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RESTORE HER RIGHTS

Gender Responsive Approaches to Ecosystem Restoration: A Global Summary



120+ hectares of land
and water restored



4 types of ecosystems



500+ women supported
and engaged



6 different countries
across the world

Closing the Gender Gap in Restoration

- Women, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities play a critical role in natural resource management and conservation, yet their participation in ecosystem restoration is disproportionately low.
- United Nations Decade for Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) commits to reversing ecosystem degradation and enhancing biodiversity.
- Despite restoration taking centre stage, socio-cultural dimensions, especially gender, are overlooked.
- Exacerbating power imbalances, existing inequalities and creates exclusion by design, marginalising vulnerable groups reliant on restored lands.

Restore Her Rights Global Summary Report

- Documents six women-led restoration initiatives across Latin America, Africa and the Asia-Pacific, particularly in Argentina, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Kenya, Myanmar and the Solomon Islands.
- Reaffirms that inclusion of women, Indigenous People and Local Communities enhances livelihoods, food security, intergenerational transfer of traditional knowledge and helps build capacities and leadership.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) introduced



Target 2 on
restoring at
least 30% of
degraded
ecosystems



Target 22 on
equitable access
to biodiversity
justice, information,
and decision-
making for all



Target 23 on
gender equality
and women's
rights

Challenges to Community and Women-led Restoration Initiatives

- Extractive Industries: logging, mining, aquaculture, palm oil, tourism.
- Impact of Climate Change: floods, droughts, sea-level rise affecting restoration
- Land tenure inequality: women's land rights largely unrecognised.
- Political instability: weak policies, conflicts and displacement.
- Lack of gender data and capacity building due to limited funding.
- Gender-Based Violence and Invisibility of Women's Labour: invisibility of women's labour, normalisation of violence against women.
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) not considered
- Invasive alien species and exclusionary conservation models.



A gender-responsive approach to ecosystem restoration values women's and men's distinct roles, knowledge, and needs in environmental management.

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Transformative Impact: *When women lead restoration, communities thrive*

- Restoration and Livelihood: Women helped boost local economies by creating new livelihoods such as the sea market in Chomes and the revival of fish species in Cameroon.
- Food Sovereignty and Health: Examples from Myanmar and Kenya spotlight the significance of seed banks, medicinal plants, kitchen gardens.
- Self-Determination and Autonomy: Initiatives in Chomes, Costa Rica led to formalised cooperatives, licenses, and communities in Solomon Islands asserted their land rights.
- Intergenerational dialogues: Engaging youth through cultural and educational activities.
- Traditional knowledge & innovation: Kamatira in Kenya saw women build energy-saving stoves called Jikos or Chepkubeh and built mandala gardens in their nurseries.
- Capacity building: All six restoration sites developed gender training workshops and linked it with the various legal instruments available in their region.
- Management & Governance: In most sites, both women and men are actively engaged in ensuring rules and regulations in restored regions.
- Cross-pollination & exchanges: Successful restoration has built confidence in women's ability to share their experiences with neighboring communities, and in the regional and international levels.
- Increased Recognition of Women: Work from all six restoration sites have received regional and global recognition.

Principles for Gender-Responsive Ecosystems Restoration

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Equality and Equity |  Patience |
|  Good Governance |  Flexibility |
|  Equal Participation, Social Cohesion and Inclusive Language |  Reflexivity |
|  Inclusion of Men and Youth |  Creativity |
|  Access to Justice |  Freedom |
|  Self Determination and Autonomy |  Interdisciplinary and Collaborative Work |
|  Access to Information and Technology |  Transparency and Accountability |
|  Respect for All Kinds of Knowledge |  Hope |
|  Consensual and Direct Decision Making |  Joyful Work |
|  Respect |  Deconstruction |
|  Strengthening Local Leadership |  Consistency |
| |  Empathy |

Recommendations

- Embed principles of equity and equality in all policies and initiatives.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange between traditional knowledge holders and scientists.
- Secure tenure rights for women and communities to empower them in sustainable resource management.
- Promote diverse, resilient livelihoods and access to natural resources, markets, and capacity building for sustainable livelihoods.
- Form co-operatives to boost food security, community empowerment, and local economies.
- Ensure that initiatives are rooted in human-rights principles.
- Develop accessible legal frameworks and ensure the availability of legal aid services.
- Flexible and diverse funding sources to support gender-responsive and community-led initiatives.
- Invest in leadership development programs for women, youth and marginalised communities.
- Implement protocols that incorporate international standards which address gender-based violence.
- Create specific indicators to assess gender equality in restoration.
- Develop and implement restoration action plans that align with GBF Target 23.
- Encourage local communities to actively engage in the UN Decade of Restoration Initiatives.



Read the full report!

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