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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

A. Appendix

Appendix S1. Literature review

Gender and land degradation: conceptual and theoretical perspectives

Land is both a capital asset and an important cultural resource. It is often central to communal/gender power struggles and debates on women's empowerment or discrimination (Doss *et al*. 2018). Perceptions of gender and land are deeply rooted in cultures, vary widely within and between societies, and are dynamic. Gender relates to socially constructed differences between women and men on the basis of their roles, responsibilities, behaviours, daily activities and attributes. Eco-feminists conceive the links between land use, ownership and management as substantially mediated through gender, focusing in particular on women as victims of land degradation (Doss *et al*., 2015; Hirao, 2016). Power is required to control land and those with power can reinforce gender bias in multiple ways. Gender bias exists in: land rights; agricultural/domestic labour divisions; access to resources and incentives; participation in decision-making opportunities; and sharing of costs/benefits of intervention projects (Meinzen-Dick *et al*., 2017). Such bias can fuel inequalities and social injustices, and can be tied to the ways women and men degrade the land (FAO, 2009). The notion of inequality in the theory and practice of land management and restoration/rehabilitation does not suggest that women and men are unequal humans, but rather that their roles, responsibilities, opportunities and realities are not dependent on whether they were born female or male (FAO, 2018).

Land supports humanity in many ways, yet inequality in land rights remains deeply rooted in many regions with enshrined male-controlled resource structures (Doss *et al*., 2015). In such regions (e.g. Africa and Asia), land rights are highly coveted, contested and negotiated. Although >95% of all economically active women in rural areas use land-based resources to support their families, supplying 60-80% of food, and holding valuable indigenous knowledge on land management, <20% of women own or have secure control over land (Samandari, 2017; Doss *et al*., 2018). Traditional patriarchal norms favour men but curtail the bundle of rights that women deserve (i.e. rights to own, inherit, bequeath and/or manage land) (Rao, 2017). In some places, women only have access to land depending on the strength of their relationship to the male owner (UN Women, 2018). Weak legal and social protections for women's land use has created conditions where women's needs, realities and knowledge are overlooked in land matters. Concurrently, unequal power relations deprive women of their legal rights as "value-chain" actors – e.g. to control tree planting that can potentially prevent soil degradation and enhance land productivity (Johnson, 2003). Eco-feminists have long critiqued structural inequalities that give men control over land resources and the emergent benefits, arguing that discriminatory land rights can spur land degradation where land use choices rest with a male owner who (potentially) lacks knowledge of land conservation that the woman has acquired over time through her work on the land (Agarwal, 2010; Doss *et al*., 2014; Johnson *et al*., 2016). Similarly, male ownership and control of households' land, including control over decision-making and resource allocation, means women are frequently less able to invest in more sustainable land management practices (Landesa, 2015).

Gendered family workloads often make women responsible for household maintenance, as well as food security, health/child care and care of other family members. Although women make up 43% of the agricultural labour force (increasing to 70-80% in many developing countries), stereotypical gender roles undermine women's capacity to significantly contribute to land improvement (WFO, 2013). Women often strive to supplement their family's limited or declining food supplies by taking up petty trading or selling their labour to wealthier farmers for income to meet immediate household subsistence needs (Verma, 2001) - in addition to carrying out reproductive and care-giving duties (Doss *et al*., 2018). Out-migration of men in

search of livelihood opportunities can transfer further workloads to women, compelling them to juggle multiple duties, such as animal husbandry, managing pasturelands and/or growing of cash crops, previously undertaken by the men (Aguilar, 2014). These responsibilities require additional time, energy, efforts, knowledge and resources, which often women lack and cannot access (UNCCD, 2017). Male out-migration curtails the time and energy women can invest in (sustainable) land management, undermining their ability to make meaningful land improvement choices. This makes women victims of land degradation - particularly in societies where women have restricted access to essential resources and incentives needed to improve land productivity in the face of degradation.

Gender bias in access to resources and incentives links to paucity of land rights in largely agrarian communities. Securing land rights and tenure is a pre-condition for attracting new agricultural innovations and tools, soil enriching seeds and fertiliser, and agronomic knowledge, and for driving important changes such as income growth and livelihood wellbeing. Paucity of land rights limits access to credit and extension services (also technical assistance and training). Worldwide, women hold <10% of credit available to smallholder agriculturalists, comprise only 15% of agricultural extension officers, receive 5% of rural extension services, and are only half as likely as men to use technologies and improved farm inputs/crop varieties (FAO, 2011). Such gender bias can reinforce female poverty (Orr *et al*., 2017) and can feed into land degradation (UNCCD, 2016). Over 40% of degraded land in recent years is in impoverished regions, largely in rural communities in Africa and Asia (UNCCD, 2017; IPBES Report, 2018). Poverty influences women's ability to prioritise land management and restoration/rehabilitation (Kissinger *et al*., 2012), disproportionately undermining their contributions to global efforts to tackle land degradation (Nelson *et al*., 2015).

