



## Climate Change and Climate Justice: Review of Gender Analysis in Redd+ Piloted Site

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### Abstract

The Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation program, or REDD+, has been agreed by the global village first consensus step to establish a world acceptable forest governance mechanism and achieve both mitigation and adaptation of the effect of climate change effect on local, regional and national scale respectively. This review gives comprehensive examination concerning the formation mechanisms related to REDD+, snapshot of REDD up to date, theory of Climate change and gender justice as explained by Robert and Peluso theory on gender in Forest-Based communities. This review majorly included dimensions such as: learning from recent experience, right and tenure issue, participation, designing of REDD, sharing of the burden, distribution of benefits, local peoples voice, gender responsiveness to REDD and climate policy, Ribot and Peluso Access theory on gender and climate justice, REDD and gender decision making. Different research works has confirmed that communities living adjacent to forest are not adequately included in present REDD+ projects based on the criteria listed above, most especially women. Furthermore, institutional arrangement, designing, participation, right to issue, socio-cultural, unequal benefit sharing were reviewed also. REDD+ is also recognized as an economic idea about free markets which bargains peoples' connections with the natural environment through monetization of nature. The review concluded on a structure which addresses gender future causes and warning related to REDD+ climate justice in form of procedural and distributive mechanisms for communities living adjacent to forest based on publication or studies must be strictly adhere to. This review therefore also assessed gender and climate justice in form of procedural and distributive lens in Forest Based communities where climate change action and adaptation plan has been piloted (such as REDD) and recommended that the socio-economic, access to some rights in form of resources, decision making and participation, sharing of both the effect and benefits accrued in resources conservation in making adaptation planning workable and gender-balanced factors must be addressed. The mechanism of benefit sharing which is the tenet of distributive justices in REDD+ study site and its delivery system based on gender must also be determined by evaluating the mode of disseminating the benefits, type of benefits, and the relationship that exist between the gender and policy makers. Finally, the response of the gender and climate justice must be weighed and the identification of important factors that hinder the wellbeing, procedural and distributive justice should be look into and address urgently.

**Keywords:** Distributive; Forest-Based Community; Governance; Procedural; Social Equity; Wellbeing

### Introduction

Climate change has been defined as universal events that have triggered significant concern to many sectors of the economy and people's livelihoods either positively or negatively.

Climate change action plan has been described as the most effective means or platform to eradicate or reduce the effect of climate change, encourage livelihood and developing adaptive capacity. According to [5], vulnerabilities to the footprint of climate change in communities living adjacent to forest in South-western part of

Nigeria is gender sensitive, therefore, achieving the optimum and workable strategies to combat climate change impact and adaptive capacity lies in the hand of well performing balanced gendered action plan in form of procedural and distributive concept. Like any other countries, most current challenges facing livelihood and economic stability of people living adjacent to forest have been aggravated by exacerbating existing gender inequality, consequently leads to more ambiguous scheme connecting gender and forest management for decision makers [9]. [13], reported that, there is blank between the group involvement both in proposal and execution in REDD+ policy and initiative. Environmental degradation and loss of forest resources also has been compounded the problem of inability of the policy maker to strike the balance between gender in form of distributive and procedural of climate adaptation plan in many part of Sub-Sahara Africa. REDD+ is one approach for implementing the Paris Agreement to mitigate climate through the land use sector. The main aim of REDD+ initiative is to maintain and enhance forest carbon stocks. According to UNFCCC Cancun Safeguard (e) Refers to social benefits, and under the Warsaw Framework, countries will be required to have a national social and environmental safeguard information system in place, and regularly report on impacts, to be eligible for results-based payments [23]. Climate change, its impacts, adaptation and mitigation plan is a system that includes incorporation of gender that needs access and right to land, knowledge, capital and labour. Climate action studies and research have been focusing on the “win-win” solution, while the gender efficacy, and important factors e.g., rights’ access, decision making, participatory, benefit sharing and knowledge of gender civic value and knowledge have been neglected. There is an evidence of gender documentation as far as climate change and vulnerabilities is concerned in many REDD piloted countries but little is known about the procedural and distributive justice is been implemented in climate change action and adaptation plan initiative. Furthermore, benefit sharing delivery system which form integral part of gender effective function of the system has been eroded for different reasons that can be linked to neglected gender priority, therefore, the research that will investigate and assess the gender and climate justice in form of procedural and distributive concept in REDD+ piloted site is needed in working towards SDG 2030 realisation.

