



# 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

Sector	Potential to create green jobs	Potential to create higher-end green jobs	Quick-win area for women's employment in sub-Saharan Africa
Agriculture (greening of conventional)	●	●	●
Agriculture organic/conservation farming	●	●	●
Fisheries	●	●	●
Forestry (sustainable forestry management and reforestation)	● → ●	●	●
New Green Services	●	● → ●	●
Tourism (greening tourism and nature/eco-tourism)	●	●	●
Waste management/recycling	● → ●	●	●
Transportation	●	● → ●	● → ●
Solar energy	●	●	● → ●
Biomass energy	●	●	●
Wind energy	●	●	●
Construction	●	●	●

● Low ● Medium ● High

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



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# | 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



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**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



## Plan d'action sur le genre dans l'économie verte pour les États membres de la CEDEAO

Résultats attendus	Réalisations	Principales activités	Indicateurs	Institut de
Résultat stratégique 1. Connaissances et recherches générées pour formuler des politiques et des stratégies de transition verte sensibles au genre en Afrique de l'Ouest	Résultat 1.1. Des connaissances et des outils existent pour soutenir l'intégration du genre dans les politiques de transition écologique	1.1 Développer un outil méthodologique et un guide pour entreprendre des diagnostics situationnels nationaux sur les femmes et l'économie verte	* Nombre de décideurs politiques et de advocates formés à l'utilisation de l'outil	ONU P
		1.2 Réaliser un diagnostic national de la situation des obstacles, des opportunités d'accès des femmes à l'économie verte et identifier les lois et politiques nationales pertinentes pour soutenir la participation des femmes à l'économie verte	* Nombre d'États membres de la CEDEAO ayant réalisé un diagnostic national	Ét
		1.3 Développer une cartographie des mécanismes de financement innovants pour l'économie verte et le genre (obligations vertes et crédits carbone, achats verts)	* Nombre de produits de connaissance élaborés et diffusés parmi les décideurs politiques et les advocates sur la base des conclusions du rapport	Ét
		1.4 Développer un outil sur la façon d'utiliser la budgétisation sensible au genre (BSG) pour soutenir l'intégration des femmes dans l'économie verte	* Nombre de décideurs politiques de défenseurs formés à l'utilisation de l'outil	Ét
		1.5 Effectuer des analyses budgétaires à l'aide de l'outil	* Nombre d'États membres CEDEAO utilisant l'outil processus budgétaire	Ét
Résultat stratégique 2. Renforcement des capacités des acteurs clés pour soutenir la participation des femmes à l'économie	Résultat 2.1. Renforcement de la capacité des décideurs et des advocates dans les institutions régionales (CEDEAO) et les États	2.1 Renforcement des capacités des responsables gouvernementaux (également des parlementaires), sur les éléments clés pour soutenir la participation des femmes à l'économie verte et comment intégrer le genre dans les politiques de transition verte en utilisant une approche holistique (paix et	* Nombre de décideurs, formés/soutenus via assistance technique * Nombre d'acteurs de pour le plaidoyer politique	Ét



