

## GEF-Land Degradation Monitoring MSP

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### GENDER MAINSTREAMING PLAN



*Photo credit: Benjamin Drummond*

## INTRODUCTION

The GEF-Land Degradation Monitoring Project is a Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded project that provides guidance on robust methods and a toolbox for assessing, monitoring status, and estimating trends in land degradation using remote sensing technology. The project's guidance and toolbox can be employed to inform land management and investment decisions as well as to improve reporting to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and to the GEF. The project is piloting products and tools in four countries (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Senegal) through a partnership between Lund University in Sweden, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States, and Vital Signs. It will create an open data platform with tools and data products that will be available as a global public good.

The GEF-Land Degradation Monitoring Project has three major components:

- 1) Establishing methods for assessing and monitoring the status and trends of land degradation;
- 2) Demonstrating recommended methods and platforms that will enable widespread adoption of standardized methods and tools;
- 3) Developing user-capacity to use the toolbox and recommended approaches for assessing the status and trends of land degradation using remote sensing.

The aim is to mainstream the use of the methods, the toolbox and data into decision making, for a range of users, from scientists who are not remote sensing specialists, to senior managers or policy analysts. The tutorials and manuals will demonstrate how to apply the toolbox and datasets appropriately at all of the different scales (i.e., local-, national-, regional- and global-scales). NASA, Lund University, and Vital Signs have demonstrated experience with successfully developing manuals and web-based tutorials (e.g., YouTube videos) for teaching non-specialists to apply complex scientific methods and to interpret the resulting products.

### **Project's potential impact on Gender Dynamics and Strategy to Avoid perpetuating Gender Inequalities**

This project is consistent with the GEF Policy on Gender Mainstreaming (PL/SD/02. May 1, 2012) and is fully aligned with the focus of Vital Signs' gender policy to address gender holistically throughout the project cycle and with knowledge sharing that ensures both men's and women's full access to data and information.

There are strong links between land degradation and gender, particularly at the local or regional levels where men's and women's different agricultural practices have varying impacts on the land. Likewise, initiatives at all scales to reduce land degradation can have differing impacts on men's and women's lives and livelihoods. This project focuses primarily on assessing high-level satellite data to inform policy making initiatives on reducing land degradation. While outcomes from the project (policies or projects/programs) could certainly have impacts on male and female farmers, that piece is generally outside the scope of this

project. However, there are several measures this project will take to ensure that gendered impacts are considered throughout Component 3 (capacity building) of the project:

1. **E-learning toolbox will incorporate gender elements:** As part of the capacity building element of this project, we will develop an e-learning toolbox which will serve as an online sourcebook for assessing land degradation and will include tutorials and manuals for each assessment scale. We will ensure that this e-course is gender sensitive through, for example, incorporating gender considerations when discussing local impacts of land degradation and land management and when discussing the development and impact of land degradation and sustainable land management policies. All project partners have substantial experience with developing gender appropriate guidance documents for application of complex scientific methods for users with a range of levels of expertise and experience.
2. **Trainings and workshops will be gender-sensitive:** The capacity building portion of this project will require a training of policy makers, senior project managers, and scientists. Trainings will include a discussion about gender and how policies and initiatives related to this project may impact on men's and women's livelihoods in stakeholder countries differently. We will also aim to have an equal share of men and women at trainings and will collect sex-disaggregated data of workshop participants and individuals trained.
3. **Materials will include gender considerations:** Additionally, materials produced for this project that might influence policy decisions will incorporate gender considerations. For example, using Vital Signs socioeconomic data in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, we will conduct analyses at sub-national scales to evaluate the extent to which women are impacted by land degradation and to provide insights that will help enable countries to target sustainable land management activities that will benefit women.
4. **Gender-sensitive guidance documents:** Furthermore, this project will create gender appropriate guidance documents that will provide context on how the outcomes of this project may affect men and women differently and will be available online. A formal grievance process is also available online through the project's website ([www.vitalsigns.org/gef-ldmp](http://www.vitalsigns.org/gef-ldmp)). The project's grievance process will make gender-related grievances easy to report throughout the project's duration. In the event of any complaints, the executing agencies will formally respond in writing within 15 days of the complaint and will document all grievances in the monitoring reports that are submitted quarterly to the GEF Project Agency. In the event that grievances are not resolved, the grievance will be escalated to under the purview of the GEF Project Agency.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation of Gender**

There are several indicators that are included in the project's Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and that will be used to identify trends in men's and women's participation related to the project. These include:

**Gender Indicator 1** – The number of nationals disaggregated by sex that have provided feedback or used online materials;

**Gender Indicator 2** – The number of online guidance documents, manuals, and related materials that are completed, available, and include a discourse of gender considerations;

**Gender Indicator 3** – The percentage of women and men in countries or regional centers that have received capacity building, including participation in workshops;

**Gender Indicator 4** – The percentage of men and women in each country that have increased capacity to conduct technical aspects of degradation-estimation methods developed in the previous stages (remote sensing concepts, ability to access data, ability to produce indices from data and ability to use indices).