GENDER AND DIVERSITY
Mainstreaming gender and diversity into GATo CO_2 compensation

In developing countries, agriculture and deforestation are the main sources of GHG emissions (90% of total emissions). The extension of croplands is expected to be exponential and lead to a significant reduction in forest cover. Actually, food systems contribute significantly to global warming and are responsible for 19–29% of global emissions, the bulk of which comes directly from agricultural production activities (i.e. N_2O and CH_4) and indirectly from land cover change driven by agriculture (CO_2) (Campbell et al. 2014). In West Africa, GHG emissions are primarily from LUCF (31.5 %), energy (27.1%), and agriculture (22.7%). This region's GHG emissions represent 2.03 % of global emissions (USAID, 2019) with 5.26 % of the global population. The projected total population will triple in 2050 and the modelled effects of human impact suggest future forest degradation.

One determinant in the success of CO2 compensation is the extent to which people – including women – feel incentivised to change behaviour and practices. Many observers and practitioners advocate for gender mainstreaming in that issue. They notice that it means the integration of a gender perspective into the preparation, design, equality between women and men. Gender roles of women and men include different women and men use and manage biological resources.

The objective of the proposed thematic is to improve discussion on the issue of equal participation and inclusion of women in all CO2 compensation-related activities and processes in Africa. How to incorporate gender dimensions into the understanding of sustainable environmental protection, sustainable use and the sharing of benefits?

Possible contribution may include, but are certainly not limited to, the following:

- Identifying gender dynamics associated with GATo CO2 compensation, including specific gender-based inequities that contribute to women's disproportionate exposure and vulnerability to the adverse effects of greenhouse emissions,
- Interrogate gendered vulnerability to greenhouse emissions,
- Identifying the need and available community-based options for gender-responsive actions to GATo CO2 compensation
- Identifying policy and programming responses that support the complementary goals of gender equality, women's empowerment and SDGs
- Incorporating mechanisms to ensure gender balanced representation and participation in activities of GATo compensation certification
- Developing gender-specific targets or performance indicators that track gender result and impact on the reduction of greenhouse emissions,

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