from state-controlled to community-level forest management in many countries, women have not been fully involved in decisions related to forest landscapes, nor share forest resource benefits equitably. Other forest-gender issues include unequal access to forest and agroforestry-related advisory services, access to markets and value-added activities (e.g. fruit and nut processing, furniture-making, tree nurseries), and land and forest tenure rights.

Although gender gaps exist across all regions, we lack gender-disaggregated data, evidence and knowledge, hampering the development of interventions to suitably address gender issues. Gender analysis can identify these critical gaps. Actions aimed at addressing them are best identified using inclusive, participatory approaches early on for effective forest landscape projects, programs and policies.

## How PROFOR is Supporting Gender-Responsive Forest Programs

Understanding the differences between how, why and where men and women access, use, and manage forests will influence the design of policies, institutional arrangements and interventions aimed at supporting sustainable forest landscapes.

PROFOR's program on [Catalyzing Gender-Forests Actions](#) aims to see that every PROFOR activity has clear gender-related objectives, actions and indicators identified and implemented. By sharing knowledge of practices that are generating gender-responsive forest projects, programs and investments, the goal is to influence and see improved project and program design and implementation of gender 'best practices' across the WBG and with its clients and partners, leading to projects that are more inclusive and able to measure improved equity impacts.

There is still a relative lack of targeted gender efforts in many forest landscape projects and programs. More experimentation with, and more evidence on, specific actions that work in different environments is needed.

## What Approach is PROFOR Using?

The following resources have been developed to support project teams to design and implement gender-responsive forest programs:

- A guidance note entitled 'Gender and Forest Landscapes: Enhancing Development Impacts of Projects and Programs' that identifies potential gender-responsive project activities and actions.
- An annotated bibliography of gender and forests literature
- A guide that describes a range of tools and approaches freely available for the study and analysis of issues related to forest-gender/poverty issues
- A gender-focused Portfolio Review of WBG Forest Projects: Report and Brief
- A summary of gender-forests lessons and many other shared gender-forests resources from a global meeting with forest agency representatives and forest program designers and implementers from over 40 countries

Key messages of PROFOR's gender activity approach are:

- Design 'with gender in mind' leads to greater impacts
- Think about ways not just to REACH, but to BENEFIT and EMPOWER women and less privileged individuals and groups
- Identify intervention-relevant gender GAPS, ACTIONS to address them, and INDICATORS to monitor progress toward specified gender outcomes

Resources can be found at [profor.info/knowledge/catalyzing-gender-forests-actions](http://profor.info/knowledge/catalyzing-gender-forests-actions)

## Mozambique's Gender-Responsive Forest Interventions

The Mozambique Forest Investment Project (MOZFIP), supported by PROFOR and the World Bank Group includes gender actions in several key activities:

- The Planted Forests Grant Scheme is being implemented in partnership with the Pulp and Paper Company Portucel that is promoting women's employment, providing childcare facilities, and has hired a tree nursery staff that is 65% female.
- The Forest Investment Program is also supporting a Mozambique Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Local Communities (MozDGM). One-quarter of the National Steering Committee members are female,

including the Vice-President. The Mozambican Rural Women's Movement (MMMR) is also represented. This project is promoting small-scale agriculture, forest and fishing enterprises. Community projects supported under MozDGM require at least 40% women's participation.

- Other gender-responsive initiatives underway in Mozambique include the establishment of gender thematic groups within regional Sustainable Development Platforms ensuring women are involved in all forest policy processes.

Interested in learning more? Contact our communications focal point: Laura Ivers: [laivers@worldbankgroup.org](mailto:laivers@worldbankgroup.org)

The Program on Forests (PROFOR) multi-donor partnership generates innovative, cutting-edge knowledge and tools to advance sustainable management of forests for poverty reduction, economic growth, climate mitigation and adaptation, and conservation benefits. Through its programs, PROFOR is advancing forest-smart development, which recognizes forests' significance for sustaining growth across many sectors, including agriculture, energy, infrastructure, and water.