The context in which SLM and restoration is practiced can affect women's access to and control over benefits, and contribution to decision-making. For example, deeply entrenched gender-based discrimination in statutory/customary systems in Africa fuel unequal power relations, creating barriers to women's full involvement and effective participation in land planning and policy making processes (UNCCD, 2017). Worldwide, only 13% of female land users contribute to decision-making on agricultural land (FAO, 2011), undermining their capacity to secure opportunities like men in leadership roles at all levels. UN-REDD+ and forest landscape restoration studies show that where the priority is to promote cash crop trees for land management, men often seem to benefit more financially (den Bensten, 2011). In the absence of suitable cash/non-cash related benefits for women (e.g. in long-term land-related schemes), women would decline to participate (Pham, 2016). Despite that women's labour and skills are often mobilised in restoration/rehabilitation activities, they usually have less access to and control over benefits than men (Ramsay, 2017). Land-based schemes that are gender-blind heighten women's work burden by excluding them from important benefits (Larson *et al*., 2015).

Addressing these gender gaps offers a route to effectively respond to land problems and strengthen women's and men's capacities as agents of change on land matters (BRIDGE, 2011). Although patriarchal systems of land tenure and divisions of agricultural/domestic labour undermine rural women's land ownership rights, they do not take away women's affinity to land. Ecological feminism presents nature (e.g. land) as a feminine entity, suggesting women's interaction and care for nature is shaped by their motherly instinct and biological empathy (Agarwal, 2010). By their close tie to land, traditional knowledge in farming, positionality as land users, and commitment to environmental initiatives, women are uniquely and differentially equipped for environmental stewardship (Villamor *et al*., 2014). Similarly, women in many regions are involved in leading protests (i.e. environmental movements) against environmental damages and pollution (see GBM, 2018). They comprise 60–80% of mainstream environmental NGO membership and even more in grassroots organisations supporting e.g. forest conservation and farmland conservation schemes (Hirao, 2016).

Compared to men, women hold stronger pro-environmental values, beliefs, and attitudes (Aguilar, 2014).

Gender blind land-based initiatives have sometimes exacerbated gender inequalities, heightening women's burden and undermining their voices, agency and access to extension services (Agarwal, 2001; Nightingale, 2002), pushing women into land use/management decisions that undermine land productivity. In contrast, Chhatre *et al*. (2012) and Quisumbing and Kumar (2014) reveal that bequeathing land to women and securing their land rights and access to credits correlates positively with women's willingness to commit time, energy and knowledge to grassroots land management and restoration/rehabilitation. Tenure security reduces women's workloads, enhancing their power to bargain and make decisions about land (Meinzen-Dick *et al*., 2017). Because gender equality is not only a human right but also catalytic to environmental progress, it is well established, at least in theory, that closing the gender gaps should constitute the core premise of land policies, strategies, and action plans (UNEP, 2012).

While awareness of gender dimensions related to land has risen significantly, current LDN literature is scarce concerning: i) how LDN actions can help address gender disparities alongside its primary goals to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation; ii) the advantage(s) of bringing gender into mainstream LDN processes; and iii) the risks we face by not doing so. Implementing, achieving and maintaining LDN in places with deeply entrenched patriarchal norms and traditional values underscores the need for a better understanding of these issues. Gender consideration in LDN offers considerable opportunities for pursuing LDN commitments that perpetuate equal participation of women and men (Samandari, 2017), and for incentivising poor rural women to contribute to and benefit from LDN outcomes (Orr *et al*., 2017). Pursuing LDN on the basis of indigenous and statutory land use practices and tenure relations can help to identify: i) different land user groups with formal and informal rights; ii) strategies for collaborative negotiations to address areas of social-cultural challenges (such as a lack of land security for women); and iii) policies and laws to guide planning and implementation in ways that avoid or minimise inequality, discrimination or injustice. Accounting for these can offer opportunities for broader local buy-in, enhancing the legitimacy of LDN efforts and tackling socio-cultural norms that hinder women and men from working together in land management/restoration/rehabilitation initiatives (Broeckhoven and Cliquet, 2015).

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B. Supplementary Materials

Table S1. LDN-related projects selected (2012-2018)

LDN-related projects and the gender issues/dimensions included
1. *Promoting Sustainable Land Management (SLM) through Integrated Restoration of Ecosystems – Albania* [Objective: Strengthening capacity and skills of national and local government institutions and promoting sustainable land management practices in Albania through integrated ecosystem restoration] Source: https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/project_documents/4-19-16_-PIF_and_PPG_doc_0.pdf Duration: 36 months duration from 2017 The project includes participation of a women group – the Kolonja Women's Association - to take the lead in developing the baseline gender analysis. Local farmers and farmer associations (including women and men) are incorporated to participate in project design and planning, including participation in validation workshops. Gender issues captured include: the challenges faced by women in terms of their vulnerability to the impacts of soil degradation; and gender-balanced support in terms of training for both men and women to adopt SLM practices. Stakeholder consultations, meetings, workshops and trainings considered gender balance and the representation of various ethnic and religious groups. Project pushes for: equal participation of women and men in relevant ecosystem restoration and land use planning activities; awareness raising activities to highlight the importance of inclusion of all representative groups; and baseline gender analysis during preparation phase. Project promotes women's participation on project activities by establishing quotas linked to training activities via collaborations with the Kolonja Women's Association on gender matters. Gender equality is planned through wider 'gendered' participation in decision-making and implementation of SLM programs. Project is characterised mostly by 'gendered participation'. Issues on land rights, tenure security and differential workloads are not captured; also cost and benefit sharing for women and men is not articulated – there is an absence of validation measures/gender sensitive indicators to ensure equal access and benefits.

