

Strengthening women's tenure rights and participation

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BACKGROUND

*“The government will ensure the **integration** of **gender concerns** and issues into the development of the forest sector..... This will include efforts to:*

- increase security of tenure over forest resources for women and youth;*
- encourage active participation of women and youth in decision-making, resource management and sharing of benefits;*
- promote changes in attitudes and organisational cultures, to break down gender barriers; and*
- to provide mutual respect and dignity for all people irrespective of social group, gender or background.”*

Uganda Forest Policy` (2001)



DIAGNOSTIC RESEARCH IN 18 COMMUNITIES, 3 DISTRICTS (2010-2011)

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Gender, tenure and community forests in Uganda

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Key message

- Despite greater management in out of decision
- Most women do better
- Formal forest can elevate the quality decision making
- Better information participate more resources in the
- Women represent leadership possible clear need for all
- District and sub-district training in
- Educated women representing and different from its

Introduction

Despite legal and policy in forestry management in decision making, in (CFM) and forest user of 1998 and Uganda division of labour and gendered spaces and in decision making in Nabungga 2007. The constrain women's who are members of at 2011.

This study examines in Uganda are involved and sharing benefits & explores the support in community forest

• Makerere University
• Uganda Forestry Research

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Gender and forestry in Uganda Policy, legal and institutional frameworks

Concepta Mulasi¹, Alex Tibazakwa², Alice Mangi³ and Harriet Nabwire Muloki⁴

Key messages

- Despite legal frameworks, policies and strategies in Uganda to support equality between men and women, prominent gender inequalities still exist in forest use and/or management.
- Cultural beliefs and traditional practices that restrict women from planting trees or from speaking in public forums constrain policy implementation.
- Initiatives set up by the government to support private tree planting require land ownership, yet women own only 1% of land in Uganda. This automatically excludes them.
- Most gender mainstreaming policies lack legal provisions to ensure compliance, and gender considerations in national laws are not reflected at lower levels of government.
- The forestry sector and civil society organisations should encourage girls to pursue a career in science, and forestry in particular.
- The National Forestry Authority should work with civil society, the private sector and development partners to address gender concerns in forest management, simplify guidelines for community forest management and produce them in local languages, and advance funding to women to help them take part in private forest development and central forest reserves.

Introduction

Uganda continues to lose an estimated 8000 ha of forest every year (Chapman 2006). Fuel wood accounts for about 50% of the energy consumed in Uganda, not surprisingly, about 95% of the fuel forests are consumed as fuel wood. With a population growth rate of 2.9% per year, the annual demands for fuel wood is expected to increase (SACC 2006).

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The decline in forest cover is expected to continue, principally due to agricultural expansion and cutting for fuel wood. Many areas of the country are already deforested and subject to increased erosion, landslides, siltation of rivers, pollution of surface waters and uncontrolled disposal of solid waste. This deterioration has gender implications as women continue to bear the burden of walking longer distances for water, fuel and firewood.

Since the late 1990s, government law reforms in Uganda – including those relating to forestry and natural resource management – have generally recognised gender related issues and the importance of women's participation in the management of development programmes. This initiative summarises a study of the institutional, legal and policy frameworks in Uganda that govern natural resource management/forest management and how these address gender equality considerations. It includes highlights of gender integration practices in the natural resources sector, focusing specifically on forest use and management.

Legislative and policy architecture

At the international level, Uganda has ratified and signed several global accords on gender equality and women's empowerment, including the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Platform of Action. In addition, Uganda has pledged to implement the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, which include the provision of gender equality by 2015. The country is also a signatory of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and to the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa that came into effect on 25 January 2003.

