



Youth, women & children engagement in restoration

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What is forest and landscape restoration?

- FLR - “A framework for implementing restorative interventions that collectively address major environmental challenges such as soil and land degradation, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, lack of sustainable rural livelihoods, and climate change mitigation and adaptation” (Guariguata et al. 2021)
- Aims to enhance livelihoods & human well being while restoring ecological integrity
- Creates opportunities to improve climate resilience by achieving food, energy, water security, creates jobs, mitigate against climate change, etc.
- All ecosystems types can be restored



Why involve women, youth & children in restoration?

- Women and girls play a significant role in agriculture, food and nutrition security, and the management of natural resources including land due to their gender roles e.g. providing food for their families, fetching water, and collecting fuelwood and fodder
 - They are more dependent on natural resources due to their gender roles
- Youth make up majority of the world's population especially in Africa
- Children are key to ensure the sustainability of restoration efforts
- Women & children are among one of the most vulnerable groups to climate change





How to engage them?

- **Women:** group savings models, “chamas”, consensus building through participatory methods, capacity building through the use of gender sensitive & age related information to mobilize them, etc , introducing IGAs linked to restoration e.g tree based value chains, etc., , public participation
- **Youth:** capacity building, introduction of IGAs e.g. tree based value chains; sports, art, music, competitions like talent shows and beauty pageants ,clubs (environmental, wildlife & agriculture), supporting existing youth groups,etc
- **Children:** sports, arts, talent shows, clubs (environmental, wildlife & agriculture), competitions

Challenges



- **Women:** poverty, insecure land and tree tenure rights, limited involvement in decision making around the environment, etc.
- **Youth:** inadequate capacity to engage in restoration; insecure land and tree tenure rights; lack of interest among some youth to engage in restoration
- **Children:** time constraints to participate in restoration & inadequate age appropriate information education communication (IEC) materials

Opportunities

- **Women:** mobilization through churches and chamás; promoting value chains based around restoration to incentivize participation, etc.
- **Youth:** leveraging online platforms to mobilize, involve & build the capacity of youth; leveraging art & sports for mobilization; promoting value chains based around restoration to incentivize participation, etc.
- **Children:** promoting clubs for mobilization; leveraging arts & sports; promoting competitions around the environment/restoration e.g storytelling, essay writing, challenges, etc.
- Strengthening youth & women's land and tree tenure rights
- Including them in decision & policy making around restoration and the environment
- creating awareness among local leadership about the importance of youth, women & children engagement in restoration

References

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Questions? Comments?