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The Role of Women in Achieving ITTO Objectives: Challenges and Opportunities

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Key Note Speaker

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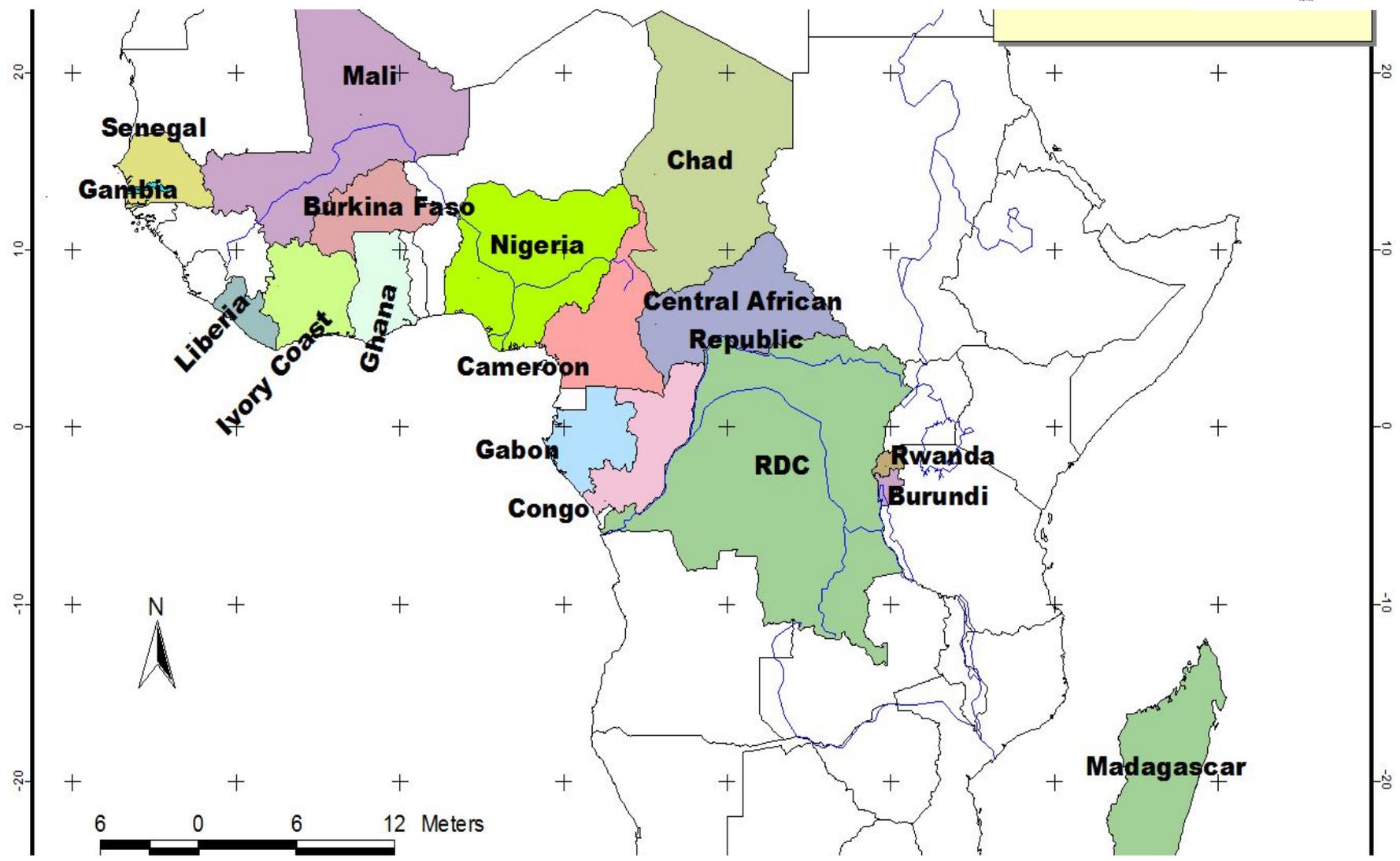
The African women's Network for community management of forests (REFACOF)



- Created in May 2009 in Yaoundé, Cameroon
- Composed of 17 West and Central African countries and Madagascar
- REFACOF is **an advocacy platform** focused on African women's **tenure rights** in land and forest reforms

Mission:

- Promote women's rights in Africa and influence policy to achieve gender equity in land and forest tenure
- 5-year strategic plan with 4 strategic pillars: Capacity building, Equitable, Tenure reforms, Advocacy and experience sharing