Uganda has also ratified international protocols to promote sustainable forest management and community empowerment. The Convention on Biological Diversity, for example, promotes indigenous knowledge and recognises the vital role women play in conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

At the national level, Uganda has several policies, legal and institutional frameworks to support equality between men and women, including the Constitution, the Uganda Gender

Prominent gender inequalities still exist in forest use and/or management

- government programs/NFA have focal points but don't have specific guidelines/strategies; programs did not actively promote gender integration
- staff had no incentives to encourage women's participation
- limited budgets
- people were not aware that the law governing forests in Uganda had changed to encourage more community participation
- Due to cultural norms and practices, private forests, woodlots and on-farm trees are normally owned by men.
- Forests/trees= men



ADAPTIVE COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT

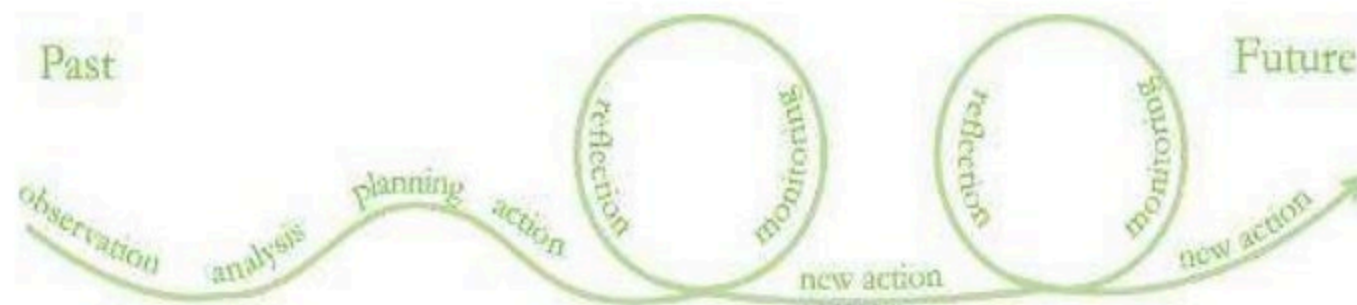


Purpose:

- Enhance women's participation
- Establish whether and how negotiated processes can lead to gender-equitable outcomes
- Identify whether negotiation & facilitation strengthen women's tenure rights in the context of strong customary norms with male bias
- Generate lessons

ADAPTIVE COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT: AN APPROACH TO EMPOWERMENT (2011-2016)

- move from an undesired current situation to a desired future state that the actors agree upon;
- proved successful in encouraging both men and women to participate in management of their natural resources eg in Zimbabwe and Nepal



M&E INDICATORS

- No. of women:
 - in leadership
 - attending meetings
 - Participating/actively contributing
 - owning trees
 - controlling incomes
- Perceptions of participation in decision making and confidence of women leaders



Table 1. Changes in women's leadership and overall participation.

Activity	Before ACM intervention	After ACM intervention
Gender-based		
Women in leadership	2 out of 18 executives (11%).	36 of 67 executives.
Women planting and owning trees	5 women had woodlots.	151 women have planted and own the trees.
Planting of <i>Ficus natalensis</i>	No woman planted <i>Ficus</i> as it symbolizes land ownership.	51 of 167 women members have planted <i>Ficus</i> ; 2 women have sold barkcloth made from <i>Ficus</i> .
Number of trees planted and owned by women	Approximately 350 trees, mainly fruit trees for subsistence. Some women had never planted a tree before.	Women planted 8541 trees, mainly eucalyptus, for both subsistence (firewood) and commercial use.
Confidence levels	Low participation in group activities.	Attendance in group activities is relatively higher for women; average attendance is 13 women and 11 men.
Contribution to discussions	Men and male youth dominated discussions.	Almost at 1:1; women and men contribute equally to discussions.
Involvement in political leadership	2 were elected as political leaders.	18 vied for political leadership (16 for their first time).
Trees planted and owned in Central forest reserves	None.	About 26,600 of 49,911 trees planted in CFR were planted by both men and women.

