



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



STAKEHOLDERS' SURVEY ON FOREST LEGAL FRAMEWORKS IN 15 WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES

Project “Global transformation of Forests for People and Climate: A Focus on West Africa”

GCP /GLO/977/SWE







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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

2024

▶ CONTENTS

Key results	5
1. INTRODUCTION	6
2. RESPONDENTS	8
Countries represented and gender balance	8
3. FINDINGS BY TOPIC	10
3.1. Status of legal and policy instruments	10
3.2 Support needs related to legal and policy reforms in the forest sector	12
3.3 Consistency of the forest legal framework with other sectoral-related laws	13
3.4 Regulation of forest carbon ownership rights and related concerns	14
3.5 Gender in relation to national forest sector laws and policies	15
3.6. Priority forest-related legislation for solving transboundary issues	16
3.7 Timeliness for legislative reform in the forest-land-natural resources sectors	16
3.8 Examples of transboundary issues affecting forests	17
3.9 Transboundary landscapes in the region in need of support	17
3.10 Status of community-based forestry	19
3.11 Community-based forestry initiatives in the region	22
3.12 Support needs for local communities	24
3.13 Additional comments	24
4. RESPONDENTS' PERCEPTION BY COUNTRY	26
ANNEX: STAKEHOLDER SURVEY FORM	42

KEY RESULTS

Responses from those surveyed provide some general indications as follows:

- ▶ Many of the regulatory frameworks for forestry and related sectors in the region are in a state of flux, with reforms either recently completed, ongoing, or planned.
- ▶ Legal clarity on rights to carbon and emissions reductions is widely perceived as a gap and awareness raising on the topic among stakeholders and tenure rights clarity would be important initial steps.
- ▶ Respondents, 78 percent of whom were male, generally perceive that forest sector laws and policies have addressed gender and women's participation to some degree.
- ▶ REDD+ and climate change legislation, as well as timber trade legislation, were rated as priorities for review in addressing transboundary issues. Respondents shared many examples of transboundary issues, including challenges related to the conservation of protected areas in border areas that are threatened by mining, timber (including rosewood) and non-timber product exploitation, and wildlife poaching.
- ▶ Support needs to be perceived for communities centred on community-based forest management practices, agroforestry systems, value addition to non-timber forest products and strengthening of producer organizations, as well as remote sensing and forest monitoring techniques.
- ▶ The survey collected useful lists of transboundary landscape needs (p.8) and community forestry initiatives (p.11) throughout the region.

1 INTRODUCTION

In July 2019, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in collaboration with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the financial support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), launched a new 5-year project: Global Transformation of Forests for People and Climate: a focus on West Africa. The project's objective is to strengthen decision-making on sustainable forests and land management and to strengthen capacity at a subregional level through ECOWAS and other subregional partners to implement elements of the ECOWAS Convergence Plan for the Sustainable Management and Use of Forest Ecosystems in West Africa.

IT TARGETS THREE OUT OF THE SEVEN PRIORITY AREAS OF THE PLAN:

1. **Improving the knowledge** of the state of forest ecosystem dynamics (Convergence plan priority area #2: Knowledge of the state of forest ecosystem dynamics);
2. **Strengthening the forest-related legal framework** by promoting legal reforms (Convergence plan priority area #1: Harmonization of legislative and regulatory frameworks for forest policies); and
3. **Demonstrating and sharing the best community-based forest practices** across the region and globally through South-South Cooperation (Convergence plan: priority area #7: Information, education and communication).

In order to seek stakeholder input on the refinement of the project design and implementation, an online survey in both English and French was distributed to project stakeholders identified during the project inception phase. The survey contained 11 questions (some with subquestions) and was distributed using Google Forms to 230 individuals considered stakeholders from government and non-governmental organizations in the region. Some 68 responses were collected with 14 among the 15 ECOWAS member countries represented (except Guinea Bissau). This report provides a summary of the responses. Summary results are organized first by topic and in the second section by country. It is important to note that the results convey the perceptions of the survey respondents and not necessarily the actual situation in a particular country.



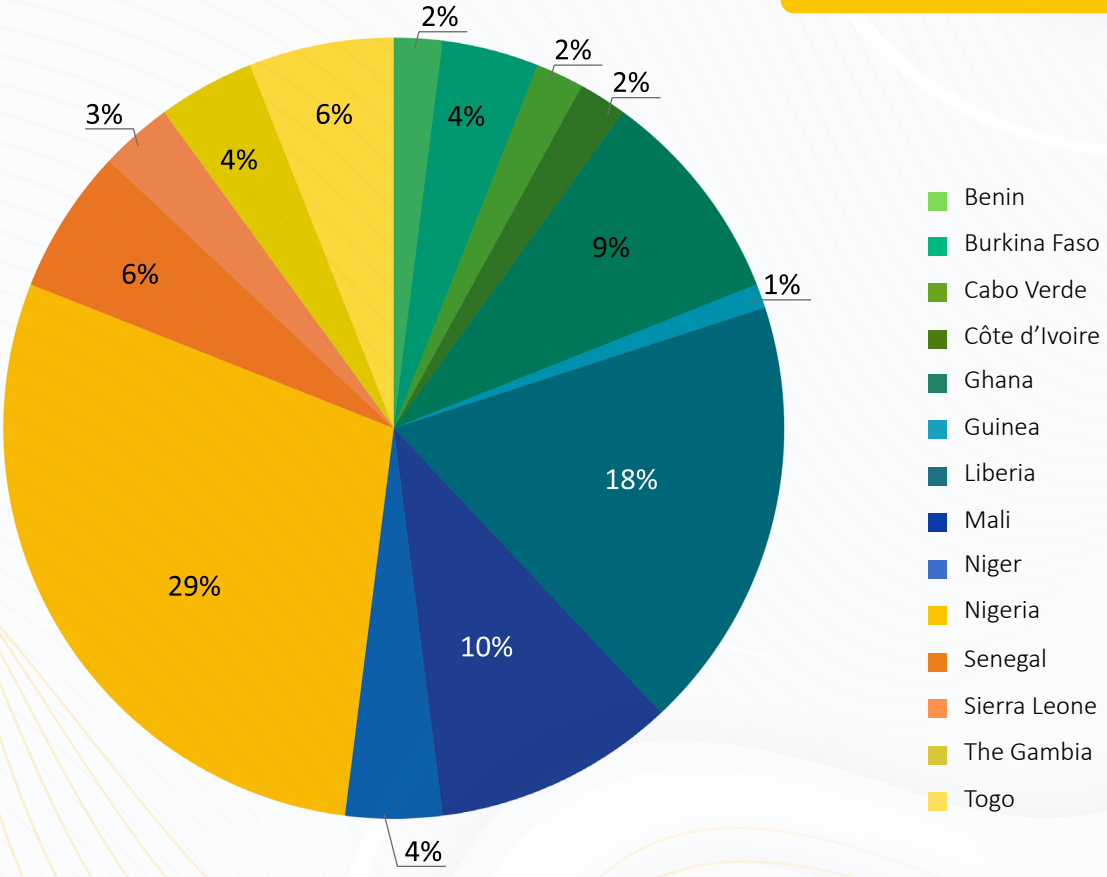
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2 RESPONDENTS

COUNTRIES REPRESENTED AND GENDER BALANCE

The survey was successful in reaching most of the 15 countries³ in the ECOWAS region. Unfortunately, no responses were received from stakeholders in Guinea Bissau. In addition, the number of respondents from a few countries was proportionately higher. This included Nigeria with 20 responses and Liberia with 12 of the 68 responses, while some countries only had one respondent (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Cabo Verde) (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Percentage of respondents per country



Source: Author's own elaboration

³ These include Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, and Togo.

Respondents were given the choice to identify themselves as male, female, or non-binary/prefer not to say. Though efforts were made to send the survey to as many women as possible, unfortunately, women were not evenly represented in the results, with only 15 of the respondents being female (22 percent). The other 53 respondents (78 percent) were male. Some countries such as Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo, had no female respondents. The lack of a gender-balanced response reflects the overall gender inequalities in the forest sector and emphasizes the need for FAO to make special efforts to reach women in all aspects of the project implementation. The project's gender analysis is designed to provide guidance on this topic.



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3 FINDINGS BY TOPIC

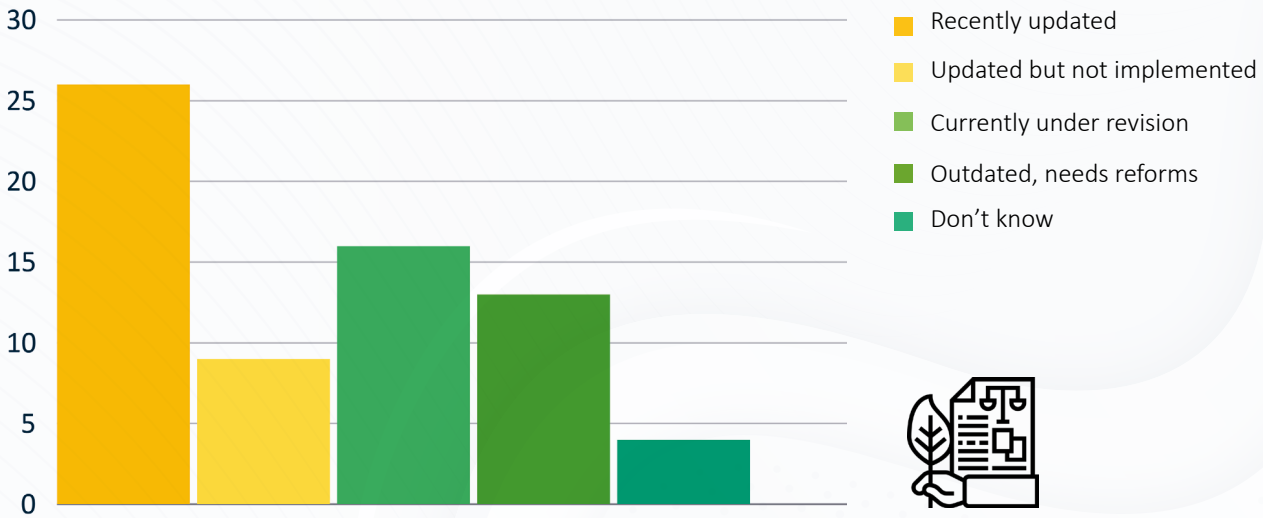
3.1. STATUS OF LEGAL AND POLICY INSTRUMENTS

The first question in the survey sought to understand the status of key sector legislation and policies, including laws related to forestry, environment, decentralized forest management (including community-based forestry), land tenure, and land use management. Respondents also provided their perceptions on the status of key policies related to sustainable forest management, land tenure, national forest programmes, and REDD+. The second section of this report summarizes the situation for each country, as understood by the respondents. Some general conclusions may also be drawn from the data.

