



Global Project WE4R

Women's Empowerment for Resilient Rural Areas

Context

Women in rural areas are among the biggest bearers of knowledge on the protection, sustainable management and restoration of land resources. However, they often do not have equal rights, their access to resources is restricted and they are not represented in decision-making processes. As a result, they, their families and their land are particularly affected by climate crises and disasters.

The promotion and participation of women in the sustainable management of land resources harbours great potential for reducing their vulnerability and strengthening their ability to cope better with natural disasters, economic changes or social conflicts. Intact land resources create the basis for earning a living and for resilience. They enable sustainable agricultural production, are an important source of income and contribute to food security.

Empowering women in economically and ecologically sustainable land use not only contributes to gender equality, but also to the implementation of important environmental conventions of the United Nations – particularly the UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification), CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) and UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). Sustainable land resource management is

a crucial connecting dot for achieving the goals of all three conventions. The conventions recognise the importance of equal participation of men and women in their implementation.

Approach



The project aims to promote gender equality and pursues a gender-responsive and gender-transformative approach: It strengthens the "3Rs" - rights, resources and representation - of women. In the context of sustainable land resource management, this includes strengthening land tenure, land ownership and land use rights, equal access to means of production, knowledge, technologies and financing as well as greater participation in decision-making and planning processes regarding land resource management.

The project works at global level in cooperation with the secretariats of the Rio Conventions and at national and local level in cooperation with state structures, civil society and the private sector.

Objectives of our activities (outputs):

Policy and evidence: Evidence-based and effective gender-specific approaches are incorporated into national and global dialogue processes on sustainable land use. To achieve this, for example, national female delegates are supported in their participation in the UNCCD Conference of the Parties.

Budget and term:

EUR 15.7 million (incl. EUR 5 million EU-Cofinancing) | January 2024 – December 2028

Commissioned by:

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and co-funded by the European Union.

Other stakeholders:

Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)



Our objective:

The rights, resources and representation of women in rural areas are strengthened with regard to the sustainable use of land resources in selected partner countries.



Strengthening of gender change agents: Promoting individuals and organisations that are committed to strengthening the rights, resources and representation of women in political decision-making. To this end, the project supports measures by civil society actors and encourages networking between actors at country level as well as across countries.

Country measures on gender and sustainable use of land resources: The project implements specific measures in Madagascar, Mali and Kenya with the aim of feeding learning experiences into global processes. For example, WE4R supports national and local key actors through capacity building, leadership training, organisational development and lobbying so that they can successfully advocate for women's 3Rs.

Sustainable and climate-resilient production practices: In Mali, the project supports measures to strengthen capacities from women and women-led micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, with the aim of enhancing productivity, securing soil and water resources and improving their access to markets, financial services and agricultural inputs, which help them implement sustainable consumption and production practices.

Country Measures

Mali

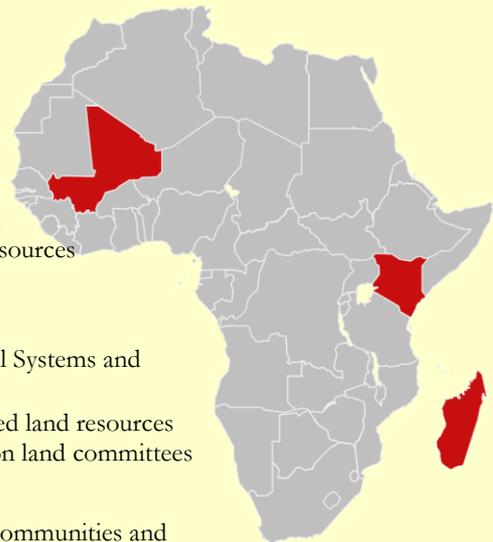
- In close cooperation with the project: “Strengthening the National Agricultural Extension and Training System in Mali”
- Objective: Securing women’s access to land rights, promoting representation, agroecological land use and rehabilitation, employment promotion of women in rural areas
- The project also integrates a cofinancing with the EU named "Great Green Wall in Mali: Management of Natural Resources" with the objective of improving the sustainable management of natural resources in Western Mali

Kenya

- In close cooperation with the global project “Sustainable Agricultural Systems and Policies”
- Objective: Promoting sustainable access and management of degraded land resources in Western and Northern Kenya and equal participation of women on land committees

Madagascar

- In close cooperation with the project “Integrated Development of Communities and Ecosystems”
- Objective: Promoting women’s participation, income generation through agricultural and forestry activities, and securing land rights



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