## Gender in the Green Economy Action Plan for ECOWAS Member States (2023-2025)

Expected outcomes	Achievements	Main Activities	Indicators	Lead Institution	Date	Implemented by
<b>Strategic objective (Axis 2) : Facilitate women's access to the green economy in West Africa</b>						
Strategic Outcome 1. Knowledge and research generated to formulate gender-sensitive green transition policies and strategies in West Africa	Result 1.1. Knowledge and tools exist to support gender mainstreaming in ecological transition policies	1.1 Developing a methodological tool and guide for undertaking national situational diagnoses	* Number of policy makers and advocates trained to use the tool	UN Women	End of 2025	UN Women
		1.2 Carrying out a national diagnosis of the situation of impediments and opportunities for women's access to the green economy and support women's participation in the green economy	* Number of ECOWAS Member States that have carried out a national diagnosis	Member States	End of 2025	UN Women
		1.3 Developing a mapping of innovative financing mechanisms for the green economy and gender (green bonds and carbon credits, green procurement)	* Number of knowledge products developed and disseminated among policy makers and advocates based on the findings of the report	UN Women	End of 2025	Governments (Ministries of Finance, Economy, Planning, Environment, Agriculture), ECOWAS, UN Women
		1.4 Developing a tool on how to use Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) to support the integration of women in the green economy	* Number of policy makers and advocates trained in using the tool	UN Women	End of 2025	UN Women, in collaboration with ECOWAS and Member States
		1.5 Carrying out budget analyses with the tool	* Number of ECOWAS Member States using the tool in their budget process	Member States	End of 2025	UN Women, in collaboration with ECOWAS and Member States
Strategic outcome 2. Capacity building of key stakeholders to support women's participation in the green economy in West Africa	Outcome 2.1. Capacity building of decision-makers and advocates in regional institutions (ECOWAS) and Member States to understand gender issues in the green transition and to integrate gender into green transition strategies and policies	2.1 Capacity building of government officials (also parliamentarians) on key elements to support women's participation in the green economy and policies using a holistic approach (peace and transition)	* Number of policy makers trained/supported through technical assistance * Number of key stakeholders for policy advocacy trained/supported by technical assistance	ECOWAS, with technical support from UN Women	End of 2025	UN Women, in collaboration with ECOWAS and Member States ECOWAS, UN WOMEN, UNDP, Governments (Ministries of Gender, Environment, planning, finance, etc.)
		2.2 Setting up a regional CoP on gender and green transition	* Number of members regularly participating in the CoP	Member States	End of 2025	ECOWAS, UN Women, Governments (Ministries of Gender, Environment, planning, finance, etc.)
		2.3 Organising information sharing between countries on best practices (drawing on the results of national diagnoses)	* Number of policy makers and advocates participating in knowledge sharing	ECOWAS, with technical support from UN Women	End of 2025	ECOWAS, UN Women, Governments (Ministries of Gender, Environment, planning, finance, etc.)





# | 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



GUIDANCE NOTE

## TOOLS FOR A GENDER RESPONSIVE TRANSITION TO THE GREEN ECONOMY: A STEP-BY-STEP METHODOLOGY TO INTEGRATING GENDER IN LONG-TERM LOW EMISSIONS DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES (LT-LEDS) BASED IN THE CASE OF BURKINA FASO

This note presents a methodology to integrate gender in Long Term Low Emissions Development Strategies (LT-LEDS), developed by the Global Green Growth Institute and UN Women in the context of the formulation of Burkina Faso LT-LEDS in 2022. LT-LEDS are important policy instruments to define low emissions development paths for countries as part of their implementation of the Paris Agreement. LT-LEDS long-term outlook offers tremendous opportunities for leveraging socio-economic transformations associated to low carbon economic paths to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment. The methodology presented in this note can be applied in other countries or regions to help countries maximize gender co-benefits as part of LT-LEDS processes. The lessons drawn from the process of application of the methodology in Burkina Faso can help other countries in making progress towards gender-responsive, just, green transitions.

### 1. Introduction

Throughout 2022, the Government of Burkina Faso, with financial contributions from Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and technical support from the Global Green Growth Institute led the process of formulation of its Long-Term Low Emissions Development Strategy (LT-LEDS), which in the context of Burkina Faso is titled "Burkina Faso's 2050 Vision for Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Development".

LT-LEDS are key policy instruments that outline "pathways that will help envision the transition to low carbon economic development integrating the needed institutional, economic, technological and social changes, and the phases to achieve them". As part of the Paris Agreement, countries are encouraged to produce a LT-LEDS to provide a roadmap for long-term decarbonization. Understanding a country's of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) since these trajectories can then be used as a benchmark for revised and

new NDCs. The LT-LEDS will typically follow the projections in line with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) scenarios towards achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, which will require net zero emissions by 2050.