According to respondents, in most countries, forest legislation and policy as well as national forest programmes have recently been updated or are currently under revision. In some cases, resources are lacking for implementation (see Figure 2). For all of these questions, verification through a review of the legal framework is recommended.

Figure 2: Status of forestry legal and policy instruments

Forest law and related forest legislation

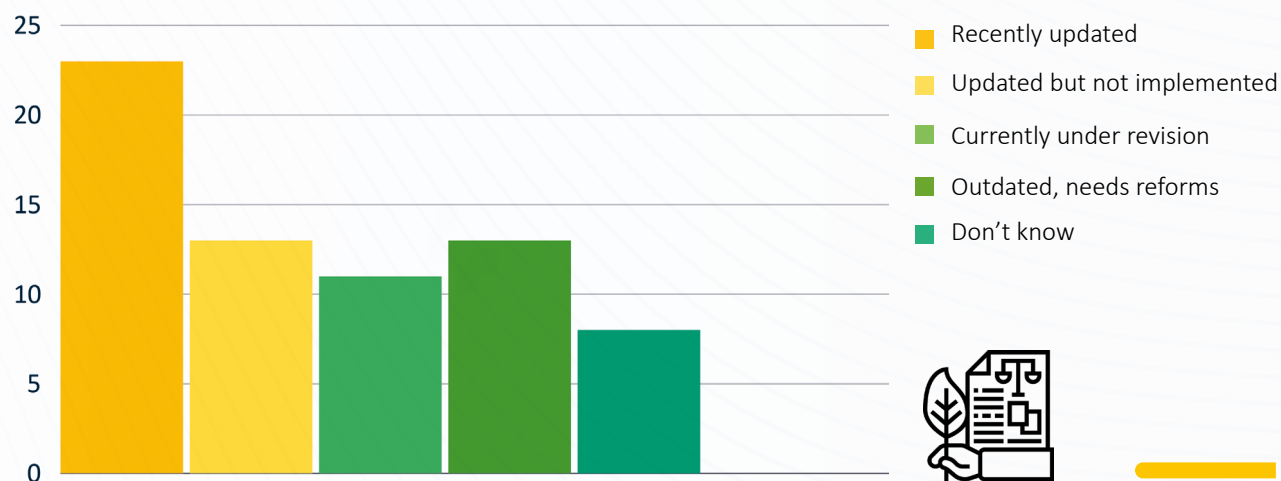


Source: Author's own elaboration

With regard to environmental law, more respondents believed there is a need to undertake reforms, while others claimed that more implementation support is needed (see Figure 4).

Figure 3: Status of laws on decentralized forest management

Laws on decentralized forest management

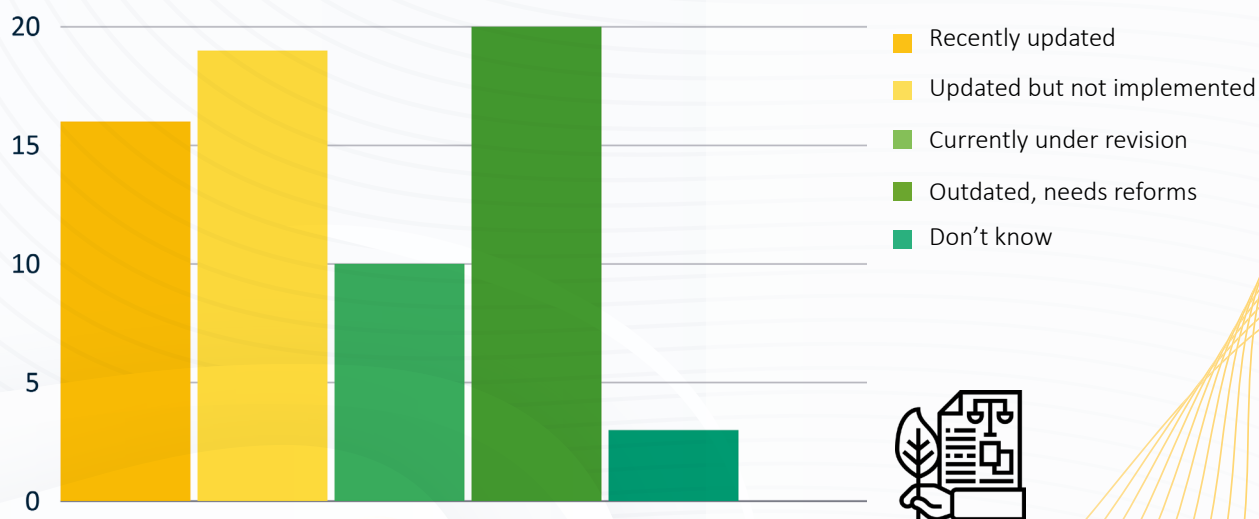


Source: Author's own elaboration

In the case of land law and policy, most respondents noted that there have been recent updates and reforms to land laws, land use legislation, and land policies in their countries (see Figure 5).

Figure 4: Status of laws on decentralized forest management

Environmental law

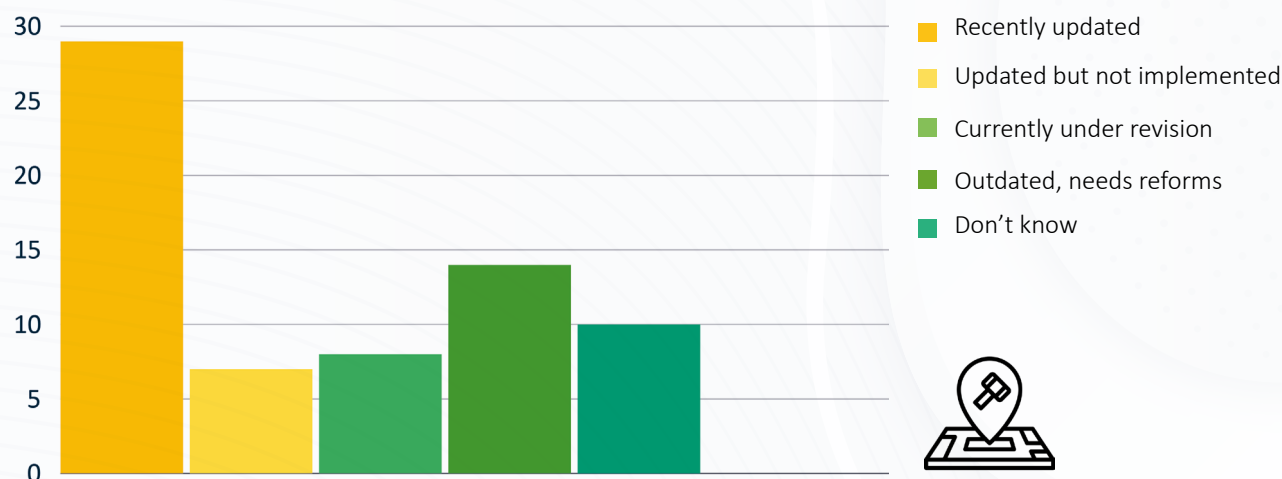


Source: Author's own elaboration

In the case of land law and policy, most respondents noted that there have been recent updates and reforms to land laws, land use legislation, and land policies in their countries (see Figure 5).

Figure 5: Status of land laws

Land Law



Source: Author's own elaboration

3.2 SUPPORT NEEDS RELATED TO LEGAL AND POLICY REFORMS IN THE FOREST SECTOR

In response to the open question on legal and policy support needs, respondents made many suggestions. These suggestions are country-specific and are thus detailed in the last section of this report related to country findings. However, it is useful to summarize the types of needs noted.

THESE INCLUDED:

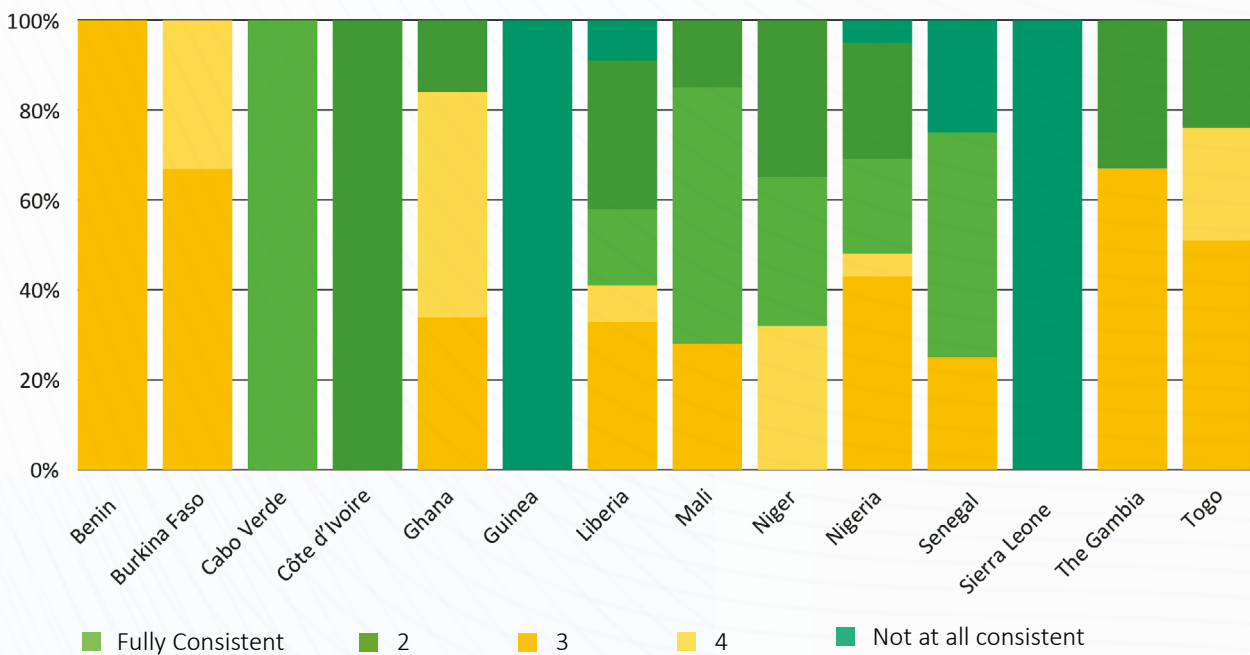
- **Legal drafting and advisory support related to:**
 - regional commerce in forest products including seeds;
 - consolidation of existing land and forest laws;
 - new decrees under forest laws;
 - legislation on land and tree tenure;
 - wildlife resources management; and
 - benefits sharing and carbon rights.
- **Validation of national REDD+ strategies;**
- **Dissemination and awareness raising on existing forest sector laws and policies;**
- **Support to timber management and forest law enforcement;**
- **Capacity and monitoring support to community forestry;**
- **Gender mainstreaming in laws and policies;**
- **Inclusion of traditional knowledge and practice in policy and law;**
- **Translation of laws and policies to local language;**
- **Harmonization of relevant sector laws; and**
- **Clarification of institutional roles and authority.**

3.3 CONSISTENCY OF THE FOREST LEGAL FRAMEWORK WITH OTHER SECTORAL-RELATED LAWS

Most respondents did not perceive major issues regarding the consistency of sectoral laws with the country's forestry legal framework (53 of 68 respondents, 78 percent, rated 3, 4, or 5). However, some degree of inconsistency is perceived by most respondents. More than one respondent noted inconsistency as a significant issue (4 or 5) in Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone. Again, verification with the relevant sectoral legal frameworks is recommended.

