LESSON LEARNED **Reconciling trade-offs between gender equality and carbon mitigation and adaptation in Burkina Faso**

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Here we discuss increased livelihood options and adaptive capacity for women when they have access to indigenous tree-based parklands and small-scale restored lands, which are also associated with enhanced biodiversity. Despite this synergy, there is a trade-off: in this case, monoculture tree plantations contain higher carbon stocks than parklands and may therefore be prioritized as climate change mitigation action. A broad understanding of the local context is necessary to develop synergistic options that do not compromise equality.

Important Details

time (or time period)	2010-2013
country & region	Burkina Faso
context & agro-eco landscape type	Dry forest
key actors, stakeholders & beneficiaries	Forest-dependent communities
model and/or tools used	-

Description & takeaways

Climate adaptation is an urgent imperative in Burkina Faso, where agricultural systems and rural inhabitants who rely on natural resources for their livelihoods are highly vulnerable to climate variability. This is especially true for impoverished communities. Burkina Faso is seeing a high incidence of climate-related inter-provincial migration, as people move southward in part due to high climate variability.

Research on a Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) initiative in Burkina Faso (Djoudi et al. 2015) has shown that there are synergies and trade-offs between gender equality and climate mitigation and adaptation goals in the region. The study shows that women's livelihood options and access to diverse non-timber forest products, which impact their climate adaptation capacities, are significantly greater in indigenous tree-based parklands (dominated by shea (*Vitellaria paradoxa*) and néré (*Parkia biglobosa*) trees) and small-scale restored lands than in monoculture tree plantations (e.g. cashew (*Anacardium occidentale*) or mango (*Mangifera indica*)), which are less biodiverse, larger in scale, and typically controlled by men (*ibid*). In this regard, women's adaptive capacities are positively linked with biodiversity goals. However, the monoculture tree plantations studied contain higher carbon stocks than

parklands. Hence, there are some trade-offs between women's livelihood benefits and carbon sequestration. In this regard, prioritizing carbon stocks as a central mitigation action can compromise women's adaptive capacities.

Assessing the potential impacts of REDD+, or other climate mitigation initiatives, on women's and men's adaptive capacities is needed to identify potential tensions or trade-offs among gender equality and environmental goals, including climate action, biodiversity conservation, etc. A broad understanding of these intersections and trade-offs is necessary to develop synergistic options that do not compromise equality.

Key references

Djoudi, H., Djenontin, N., Dayamba, D., Zida, M. (2015). Is Carbon gender neutral? Adaptation mitigation gendered linkages in the dry forest context of Burkina Faso. CIFOR Presentation. Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Bogor. Available at: https://www.see.leeds.ac.uk/fileadmin/Documents/research/sri/Multi-level_governance/ESEE_2015_Houria.pdf

Elias, M., Ihalainen, M., Monterroso, I., Gallant, B., and Paez Valencia, A.M. 2021. Enhancing synergies between gender equality and biodiversity, climate and land degradation neutrality goals: Lessons from gender-responsive nature-based approaches. Working Paper. Bioversity International: Rome, Italy. https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/114844