

Landscape Restoration Evidence Series

GENDER AND RESTORATION



RESEARCH
PROGRAM ON
Forests, Trees and
Agroforestry

03

Gender matters in Landscape Restoration

Embedding gender into Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) activities offers considerable opportunities for leveraging synergies between restoration commitments, climate change action and global commitments to sustainable development.



Gender equality and women's empowerment are a fundamental cornerstone for sustainable development. Across the globe, many women play a crucial role in agriculture and natural resource management. Unfortunately, despite the immense wisdom, knowledge and skills they hold, women's voice and opinions are often silenced in decision-making forums as a consequence of long-standing social norms and practices.

Local social dynamics are conditioned by gender norms and skewed power relations that attribute greater voice, value and decision-making authority to men. This manifests in:

- 1 The poor representation of women in public and private forums;
- 2 Women's limited access to information about forest management and restoration;
- 3 Increased time poverty owing to the substantial demands within the household that limit them from actively participating in public life.

Furthermore, at the global scale, despite the numerous studies that highlight the synergies between gender equality and restoration, **gender remains poorly addressed in restoration and research practice.**

FLR processes run the risk of exacerbating inequalities and further marginalising women if gender is not mainstreamed into restoration efforts. Some of the major risks include:

- ▶ Increased marginalization of women in decision-making
- ▶ Women's workload increases without proper compensation
- ▶ Inadequate understanding and recognition of the primary stakeholders of forests, the drivers of deforestation, key stakeholders in forest management, and appropriate options for restoration
- ▶ Limited sustainability and long-term effectiveness of restoration

Gender-responsive methods and mainstreaming into restoration efforts



Central to effective and sustainable restoration efforts is mainstreaming gender into how we think and deal with restoration.

Importantly, this includes making use of gender-responsive participatory methods that enable women to participate in traditionally exclusionary spaces.

Gender-responsive and transformative approaches and processes challenge the underlying barriers that sustain gender inequality, such as **norms** and **institutional structures**.

Rather than addressing the symptoms like **unequal income** and **time poverty**, approaches should identify factors that enable more equitable involvement of women and girls in

- 1 Decision making;
- 2 Control over resources; and
- 3 Agency of their own labour and future.

The use of innovative methodologies across Africa and in some parts of south-east Asia has highlighted the value of gender-responsive participatory methods to achieve the following:

- Help reveal the differences in knowledge (between men and women, boys and girls);
- Facilitate social learning and freedom of expression;
- Reveal differing priorities of men and women with regards to land-use planning;
- Create opportunities for gender-inclusive tenure reform

Therefore, when designing and creating gender-responsive tools and approaches, it is critical to keep the following in mind:

- Tools/approaches should be perceived as

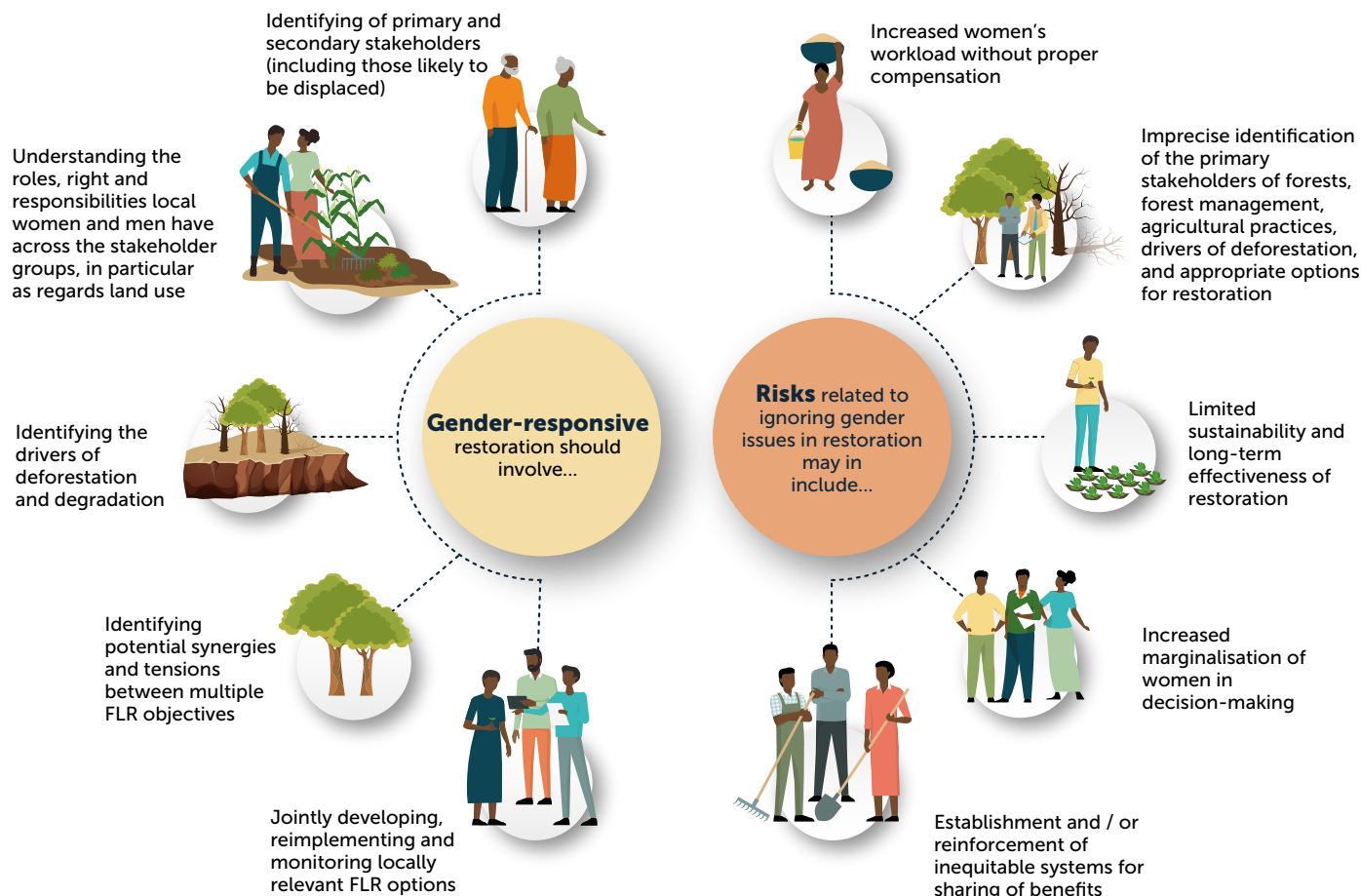
relatively easy to use and understand by communities;

- Facilitate enabling and safe platforms for women to participate in forest management (such as multi-stakeholder forums);
- Recognise and understand the multiple and layered identities of forest inhabitants and users;
- Encourage inclusive participation;
- Dismantle social cleavages; and
- Promote unity in collective natural resource management.

There is a need for the development of innovative tools to support more equitable and effective forums that promote the inclusion of women in natural resource management and governance processes.

Prioritizing the development of gender-responsive research tools and approaches in the first step towards transformative action for gender equity in landscape.

Implications for design and implementation



Adapted from Sijapati Basnett, B.; Elias, M.; Ihalainen, M.; Paez Valencia, A.M. 2017. Gender matters in Forest Landscape Restoration: A framework for design and evaluation.

<https://www.cifor.org/knowledge/publication/6685/>

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Further resources

- Forest Trees and Agroforestry Gender Resources
- Gender matters in landscape restoration

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Landscape Restoration
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