African Women’s Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF)

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Outline of presentation

- What is REFACOF?
- Context of women’s forest and land tenure in Central and West Africa
- Vision and Mission of REFACOF
- REFACOF strategic plan 2011-2015
  - 4 Pillars
  - Current Status of Activities
History of REFACOF

- **2009 Yaounde Conference**: African women delegates meet and present a declaration and the creation of REFACOF with 9 countries.

- **Edea convening general assembly in 2010**: Where they elaborated a 5-year strategic plan based on country priorities, adding 4 countries.

- **In process of implementing this strategy and plan of action**.

- **July assembly planned with gender and tenure workshop**.
What is REFACOF?

REFACOF i.e. “African women’s Network for community management of forests”

• **Creation**: in the framework of ITTO conference in Yaoundé from 25-29 may 2009

• **Members and countries**: 45 women from 10 countries (Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroun, Côte d’Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, RCA, RDC, Sénégal)

• **Structure**: board composed of President, Vice-president, Secretary, and ten focal points from different countries

• **Added value from existing women’s organization**: an advocacy platform focused on African women’s tenure rights in land and forest reforms
Members of REFACOF
Context of forest management in Central and West Africa and the impact on women

• African women’s land ownership is very low and discriminatory although they represent more than 50% of the population (women in the world own only 2% of land, FAO data);

• African women have no decision making power and control over forest resources

• African women’s forest rights is limited to usage rights over non timber forest products (NTFPs)

  ▪ African land grabs reinforces the precarious situation and overall vulnerability of African women

  ▪ REDD can worsen the situation of women’s land and forest tenure, hinder gendered economic development if women do not have effective tenure rights
Vision and Mission of REFACOF

Vision:
- Become a major actor for the promotion of land and forest rights of women in Central and West Africa

Mission:
- Promote women’s rights in Africa and influence policy to achieve gender equity in land and forest tenure
REFACOF STRATEGIC PLAN 2011-2015

Strategy

Four strategic pillars:

- Reinforce the institutional capacity of the network
- Promote equitable tenure reforms
- Influence the agendas and initiatives of forest tenure reforms at the national, regional and sub-regional levels
- Favor horizontal exchanges of experience sharing among members
Current status of activities

- Reflection on the completed scoping and studies of Liberia, Mali, Burkina Faso and Cameroon in Central and West Africa as a whole and start studies on gender and climate change
- Plan a gender and tenure workshop in July with the general assembly and collaboration with Forest Peoples Programme on tenure rights of indigenous women
- Finalizing the communication strategy including completing the website for members
- Advocacy of REFACOF Cameroon around the land tenure reform announced by the government
- Fundraising plan for implementing the REFACOF strategy
Contact

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Thank you very much!