2. *Restoring ecological corridors in Western Chad for multiple land and forests benefits - RECONNECT – Chad* [Objective: To improve the sustainable management of natural resources, and forest resources in particular, in order to reduce CO_2 emissions and maintain ecosystem services]

Source: https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/project_documents/ID9417__GEF-6_PIF-MFA-FSP-IUCN-Chad-Restoring_ecological_corridors_in_Western_Chad_to_mitigate_climate_change_-_RECONNECT_v2_1.pdf

Duration: 36 months from March 2018

Gender analysis is part of the project preparation phase, covering women's roles in natural resource management; whether women's activities are carried out individually or collectively; the level of structuring and organisation of collective activities; and the influence of women in collective decision-making in villages. Gender equality is pursued by systematically involving women's groups and vulnerable populations in defining project challenges - project activities are defined by accounting for the social and cultural characteristics peculiar to the project intervention area, whilst bearing in mind the need to involve men and women equally. Project recognises that women are at the very heart of natural resources management and are highly involved in harvesting timber and non-timber forest products, making them an important target group. The gaps here are in agreement with those related to project 1 above.

3. *Sustainable Land Management in the Commonwealth of Dominica – Dominican Republic* [Objective: An integrated land management model that includes agricultural, forestry and natural resources management practices that generate development and critical environmental benefits in tandem in the Commonwealth of Dominica]

Source:https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/project_documents/ID9667_Sustainable_Land_Management_Dominica_PIF_14.02.2017_clean_1.pdf

Duration: 36 months from April 2018

Dominica's Gender Policy is the main framework for gender mainstreaming in all project areas, aimed to drive gender awareness, incorporate a gender perspective in all development planning, policy formulation and implementation; and to facilitate achievement of environmental benefits for all. The project's gender equality drive was informed by the country's National Policy and Action Plan for Gender Equity and Equality; and draws on the country's successes in gender equity and equality as evident in the strides towards the social economic achievement of women. The project targets reducing violence against women and economic challenges through poverty reduction schemes for women and men. The Dominica National Council of Women (DNCW) is a key stakeholder involved in providing the technical support to assist in gender mainstreaming into the project activities.

The project has plans for: gender inequality assessment; gender-based monitoring and assessment, including development of socioeconomic indicators that are gender-specific. It incorporates understandings of ecosystem benefits for women. Knowledge management activities within the project are gender-responsive, aiming to integrate gender dimensions into publications, presenting sex-disaggregated data and gender sensitive language in publications and photos as a way to avoid presenting stereotypes; as well as ensuring that women, men and the youth have access to and benefit from the knowledge created.

4. Piloting Innovative Investments for Sustainable Landscapes – Brazil, Indonesia and Liberia [Objective: To maintain or increase forest cover, intensify agricultural production, and improve the livelihoods of smallholders through piloting de-risking finance for investments in sustainable landscapes in seven target landscapes in Brazil, Indonesia and Liberia]

Source: https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/project_documents/01-1317_MSP_Request_Document_resubmission_clean.pdf

Duration: 36 months from February 2018

This project is concerned about forest protection as well as financial dynamics to support forest protection. It engages women and men in initial project discussion/design stage; pursues a balanced engagement between male and female landowners and land-workers; and emphasises that

convening platforms (with local government, private sector, CSOs) should have representatives from women. The project considers impacts of project implementation on gender equality; highlights supports for men and women taking into account the social context on the ground; endorses collaborative management methods as an approach to engage stakeholders and account for gender issues in the design and implementation of project activities. It plans to use gender-sensitive indicators and sex-disaggregated data in project monitoring and evaluation plans.

5. Generating economic and environmental benefits from sustainable land management for vulnerable rural communities of Georgia – Georgia [Objective: To develop and strengthen sustainable land management (SLM) practices and build capacity at municipal scale for their application for the protection of natural capital in Georgia]

Source: https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/project_documents/Request_MSP_Approval.pdf

Duration: 36 months from January 2018

Project seeks to develop and strengthen sustainable land management practices – recognises women's role in agriculture and their low yield challenges due to limited resources (i.e. a lack of funds to purchase fertiliser, better seeds and other inputs), including facing greater risk of falling into extreme poverty. It is underpinned by a gender analysis covering development and implementation stages – and prioritises making contributions directly and indirectly to improve conditions of women, enhancing their capacity to participate in decision-making processes, and to engage in land use activities that have the potential to improve their economic situation. Through their participation, women are expected to benefit from skills development (education/training) and improved access to modern technologies and knowledge on land management, increasing both their incomes and social capital. The project plans to ensure that consultations among stakeholder groups, capacity-building programs and outreach programs all include an analysis of gender dimensions in order to maximise the participation of and the potential positive impacts for women. A specific budget is planned for gender sensitive project activities during project preparation phase, including gender-sensitive indicators and sex-disaggregated data for monitoring and evaluation plans.