Figure 6: Consistency of the legal framework

Consistency of the forestry legal framework with other sectoral related laws



Source: Author's own elaboration



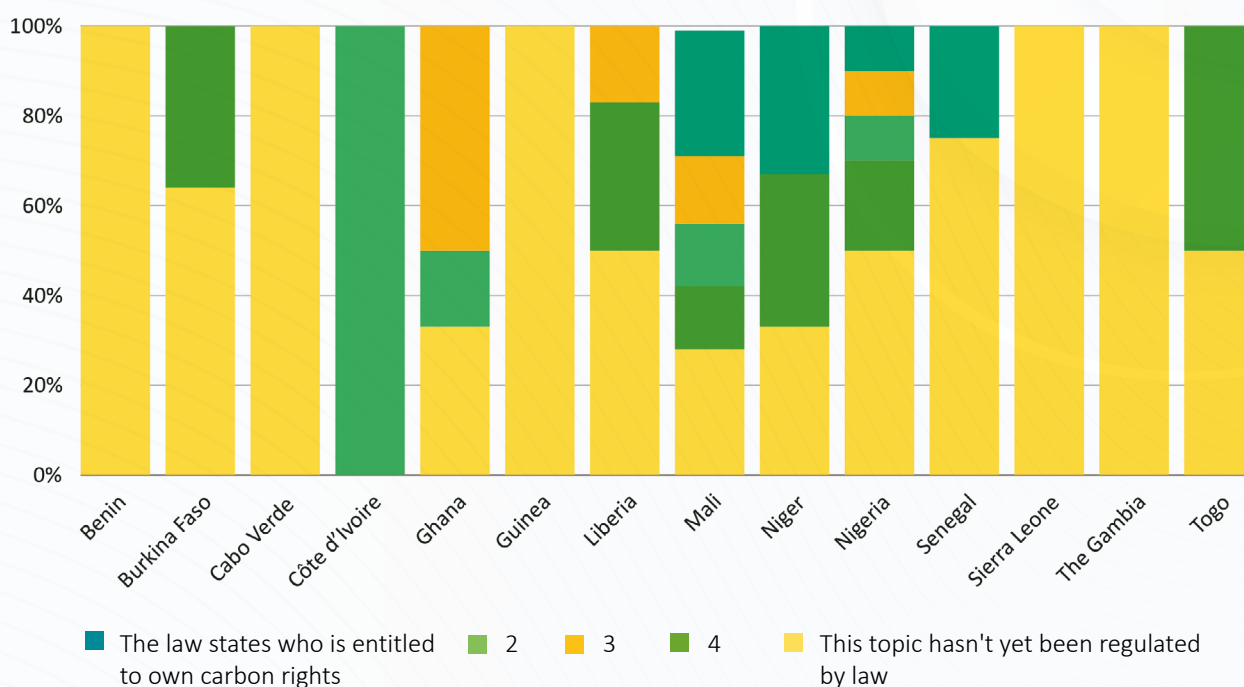
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3.4 REGULATION OF FOREST CARBON OWNERSHIP RIGHTS AND RELATED CONCERNS

The majority of respondents noted that ownership rights on forest carbon are not yet regulated by law (36 respondents, 53%). Respondents from Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal claimed that they have started looking at the issue, but there is not yet clarity on who is entitled to carbon rights (see Figure 7). A review of legal frameworks to verify these claims is recommended. Nevertheless, the survey gives a general indication of a gap in this area.

Figure 7: Regulation of forest carbon

Regulation of forest carbon rights



Source: Author's own elaboration

RESPONDENTS SHARED A VARIETY OF NEEDS AND CONCERNS IN RELATION TO DEFINING CARBON RIGHTS. THE NEEDS INCLUDED:

- Awareness raising, dialogue and access to information for all stakeholders;
- Clarification of tenure rights (including tree tenure);
- Financial support to develop policies and legislation related to carbon rights; and
- Transparent carbon accounting systems.

CONCERNS EXPRESSED INCLUDED:

- The lack of experience in the implementation of carbon rights;
- Diverse viewpoints on the topic that create a risk of conflict, particularly if communities are not well-informed, legitimate owners of carbon are not fairly defined, and benefit-sharing is not equitable;
- Lack of transparency in land use decision-making; and
- The potential fatigue with REDD+ in general as no benefits have been flowing to communities.



3.5 GENDER IN RELATION TO NATIONAL FOREST SECTOR LAWS AND POLICIES

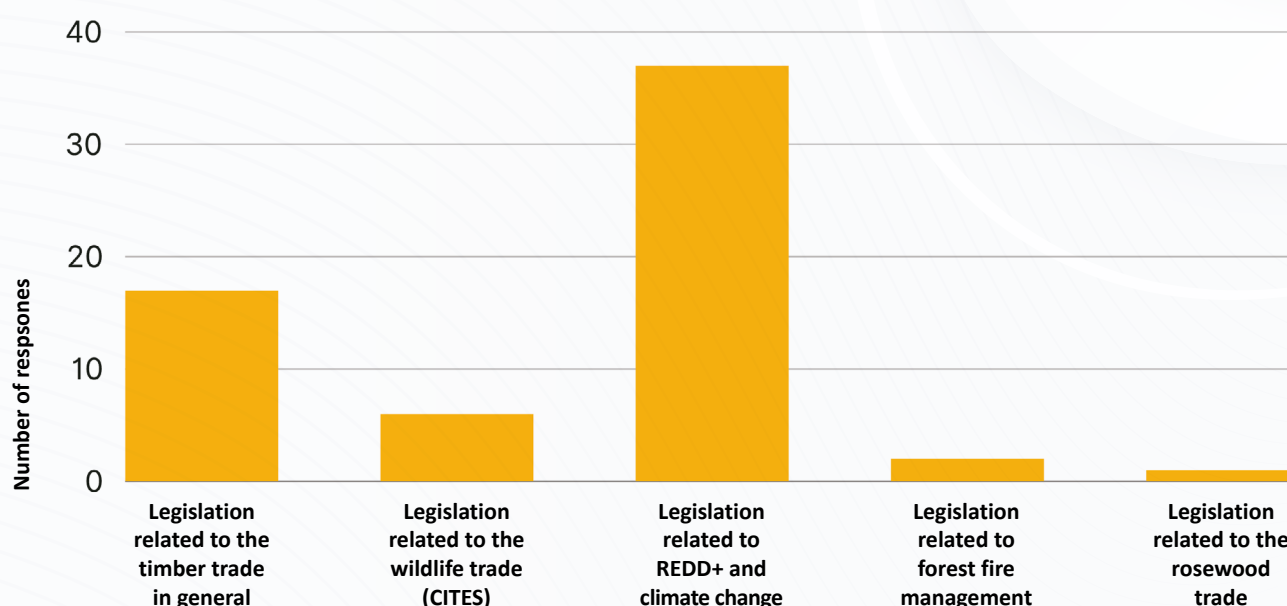
The survey attempted to also understand the extent to which principles of gender equality are integrated into national forest sector laws and policies. Considering that most respondents to the survey were men, almost all responded that national forest laws and related forestry legislation have taken gender and women's rights into account. Only 8 respondents (7 male, 1 female) did not have knowledge on this topic. Most responded that forest laws and regulations explicitly recognize women's individual rights, contain specific gender objectives, or explicitly prohibit gender discrimination. Further verification of these assumptions is recommended, particularly given that the project's gender analysis found that gender discrimination is a significant problem in the region. Additional knowledge and impressions related to other sectoral laws and policies may be found in the second section of this report, with results by country.

3.6. PRIORITY FOREST-RELATED LEGISLATION FOR SOLVING TRANSBOUNDARY ISSUES

The survey sought to understand which type of legislation is a priority for solving transboundary issues (see Section 9). The clear priority was REDD+ and climate change-related legislation (38 responses, 56%). Legislation related to the timber trade was the next topic of interest (17 responses, 25%) (see Figure 8).

Figure 8: Priorities for solving transboundary issues

Priority forest-related legislation for solving transboundary issues



Source: Author's own elaboration

3.7 TIMELINESS FOR LEGISLATIVE REFORM IN THE FOREST-LAND-NATURAL RESOURCES SECTORS

Some 43 percent of respondents (29) thought that legislative reform in the sector would be 'very timely'. Only respondents from Guinea (1 respondent) and Nigeria (2 respondents) emphasized that the timing was not good for such reform.

3.8 EXAMPLES OF TRANSBOUNDARY ISSUES AFFECTING FORESTS

Respondents shared many examples of transboundary issues, including challenges related to the conservation of protected areas in border areas that are threatened by mining, timber (including rosewood) and non-timber product exploitation, and wildlife poaching. Some poaching is linked to the wildlife and pet trade and the import/export of species for various uses. Other issues raised included transborder trade in charcoal, evasion of forest and natural resource laws by a border population with unclear citizenry, the need for wildlife corridors across national borders, the control of bushfires, and the broader problem that borders between countries are often unclear.