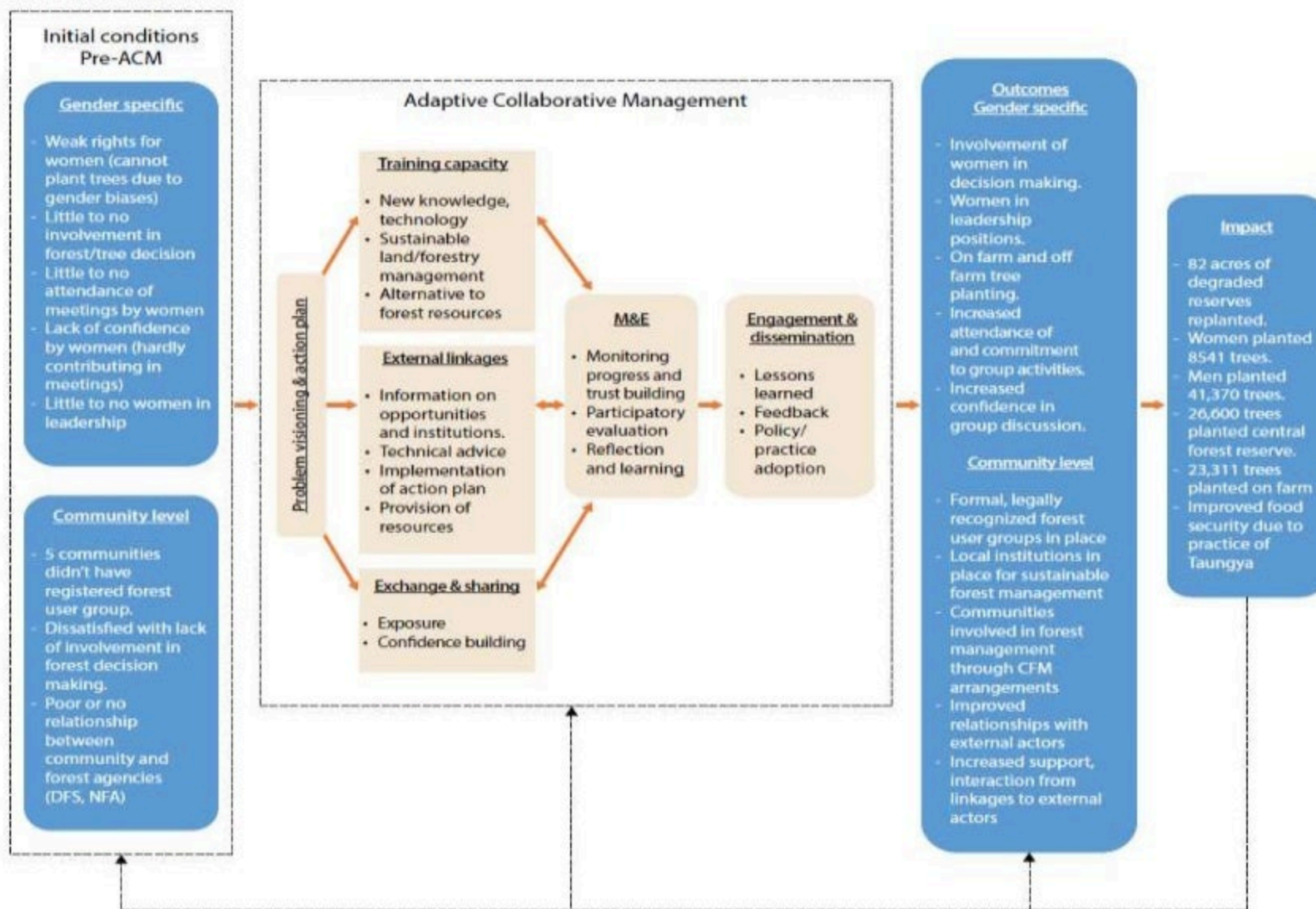


Figure 5. The ACM process and gender equitable outcomes.