The review will be categorised into two sections: First sections will deal with experience from incentive-based forest management and their respective consequences on the livelihoods of the forest-

based communities. The subsequent stage too will assessed many contextual investigated countries provide a preview of REDD advancement to date and make some plan of identification of REDD features which will be a benefit for forest communities. How can reduction emissions from (REDD) initiatives improve both livelihoods and political participation of forest-based communities most especially women? Attempted questions which this review focus in providing answers to.

As deliberation shifts to how to interpreted REDD into operation on the ground, it is of the great importance and imperative to acknowledge ensuring that if the programmes were to be a benefits to the forest communities. Consequently, [19] proposed that

- The relevant causes of deforestation must be incentively reduced.
- Equitability of benefit sharing.
- Relevant public engagement of forest-based communities is tied-up to procedures at the international and national levels.
- The forest communities’ right, most especially tenure, are admitted, assured and firmed.

#### Learning from recent experience

Continuous working on the previous experiences of past programmes regarding the REDD is crucial to informing REDD in actualising its mandate. This review identified five common incentive-based blueprints which has been a major factor in balancing public needs regarding deforestation reduction and forest degradation in association with the livelihoods needs of the forest-based communities such as: Payments for Environmental Services (PES), Voluntary Carbon Markets, Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), Integrated Conservation and Development Programmes (ICDP), and Community Forestry.

#### Rights and tenure related issues with forest management

Rights to carbon, forest and land exert influence on who is responsible for superintending forest carbon and who shall collect incentives [19]. Nevertheless, numerous forest-based communities continuous lacking in securing legal occupancy. With governments lay claim to statutory rights to 1/3 (Latin America), 2/3 (Asia) or almost all (98% in Africa) of vegetative cover in their respective geographical location or area, the recognition have not been given to the both customary rights and informal access of land acquisition which many local forest communities’ lay their claims to.

Historically, forest and forest related produce have been fitted by states and commercial interests. Tenure re-design over last 30 years have re-strengthened couple of communities, even though there is still some evidence of ambiguity in the rights to carbon. The case study can be found in Nepal, Mexico, Tanzania, Madagascar and Brazil. In Mexico, for example, connecting PES strategy to local property rights has been crucial for successful and impact-filled PES end-result [7]. In PES project, there is probability of excluding informal right holders from the benefits in comparison to the formal right holders.

### Distribute benefits across multiple scales and levels

The aforementioned case studies illustrate a span of models for allocating the gains from REDD-like initiatives. The allocations of benefits have to produce incentives at independent magnitudes and serve pro-poor goals. Creating a safety net and enhancing livelihoods option for forest dependent communities may be necessary at the multiple scales. Nationally, Mexico was an example narrate a spatial technique to comprehending the allocation of both benefits and incentives respectively. In other vein, The Forest Carbon Partnership suggest and promised that know the threatened area by impending deforestation, a map would be produced simultaneously with covering showing the incentives needed in reducing forest deforestation, social marginalisation levels couples with community organisation. Also, the case study that involved Malimbwi, Tanzania and Zahabu reported that importance of linking incentives to relevant sectors such as mining cannot be over-emphasised due to its capability in addressing land use completion problems which can be detrimental or portray REDD initiatives as disincentive project. According to them, both incentive and respective co-benefits needs to be weighed in line with the magnitude of involved risk.

### Local people's voice and influence

According to [8], he condemned REDD procedures for

- Inadequate participation of local and forest-based communities in deliberations.
- The absence of understandable allegiances in intergovernmental REDD project to address the rights and equity of rural dwellers. Meanwhile, REDD admits the necessity to appraise forest communities' perspectives, the term of reference for forest-based communities to express their agitations and determine decisions has been really effective. Though, the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance Project Design Standards has been structured for the needs to accommodate:

principles of consultations with communities, encouragement of local content in the projects, engagement community people, ascertain worker rights and safety, and sensitivity to the plight of community burdens, all these have not been able to effectively address the role of communities when comes to central making decisions in the project.

### Gender responsiveness, REDD+ and climate policy

About 12 years ago, precisely 2007, when REDD was embraced in the Bali Action Plan, gender and climate change agitation has received tremendous attention in the area such as: climate policy, negotiation and other important global dedications.

Gender receptiveness goes beyond being gender sensitive, or the "do no harm" principle, emphasizing instead the importance of overcoming historical biases [2]. With regard to climate and forests, gender-responsive activities should promote gender equality, women's empowerment, inclusion and equal opportunities for men and women to obtain benefits [2]. Similarly, [10] explains that "gender-transformative" interventions "ensure that women capture meaningful benefits and are empowered by the intervention process," going beyond those that are "gender-blind" or only "gender-aware." Arguably, as a global initiative aimed at climate mitigation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, REDD+ should be contributing to the transformational change advocated by the Sustainable Development Goals (called "Transforming Our World") and affirmed by the Paris agreement.

