



**SDG 15: PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS,
SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND
REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION, AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS**

The Forest Ecosystem
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Order of Presentation

- Introduction
- Forests Versus Tree Plantations
- The multi-functionality of Forests
- Threats to Forest Existence
- Opportunities for forest recovery
- Key Messages

What are forests?

- Forests have been confused with monoculture tree plantations



- Forests are more than just trees; they are rich and highly diverse ecosystems.
- they are among the most important repositories for terrestrial biological diversity.
- offer diverse habitats for plants, animals, and microorganisms.
- They are fundamental for food security and improved livelihoods.



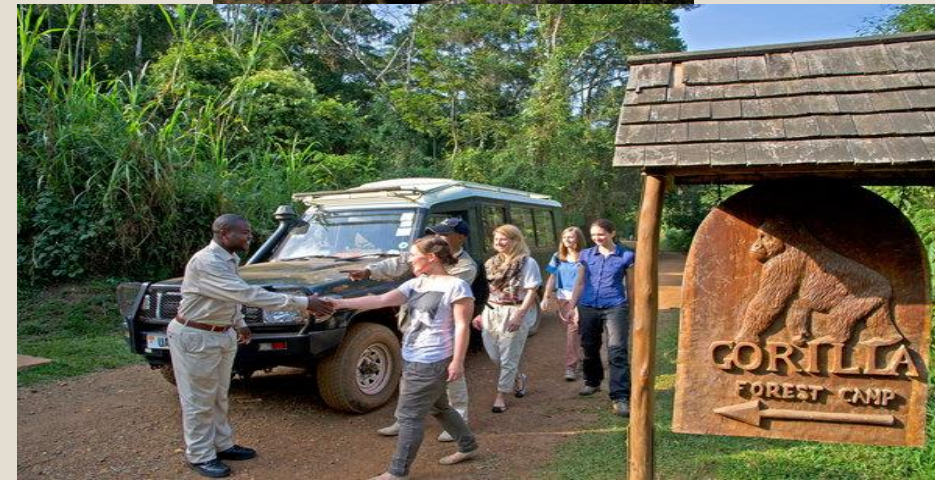
Tree Plantations

- Monoculture Plantations, are just that! Plantations with one species of trees under high management.
- They too are useful especially for relieving pressure on forests



Forests are multifunctional

- They have roles to play in achieving several other SDGs including ;
- SDG 1, on ending poverty;
- SDG 5, on Gender Equality
- SDG 6, on protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems;
- SDG 7, on access to sustainable energy for all;
- and SDG 13 on combating climate change and its impacts.



Gender Inequality and Women's Marginalization in Forestry

- Both Women and Men depend on the forests to perform their socially assigned roles.
- Yet in general, men's access and use of forests resources is prioritized over those of women, leaving women in a more vulnerable economic state (Tiayon 2011).
- Gender Blind Policies and socio-cultural norms prevent women from accessing forest resources , having control and ownership rights and restrict their participation in decision-making processes in forest governance