6. Sustainable Land and Water Management – Ghana [Objectives: (a) demonstrate improved sustainable land and water management practices aimed at reducing land degradation and enhancing maintenance of biodiversity in selected micro-watersheds, and (b) strengthen spatial planning for identification of linked watershed investments in the Northern Savannah region of Ghana]

Source: https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/project_documents/03-2316_PID_ISDS_Appraisal.pdf

Duration: 36 months from May 2016

This project's approach to mainstream gender consideration is consistent with the GEF Policy on Gender Mainstreaming and the World Bank Group's renewed Gender strategy – both emphasise greater involvement of women in planning and decision-making structures and implementation. Indicator on direct project beneficiaries is disaggregated to capture the percentage of women out of all direct project beneficiaries.

7. Sustainable rangeland management for biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation – Jordan and Egypt [Objective: To strengthen restoration and sustainable management of pastoral rangelands for the provision of ecosystem services and protection of biodiversity in Egypt and Jordan and catalysing scale up Regionally and globally]

Source: https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/project_documents/04-07-16_PIF_PPG_request_document_2_0.pdf

Duration: 48 months from November 2017

Key stakeholders in the project are women rangelands users – they are central to project delivery and to the development of scale-up initiatives and policy dialogue. The project emphasises strengthening effective participation of women in rangelands management and in influencing public decision making. It integrates gender into relevant activities, collaborating with the Ministries in charge of gender. Planning exercises are disaggregated into men and women's groups, enabling

women to be more vocal. Knowledge is sought into how women's view on resource management differ from men. Gender specific indicators and targets are developed to monitor progress on gender mainstreaming into rangeland governance. Community Environmental Management Planning is a central component of the project approach, providing an important entry point for strengthening the voice of women. Training provided aim to empower female participants to engage fully - trainers are required to have the skills and experience necessary to plan and facilitate gender-sensitive activities. Further, the project addresses women's weak access to resources and to government services by tackling vulnerability and low adaptive capacity to degradation; it also supports women's groups to developed more diverse livelihood activities through improved transformation and marketing of rangeland produce (livestock and non-livestock). Overall, the project highlights women's evolving rights as decision makers over rangeland resources within common property regimes and seeks to advance women's roles as herd managers, accommodating this in the development of innovative financing mechanisms for scaling up good practices.

8. Land degradation neutrality of mountain landscapes in Lebanon – Lebanon [Objective: To achieve land degradation neutrality of mountain landscapes in Lebanon through integrated landscape management]

Source: https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/project_documents/2-11-2016_PIF_UNDP_ID_5837.pdf

Duration: 72 months from May 2018

The project accounts for the differences, needs, roles and priorities of men and women – acknowledging that women are often the most vulnerable to land degradation; and that women can play active role in fostering land rehabilitation, restoration and sustainability. It aims to realise gender equality and women's empowerment by mainstreaming gender issues into project activities, ensuring that women have a real voice in project formulation, as well as governance and an active role in implementation. Women are expected to participate equally with men in any dialogue or decision-making initiated by the project and will influence decisions that will determine the success of the project and ultimately the future of their families.

9. Sustainable Forest Management and Conservation Project in central and southern Benin – Benin [Objective: To promote socially and environmentally sustainable forest management in central and south Benin by improving forest and land management to preserve forest cover, prevent biodiversity loss, and monitor carbon stocks and emissions]

Source: https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/project_documents/ID9383____2016_07_07_AfDB_Benin_PIF_clean_ADA.pdf

Duration: 48 months from May 2017

Project activities aim to empower women by pursuing several outcomes such as to: reduce the time and labour intensiveness of women's household chores by ensuring the availability of harvested forest resources in close proximity to households; increase capacity for training and educating women on activities related to sustainable forest management and conservation; increase overall health of beneficiaries using healthcare centres and other social infrastructure (schools, primary care centres, roads and paths) built under the baseline investment. Through forest management activities, the project plans to generate alternative incomes for women (e.g. from the production and sale of processed forestry products such as shea butter, fruits, and vegetables) which will subsequently improve their standards of living.

10. Scaling up a multiple benefits approach to enhance resilience in agro- and forest landscapes of Mali's Sahel regions – Mali [Objective: To enhance food security and multiple environmental benefits through sustainable, resilient and healthy agro- and forest ecosystems in the Sahelian regions of Mali based on a landscape approach]

Source: https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/project_documents/ID9293__GEF-6_PIF_Mali_13_07_2016_SFM_revised_24_08_2016_0.pdf

Duration: 60 months from May 2017

The project focuses on rural activities in which women have a recognised know-how (vegetable gardening, rice, small livestock, poultry, processing activities, etc.) and from which they can most benefit. It accounts for various gender dimensions - strong participation of women and youth; application of gender-sensitive infrastructure and technologies; enhancement of income-generating activities for women via enhanced agricultural productivity; and the strengthening of capacities of women associations. Training provided targets women's skills development in business planning, literacy, marketing techniques and financial management to strengthen entrepreneurship and empowerment at the local level. Other gender promoting activities planned include: producing gender-disaggregated data throughout the project's life cycle; analysing land tenure and raising awareness for enhanced women participation in production and income-generating activities; capacity building for women; strengthening the position of women's groups in agricultural and forestry product processing; facilitating women's access to factors of production; promoting gender-sensitive infrastructure to reduce women's burden; ensuring men and women have equal access to information, capacity building and awareness campaigns; facilitating gender sensitive budgeting and planning; hiring a gender expert for the Project Management Unit; and ensuring female participation in various decision making bodies.