3.9 TRANSBOUNDARY LANDSCAPES IN THE REGION IN NEED OF SUPPORT

The majority of respondents were able to share ideas on important transboundary landscapes in need of project support. These ideas are shared in the table below.

NAME OF LANDSCAPE AND NEEDS IDENTIFIED	COUNTRIES INVOLVED
Bassila and Penessoulou forests	Benin
WAP Complex (needs for implementation of the management plan and infrastructure development)	Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger
Comoe-Leraba Complex Gourma Malien Ecosystem and elephant habitat	Burkina Faso
Taï Grebo Sapo Khran-Sapo National Park (support for incorporating the proposed protected area of Khran Bassa)	Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia
Taï Diecké Ziama	Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea
Highlands/Atakora Mountains (community-based conservation support and livelihoods)	Ghana, Togo
West African Forest Belt (wildlife corridors)	Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana
Kalakpa Forest Reserve in the Volta Region (alternative livelihoods for forest communities)	Ghana
Gola (Sierra Leone) and Ziama (Guinee), through Gola, Foya, Wologizi and Wonegizi areas in Liberia. (Support for functionally connected forest area, management structure, and regime for this park needs to be strengthened to avoid encroachment and illegal exploitation.)	Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone

East Nimba Nature Reserve (ENNR) (Forest rangers need training and logistical support to monitor activities in this reserve.)	Guinea, Liberia
Dry forest areas and wildlife corridors for chimpanzees and gazelles	Guinea, Mali, Senegal
Transboundary protected area of wooded savannah of Kenieba and Kita (community forestry management support)	Guinea, Mali
The Mano River Transboundary area (water quality and quantity issues) and the Upper Guinea Forest (control of agro-industrial development, slash-and-burn agriculture, mining, and poaching)	Mali
Transboundary forest landscapes	Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria
Forests at the national boundaries (support in awareness of forest management and land use)	Guinea, Liberia
Gashaka Gumti and Cross River National Park	Nigeria
Afi Mountain Wildlife Conservation Sanctuary located in the Boki local government area of North Cross River State, which has gorillas and other endangered species. (Financial support is needed to manage the sanctuary.)	Nigeria
Takamanda (TNP) and Korup (KNP) National Park in Cameroon and the Cross River National Park (CRNP), in Nigeria	Cameroon, Nigeria
Chad Basin National Park (CBNP)	Nigeria
Faro National Park (FNP), Tchabal Mbabo National Park (TMNP) under creation in Cameroon and the Gashaka-Gumti National Park (GGNP) in Nigeria	Cameroon, Nigeria
Casamance mangrove ecosystems	Senegal
Utamba Kilimi and Gola National Parks Landscape (capacity building and modern monitoring techniques)	Sierra Leone
Outamba-Kilimi National Park is home to many endangered species and wildlife (address threats of bushfires and logging).	Guinea, Sierra Leone
The Saloum Delta with an estimated area of 500 000 hectares of mangroves providing a breeding ground for migratory waterfowl and marine species (turtles). (This includes livelihood enhancement activities such as beekeeping, tourism, fishing, and agriculture for the local population.)	Senegal, The Gambia

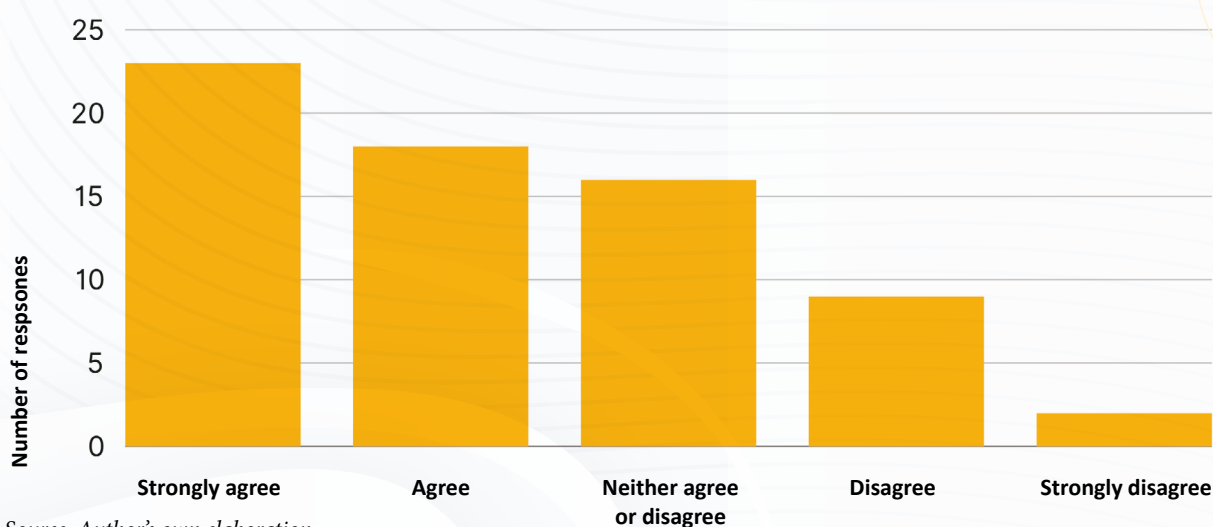
Transboundary forest management through the Sustainable Agriculture and Environmental Governance project (SAGE). These forest areas were demarcated, management committees formed, and management plans were developed, etc.	Guinea Bissau, Senegal, The Gambia,
Transboundary landscape and Fazao-Malfakassa National Park in Togo and between the Kiabogo Park in Ghana (financial support)	Togo
Kiabobo Park (Ghana) and Fazao Park (Togo)	Ghana, Togo
Oti-Kéran-Mandouri Park (wildlife conservation)	Benin, Togo

3.10 STATUS OF COMMUNITY-BASED FORESTRY

Respondents were asked to share information and evaluate the status of community-based forestry in their country based on a set of criteria. These criteria are related to the security of tenure, the empowerment of women, capacity needs, forest management practices, dependence on non-timber forest product enterprises, and the status of mapping. A number of conclusions may be drawn from the responses. First, respondents felt that communities generally have secure collective tenure rights in the countries in the region (see Figure 9). The real situation may be different², but this is the general perception of the respondents.

Figure 9: Tenure security for community-based forestry

Communities have secure collective tenure rights for forests



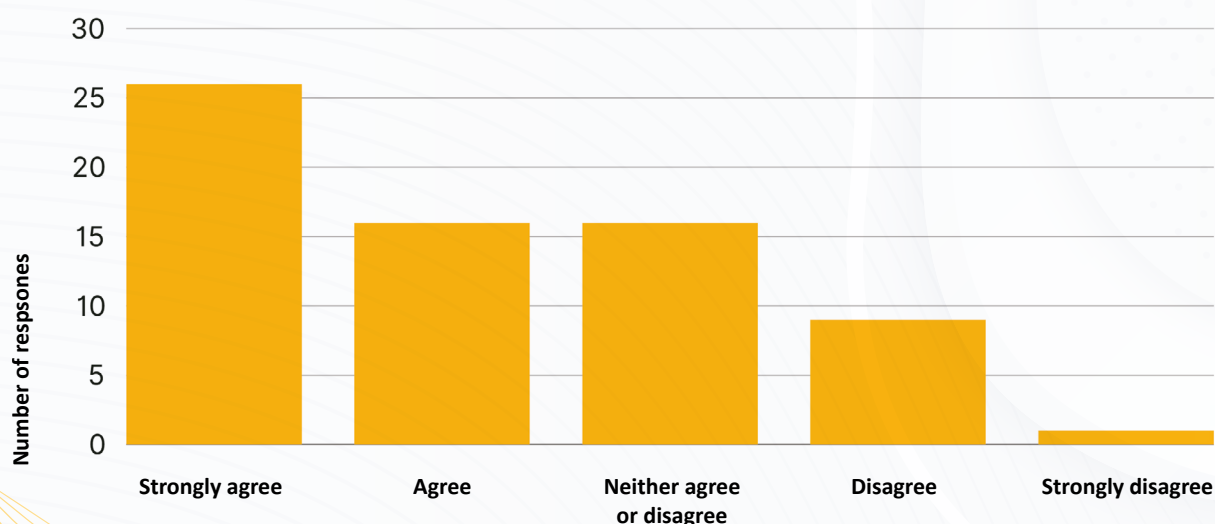
Source: Author's own elaboration

² See Prindex (<https://www.prindex.net/data/>) for an indication of general perceptions of tenure security in the region. For example Benin: 34% tenure insecurity; Burkina Faso: 44%; Cote d'Ivoire: 28; Ghana: 26%; Niger: 28%; and Nigeria: 22%.

Respondents also assessed that women are playing an active role in community-based forest management and are well represented in governing bodies (see Figure 10). Again, the reality may be quite different, but this is the perception of the mostly male respondents.

Figure 10: Women's roles in community-based forestry

Women play an active role in community based forest management, including as part of local governing bodies

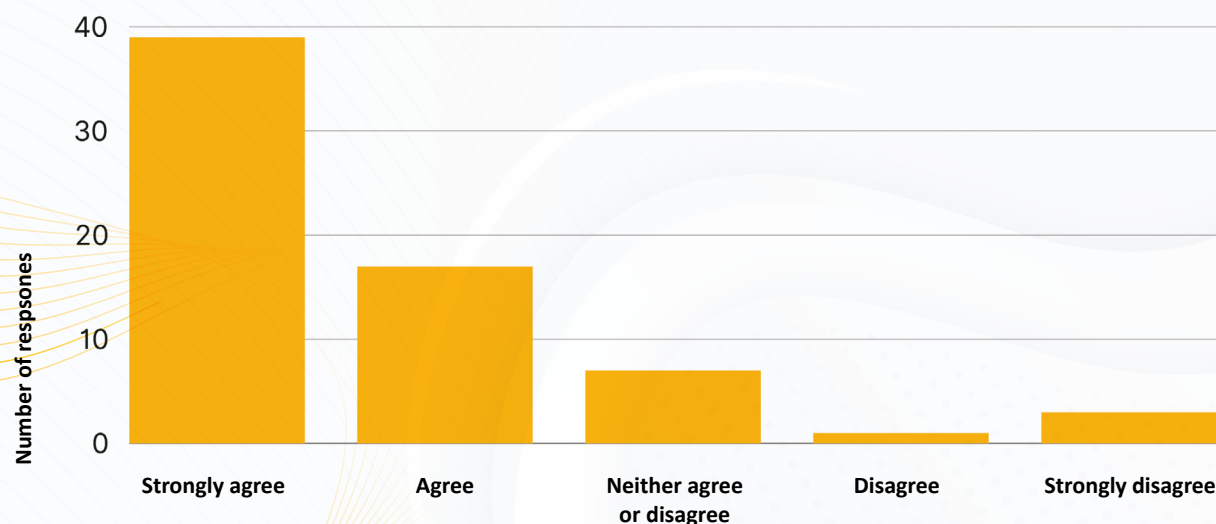


Source: Author's own elaboration

There was a consensus that local communities require outside support for capacity building and technical assistance with all respondents agreeing to this statement. There was also strong agreement that non-timber forest products are an important contributor to local livelihoods throughout the region (see Figure 11).