Comparing women and men's rights the in Forest Resource

Women

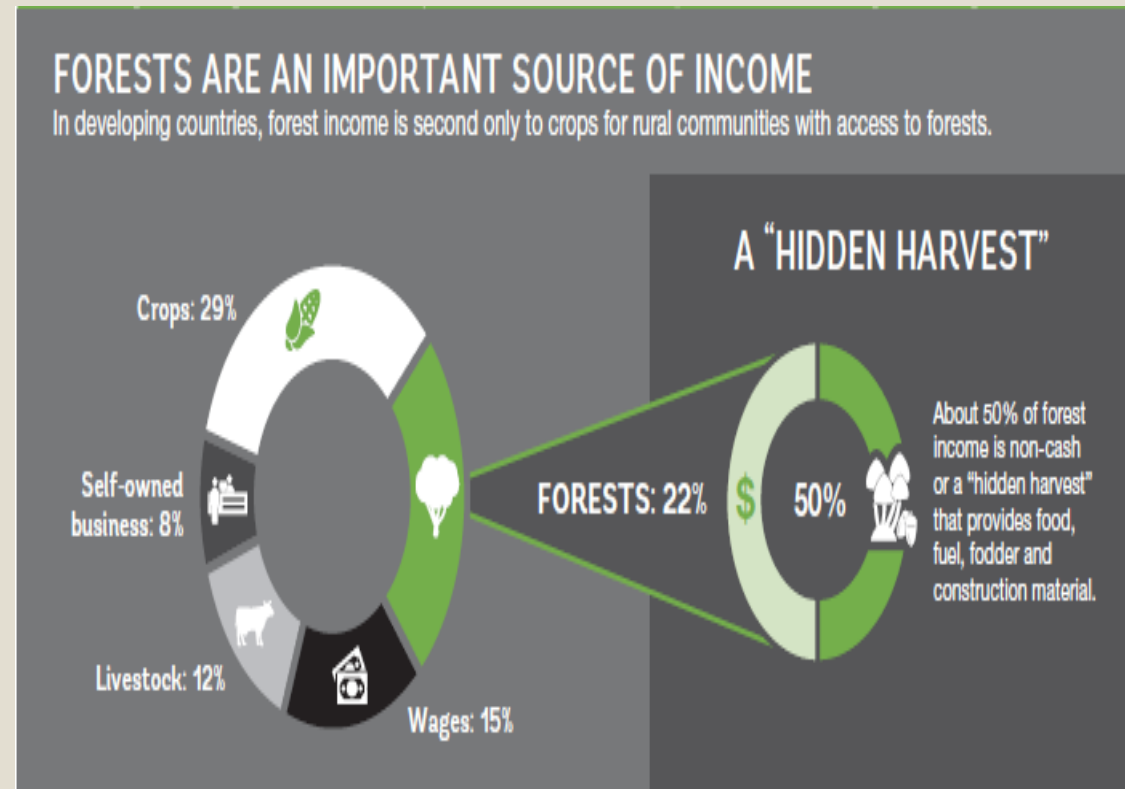
- Women's rights to forest and tree products tend to be restricted to products that are not profitable or have little commercial benefits such as fruits, nuts and vegetables, fuelwood, fodder, and manure.
- Lack of tenure rights impacts women's access to financial resources and women's income-generating opportunities (Kiptot, 2015).

Men

- The products under men's domain include charcoal, timber, poles, large branches and logs (Kiptot and Franzel 2012). Also, men tend to be responsible for hunting, and collecting and producing honey (Timko et al. 2010).
- Men have tenure rights to forested lands. As such they generate more benefits, financial and material from forests

Forests as a Source of Income (based on results from the PEN, 2015) Source: World Bank Forest Action Plan FY 16 - 20

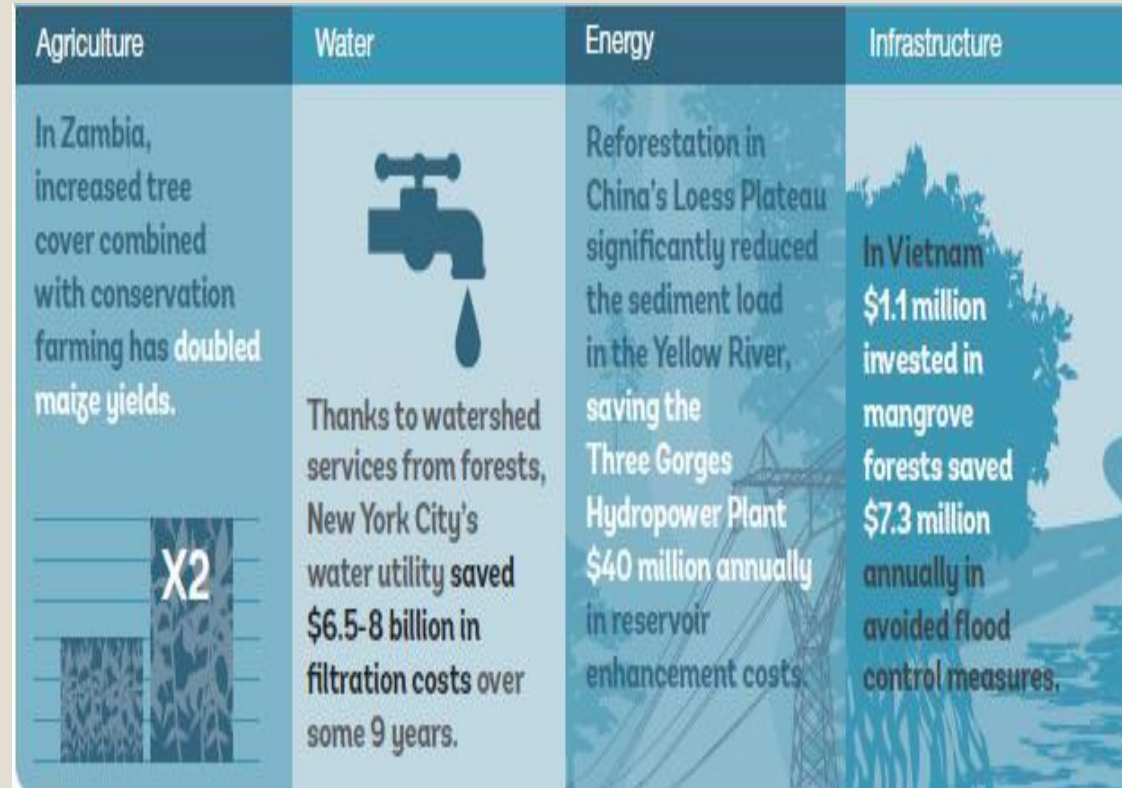
- Forests Provide Pathways Out of Poverty
- Forests Support Jobs and Wealth Creation
- Forests are a very important factor in Achieving Gender Equality and Women Empowerment