11. Integrated Watershed Management for improved agro-pastoral livelihoods in the Sepabala sub-catchment – Lesotho [Objective: To mainstream sustainable rangeland management and restoration into the use of watersheds to combat land degradation, enhance the flow of agroecosystem goods and services and improve the livelihoods of agro-pastoral communities in the Sepabala Watershed in the Lower Senqu Basin]

Source: https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/project_documents/03-12-18_PIF_Request_Document_revised.pdf

Duration: 48 months from June 2018

The project aims to use the UNDP and GEF guidance on mainstreaming gender into project design and implementation, carrying out a gender analysis/assessment from the outset to ensure that project design and implementation fully take into consideration the gender dynamics of natural resources governance. The Results Framework is intended to have clear gender-disaggregated indicators and targets, ensuring that monitoring and assessment plans, and budget, include activities and items that contribute directly to the implementation of gender action plan. Project outcome targets conditions where women, youth and poor men are better empowered with knowledge, tools, and skills gained through training and capacity building, as well as direct women's participation in interventions on the ground – women are expected to later adopt skills gained to benefit themselves as individuals and as community members.

12. Sustainable and Integrated landscape Management of the Western Area Peninsula – Sierra Leone [Objective: To strengthen the sustainable and integrated management of the protected area landscape in the Western Area Peninsula Landscape to protect globally significant biodiversity and safeguard streams of ecosystem services generating local and national socio-economic benefits]

Source: https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/project_documents/PIF_SierraLeone_171027_Revised_0.pdf

Participatory approach is planned to guarantee inclusion of all relevant social groups – e.g. marginalised people with attention to the participation and inclusion of women. Gender considerations formed part of the project formulation process, and benefit sharing is planned to acknowledge and reward different contributions of women and men to sustainable management of natural resources. Gender mainstreaming is planned, e.g. through budgetary provisions focused on empowering women and girls through education, participation in decision-making, and access to equal justice and economic opportunities.

13. Sustainable Land Management for Increased Productivity in Armenia – Armenia [Objective: Increase incomes and assets generated by smallholder farmers through investments in sustainable land management systems and technologies]

Source: https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/project_documents/1-7-15_-_PIF_DOc.pdf

Duration: 72 months from November 2015

The project considers vulnerable women-headed households and youth, organising training and investment-support interventions suited for their specific needs. Specifically, it provides preferential access to entrepreneurship for women household heads and youth; and access to finance and markets. It also seeks for close liaison with selected partners (the Asian Development Bank with its relevant operations in women's entrepreneurship and SME development) to better reach out to vulnerable groups, to coordinate activities and provide support for women-oriented interventions.

14. Sustainable forest and landscape management project - Bosnia and Herzegovina [Objective: To build capacity of forestry sector stakeholders and to demonstrate approaches for sustainable forest and land management through integrated management of vulnerable forest, scrub and pasture landscapes]

Source:http://projects.worldbank.org/P129961/?lang=en&tab=documents&subTab=projectDocuments

Duration: May 2014 – May 2019

The project's inclusion of participatory processes in forest and land management gives preference to communities close to forests, and provides equal opportunity irrespective of gender, giving community members the required opportunity to participate. Local extension services and community-based organisations are incorporated to facilitate local participation and capacity building activities. Gender data to be collected aim to inform how forestry planning and sustainable management initiatives affect men and women and their communities. Public awareness raising activities are planned to include women and men – capturing their different needs and opinions about priorities in management planning and implementation procedures. Overall, the project plans to enable equal access opportunities to men and women.

15. Using SLM to improve the integrity of the Makgadikgadi ecosystem and to secure the livelihoods of rangeland dependent communities – Botswana [Objective: To mainstream SLM in rangeland areas of the Makgadikgadi Sub-region productive landscapes for improved livelihoods of rangeland dependent communities]

Source: https://www.thegef.org/project/using-slm-improve- integrity-makgadikgadi-ecosystem-and-secure-livelihoods-rangeland

Duration: 48 months from May 2014

A gender analysis undertaken across the project cycle underpins development and implementation of alternative livelihoods to ensure women and other disadvantaged groups have access to and control of land resources. The analysis aims to provide disaggregated data for monitoring, in line with the UNDP gender marker, and for promoting a more effective targeting of initiatives to benefit women particularly those at high risk of suffering from the effects of rangeland degradation and climate change vulnerabilities. Project outcomes are expected to directly and indirectly contribute towards improving the condition of women - through enhancing their capacity to participate in decision making and engage in land use activities that increase the flow of benefits to improve their economic situation. The project plans to actively empower women and other excluded groups through social mobilisation and skills development, including providing them access to financial resources and markets for produced/harvested veld products utilising Women's Self-Help Groups and other such community-based structures.