### Current theoretical and prior empirical research on gender and climate justice

This review can generally be broken down into two primary area of theoretical research, though several overlaps in forms of sub-groups and practices do exist. The two primary areas are as follow: the Theory of Access and Power relation to how management of natural resources has been taken care of. Each of the theoretical approaches will be seen through the lens of distributive (sharing benefits) and procedural (participation and decision making), which is the context of this research. For global understanding of the gender and climate justice issues, the different international bodies, tribunals that arise after UNFCCC COP 15 meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark have been drafted in support of women; offer an important basis/moral backdrop to approach women current needs and problems of climate injustices. Among others are: Feminist Task Force, Global Call to Action Against Poverty, OXFAM, Global Campaign for Climate Action and UN General Assembly Spe-

cial Session on Women both in Bali and Beijing. In Africa context, many NGO's such as West African Network, AWIFE (Association of Women in Forestry and Environment) etc. have also brace up for the gender course. Despite the encouraged numbers of agencies involved, inadequate empirical research that address specific on gender and climate change justice in forest-based communities in Nigeria is still at large.

According to The Theory Ribot and Peluso's (2003), state and quote access as 'the ability to benefit from thing'. [18] p.153), given an account by different approach and process that establish different types of power. The definition centred its interest on the capabilities of people to access rights compare to right itself. Access theory and discourse shift observation to 'a wider range of social relationships that can constrain or enable people to benefit from resources without focusing on the property relation alone' [18] p.154). Power relationships and access have direct correlation where both distributive and procedural justice application can be employed. Its delivery can be through different processes such as: right-based access (law, custom or conversation), or structural and relational access (market, capital, authority, identity and social relations) that function closely with right-based mechanism [18] p.162). Access theory have its foundation rooted on the impulse that different "bundles of power" belongs to different set of people, materialistic (money and property), and non-materialistic resources (e.g., knowledge and social status), that they use to reach an agreement with actors and institutions involves, in order to obtain, continue and control access to available resources. Climate change adaptation and mitigation action plan pact includes Carbon stock measurement, carbon enhancement monitoring and sending the report to the relevant bodies at the top. These demands huge values of different capitals, skills, and labour at local level. Due to inability of poor community to possess the listed above resources, the only alternative is to become dependent on those who could provide it for them.

Different and numerous theories and approaches among others have addresses the issue of climate justices, they includes [4,8,14,15]. For the sake of this review, two main subject matter; distributive and procedural concept of justice will be elaborated and discussed. Distributive justice in the context of climate change development programme deals with both equal and fair distribution of adverse effect of climate change among gender, and the distribution of costs and benefits available to cope and adapt to the changes [15]. Procedural in the other hand refers to justice and eq-

uity in policy process i.e., recognition during decision making and participation [1]. held the opinion that for distributive justice to fully realise its potential, procedural justice must have been progressed.

[16] argued that the failure of society to reward services providers, such as land managers for conserving these services is a key contributory factor to environmental degradation. Though, market-based PES scheme is not the direct solution to the environmental degradation in forest ecosystem but it can aid as catalyst through which comprehensive re-evaluation of the role of rural community in natural resources management [20]. Majority of the market-based scheme is top-down approach, however, factors such as lack of property rights, requisite skills and knowledge, resources, and high transaction costs, are the major hindrance impinge on poor communities capabilities to participate, and influence the development of these market, likewise the probability of these burden more on women is high because they constitute larger percentage of poor population. Consequently, participating communities, particularly women that depends on forest resources will face real risk of being marginalized from expected results. The limited influence highlights the importance of procedural justice. The Global Forest Coalition raised a point that market-based scheme will make worst the existing social and environmental problems by increasing the marginalization of economically less powerful group in forest management such as women, among others.

Few among current reviewed literatures on gender in related to countries, justice and results can be summarised below

- Gender-wise, women had negligible engagement in discussion on climate change or REDD+, early proposed action document included (procedural justice) [6]. According to [17], though large number of women participations recorded in meetings in Vietnam, still this group are hardly seen in the headship position or included in REDD+ functioning categories. He elaborate further that there is limited capacity for the implementation on gender schemes or concern for gender matter between national organisation functioning on REDD. [3], concluded that gender division of labour has been perpetuated by National REDD+ policy process, due to sharp contrast that exist between supreme category, authorised decision making coupled with the management and the available burden pertaining to labourer in Burkina Faso. [12], assert that clear involvement of women in REDD+ national programme discus-

sion was not inadequate for taken care of fundamental power changes and, therefore, gender disparity, government and initiative facilitators had neither duty nor blueprint for applying gender equitable strategies (REDD+ policy and pilot project implementation in Nepal).