HOW? WHAT DRIVES THESE OUTCOMES?

- Capacity-building: increased knowledge, skills and confidence of women, enabling them to lead the groups and to implement forestry and non-forestry activities that restored degraded forest, improved household incomes and livelihoods and increased the number of trees planted (and surviving) on farms.
- Vertical linkages to the National Forest Authority and NGOs ensured support (such as technical capacity, networks, information) and recognition.
- ACM facilitators created a safe, non-intimidating space where women were able to speak up and share their opinions in the presence of men, free from intimidation or retribution. In particular, facilitation processes ensured that engagement and decision rules provided women with as much scope to influence decisions as men. Consensus, rather than majority vote, was the basis of decision-making.

HOW?

Engagement beyond the community level

- Conversations with legislators
 - Increasing budget, roll out of ACM at district level, prioritizing women's groups in funding
- National Forest Authority
 - Endorsed ACM
 - Integrating gender into community forestry guidelines
- Workshops with practitioners
- Project Advisory Committee



HOW

Durable partnerships

- Association of Uganda Women Professionals in Agriculture and Environment (AUPWAE)
- Makerere University
- National Forestry Authority
- Forest Sector Support Program



CONCLUSION

- Partnerships (complementary skills and knowledge & presence/trust)
- Engagement (facilitation/negotiation, dialogue, feedback, information & presence/trust)
- Capacity building (women, men, university, NGOs)

➤ **TRANSFORMATION** of relationships that have been constructed and perpetuated over centuries

OUTCOMES: STRONGER WOMEN'S RIGHTS & PARTICIPATION, REFORESTATION

<http://www.cifor.org/gender/videos/uganda/>

<http://blog.cifor.org/48873/moving-the-needle-advancing-gender-equality-in-uganda?fnl=en>

<http://blog.cifor.org/45374/a-once-forbidden-tree?fnl=en>

<https://cgiargender.exposure.co/international-day-of-rural-women>



info brief

Strengthening women's tenure rights and participation in community forestry

CONRADO MUKULI, NIKY TSHIRIRA, ETHEL MWAHO, ANTON Y. BARISSA, ANNE BISHUKUNGI AND JIMMY BUSHOKOZI

Key messages

- Although women's right to land administration may be governed by national laws, they are not automatically respected in traditional forest management systems and in legal frameworks.
- An emphasis on forest administration of gender equitable systems, recognition and facilitation by forest institutions and the inclusion of women's rights and participation in forest governance can contribute to a more equitable forest management system.
- Adaptive Collaborative Management (ACM), which aims to meet the varying needs, women's rights, forest administration and forest governance, can be used to address the gender equity gap in forest governance.
- ACM has been used to improve participation of marginalized groups in community forestry processes, including decision making and benefits sharing (Coffin 2010a, 2010b; Mwangi et al. 2011; Mwangi et al. 2010; Odiit et al. 2010; Mwangi et al. 2010).
- ACM has been used to improve participation of marginalized groups in forest governance and forest management, including in the selection of forest types.

Introduction

In Uganda, there is a significant gender gap in forest governance and participation in forest management. The Uganda Forestry Sector Policy and Strategy Plan of 2012 (Mwambi et al. 2012) identifies important gaps in land and natural resource, tenure and access, women's participation in forest governance, and forest management. The policy also identifies the need to improve women's participation in forest governance and management.

Methodology

The study used ACM to improve participation of marginalized groups in forest governance and forest management. The study was conducted in Uganda, ACM is a collaborative approach whereby people with different backgrounds and perspectives work together to plan, monitor and evaluate.



“I am not educated. Previously I was shy and could not say anything openly in a meeting but now I also talk in meetings and some of my ideas are taken seriously... In addition, I had never handled even shs 100,000 as my own but now I get even a million shillings.... I have an asset of trees which I never thought I would own.”



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PROGRAM ON
Forests, Trees and
Agroforestry