Gender and Social Inclusivity in Restoration Projects – how does policy intent get diluted?

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Gender in landscape restoration, a case of Ethiopia

1. Understanding how gender is addressed in restoration policies and in tools and manuals that offer guidance to practitioners
2. Examining whether or how gender is addressed in the landscape restoration scientific literature
3. Building the empirical evidence around how gender is addressed in a subset of restoration projects

Attributes of gender-responsive restoration (Sijapati Basnett et al., 2017: https://ebrary.ifpri.org/digital/collection/p15738coll9/id/393/)
How is gender addressed in restoration policies and in tools and manuals in Ethiopia?

- **Intent is there, but capacities are often not** – looking for very concrete guidance on how to move forward; but hard to provide very specific guidance because dealing with complex issues, power relations, etc.

- **Synergy**: different ministerial mandates, but gender equality/inclusion in restoration requires different sectors to work together: how do we promote that?

- Gender not necessarily embedded in restoration-related policy; restoration not embedded in gender-related policy. **Need policy coherence**, and that will also avail more budget to address gender in restoration.
How is gender addressed in the landscape restoration scientific literature in Ethiopia?

312 peer reviewed papers

Increasing trend in the use of social inclusive keywords

~ 64% of the publications were categorized as gender blind whereas 33% are gender sensitive

Gender sensitive and transformative key words such as negotiation, mainstreaming, inclusiveness and disaggregated were present only in 3 – 5 papers
Empirical evidence in gender dynamics in selected restoration projects in Ethiopia

- **Root cause of land degradation:**
  - Men more of biophysical (e.g., slope)
  - Women land management (e.g., lack of crop rotation)

- **Restoration outcomes:**
  - Men and women have similar perspectives on outcomes the restoration measures

- **Engagement in leadership:**
  - More men than women engaged in restoration decision making bodies
Empirical evidence in gender dynamics in selected restoration projects in Ethiopia

Although women are engaged during community wide consultations, fewer are consulted during first and last rounds of consultations.

~ half of women are engaged in government & NGO led restoration projects.
Policycape: SDGs

12 (71%) SDGs have gender-specific indicators

SDG 6  Clean Water and Sanitation
SDG 9  Industry, Innovation and infrastructure
SDG 12  Responsible consumption and production
SDG 14  Life below water
SDG 15  Life on Land

SDG 15.3 Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) has no socio-economic/gender indicator
Policyscape: UNCCD

UNCCD COP 14 Decision 16:
Refined guidance for the implementation of land degradation neutrality
Encourages Parties and other stakeholders to:

- Integrate gender-responsive actions to promote women, youth and girls through the gender-inclusive design of preliminary land degradation neutrality assessments recommended by the scientific conceptual framework for land degradation neutrality;
- Develop gender-responsive land degradation neutrality interventions based on women’s participation in decision-making for enabling inclusive land governance; and
- Take into account gender dimensions responsive to the concerns of women, youth and girls in land-use planning and in the design of interventions towards achieving land degradation neutrality;
Final thoughts

A positive trend in including gender and social inclusion in landscape restoration

- **Initiatives**: e.g., UN decade on ecosystem restoration (2021–2030)
- **Evidence**:
  - Investment into long-term research, including social as well as natural sciences
  - Beyond gender disaggregated data
  - Integrated research approach
- **Approach**
  - Gender mainstreaming is a process rather than a goal
  - Gender is a cross-cutting topic across projects/programs—risk of thinly spreading?

**Policy**: policy intent is there, but capacities are often not
Thank you

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