Figure 11: Non-timber forest products' contribution to local livelihoods

Non-timber forest enterprises are an important contributor to local livelihoods



Source: Author's own elaboration

With regard to forest management practices by communities and the status of mapping, no general conclusions are possible since responses vary widely.

FINALLY, THE COMMENTS PROVIDED ON COMMUNITY-BASED FORESTRY IN THE REGION EMPHASIZED:

- The importance of learning from existing models;
- The need to take holistic approaches that also address livelihood issues and enable non-timber forest enterprises to prosper;
- The need to define tree tenure;
- Capacity needs of communities, including in negotiation with commercial entities (e.g. logging companies);
- The need for collaboration among different stakeholders – government, communities, and civil society organizations;
- Difficulties faced by communities to get approvals and permits from the government; and
- Lack of awareness in most communities about the possibility of gaining rights to forests.



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3.11 COMMUNITY-BASED FORESTRY INITIATIVES IN THE REGION

Respondents provided a range of examples of community-based forestry initiatives in the region.

COUNTRY	CBF EXAMPLE
Burkina Faso	Village hunting zones (village zone of hunting interest (ZOVIC) in the East
	Nazinon Participatory Forest Management project
Cabo Verde	Forest management in the Longueira zone on the island of Santiago
	Forest perimeter management on the island of Santo Antão
Côte d'Ivoire	Nitidae in the region of La Me
Ghana	The Community Resource Management Areas (CREMA) in many parts of the country in collaboration with the Wildlife Division of the Forest Commission of Ghana and partners including the Development Institute, A Rocha Ghana, Ghana Wildlife Society, IUCN Ghana, UNDP Mondelez, and others.
	Community-based forest management process led by Civic Response. (Albert Katakò)
Liberia	USAID project FIFES supports four community forestry sites with an area of 4500 hectares including shaded cocoa activities. Contact: Glen Lines glines@activoca.org
	Co-management of East Nimba Nature Reserve (communities serve as eco-guards and form part of the management team). Partners include the Forestry Development Authority, Conservation International, and the Gba Community Forest.
	There are two different kinds of community forestry management: 1) Commercial Forestry Department, the Community Forestry Development Committee (CFDC) and 2) Community Forestry Department, the Community Forest Management Body (CFMB). CFDC has been successful with funds from companies and the government. Most of the CFDCs have been able to implement community projects that are directly benefiting the communities. Partners include the National Union of CFDC, FAO, the VPA Support Unit I, Sustainable Development Institute (SDI), VOSIEDA, Foundation for Community Initiatives (FCI), and ClientEarth/HPH among others.
Mali	Projects include: The Decentralized Forest Management programme, the Classified Forest Management programme (Le programme de Gestion Décentralisée des Forêts, le programme de gestion des forêts classées) located near Bamako, the Sustainable Development programme for the inner Niger Delta. Contact: BP: 275, phone: (+223) 20 220775, email: pdd.din2014@yahoo.com , website: info@pdd-din.ml , Bamako, GEDEFOR: Phone: (+223) 20 244718, email: accueilgedefor@gmail.com
Niger	Local timber/wood market in the region of Say et de Gaya

Nigeria	Community forestry management in Cross River State. Partners: Federal Department of Forestry, National REDD+ Contact: Mr Donatus Alada Adie, Forestry Commission, Calabar, email: adiedonatusalada@gmail.com, phone: (+807) 429 9633 Office or Cross River State Forestry Commission
	Nigerian Montane Forest Project
	Okwangwo Forest Reserve in Cross River state. It has been a site for biodiversity research.
	Sokponba and Okomu Forest Reserves in Edo State. Okomu Oil has been sustaining the Okomu Forest Reserve while the Federal College of Forest Resources Management in Edo State is managing the Sokponba reserve.
	Ondo State is experimenting with community-based forest management.
	The Ipinu-Igede and UkoKwu communities in Benue State
	Ngel Yaki Forest is managed by the Smithsonian/Nigeria Montane Forest Project.
Obada Community Forest managing Nigeria REDD+ Project	
Senegal	Participatory forest management in Casamance (Tamba et Kolda) and projects including PROGEDE, WULA NAFA et PADEC.
Sierra Leone	Technical cooperation programmes supported by FAO, BAF, and EU.
	CBFM was piloted in Gbaima Songa, Bo District, Baoma, Domboma and Pambela in Moyamba District. Forestry boundaries were demarcated, and maps produced with scales 1:5000,1:25 000 and 1:50 000. Bylaws were drafted by each CBFM chiefdom and preliminary community forest management agreements were signed by all key stakeholders. It was funded through FAO/TCP.
The Gambia	The community forestry programme was introduced in the early 1990s and has resulted in the transfer of close to 40 000 hectares of state forests to local communities. A possible partner is the Department of Forestry in Gambia. Contact: Mr Muhammed Jaiteh (Director) email: modikaba2000@yahoo.com, phone: (+220) 79 79596
	The community of Brefet in the West Coast region has been running a very successful community forest enterprise. The general forest cover around has improved significantly over the years. They have set up an ecotourism centre which is creating income and job opportunities for the community. Contact: Director, Forestry Department, The Gambia
	Toumani Tenda promoting ecotourism
	Dobo and Kunkiling under joint forest park management
Togo	Bakindikeh community on NTFPs
	Community forest of Natchambonga (Supported by NGOs GEMAPF er RAFIA), Goubi, and Alibi CF in Tchamba prefecture (NGO: AE2DD)
	Pessaré Forest with support from NGO CAP EJR in la Binah
	ANDO KPOMEY CF which received the 2015 Equator prize
Bago CF supported by NGO: Water Environment Foundation Contact: M. AFFO Agué, phone: (+228) 90 051340 Ando-kpomey Community Forest Contact: ONG ATPH, M. DENYO Kossi, phone: (+228) 90 124717	

3.12 SUPPORT NEEDS FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The survey asked respondents to give their input on support needs for local communities in relation to managing forests, with questions related to key topics and types of capacity building needed.

The results showed that all proposed topics and types of training were of interest to the respondents. The most important thematic topic was 'community forestry' with 20 respondents (30%) prioritizing this topic over others. The highest priorities were related to training on improved forest management practices and resource use (25 respondents), strengthening of community producer organizations (16 respondents), and training on GPS and forest monitoring techniques (8 respondents). Agroforestry systems (14 respondents) and non-timber forest products (12 respondents) were additional thematic areas where respondents believe communities need support. Other needs of lesser priority for the respondents related to sustainable charcoal, land rights and forest demarcation, and gender and empowerment of women.

3.13 ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Finally, respondents were asked to share additional comments regarding the project (edited for readability).

The project must alternate awareness raising, advocacy and physical achievements in the field. Raising the awareness of decision-makers and local communities on the need for concerted and sustainable forest management in the current context of climate change is a guarantee of success and will promote synergy and the involvement of all stakeholders.

Ensure that ICTs are integrated into sustainable forest and agricultural land management.

The development of NTFP market opportunities would greatly facilitate the take-up of cocoa agroforestry.

The project should focus on lesser known and less supported high biodiversity areas in West Africa such as the Ghana-Togo Highlands.

A community-centred approach to forest management that recognizes community rights to own and benefit from forest resources on their lands is the surest way to promote community forest investment.

There is an urgent need for the enforcement of existing laws. This means enhancing capacities within administration bodies (as well as police and the judiciary) to know the laws and put them into practice, together with a better understanding from the population about their laws. More laws are not a priority, but adequately ensuring that the existing laws are enforced, is.

The project should ensure a dedicated capacity-strengthening activity for women who are primary users of the forest and are impacted greatly by its destruction. The project should also strengthen collaboration among CSOs and government as well as between governments.

Capacity building for non-timber forest product collectors is most necessary.

Charcoal is used by almost every household for cooking in Liberia, but production is not efficient or sustainable and needs to be improved.

Joint knowledge sharing is recommended.

The project should focus on capacity building of forest community members, CSOs, and forestry officers with topics to include forest monitoring, education, and awareness of forest laws, regulations and principles for sustainable forest and land use management.

Agroforestry should be a key priority.

I think the project should focus on communities, CSOs, and the national government. Bringing these three stakeholders to work together will bring great success.

Giving community forest dwellers alternative livelihoods and building their capacities are essential if forests are to be managed sustainably.

I would like the project to focus on improved and sustainable land use with women's participation in the entire process.

Community training should also focus on non-timber forest product enterprise development. This is necessary for successful sustainable forest management.

Adequate publicity and country buy-in is needed.

Give priority to cross-border REDD+ projects. Promote the development of non-timber forest products for better consideration and protection of forests by communities to find a solution to food security.

Timely implementation of the project is critical because the decline in forest resources is already leading to erratic climatic conditions.

This project needs strong and lasting support. Most forest projects end when funding terminates. For this project to be sustained, my advice is to seek carbon credit and PES options that will create forest work for the people. Alternative livelihoods and long-lasting funding are very crucial.

The project is very good and long overdue. The threats to forest resources are on the increase and are being exacerbated by the cross-border illegal timber trade, including rosewood. With this project, countries' forest legislations and policies could be better aligned to improve sustainable forest and wildlife management.

This project sounds great. However, it should keep to the spirit and ideal of transformation where forests are sustainably developed and utilized for the improvement of livelihoods of the rural poor in particular strengthening resilience to climate change impacts. The project should focus on developing the capacities of all stakeholders (governments, communities, women, youth, private sector, etc.). It should also enhance regional collaboration, especially in areas of illegal forest exploitation and trade. Building capacities to enforce policies and laws will be indispensable.

