GENDER AND GREEN TRANSITION IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA: PROGRESS & PROSPECTS

December 2023
The transition to a green economy a source opportunities in West and Central Africa

• **The climate change is a reality in the world** and on the African continent.

• The climate emergency will force countries **to change their economic model** towards more sustainable production and consumption patterns (transition to a green economy).

• As in any transition, there will be **winners** and **losers**.

• In this context, how can we ensure that **women and girls are not left** behind and have access to the benefits and opportunities offered by the transition? **How can we take advantage of the opportunities offered by the green transition** to improve gender equality and women's empowerment?
Missed opportunity?

• The transition to a green economy will create many new jobs in the world, including in sub-Saharan Africa. **But will women be part of these new jobs? And will economic transformation help them access to better-paid, more stable jobs?**

• **The short answer is "yes"**, provided that countries adopt sound policies and programs to achieve this
## Mapping of green jobs for women in Africa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Potential to create green jobs</th>
<th>Potential to create higher-end green jobs</th>
<th>Quick-win area for women’s employment in sub-Saharan Africa</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture (greening of conventional)</td>
<td><img src="#" alt="Low" /></td>
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<td>Agriculture organic/conservation farming</td>
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<td>Fisheries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forestry (sustainable forestry management and reforestation)</td>
<td><img src="#" alt="Medium" /></td>
<td><img src="#" alt="Low" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>New Green Services</td>
<td><img src="#" alt="Low" /></td>
<td><img src="#" alt="Medium" /></td>
<td><img src="#" alt="Low" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tourism (greening tourism and nature/eco-tourism)</td>
<td><img src="#" alt="Low" /></td>
<td><img src="#" alt="Low" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>Waste management/recycling</td>
<td><img src="#" alt="Low" /></td>
<td><img src="#" alt="High" /></td>
<td><img src="#" alt="Low" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td><img src="#" alt="Low" /></td>
<td><img src="#" alt="Medium" /></td>
<td><img src="#" alt="Low" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>Solar energy</td>
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<td><img src="#" alt="Low" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>Biomass energy</td>
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<td><img src="#" alt="Low" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: UN Women & African Development Bank (2021) [Green Jobs for Women in Africa](#)
What policy interventions for a gender-transformative green economy?

**Getting women ready**
- Undo gender segregation in education and promote women's participation in STEMs
- Reskilling and upskilling strategies targeting women
- Support mechanisms for women in male-dominated sectors of the green economy
- Support women entrepreneurs' and women businesses' transition towards the formal economy

**Levelling the playing field**
- Remove legal barriers and address gender discrimination in legislation
- Balance men's and women's responsibilities for care
- Role-modelling focusing on youth to change stereotypes about acceptable jobs for men and women

**Accelerating for a gender-responsive green transition**
- Leverage existing green economic policy instruments for women's employment
- Green climate finance, green bonds, carbon credit markets, green affirmative procurement
2. REGIONAL POLICY PROGRAMME

Title: Gender and Green Transition in West and Central Africa
Dates: September 2022 to December 2023
Budget: EUR 500,000
Objectives: By 2024, improved capacity of key stakeholders at the global, regional and national level to understand GEWE priorities in green economy transition processes and to formulate, implement and monitor gender responsive green transition policies and strategies.

Outcome 1: Better understanding of the opportunities and challenges of the green economy for women by policy-makers and civil society.
- 1 Gender and Green Economy (GGE) training module
- 1 GGE expert database compiled
- 1 virtual dialogue on GGE
- 1 research/policy brief/tool

Outcome 2: Strengthened capacity of regional institutions and stakeholders to advocate for the development of policies on gender and green transition
- 1 GGE policy dialogue workshop with ECOWAS countries
- 2-3 virtual regional advocacy/capacity-building events
- 1-2 policy tools adapted to the Sahelian context

Outcome 3: National governments develop policies and strategies and deliver services to improve women’s participation in the green economy
- 1 mapping of opportunities for women-owned businesses in GE
- 1-2 processes supported for gender integration in national GE policies.
3. RESULTS
RESULT 1: BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF GENDER AND GREEN ECONOMY LINKS VIA RESEARCH, CAPACITY STRENGTHENING AND ADVOCACY

Research
- Tool on gender in Low Emissions Development Strategies
- Chapter on gender and the green economy in Africa in the International Monetary Fund book on inclusive growth in Africa
- Advocacy note on the nexus between the green economy and the care economy
- Input to the Progress of World Women Report 2025 Focus on Climate Change

Capacity building
- Roster of gender and green transition experts
- Training module on Gender and Green Transition developed - to be integrated into IDEP's annual green transition courses
- More than 170 policy makers and advocates from the region trained on gender and green transition

Advocacy & Partnerships
- COP27 event by partners (GGGI & AfDB), event on the green economy and unpaid care at Women Deliver conference (Rwanda, July 2023), event during the Africa Climate Week (September 2023), pre-COP 28 event with Great Green Wall Accelerator (November 2023); COP-28 event (December 2023);
- Project concept informing the COP27 Egypt led African Group initiative on African Women Climate Adaptation Capacity (AWCAP)
- Partnerships: ECOWAS, AfDB, GGGI, GGW Accelerator, ILO Just Transition Accelerator,
RESULT 2: INCREASED CAPACITY AT REGIONAL LEVEL ON GENDER AND GREEN ECONOMY