16. Collaborative Management for Watershed and Ecosystem Service Protection and Rehabilitation in the Cardamom Mountains, Upper Prek Thnot River Basin – Cambodia [Objective: To restore and maintain forest cover and watershed stability functions while providing for sustainable livelihoods and ecosystem services in the Upper Prek Thnot Watershed]

Source: https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/project_documents/4-912%2520%250 Rev%2520 PIF%2520doc_0.pdf

Duration: 36 months from July 2014

The project aims to directly benefit women living in and depending on the forest ecosystem. Provision of land use rights will directly support acquisition of livelihood assets for women. It addresses gender empowerment by narrowing gender disparities through access to economic and financial resources

and opportunities (i.e. security of land tenure, off-farm employment opportunities) and enhancing voices and rights (i.e. with representation in project decision-making bodies). The project provides women in target communities with inputs, guidance, and infrastructure that will enable increased productivity and incomes; reduce work burdens; and improve access to educational, health and social services. Preferential opportunities are offered households headed by women. Socio-economic benefits and gender analysis are planned.

17. Enhancing Agro-ecological Systems in Northern Prefectures of the Central African Republic – Central African Republic [Objective: To ensure ecosystem protection, services and food security through enhanced agro-sylvo-pastoralism and sustainable natural resources management in CAR's Ouham and Ouham-Pendé prefectures]

Source:https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/project_documents/ID9532_GEF5_CEO_Endorsement_CAR_revised_12_10_2016.pdf

Duration: 60 months from November 2016

The project recognises that women have a heavier workload compared to men, and have lower access to education, information, agricultural extension services, inputs and credit; including recognising that considerable land-related gender disparities exist, e.g. where fisheries activities are dominated by men but processing the catch falls on women. The project targets almost 8 million women as beneficiaries of program activities – e.g. by facilitating women's access to land security, productive resources (40% of land allocated to women's groups through local conventions) and planning capacity building activities (e.g. technical vocational and social training – including training reproductive health). The project also plans to foster women's participation in decision-making processes and investment; and to enhance the organisational capacity of women's producer groups so they can play a strategic role in promoting inclusive growth and improve their conditions in the project's target areas. It aims to put in place a gender-sensitive early warning system and a set of pro-women services centred on the development of alternative livelihoods and provision of technologies to reduce women's work time, increasing their productivity. It also aims to set up a monitoring and assessment system based on gender disaggregated data as well as on gender-related indicators to capture the number of women working in investment and demonstration activities and those participating in trainings to be monitored. Project also highlights strengthening gender-related stakeholders by recruiting a gender and socio-economic development specialist in the Regional Coordination Unit to enhance training and mainstreaming aspects.

18. Sustainable Land Management – Chile [Objective: To develop a national framework for sustainable land management to combat land degradation, mainstream biodiversity into national policies, and protect forest carbon assets]

Source:https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/project_documents/MFA%25204104%2520Chile%2520PIF_1.pdf

Duration: Project ended (July 2012-April 2018)

Gender issues are not highlighted.

19. Community-based Sustainable Dryland Forest Management – Gambia [Objective: To improve community-based management of dryland forests in Gambia to reduce forest degradation and improve local livelihoods]

Source: https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/project_documents/08-13-13_PIF_Document_revised_0.pdf

Duration: 60 months from May 2016

This project involves the Agency for the Development of Women and Children to enable improvement of the role of women entrepreneurs in forest products and enterprises through Self-help Groups; it improves the role of women in harvesting and processing techniques and value-addition of forest products.

20. Sustainable Forest and Land Management Project – Kyrgyzstan [Objective: To strengthen the institutional capacity for sustainable forest ecosystem management]

Source: https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/project_documents/4-7-15_-_PCN_doc_0.pdf

Duration: 84 months from July 2016

No gender issues are consideration in this project.

21. Participatory Sustainable Land Management in the Grassland Plateaus of Western Madagascar – Madagascar [Objective: To reverse land degradation and improve living conditions in the Bongolava Region of Western Madagascar through participatory sustainable management of the grasslands]

Source: https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/Project/documents/ID5354__Madagascar-GEF-5_LD_MSP_ CEO_Endorsement_Request_revised_05.09.2016_Clean_0.pdf

Duration: 48 months from September 2016

The project's land management plans have clear consideration of gender. Agro-ecological techniques emphasise land rehabilitation approaches that improve incomes for women. Participatory and inclusive management systems help communities to coordinate and maintain ecological balance and mitigate drought; special attention is given to women participation and women-led livelihood options. Women currently comprise about 43% of participants and more than 60% of institutional representatives, indicating that the project strongly incorporates women's views and interests. The project highlights division of labour between men and women in irrigated agricultural and other production system – i.e. men prepare the land, whereas women sow, harvest, and process crops. This way the project integrates men and women equally – it also provides gender-specific training and community cohesion.