The project should consolidate gains of current and past projects and expand or replicate good practices in other areas.



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4

RESPONDENTS' PERCEPTION BY COUNTRY

In this section, please find a summary of some of the highlights related to 13 of the 15 ECOWAS countries, based on the responses from individual respondents. The findings should be verified since they are based solely on the responses of individuals answering the survey. As mentioned, for some countries, there was only a single respondent. Please note that Guinea Bissau is not included as there were unfortunately no respondents from this country. In addition, the data from Guinea was not reliable enough to include.

Benin Status of forest laws and policies:

LAW/POLICY	STATUS
Forest related legislation	Currently under revision
Laws on decentralized forest management	Currently under revision
Sustainable forest management guidelines	Outdated, needs reform
Environmental law	Recently updated
Land law	Recently updated
Land use management law	Recently updated
Land policy	Recently updated
REDD+ strategy	Currently under revision

Legal/policy support needs: The REDD+ Project Proposal (RPP) is drafted but not yet validated with stakeholders. The institutional framework for REDD+ has been designed but is not yet functional. The REDD+ Strategy is not yet drafted. Timeliness for reform was rated as 'very timely'³.

Gender in relevant laws and policies: Though there was only one respondent from Benin, he claimed that gender is well recognized throughout the relevant legal and policy framework. For instance, forest legislation, including laws on decentralized forest management, makes a commitment to strengthen women's rights in indigenous and customary communities. Gender is also explicitly mentioned in forest policy, the national forest programme, sustainable forest management guidelines, environmental law, land and land use management law, and national land policy.

³ Indicated by an average score of 1 from 1 respondent with 1 being 'very timely' and 5 being 'not timely'.

Status of community-based forestry: For Benin, the respondent claims that communities have secure rights ('strongly agree'), women play active roles in governance ('strongly agree'), communities are engaged in innovative practices, and forests managed by communities are clearly mapped. It is not so clear, however, about the contribution of non-timber forest products to local livelihoods.

Transboundary issues of concern: Exploitation of timber and wildlife in protected areas at the border.

Landscapes and support needs: Park W and the forests of Bassila and Panessoulou.



Burkina Faso Status of forest laws and policies:

LAW/POLICY	STATUS
Forest related legislation	Recently updated
Laws on decentralized forest management	Currently under revision
Sustainable forest management guidelines	Currently under revision
Environmental law	Outdated, needs reform
Land law	Updated but not implemented
Land use management law	Updated but not implemented
Land policy	Updated but not implemented
REDD+ strategy	Currently under revision

Legal/policy support needs: There is a need to support raising awareness on the laws as well as a regional law governing production, and commercialization (national and transnational) of forest products. ECOWAS laws governing vegetable seeds do not cover forest species. The area of carbon rights is poorly understood. Timeliness for reform was rated as 'quite timely'⁴.

Gender in relevant laws and policies: Three male respondents reported that gender is well recognized in most of the relevant legal and policy frameworks. For instance, they claim that forest legislation explicitly recognizes women's individual rights and makes a commitment to strengthen women's rights in indigenous and customary communities. Laws also explicitly recognize women's right to participate in decision-making. Other land and environmental laws and policies were similarly explicit.

⁴ Indicated by an average score of 2.3 from 3 respondents with 1 being 'very timely' and 5 'not timely'.

Status of community-based forestry: In Burkina Faso, communities do not have secure collective tenure rights and women do not play active roles in governance. Nor are community lands clearly demarcated. There was consensus that NTFPs play an important role in local livelihoods and that outside support for capacity building is needed.

Transboundary issues of concern: Protection of protected areas on the border, as well as animal corridors and the cross-border trade in animal and plant species.

Landscapes and support needs: The WAP Complex needs management support as well as infrastructure development. In addition, the Comoe-Leraba and the Gourma Malien ecosystems require support.



Cabo Verde Status of forest laws and policies:

LAW/POLICY	STATUS
Forest related legislation	Currently under revision
Laws on decentralized forest management	Currently under revision
Sustainable forest management guidelines	Currently under revision
Environmental law	Outdated, needs reform
Land law	n/a
Land use management law	n/a
Land policy	Updated but not implemented
REDD+ strategy	n/a

Legal/policy support needs: Legislation related to the timber trade in general. Timeliness for reform was rated as ‘very timely’⁵.

Gender in relevant laws and policies: The male respondent from Cabo Verde reported that all relevant laws and policies explicitly recognize women’s rights to participate in decision-making.

Status of community-based forestry: The respondent from Cabo Verde noted that communities generally have secure tenure and women play active roles. Communities require outside support (‘strongly agree’).

Transboundary issues of concern: None, as there are no land boundaries.

⁵ Indicated by a score of 1 from 1 respondent with 1 being ‘very timely’ and 5 being ‘not timely’.

Landscapes and support needs: (1) The management of the forest perimeter of the Longueira area in the Ribeira Seca Watershed on the island of Santiago. (2) The management of the forest perimeter on the island of Santo Antão.

Other comments: Forest management in Cabo Verde is more the responsibility of the state, however, the communities participate actively in their maintenance and development.

Côte d'Ivoire Status of forest laws and policies:

LAW/POLICY	STATUS
Forest related legislation	Recently updated
Laws on decentralized forest management	Currently under revision
Sustainable forest management guidelines	Currently under revision
Environmental law	Updated but not implemented
Land law	n/a
Land use management law	n/a
Land policy	n/a
REDD+ strategy	Recently updated

Legal/policy support needs: Decrees under the 2019 Forest Law are needed for which there is no financing available. Timeliness for reform was rated as 'very timely'⁶.

Gender in relevant laws and policies: The male respondent from Côte d'Ivoire was unable to provide information on gender mainstreaming in related legal and policy frameworks.

Status of community-based forestry: Communities have secure collective tenure in Côte d'Ivoire and engage in innovative practices. They also require outside support.

Transboundary issues of concern: Support is needed for corridors to maintain connectivity between forest areas.

Landscapes and support needs: Taï Grebo Sapo (on the border with Liberia) and Taï Diecké Ziama (Guinea), as well as Nitidae in the La Me region.

Other comments: Encroachment for cocoa production makes sustainable management of the forest area difficult.

⁶ Indicated by a score of 1 from 1 respondent with 1 being 'very timely' and 5 being 'not timely'.

LAW/POLICY	STATUS
Forest related legislation	Updated but not implemented
Laws on decentralized forest management	Under revision
Sustainable forest management guidelines	Updated but not implemented
Environmental law	Updated but not implemented
Land law	Outdated, needs reform
Land use management law	Outdated, needs reform
Land policy	Outdated needs reform
REDD+ strategy	Recently updated

Legal/policy support needs: Most of the laws and regulations pertaining to forestry and lands are updated but implementation is a real challenge. One area that needs reform is land policy in Ghana. There is currently a proposed land bill which seeks to consolidate and harmonize 166 existing laws relating to land, but the process has stalled. The government also needs to reform regulations related to tree tenure (which is related to carbon rights) and pass a wildlife resources management bill which will give legal backing to community-based resource management areas (CREMAs). Finally, there is the need for a timber policy to complement the existing forest policies, especially dealing with matters related to Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) licensing and sustainable forest management. Timeliness for reform was rated as ‘moderate’⁷.

Gender in relevant laws and policies: Four men and two women responded similarly, reporting that Ghanaian forest legislation generally prohibits gender discrimination and recognizes women’s individual rights. The same was true for related policies and legislation (i.e. land, environment), however, some of the respondents had less knowledge about decentralized forest management, sustainable forest management guidelines, environmental law, and land law and policy.

Status of community-based forestry: It seems that communities do not have secure collective tenure rights, though women sometimes play active roles and there is a strong need for outside support for capacity building and technical assistance. NTFPs are important contributors to local livelihoods and there are mixed opinions on whether community forests are clearly mapped.

Transboundary issues of concern: There are concerns about the movement of animals and fragmented ecosystems or habitats, as well as illegal trade in timber (rosewood) and wildlife. Illegal gold mining is also a problem with transboundary elements.

Landscapes and support needs: Ghana-Togo Highlands/Atakora Mountains needs community-based conservation support and livelihoods. There is a need for the creation of wildlife corridors linking Ghana to Burkina Faso and to Cote d'Ivoire (the West African forest belt). The Kalakpa Forest Reserve in the Volta region is threatened by pressures from communities in the buffer area.

⁷ Indicated by an average score of 3 from 6 respondents with 1 being ‘very timely’ and 5 being ‘not timely’.

Other comments: Community forest management in Ghana remains a big challenge if the issue of tree tenure rights is not addressed. Some local communities acquired permits to manage their own forests, but most communities are struggling to get their permits. NGOs have been advocating for CREMAs since 2012, but still, there is no law in place to support this mechanism.

Ghana

No reliable data was available for Guinea.

Guinea Bissau

There were no respondents from Guinea Bissau.

Liberia

Status of forest laws and policies:

LAW/POLICY	STATUS
Forest related legislation	Recently updated
Laws on decentralized forest management	Recently updated
Sustainable forest management guidelines	Outdated, needs reform
Environmental law	Under revision
Land law	Needs reform
Land use management law	Needs reform
Land policy	Recently updated
REDD+ strategy	Recently updated

Legal/policy support needs: The National Forestry Reform Law of 2006 needs amendment and ratification. There is also a need to mainstream gender in forest law and policy formulation and enforcement. Independent verification of community forests is needed to ensure that companies do not bypass regulations (using community forests (CF) as a front for logging). Forest law enforcement is key. Some companies have been granted carbon rights, and more work is needed to ensure that communities also can claim their carbon rights, as the legal framework does not address carbon rights. Timeliness for reform was rated as 'very timely'⁸.

⁸ Indicated by an average score of 1.9 from 12 respondents with 1 being 'very timely' and 5 being 'not timely'.

In Liberia there are two kinds of community forestry management, one under the authority of the Commercial Forestry Department under the Community Forestry Development Committee (CFDC) and the other under the Community Forestry Department, the Community Forest Management Body (CFMB). Partners that contributed to these successes include the National Union of CFDC, FAO, the VPA Support Unit I, Sustainable Development Institute (SDI), VOSIEDA, Foundation for Community Initiatives (FCI), and ClientEarth/HPH among others.