Regional Dialogue on Gender and Green Economy Policies with ECOWAS Member States

Dates: February 7-9, 2023

Organizers: ECOWAS Center for Gender and Development and UN Women Regional Office for West and Central Africa

Participants: 70 policy makers and advocates from 14 countries in West Africa, including MoEnvironment, MoEconomy, MoGender, ECOWAS Commission, West African think-tanks & women’s associations

Partners: AfDB, ILO, GGGI, 2XGlobal,

Results: capacity strengthening, sharing of national, regional and global good practices and policy dialogue to identify priorities to support women’s participation in the green economy.
RESULT 2+: BEYOND CAPACITY: ACTION PLAN ON GENDER AND GREEN ECONOMY IN WEST AFRICA
RESULT 2: INCREASED CAPACITY AT REGIONAL LEVEL ON GENDER AND GREEN ECONOMY

- Event as part of Africa's Climate Week (September 2023)
- Regional dialogue on Women and Green Economy as part of UN Women's WEE Learning Week (October 2023)
- Dialogue and capacity building around the launch of the tool: Guide to integrating gender into low carbon strategies (LT-LEDS) (December 2023 at COP28)
- Regional event in collaboration with the Great Green Wall Accelerator, on opportunities for women entrepreneurs in the green economy (November 2023) targeting policy makers
- Several discussion and capacity building sessions on gender and green economy during International Colloque on Women's Economic Empowerment (December 2023) targeting researchers, civil society, and policy makers
• Gender integrated in Burkina Faso’s Long-Term Low Emissions Development Strategy (LT-LEDS)
• Formulation of programmatic interventions to support women’s participation in climate-resilient agriculture and renewable energy in several West-African countries
• Formulation of a programmatic intervention to support women entrepreneurs’ access to green finance in Senegal in collaboration with GGGI (ongoing)
3. LESSONS LEARNT & PROSPECTS
LESSONS

• **Complement** policy interventions with initiatives to support **operationalization of policies** in high-impact/priority areas (CSA or renewable energy) to continue building the case for more integration of gender in green economy frameworks.

• **Support** to women entrepreneurs, and in particular, **women’s access to green finance**, which emerged as key priority from phase one and an area where UN Women can play a coordination role.

• **Provide** analytical support, policy analysis **tools, and knowledge** generation, including data collection

• **Scale up good policy practices** and models such as Burkina’s LT-LEDS through strategic partnerships (GGGI, AfDB, etc.)

• **Ownership** – second phase will be based on priorities and action plan adopted by ECOWAS during regional dialogue

• **Large gaps** in analysis, advocacy, and coordination on gender and green transition in West and Central Africa. **UN Women** is well placed to play a **role** in knowledge generation and as connector between women-led businesses, governments, private sector, financing institutions and IFIs, and development partners.

• **Strategic Partnerships** for **scaling up**, for **advocacy** with key players at Sahel, sub-regional, African and global level (COP28), and with **regional women's networks** to address the changing context at national level.
**PROJECT’S SECOND PHASE**

**Timeline**
January 2024 - December 2026

**Budget**
USD 1.9 million

**Key results**
- At least **500 policy-makers and members of civil society** in West and Central Africa equipped to formulate and monitor gender-sensitive GE policies.
- Normative/legislative **reforms** underway to accelerate women's participation in the green economy.
- 300 representatives of **women's organizations equipped to access green finance**.
- 1 mechanism for women's groups to access green finance developed and tested
- Capacities of **women's networks** in West Africa strengthened to **advocate** for women's access to green jobs and **green finance**.

**Status**
Start of activities in January 2024 on component 4: women's access to green finance in financed by **Irish Aid**; and component 2: capacity building/reforms financed by the **Government of France**
| APPROACH FOR THE SECOND PHASE |

**Approach**

- Building on the first phase, **strengthening regional dialogue**, support implementation of national policies and expand gender responsive green policy formulation to other Sahel countries
- **Knowledge generation** for advocacy and reform and innovation in niche areas where there are coordination failures (e.g. green finance, data collection, tracking tools)
- **Complementarity and local ownership**: the second phase is a selection of activities in the ECOWAS regional plan where UN Women has a comparative advantage
- **Partnerships**: ECOWAS, GGGI, AfDB, regional women’s networks

**Examples of activities**

- **Gender and Climate Policy component**:
  - Regional and global advocacy – ECOWAS Space, Africa Climate Week, COP29 &30;
  - Regional Technical Assistance Facility to integrate gender in climate policies (NDCs, NAPs, LT-LEDS, Green jobs, green finance, sector policies)
- **Gender and Green Finance component**
  - Regional Programme to improve women’s capacity to access green finance
- **Cross-cutting** – innovation, knowledge generation, tools development and capacity building for analysis, policy formulation, and advocacy for reform to improve women’s participation in the green economy
Thank you