Women in the Forest sector



- **Some background information**

Women's population:

- Though the World population by Gender 2012 from UN Population Division shows male population higher than the female (Men: **50.4%** and Women: **49.6%**)
- In most Sub Sahara African countries women represent **more than half** of the total population (Out of **10** countries selected, **7** have a higher female population)

Women's lives:

- Women lives depend on forests and forest resources for their livelihoods, cultural practices and social values: food, firewood, water, soil, fodder, medicine, agricultural activities, ...
 - They control **60-70%** of food production
 - **60-70%** agriculture manpower is female
 - **80%** NTFP collection controlled by women
 - Women obtained **33-45%** of their income from forests and common land (IUCN)



Women in the Forest sector



- **Women's roles**

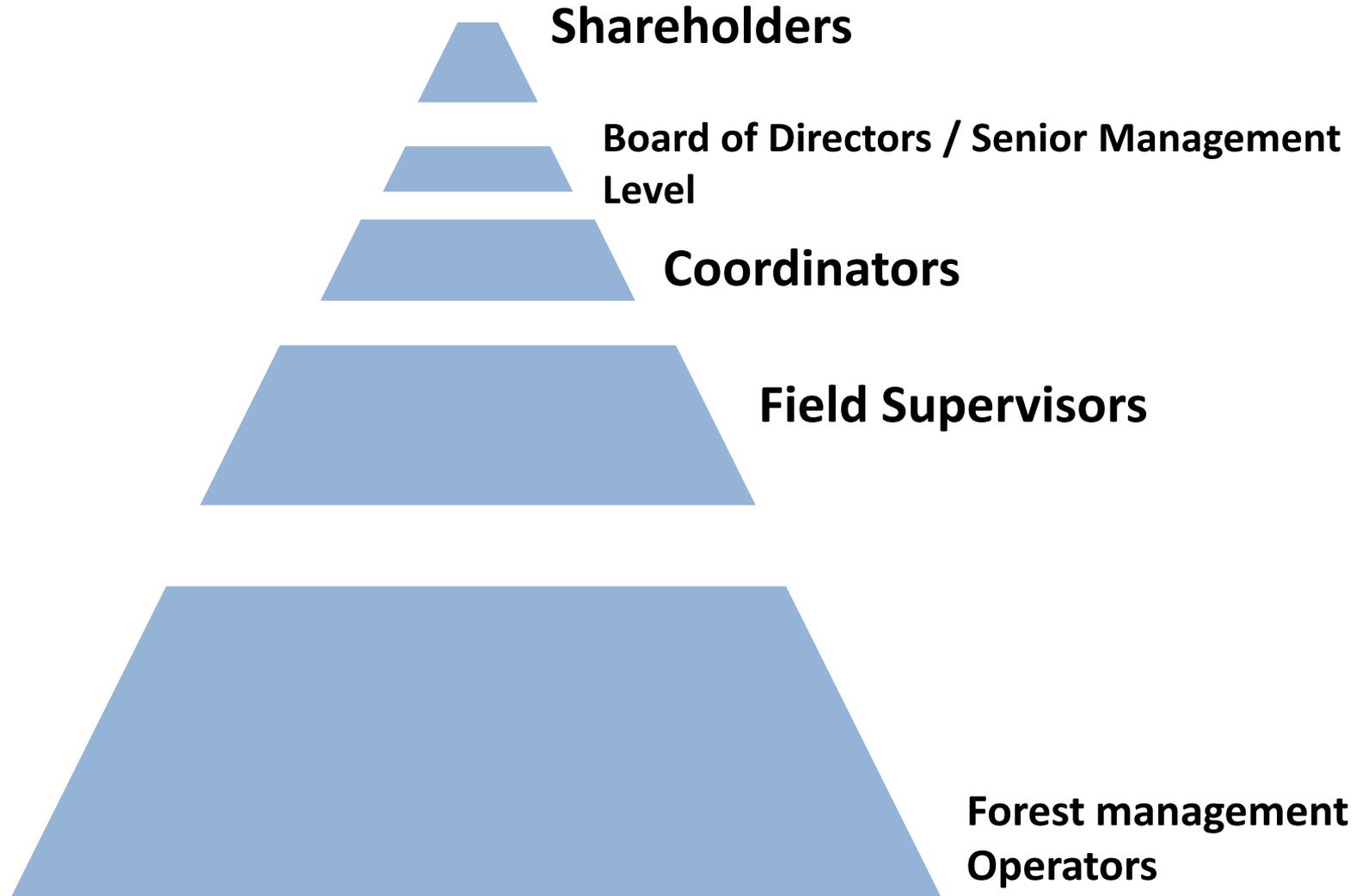
- Key actors in restoration, rehabilitation of degraded forest areas, reforestation, conservation,...: leading nursery activities, planting, agroforestry practices, ...
- Good knowledge of forest, forest resources and use: tree species, harvesting techniques, preference to NTFP, ...
- Very effective in combatting climate change: improved cook stoves initiatives ...
- Some women's activities are also among the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation
- Evolving and diversified role: from subsistence economic activities to business development with added value commercial products, etc.