Gender in relevant laws and policies: Seven men and two women replied to questions related to gender mainstreaming in the legal and policy framework. The legal and policy framework is quite strong in explicitly recognizing women's rights to participate and in making commitments to strengthen women's rights or prohibit gender discrimination. Answers from women and men did not differ significantly, except that two of the male respondents were uninformed on this topic, replying 'don't know' for most categories.

Status of community-based forestry: There is consensus that communities have secure collective tenure rights and that women play active roles in CBF. Most respondents also strongly agree that NTFPs are very important and that external support for capacity building is needed.

Transboundary issues of concern: Legislation related to REDD+ and climate change, timber trade, fire management, wildlife, and pet trade (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species – CITES). There are reports of Ghanaians and Nigerians logging in Liberia and transporting logs by canoe.

Landscapes and support needs: The Mano River transboundary area between four West African states (Liberia, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, and Sierra Leone) is another area where more community work and demarcation is needed. The Tai-Grebo Khran-Sapo National Park and the proposed protected area of Khran Bassa are also highlighted for support. In addition, forest rangers need training and logistical support for monitoring the East Nimba Nature Reserve (ENNR) which spans across Liberia and Guinea. Coastal mangrove areas need protection and restoration.

Other comments: FIFES is a USAID-funded project supporting community forest management (four sites covering 4500 hectares) and shaded cocoa production⁹. FFI is implementing the Wonegezi Forest REDD+ project. Other active groups include DAI, SGS, FAO, Palladium, DFID, RSPB, FFI, GIZ, Ambero, KFW, AHT Group, the Government of Norway, and the World Bank. There is an urgent need to address the problem of unsustainable charcoal production and an opportunity to use the off-cuts from logging in the production of fuelwood.

Liberia has signed a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with the EU under FLEGT.

⁹ Contact: Glen Lines (glines@acdivoca.org)

LAW/POLICY	STATUS
Forest related legislation	Recently updated
Laws on decentralized forest management	Updated but not implemented
Sustainable forest management guidelines	Recently updated
Environmental law	Updated but not implemented
Land law	Recently updated
Land use management law	Recently updated
Land policy	Recently updated
REDD+ strategy	Under revision

Legal/policy support needs: Support is needed for implementation and awareness raising on existing forest laws. More information and awareness are also needed on the topic of carbon rights, with an emphasis on community benefits. Timeliness for reform was rated as ‘quite timely’¹⁰.

Gender in relevant laws and policies: Three women and four men from Mali replied to questions on gender mainstreaming and consensus is clear in that all relevant laws and policies mentioned contain some references or commitments in regard to gender. For instance, forest legislation explicitly recognizes women’s individual rights and contains specific gender objectives according to the respondents.

Status of community-based forestry: There are mixed opinions about the security of collective community tenure, but general agreement that women play active roles in CBF management and governance. Respondents also agreed that external support is needed and that NTFPs are important contributors to local livelihoods. It was unclear if community forests are clearly demarcated, though most respondents agreed with this statement.

Transboundary issues of concern: Issues include forest fire management, timber and wildlife trade, protection of biodiversity, bushfires, drought, and rural exodus.

Landscapes and support needs: There is a need to protect important ecosystems such as the dry forests (soudano-guinéennes) which are also chimpanzee and gazelle habitats. There is also an important reserve between Guinea, Senegal, and Mali (Kenieba and Kita) which serves as a wildlife corridor. Investment in agroforestry is needed.

¹⁰ Indicated by an average score of 2 from 7 respondents with 1 being ‘very timely’ and 5 being ‘not timely’.

LAW/POLICY	STATUS
Forest related legislation	Recently updated, not implemented
Laws on decentralized forest management	Recently updated, not implemented
Sustainable forest management guidelines	Recently updated, not implemented
Environmental law	Currently under revision
Land law	Recently updated
Land use management law	Recently updated
Land policy	Recently updated
REDD+ strategy	Recently updated, not implemented

Legal/policy support needs: There is a need to update legal and policy documents and translate them into local languages. In addition, capacity development support for government agencies is needed, as well as for CSOs in their role as independent monitors. Carbon rights have not yet been defined in law or policy. A carbon monitoring and accounting system is also needed. Timeliness for reform was rated as ‘quite timely’¹¹.

Gender in relevant laws and policies: According to three respondents from Niger (2 men, 1 woman), the laws and policies generally recognize women’s rights and prohibit gender discrimination. For example, forestry legislation explicitly prohibits gender discrimination and recognizes women’s rights to participate in decision-making. Two of the respondents (1 woman, 1 man) had more limited knowledge on this topic.

Status of community-based forestry: The points of consensus were that outside support is needed and NTFPs contribute substantially to local livelihoods.

Transboundary issues of concern: The transport of charcoal is a key issue.

Landscapes and support needs: All the landscapes shared between Niger, Burkina Faso, Benin, and Nigeria are important for protection.

¹¹ Indicated by an average score of 2 from 3 respondents with 1 being ‘very timely’ and 5 being ‘not timely’.

LAW/POLICY	STATUS
Forest related legislation	Outdated, needs reform
Laws on decentralized forest management	Outdated, needs reform
Sustainable forest management guidelines	Updated but not implemented
Environmental law	Outdated, needs reform
Land law	Outdated, needs reform
Land use management law	Currently under revision
Land policy	Outdated, needs reform
REDD+ strategy	Recently updated

Legal/policy support needs: Forest reserves are owned by states in Nigeria which have their own policies and legislation while the National Forest Policy provides a framework to guide states. Additional support is needed for the development of policies and laws at the state level, including subnational REDD+ strategies. In addition, community-based forest management regulations should be reviewed and amended. In terms of carbon rights, discussions are at a very early stage. Timeliness for reform was rated as ‘moderate’¹².

Gender in relevant laws and policies: For Nigeria, some 13 men and 7 women responded to this question. Generally, respondents noted that relevant laws and legislation recognized the importance of gender and women’s rights to participate and make decisions. Participants had less knowledge about gender in land law and policy.

Status of community-based forestry: There were mixed opinions on whether or not CBF areas have secure tenure and whether women are participating actively, however, there was consensus that capacity building and technical assistance are needed and that NTFPs contribute substantially to local livelihoods.

Transboundary issues of concern: Issues include illegal timber trade (e.g. from Edo state to Delta state) and threats to biodiversity conservation.

Landscapes and support needs: Ideas for landscape support needs include Gashaka Gumti and Cross River National Parks, coastal land management (especially Cross River and Akwa) to reduce threats from invasive plant species and better protect mangroves, Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary (Cross River State), Okwangwo Forest Reserve in Cross River State, Sokponba and Okomu Forest Reserves in Edo State.

Other comments: Community forestry has expanded in Cross River State where encroachment and poaching are strictly controlled due to strict monitoring by the entire community and partnership with the Federal Department of Forestry, National REDD+ Office and Cross River State Forestry Commission. Other needs include support for non-timber forest product enterprise development, knowledge management on traditional practices, and afforestation activities.

Outstanding community forestry sites include the Ipinu-Igede and Okpokwu communities in Benue State, as well as the Obada community REDD+ project.

¹² Indicated by an average score of 2.9 from 20 respondents with 1 being ‘very timely’ and 5 being ‘not timely’.

LAW/POLICY	STATUS
Forest related legislation	Recently updated
Laws on decentralized forest management	Currently under revision
Sustainable forest management guidelines	Updated but not implemented
Environmental law	Updated but not implemented
Land law	Updated but not implemented
Land use management law	Outdated, needs reform
Land policy	Outdated, needs reform
REDD+ strategy	Outdated, needs reform

Legal/policy support needs: A National Forest Policy was recently approved by the National Forest Development Committee (NFDC), but it must go through the National Council of Environment for buy-in from other subsectors. A Draft National Forest Act is being put in place. Support might be needed to implement the act when ready because it is anchored on decentralization to subnational levels of governance. There is also a need to revise the law on hunting as currently punishment for illegal poaching is not sufficient. Laws on decentralization which tend to lead to reduction in forest areas, are also in need of reform. Timeliness for reform was rated as 'very timely'¹³.

Gender in relevant laws and policies: Four men responded to the survey and three of these generally agreed that relevant laws and policies have mainstreamed gender considerations. One of the respondents was not well informed on this topic and usually answered 'don't know'.

Status of community-based forestry: Respondents agreed that external support is needed for community-based forest management, however for all other aspects, there was no consensus among the four respondents.

Transboundary issues of concern: There is a need to control the illegal timber trade (especially *Pterocarpus erinaceus*) in the region of Casamance. PROGEDE, WULA NAFA and PADEC have been active.

Landscapes and support needs: Faro National Park is highlighted.

Other comments: There is a need for support of non-timber forest product value chains to boost livelihoods and food security.

¹³ Indicated by an average score of 1.5 from 4 respondents with 1 being 'very timely' and 5 being 'not timely'.

LAW/POLICY	STATUS
Forest related legislation	Outdated, needs revision
Laws on decentralized forest management	Recently updated
Sustainable forest management guidelines	Updated, but not implemented
Environmental law	Recently updated
Land law	Under revision
Land use management law	Outdated, needs reform
Land policy	Updated, but not implemented
REDD+ strategy	Updated, but not implemented

Legal/policy support needs: Legal instruments on forest and other related disciplines are not only outdated but full of duplication of functions and conflicting mandates. The situation is made worse by the establishment of many forest authorities and agencies with separate acts, laws, and policies all at the draft stage under the same Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry such as the National Protected Area Authority and proposed ones such as the Timber Agency, Afforestation and Reforestation Secretariat. With regard to carbon rights, there is not yet any policy or instruments on the rights to carbon. However, land rights are accorded to legitimate landowners which by implication should mean that carbon rights are accorded to legitimate landowners. Rights to carbon in national parks, gazetted forests, game reserves, protected forests, and gazetted wetlands etc. fall under the relevant authority (i.e. National Protected Area Authority, Forestry Division). Timeliness for reform was rated as ‘very timely’¹⁴.

Gender in relevant laws and policies: There were two male respondents on this topic. Both recognized that forestry laws and policies make commitments to strengthen women’s rights in indigenous and customary communities. Decentralized forest management regulations seem to be particularly progressive in making a number of explicit commitments.

Status of community-based forestry: The respondents agreed that communities have secure collective tenure rights, that women participate actively also in forest governance, that external support is needed, that communities engage in innovative management practices, and that forests are clearly mapped (‘strongly agree’).