For Least Developed Countries (LDCs) like Burkina Faso, whose contributions to the climate crisis is negligible but who is disproportionately impacted, the LT-LEDS provides guidance towards achieving sustainable development while highlighting the opportunities for stronger and more resilient green economies through projections of socio-economic green benefits of climate actions such as green employment, economic growth, and SDG alignment. To ensure that the co-benefits of climate actions such as green employment, economic growth, and SDG alignment, particularly in most climate vulnerable countries, the GGGI has developed methodologies and resilience perspectives to ensure the adaptation and resilience perspectives to ensure the priorities of the countries are addressed.



## Putting Women at the Centre of the Green Economy

UN WOMEN





# | RESULT 3: NATIONAL GREEN ECONOMY POLICIES AND STRATEGIES IN THE SAHEL INTEGRATE GENDER

- **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)

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LT-LEDS are key policy instruments that outline "**pathways that will help to envision the transition to low carbon economic development integrating the needed institutional, economic, technological and social changes, and the phases to achieve them**".<sup>1</sup> As part of the Paris Agreement, countries are encouraged to produce a LT-LEDS to provide a roadmap for long-term decarbonization. Understanding a country's decarbonization options is particularly useful in the context of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) since these trajectories can then be used as a benchmark for revised and

new NDCs. The LT-LEDS will typically follow the projections in line with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) scenarios towards achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, which will require net zero emissions by 2050.

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## | 3. LESSONS LEARNT & PROSPECTS



Photo | UN Women

# | 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

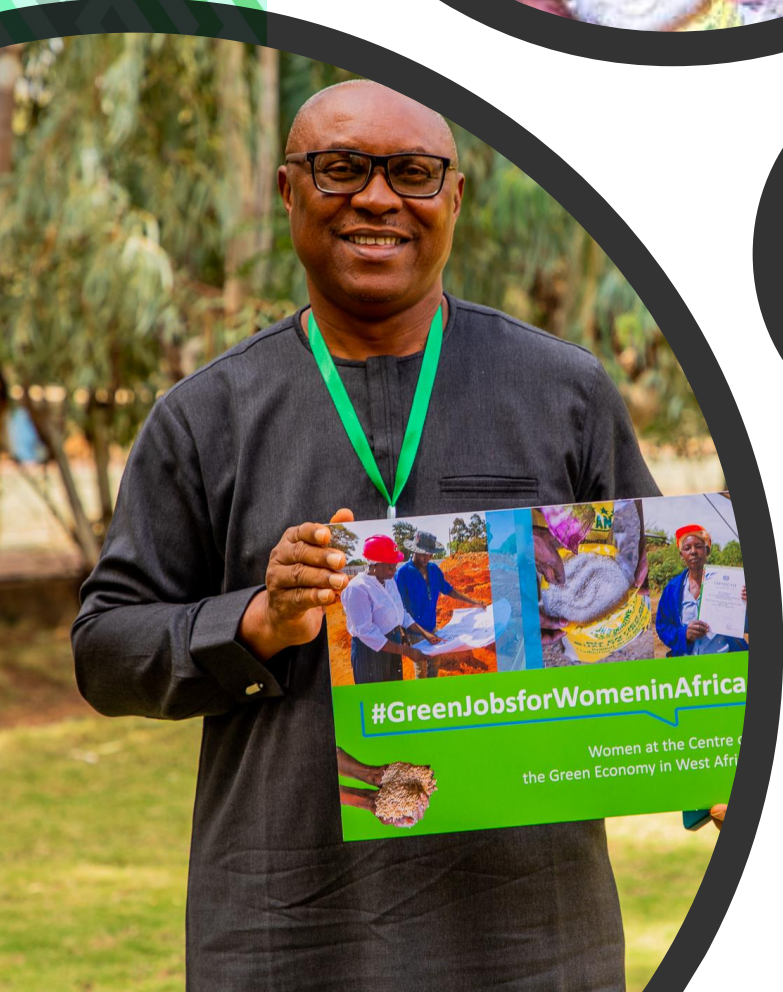
## Approach

- 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