Women in the Forest sector (2)



- **Key challenges**
- In almost all countries in the world, forestry is a male dominated sector; forestry being perceived as a male's profession
- Women are under represented in almost all spheres:
 - Universities and forestry schools
 - Forest companies
 - Management boards, Executive Committees, ...
 - Government ministries
 - Decision-making structures, ...
- Women have very limited access and control over forest resources, land, technology, financial resources, training, information, technology, ...
- Insecure tenure that can be worsen by gender blind REDD+ processes, large scale land allocations, ...
- Women also lack awareness of their rights, ...



**Women's
representation**



Women's contribution in achieving ITTO Objectives



Among the 14 ITTO objectives as set out in the ITTA, 2006, only **ONE** refers to local communities ... and **none** on Women:

- To encourage members to support and develop industrial tropical timber reforestation and forest management activities as well as rehabilitation of degraded forest land, with **due regard for the interests of local communities** dependent on forest resources
- --→ Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Guidelines very important and great opportunity to thrive the change and improve ITTO mission



How to implement the GEEW Guidelines: some entry points



- Create visibility of the GEEW guidelines
 - Raise awareness of the ITTO members, Observers, Partners, and other stakeholders on the existence of the GEEW guidelines
 - Organize Information and communication campaigns
- Promote the effective use of the guidelines
 - Support the implementation of the guidelines by Members, Observers, Partners, CSO, Communities, etc.
 - Capacity building: Training on the use of the guidelines of all the stakeholders
 - Implement the guidelines beyond the project formulation
- Carry out a **gender analysis** and review all the ITTO strategic documents
 - Strategic action plan; Thematic programmes, ITTO-CITES, ITTO-CBD, ITTO Manuals, etc.
- Provide Gender disaggregated data to inform the Council and other stakeholders on various issues related women in the forestry sector



How to implement the GEEW Guidelines: some entry points (2)



- Develop a mechanism or framework to monitor and evaluate the effective use of the guidelines
 - Gender-responsive tools, means of verification and reporting, ...



Recommendations



ITTO Country members:

- Council members encourage their government agencies back home to use the relevant GEEW Policy guidelines to link up forestry and gender equality with the Sustainable Development Goal SDG 5 on gender equality, and various United Nations guidance and mechanisms on women empowerment.
- ITTO Members mobilise resources to and build capacities of government agencies, private sector, Civil society organizations, Women and other relevant stakeholders in the effective use of the guidelines
- Pilot gender-responsive initiatives as a way to implement the guidelines and share lessons learnt
- Scale up the existing initiatives on Community Forest Enterprises with special focus on women's led initiatives (Dryad, Forest and Farm Facilities, etc.)



Recommendations (2)



The Council:

- To mobilise resources to review how the GEEW can be fully integrated and provided with specific guidance for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal SDG 5 on gender equality, and various United Nations guidance and mechanisms on women empowerment on forestry related sectors.
- To mobilise resources to develop guidance materials and awareness tools for all stakeholders to use the GEEW as a fundamental priority towards ensuring the success of the implementation of the ITTO Guidelines on SFM, and FLR.
- Authorise ITTO Secretariat to conduct an annual questionnaire survey to monitor and evaluate GEEW adoption and implementation progress and report back to Council.
- Support value chain development and creation of **sustainable business environment** for women in the forest sector
- Support CSAG and TAG to produce annual scorecards at each Council Session on the status of the implementation of the Guidelines.



Recommendations (3)



Secretariat:

- To include in the Biennial Work Programme (BWP) activities on capacity building of the GEEW policy guidelines for governments, private sector, civil society, etc. in all ITTO regions, and how the GEEW is fundamental to the implementation of the ITTO Guidelines on SFM and FLR.
- Conduct an annual questionnaire survey to monitor and evaluate GEEW adoption and implementation progress and report back to Council.
- Strengthen the technical and financial **capacities** of women to develop enterprises that will satisfy the ever-increasing demand and meet quality standards



Thank you!