[21] from their own research from Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) reported that regardless of high magnitude of gender inequality experienced in (DRC), REDD+ gender positive effects had not been commensurately taken care of as been proposed. They also noticed that both men and women spent much time in forest, but activities of men are much more valued compared to women. *“This systematic devaluation of women’s work, and their knowledge about the forest, legitimizes men’s dominance in forest governance”* [21]. Encouragement of non-timber forests products marketing rest on the essentially assumption about how gender making use of the forest has been described as means or strategies in making women to implement a forest conservation in Burkina Faso. In comparative analysis of three [3] conservation techniques scheme in Kenya have pointed that REDD+ initiatives to certain extent was preferable to PES (Payment for Ecosystem Services): the interpretation is that REDD+ strategies just used gender in targeting and mainstreaming “minimum standard”, whilst none of the three 3 had an “explicit gender project”, and they were all unable to find solution to the fundamental gender inequity [11]. [13] reported that women compare with men were much less informed and knowledgeable about REDD+ from the initiative start up in the same village. Elaborate more by identified that there is a gap between the group in the involvement, proposal and execution in REDD+ policy and initiative [13]. According to [23], low gender-related involvement of PES (Payment for Environmental Services) particularly women was recorded in Vietnam.

Lastly, [9] state and I quote “Despite the introduction of tools for gender and forestry analysis in 1990s, it is rare today to find evidence of clear strategies linking gender and forest management for decision makers..... [T]here is generally an institutional ‘gender blindness’ that renders women’s participation and contributions invisible and allow forest management to be incorrectly treated as ‘gender neutral’”. The author concludes that “gender equality and women empowerment must be at the heart of REDD+ policy design and implementation.”

## Conclusion and Proposed Way Forward

Globally, and from research documentation, it was established that the effect of climate change is non-gendered, consequently, female is more at the receiving end compared to other groups in a particular community. The review analysis based on recent experience, right issues, sharing and distribution of benefits and participation through local voice which eventually elaborated in climate change and justice explained by Ribot and Peluso Theory of Access shown that, women in REDD procedural and distributive justice is not recognised.

## Key challenges

### Gender engagement and strategy development in REDD

The status of women and the level of gender inequality at national and local levels affect the degree to which REDD+ programs include or exclude women in their decision-making, consultations, design, and benefit sharing mechanisms. The REDD+ programs currently being implemented reinforce gender inequality by failing to ensure that women are equal partners in decision-making, consultations, design, and benefit-sharing mechanisms.

### Institutional strengthening of REDD and gender

Institutions implementing and/or supporting REDD+ projects in the reviewed site are doing little to address gender issues. The review shows that countries and organizations are not currently effectively addressing gender issues within their REDD+ policies, plans, and projects. Women are underrepresented in forestry institutions in the region in general and gender issues are often overlooked.

### Land tenure, right and governance issue

There is no gainsaying that women’s right and forest resources management as far as REDD discussion is concern is nothing to write home about. These were actually possible due to women’s virtue of lack of knowledge, weak right and insensitivity of concerned institution to acknowledge women and allow them to exercise their civic duty and constitutional responsibilities. Example of such exclusion includes Carbon Payment Opportunities (CPO). Conversely, ignoring gender issues and women’s access is likely to negatively impact women and, ultimately, endanger the success of REDD+.

### Gender, REDD and climate change mechanism

The divergent responsibilities and position of women and men within the community, civic environment, workplace, and abode can influence the realisation of demonstrable outcomes in REDD+ initiatives. Altogether, authorised collaborators who solely depend on forest and forest resources for livelihoods and survival that can be positively or negatively affected by REDD+ initiatives must be carried along and occupied for REDD+ to be sustainable.

### Recommendations and direction for future research

REDD+ scheme should be in conformity comply with national laws and international agreements, which support high level of women participation in community forestry, local and national administration, decisions making that related to the design of REDD+ with meaningful capacity building. Also, device a means to increase women engagement with building in-house capacity structure.

Furthermore, government support toward developing effective and workable land tenure framework that will globally recognised women's right to forest and forest produce must be of top priority. Finally, benefit distribution system/mechanism that evaluate and consider the constructive role and responsibility of men and women's contributions to REDD process so as to encourage fair, equitable and balance reward such as forest protection and carbon monitoring must be put in place.

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