Examples of the Value of Forests' Ecosystem Services:

Source: World Bank Forest Action Plan FY 16 - 20

- Forests Provide Ecosystem Services That Sustain Economies
- Forests Mitigate Climate Change and Strengthen Resilience to changing weather patterns



Threats to Forest existence

- Population growth, along with changes in consumption patterns



◦Competing Uses of Land



- Land grabbing leads to unfair evictions of rights holders without the benefit of FPIC or just and equitable compensation
- It exposes women to more dispossession and marginalization in a Patriarchal culture



- Poor Forest Governance
- Gender Blind Policies
- Indigenous and Local Communities excluded from decision making
- Women's rights of access, control, decision making and ownership of the forest resource not given due consideration
- Women's rights to forest and tree products tend to be restricted to products that are not profitable or have little commercial benefits. Usually, the products women have the right to use are fruits, nuts and vegetables, fuelwood, fodder, and manure.



◦ Growing Demand for Forest Products

Opportunities for Forest Recovery

- There is a global forest agenda
- Increased investments in plantations are expected to go to emerging and developing countries
- In the past decades, there has been a trend toward more community involvement in decision-making processes related to the use of forests.

KEY MESSAGES

- Forests play key roles in the **water cycle, soil conservation, carbon sequestration**, and **habitat protection**, including for pollinators. Their sustainable management is crucial for sustainable agriculture and food security.
- Indigenous people must be recognized as rights-holders and not another category of stakeholders and forests as sovereign spaces rather than multi-stakeholder platforms.
- Gender considerations must be mainstreamed in all decisions pertaining to forests
- Agriculture remains the most significant driver of global deforestation, and there is an urgent need to promote more **positive interactions** between agriculture and forestry.
- The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agreed by countries in 2015 are “**integrated and indivisible**”. Progress towards sustainable agriculture, food security and sustainable forest management, core elements of the SDGs, should be made simultaneously.

- **Improved coordination** is required between policies on forests, agriculture, food, land use, and rural development. Equally important are clear legal frameworks governing land-use change, including secure land-tenure systems that recognize traditional customary rights to use land and forest products,
- Forest Policies must be Gender Responsive
- Where large-scale commercial agriculture is the principal driver of land-use change, effective **regulation of change**, with appropriate social and environmental safeguards, is needed. Private governance initiatives, such as voluntary certification schemes and commitments to zero deforestation, also have a positive impact.
- Where local subsistence agriculture is the principal driver of land-use change, wider **poverty alleviation** and **rural development** measures should be implemented alongside actions to improve local agricultural, agroforestry and other land-use practices.
- **Integrated land-use planning** provides a strategic framework for balancing land uses at the national, subnational and landscape scales. This should include meaningful stakeholder participation to ensure the legitimacy of land-use plans and obtain stakeholder buy-in for their implementation and monitoring.
- Food security can be achieved through sustainable methods of **agriculture such as agroecology**, rather than through expansion of agricultural areas at the expense of forests.