Transboundary issues of concern: timber and wildlife trade as well as mining.

Landscapes and support needs: The Outamba Kilimi and Gola National Parks require capacity building and modern monitoring techniques. Outamba-Kilimi National Park is situated in one of the least developed chiefdoms in the extreme north of Sierra Leone and is Sierra Leone's first national park. It lies between Guinea and Sierra Leone and is home to many endangered species and wildlife. It has received very little support compared to Gola Forest National Park, Sierra Leone's second national park. Unlike Gola, which is supported by RSPB and BirdLife, Outamba-Kilimi has received very little support. Its greatest threats are bushfires and logging.

¹⁴ Indicated by scores of 1 from both of 2 respondents with 1 being ‘very timely’ and 5 being ‘not timely’.

Other comments: With FAO/TCP support, CBFM was piloted in Gbaima Songa, Bo District, Baoma, Domboma and Pambela in Moyamba District. Forestry boundaries were demarcated, maps produced, bylaws drafted, and a preliminary community forest management agreement was signed by all key stakeholders. For projects to be sustained, more work is needed on carbon credits and PES options.

The Gambia

Status of forest laws and policies:

LAW/POLICY	STATUS
Forest related legislation	Recently updated
Laws on decentralized forest management	Recently updated
Sustainable forest management guidelines	Recently updated
Environmental law	Currently under revision
Land law	Outdated, needs reform
Land use management law	Outdated, needs reform
Land policy	Currently under revision
REDD+ strategy	Currently under revision

Legal/policy support needs: The Gambia has done relatively well in terms of forest policy and relevant legislation and rules. The challenge is the national capacity for the implementation of the policies and laws. The country therefore needs both technical and human capacity development to effectively implement the policies and programmes. Awareness raising on the Forestry Act and Regulation of 2018 is needed. Carbon rights have not yet been regulated, but the carbon rights for mangroves is a key area where many different authorities are involved and competing. Timeliness for reform was rated as ‘very timely’¹⁵.

Gender in relevant laws and policies: Two male respondents concurred that the forestry legal and policy frameworks have mainstreamed commitments to gender and women’s participation. However, both had more limited knowledge of the laws and policies related to the land sector.

Status of community-based forestry: There is consensus that community collective rights are secure and that women are participating actively. In addition, areas are clearly demarcated and NTFPs contribute substantially to local livelihoods. There is also strong agreement that external capacity building and technical assistance would be useful.

¹⁵ Indicated by an average score of 1.5 from 4 respondents with 1 being ‘very timely’ and 5 being ‘not timely’.

Transboundary issues of concern: Legislation related to the rosewood trade, REDD+ and climate change, and the timber trade is needed. Forest fires are also an issue of concern.

Landscapes and support needs: The Saloum Delta in Senegal, extends across the border into the Gambia with an estimated area of 500 000 hectares of mangroves. The area provides a breeding ground for migratory waterfowl and marine species (turtles). This transboundary national park needs financial support to strengthen its management in both Senegal and the Gambia and to further promote livelihood enhancement activities (e.g. beekeeping, tourism, fishing, agriculture) among the local population living in and around the park.

The Sustainable Agriculture and Environmental Governance (SAGE) project supported transboundary forest management between the Gambia, Senegal, and Guinea Bissau. Forests were demarcated, management committees formed, and management plans developed.

Other comments: The community forestry programme in the Gambia, introduced in the early 1990s, has resulted in the transfer of ownership of close to 40 000 hectares of state forests to local communities. A possible partner is the Department of Forestry in Gambia. Contact: Mr Muhammed Jaiteh, Director (email: modikaba2000@yahoo.com; phone: (+220) 79 79596).

The community of Brefet in the West Coast region has been running a very successful community forest enterprise. The general forest cover around has improved significantly over the years. They have set up an ecotourism center which is creating income and job opportunities for the community.

Togo

Status of forest laws and policies:

LAW/POLICY	STATUS
Forest related legislation	Currently under revision
Laws on decentralized forest management	Recently updated
Sustainable forest management guidelines	Outdated, needs reform
Environmental law	Outdated, needs reform
Land law	Recently updated
Land use management law	Recently updated
Land policy	Outdated, needs reform
REDD+ strategy	Currently under revision

Legal/policy support needs: The forest policy drafted in 2011 with support from FAO has not been adopted and a revision was planned for 2020. The 2008 Forest law has some gaps in regard to sanctions and reform is planned. As yet, there have been few activities in relation to carbon and REDD+. Timeliness for reform was rated as quite timely³.

¹⁶ Indicated by an average score of 2 from 4 respondents with 1 being 'very timely' and 5 being 'not timely'.

Gender in relevant laws and policies: Three of the four male respondents to this question recognized that Togo's forestry laws have made commitments to prohibit gender discrimination. The same holds true for environment and land policy and law, however, a couple of the respondents had less knowledge in this area.

Status of community-based forestry: There is consensus that community collective rights are secure and that women are participating actively, also in governance. In addition, areas are clearly demarcated and NTFPs contribute substantially to local livelihoods. There is also strong agreement that external capacity building and technical assistance would be useful.

Transboundary issues of concern: Illegal timber trade, and poaching, particularly on the border with Benin (Mono transboundary biosphere reserve) and with Ghana (Fazao Malfakassa).

Landscapes and support needs: Support is needed for the Fazao-Malfakassa National Park (Togo) which is adjacent to the Kiabogo Park in Ghana. In addition, the Oti-Kéran-Mandouri National Park between Togo and Benin requires wildlife management support. Illegal exploitation of *Pterocarpus erinencus* is an additional challenge.

Other comments: There are good examples of community forests, including Natchambonga, Bago, Ando Kpomey (winner of the Equator prize), and Alibi CFs. NGOs involved include GEMAPF, RAFIA, and AE2D et EJR.

ANNEX: STAKEHOLDER SURVEY FORM

2. 2. What is your gender? *

Mark only one oval.

- Male
- Female
- Non-binary / Prefer not to say

Legal and policy instruments

3. 3. In your country, what is the status of the following legal and policy instruments? *

Mark only one oval per row.

	Recently updated	Updated but not implemented	Currently under revision	Outdated, needs reforms	Don't know
Forest law and related forestry legislation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Forest policy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National forest programme	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Laws on decentralized forest management / community based forestry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sustainable forest management guidelines	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Environmental Law	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Land Law	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Land use management Law	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National Land Policy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
REDD+ Strategy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. 3a. Please comment on any support needs related to legal and policy reforms in the forest sector in your country

20/04/2020

Project Consultation Survey: Global Transformation of Forests for People and Climate: A Focus on West Africa

5. 4. To what extent is the forest legal framework consistent with other sectoral related laws (e.g. land, environment, agriculture, energy)?

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Fully consistent	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Not at all consistent

6. 5. As it relates to climate change, please specify to what extent ownership rights on forest carbon are clearly established, and regulated by law. *

Mark only one oval.

		1	2	3	4	5	
The law states who is entitled to own carbon rights	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	This topic hasn't yet been regulated by law

7. 5a. Please share any relevant concern related to carbon rights in your country

8. 6. For each row, please check the appropriate boxes according to your knowledge of gender in relation to national laws and policies. *

Tick all that apply.

	Explicitly prohibits gender based discrimination	Explicitly recognizes women's individual rights	Contains specific gender objective	Makes commitment to strengthen women's rights in indigenous/customary communities	Explicitly recognizes women's right to participate in decision-making	Tick
Forest Law and related forestry regulations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Forest Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
National Forest Programme	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Legislation promoting decentralized forest management / community forestry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sustainable forest management guidelines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Environmental law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Land law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Land use management law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Land policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

9. 6. What type of forest-related legislation do you think should be a priority for solving transboundary issues? (Please choose one) *

Mark only one oval.

- Legislation related to the timber trade in general
- Legislation related to the wildlife trade (CITES)
- Legislation related to REDD+ and climate change
- Legislation related to forest fire management
- Legislation related to the rosewood trade
- Don't know / not sure
- Other: _____

10. 7. Given the current political situation in your country, please rate the timeliness for legislative reform in the forest-land-natural resources sectors. *

Mark only one oval.

- 1 2 3 4 5
- Very timely Not timely at all

Transboundary landscapes

11. 8a. Please share an example of a transboundary issue affecting the forest in your country.

12. 8b. Are you aware of important transboundary landscapes in the West Africa region in need of project support? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No *Skip to question 14*

13. 8c. Please briefly describe the landscape and support needs.

Sustainable Management of Forests & The role of local communities

14. 9. Please check the appropriate boxes based on your knowledge of community-based forest management in your country. *

Mark only one oval per row.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Communities have secure collective tenure rights for forests	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Women play an active role in community based forest management, including as part of local governing bodies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Communities require outside support for capacity building and technical assistance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Communities are engaging in innovative practices and solutions to improve forest management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Non-timber forest enterprises are an important contributor to local livelihoods	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Forests managed by communities are clearly mapped	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

15. 9a. Please provide any additional comments on community based forest management in your country.

16. 10. Are you aware of any specific examples of successful community based forest management which should be highlighted for experience sharing under this project? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
 No

Specific examples of successful community based management

17. 10a. Please briefly describe the example and list any relevant partners or contacts if possible.

18. 11. In your opinion, what is the most important thematic area that local communities require support for? (Please choose one) *

Mark only one oval.

- Agroforestry systems
 Non-timber forest product enterprise development
 Improved/sustainable charcoal production; wood energy
 Land rights and forest demarcation
 Gender and forestry - empowering women in the forestry sector
 Community forest monitoring and resource assessment/inventory
 Other: _____

19. 12. In your opinion, what type of capacity building would be most important? (Please choose one) *

Mark only one oval.

- Knowledge of tenure rights and rights to manage forests, including access and use of forest resources
 Knowledge of improved forest management practices and resource use
 Training for strengthening of community producer organisations (including access to credit; value chain analysis)
 Gender sensitivity training
 Specialized training to build the skills and confidence of women in forest management and resource use
 Training in GPS and forest monitoring techniques
 Don't know / not sure
 Other: _____

Additional comments

20/04/2020

Project Consultation Survey: Global Transformation of Forests for People and Climate: A Focus on West Africa

20. 13. Please provide any additional comments regarding the project.

21. If you are willing to be contacted by the project for further dialogue and updates, please provide your email address.

Thank you very much for your opinion.

For further information on this project, please contact:
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