



# Sustainable forest management and SDGs 2030 in Africa



**Combatting rural community  
poverty in West and Central Africa  
through promoting and enhancing  
women-led forest landscape  
restoration (FLR)**



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# Content



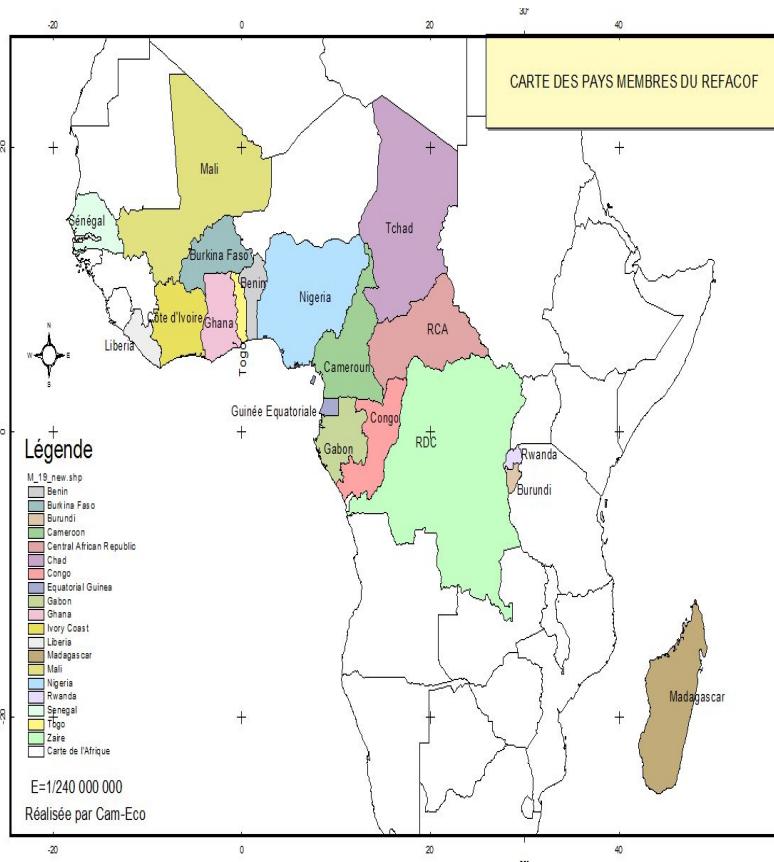
- REFACOF' Short presentation
- Women in the Forest sector in Africa
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- Recommendations



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



- **Securing Women's Forest and Land Property Rights!**
- Created in May 2009, REFACOF is composed of 19 West and Central African countries and Madagascar
- Promote women's rights in Africa and influence policy to achieve gender equity in land and forest tenure
- Strategic pillars: Capacity building, Tenure reforms, Advocacy and experience sharing, forestry-based entrepreneurship initiatives development





# Current challenges in relation to women's participation in landscape restoration, poverty alleviation and climate change



The main problems local groups of women face in relation to forest landscape restoration can be summarized as follows:

- Increased degradation of forest landscapes from unsustainable charcoal production and other bad practices are impacting the women's livelihood for family living;
- Discriminatory practices of local habits and customs experienced by women in their rural communities leading to limited access to lands by women for livelihood-related activities;
- Lack of secure rights to lands and forests for women;
- Poor organizational and institutional capacities of the women groups not facilitating their economic empowerment;
- Under-representation of women in the decision-making structures in the forestry sector not allowing to take into account their priorities and requirements.



# Key lessons learnt from similar ITTO projects



- Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded forests with the involvement of local communities (refugees, internally displaced people and local populations) through agroforestry systems contributing to food security and livelihood improvement, as a way to combat poverty through the empowerment of women
- Women and youth participation strengthened in forest rehabilitation activities (more than 50% of women's cooperative members)
- Social cohesion built and strengthened local communities highly motivated to take care of themselves while rehabilitating degraded forests





# Objectives and expected outputs of the REFACOF project (for TICAD-7)



## Objectives of the project:

- Enhancing the contribution of women in the conservation and increase of forest cover in order to address climate change whilst improving their livelihoods and combating poverty.
- Promoting forest landscape restoration through agro-forestry systems, as well as a source of environmentally-friendly income generating activities (IGAs).

## Three expected outputs:

- Quality seeds and forest seedlings distributed to local groups of women living near selected gazetted forests in target beneficiary countries
- Livelihoods of local groups of women improved through the production, processing and marketing of food crops products associated with tree planting, for the rehabilitation of degraded gazetted forests, as well as through the production of charcoal with modern carbonization method.
- Degraded gazetted forests rehabilitated through the establishment of taungya agroforestry plantations, with the involvement of local groups of women living around those degraded gazetted forests in target beneficiary countries



# Conclusion

- REFACOF is grateful to ITTO, the Government of Japan and all African Governments that are supporting women in their contribution to the sustainable management of forest, poverty alleviation and climate change mitigation.
- In each of the targeted countries, REFACOF project will enhance the contribution of women in the conservation and increase of forest cover in order to address climate change whilst improving their livelihoods and combating poverty through the empowerment of rural women.
- This project, submitted by REFACOF for TICAD-7 funding mechanisms, fits neatly with the Government of Japan and TICAD 7 objectives, showing clear impact resulting from focus on socio-economic reforms, human resource development, technology transfer and promoting the empowerment of women while respecting Africa's ownership and emphasizing the empowerment of its people, building towards Agenda 2063 of African Union.
- This project effectively contributes to the following sustainable development goals (SDGs): 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15 and 17.



**Empowered African women are able to positively impact our environment as they are doing it with their families and communities**

**We hope that TICAD-7 will contribute to further empower them by supporting the REFACOF project**

**Thank you All for your support!**

**Allow me to share few photos with you to visualize some achievements**



Local traditional  
Chief visiting  
women's  
plantation



Cassia plantation



Cassava transportation



## Forest rehabilitated by Women



## Direct women's participation



## Resources Inventory in a Community Forest



## Women's tree nursery



## Mangrove nursery established by Women