22. Mainstreaming biodiversity into the management of the coastal zone in the Republic of Mauritius – Mauritius [Objective: To mainstream the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services into coastal zone management and into the operations and policies of the tourism and physical development sectors in the Republic of Mauritius through a 'land- and seascape wide' integrated management approach based on the Environmental Sensitive Areas' (ESAs) inventory and assessment]

Source: https://www.thegef.org/project/mainstreaming-biodiversity-management-coastal-zone-republic-mauritius

Duration: 48 months from March 2016

This project adopts the Human Rights-Based Approach to address gender bias. Project's participatory approach to management is gender-sensitive and socially-inclusive, focusing both on women and men as agents in promoting alternative sustainable livelihoods. It plans to assess, design, monitor and track implementation using a gender lens, distinguishing women and men as beneficiaries. It plans to develop gender-responsive monitoring indicators to ensure that: women's participation in project activities is not hampered by unpaid care work; alternative care arrangements are considered as part of development of sustainable and alternative livelihoods; women's participation does not worsen their unpaid work load; and that the project does not take advantage of gender biases in income to offer women benefits that are lower compared to men. The project aims to hire international and local gender experts to provide necessary expertise for implementation of the project goals.

23. Land Degradation Offset and Mitigation in Western Mongolia – Mongolia [Objective: To reduce negative impacts of mining on rangelands in the western mountain and steppe region by incorporating mitigation hierarchy and offset for land degradation into the landscape level planning and management]

Source:https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/project_documents/3-11-15_-_CEO_Endorsement_Doc1_0.pdf

Duration: 48 months from April 2015

Project acknowledges the existence of a customary gender division of labour in the nomadic pastoral society in Mongolia: men are primarily responsible for herding animals, hunting, slaughtering animals,

maintaining animal shelters, repairing carts, tools, and weapons; whereas women are mainly responsible for housework, milking animals, making dairy products, cooking, washing, sewing, and nurturing children. Project draws from a broad-based consultative process, including women at all levels. Focused group discussions capture gender issues; also sensitisation workshops and awareness-raising programs are designed to ensure that at least 50% of the target participants are women. Activities geared towards mobilising local communities into organised groups encourage women to participate, aiming to have at least one women functionary in each local coordination committee.

24. Sustainable management of Namibia's forested land – Namibia [Objective: To reduce pressure on forest resources by facilitating policy & capacity enabling environment for the uptake of improved practices in agriculture, livestock and forestry management in the community forest areas]

Source: https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/project_documents/12-13-13_CEO_Endorsement_Request_Final_0.pdf

Duration: 72 months from December 2013

This project adopts the UNDP and GEF gender policies and strategies, giving special attention to gender equity and ensuring participation of women in livelihood enhancement activities and in the landscape management planning processes. The role of women in conservation and development is enhanced through the provision of training, access to resources and forums for women's participation - the inclusion of women in economic activities is expected to boost local economies, household incomes and wealth creation.

25. Strengthening the National Protected Areas System of Swaziland – Swaziland [Objective: To strengthen management effectiveness of Swaziland PAs to respond to existing & emerging threats to biodiversity]

Source: https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/project_documents/09-10-12%2520PIF%2520document%2520revised_0.pdf

Duration: 72 months from July 2014

Project aims to increase benefits from tourism for women stakeholders through increased participation. As women are an important stakeholder in food production and household economics, the project plans to conduct a gender analysis during the design stage to identify the ways in which gender relations affect, or are affected by access to, control and use of natural resources, and how these relationships are likely to influence project outcomes and sustainability. Findings are expected to be used to formulate a gender strategy to guide project implementation, to ensure that project targeting promotes effectiveness of implementation, fair and equitable access to and distribution of project benefits.

26. Integrated community-based forest and catchment management through an ecosystem service approach – Thailand [Objective: To create an enabling policy and institutional environment to scale-up integrated community-based forest and catchment management practice]

Source: https://info.undp.org/docs/pdc/Documents/THA/78499_4033_Thailand_Community_Based_Prodoc_August_%202011%20(signed).pdf

Duration: 2012 – 2017

This project acknowledges women as primary users and managers of land, forest, water and other natural resources, playing a leading role in community-based environmental advocacy and natural resource management. It highlights that gender sensitivity and equity would play an important role in project success. Project promotes the participation of women and supports women in leadership and decision-making capacities - active participation in decision-making and the equitable sharing of benefits between men and women is crucial for ensuring the long-term sustainability of natural resource management. Special attention is given to equitable participation of women and men in decision making as well as in benefit distribution.

27. Promoting Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Through Strengthening Legal and Institutional Framework, Capacity Building and Restoration of Most Vulnerable Mountain Landscapes – Macedonia [Objective: To develop and strengthen national policy and institutional

capacity for sustainable land management (SLM) and to contribute to achieving the national land degradation neutrality target with integrated landscape management in north-western mountainous ecosystems of Macedonia]

Source: https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/project_documents/3-27-17_SLM_LD_Macedonia_PIF_revised_-cleanv_0.pdf

Duration: 48 months - concept approved November 2017

Project adopts the UN Environment's commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment by accounting for the differences, needs, roles and priorities of men and women. It acknowledges that women are often the most vulnerable to land degradation such as that resulting from poor management of agricultural and forestry sector. Project plans to mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment into project activities, ensuring that women have an equal voice in project implementation, as well as governance and an active role during the whole project. It highlights that women will participate equally with men in any initiated dialogue or decision-making and will influence decisions that will determine the success of the project and ultimately the future of their families. Gender analysis (from the outset) aims to identify more specifically the areas for women's participation at the outcome level - budget is allocated during the planning phase for mainstreaming gender equality during the project.

28. Strengthening Management Effectiveness and Generating Multiple Environmental Benefits within and around Protected Areas in Zambia – Zambia [Objective: To ensure that the biodiversity and carbon sinks of Zambia – particularly those critical forest landscapes in selected protected areas (including core National Parks and buffer Game Management Areas) – are better protected from threats through improved management effectiveness at the institutional level; sustainable forestry management practices and integrated land use planning at the local level; and application of appropriate low-carbon, biomass-energy technologies]

Source: https://www.thegef.org/project/strengthening-management-effectiveness-and-generating-multiple-environmental-benefits-within

Duration: 60 months from October 2013

Project aims to improved income streams for charcoal workers - although charcoal production process is done mostly by men, women are integrated at different stages in production, transportation and sale, upscaling their capacity to sell large quantities of charcoal to end-users at market points in urban centres. It highlights that the management and development of energy resources at the grass-root level requires effective participation of women and men in decision making. Women play a vital role in the provision and management of energy resources in rural areas and are required to take proactive decisions on how energy resources are managed and developed.

29. Comprehensive and integrated management of natural resources in Borno State – Nigeria [Objective: To maintain the provision of ecosystem services in Nigeria's Borno state by preserving agro- and forest ecosystems in a context of improved production, conservation and renewable energy to secure multiple environmental and socioeconomic benefits]

Source: https://www.thegef.org/project/lcb-nree-nigeria-child-project-comprehensive-and-integrated-management-natural-resources

Duration: 60 months from December 2016

Gender issues are not visible in the text, result framework, the indicators, and the monitoring and evaluation document.

30. Improving Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in Niger's Diffa Region – Niger Republic [Objective: To enhance agro-sylvo-pastoralism and landscape productivity in Niger's Diffa region by rehabilitating agro and forest ecosystems in support of food security and environmental protection]

Source: https://www.thegef.org/project/lcb-nree-niger-child-project-improving-sustainable-management-natural-resources-niger%E2%80%99s

Duration: 60 months from December 2016 This project acknowledges that women represent about 52% of the population in the area and have a heavier workload compared to men, including having lower access to education, information, agricultural extension services, inputs and credit. The project aims to reduce gender disparities by facilitating women participation in decision-making and investment, access to land security and by enhancing the organisational capacity of women's producer groups, improving their situation as a result. It highlights women's integration and ownership as a core objective to be realised through setting up a gender-sensitive early warning system and promoting basin resource users' forums comprising a set of pro-women services centred on the development of alternative livelihoods and suitable technical vocational and social trainings (including in reproductive health). Project aims to set up a M&E system based on gender disaggregated data as well as on gender-related indicators - number of women working in investment and demonstrations activities and those participating in the trainings will be monitored. Project plan involve stakeholders, and gender and socio-economic development specialist in the Regional Coordination Unit to enhance training and gender mainstreaming.

Table S2. Questions that guided reading and assessment of projects.

Reading and assessments of projects are guided by the following questions:
▪ What are the specific gender elements/issues integrated in the project preparation/plan? ▪ In what ways are the differences, needs, roles, and priorities of women and men presented, integrated and/or addressed? ▪ Does the project emphasis how and why gender matters for land management/ restoration? ▪ Is the project explicit about approaches to address gender bias and support female empowerment? ▪ In what ways are gender issues/concerns different across countries and what general principles/norms can be promoted; and what opportunities exist to maximise gender and women's expertise to achieve gender-responsive LDN?

Table S3. A logical framework to follow-up on the status of gender equality in LDN-related national initiatives

Intervention logic	Gender-sensitive indicator	Verification	Assumption
A gender-responsive approach to be mainstreamed across sectors and subordinate authorities	Gender-responsive actions that contribute to LDN are included in a national development vision	Regular national reports on the implementation of LDN and other international goals include a section on the status and trends in gender-responsive actions	Policy provides an enabling environment to implement LDN which considers gender equality as a basic human right
Policies and procedures on land ensure equal treatment of women and men	Secured equal rights for women and men before law	The rights of women to access and to control land resources are enabled and secured, leading to gender equality in land use rights and land ownership	National institutions are in place that regulate equal access to and control over land resources
Women and men understand the concept of LDN and have access to knowledge/best practices on measures to avoid/reduce/reverse land degradation	Capacity-building / training on understanding LDN concept and locally adapted guidelines which include female and male local knowledge about environmental as well as decision-support tools are provided and used by men and women	The awareness of LDN and means to implement it rises equally among male and female farmers	Female and male farmers are responsive to the implementation of SLM
Female and male farmers implement measures to avoid/reduce and reverse land degradation to slow down or halts the loss of productive lands	Female and male farmers use SLM technologies	National monitoring shows a rise in land areas where SLM is applied accompanied by a decline in the net loss of productive lands	Incentives and a secure policy and regulatory environment give female and male farmers the security for long-term investments in enhancing and maintain the productivity of their lands