

# Gender Assessment

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## **SAP015: Promoting zero-deforestation cocoa production for reducing emissions in Côte d'Ivoire (PROMIRE)**

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**GREEN  
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**Promoting zero-deforestation cocoa production for reducing emissions in  
Côte d'Ivoire  
(PROMIRE project)**

**Annex 4  
Gender assessment and Action plan**

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## Introduction

Sustainable forest management is a major concern in Côte d'Ivoire. The loss of forest cover and associated GHG emissions are important challenges for the country. GHG emissions from the forestry sector represented 13.75% of total GHG emissions in 2014. To address this problem, Côte d'Ivoire has committed to reduce its GHG emissions by 28% by 2030 compared to its baseline scenario. To this end, the country has been involved in the REDD+ mechanism since June 2011. As part of its REDD+ process, it has complied with the requirements of the Warsaw Framework and has so far adopted a National REDD+ Strategy (REDD+ NS), submitted to the UNFCCC with the Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL) and the summary of the safeguards information system. A National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) was also developed

The project *Promoting zero-deforestation cocoa production for reducing emissions in Côte d'Ivoire* (PROMIRE) aims to strengthen the implementation of REDD+ for an effective reduction of GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in line with Côte d'Ivoire's mitigation objectives which are part of its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and its voluntary report on sustainable development objectives, but also to access to future results-based payments (RBPs). The project has a significant mitigation impact potential that will result in an estimated direct emission reduction of 5.5 million tCO<sub>2</sub>eq over the project lifespan.

To this end, the project is subdivided into two main components with outcomes, outputs and activities, including the following aspects:

- Local and territorial governance with gender aspects,
- Women's involvement in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of local development plans related to REDD+,
- Presentation of monitoring & evaluation activities of REDD+ actions differentiated by gender,
- Improving agricultural productivity and greater diversification of the livelihoods of small local producers, including women, by targeting high value-added links in agricultural value chains and enhancing entrepreneurship opportunities in the regions targeted by the project.

In the long term, activities will have a significant impact on the sustainable development of the beneficiaries, with a particular focus on women. Indeed, women and other vulnerable groups have limited adaptive capacity due to their dependence on climate-sensitive resources such as agriculture and natural resources (water, forests, land; etc.). Men and women involved in these sectors are disproportionately affected by existing gender inequalities, hence the importance of an efficient gender analysis.

Gender actions are integrated into all components of the project. Component 2 will aim to restore degraded land in the targeted regions with particular emphasis on the involvement of local communities and the private sector to achieve local green economies. This will include:

- a zero-deforestation agriculture approach through agroforestry,
- a restoration of forests and degraded areas.

Concerning the methodology, three techniques were used for data collection:

- documents review through desk study,

- interviews conducted during the preparation of the project document by the forest project development consultant with key informants and resources people in the project areas,
- a field mission in the targeted areas of the project from 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> of December.

Table 1 gives details on the people met in the different regions during the mission.

Table 1: People met during the mission's interviews

Location	Village	Date	Number of participants
<b>Sud-Comoé region</b>			
N-E area	Sanhoukro	10-12-2019	14
Maféré area	Maféré	11-12-2019	14
Adiaké area	Eplemlan	11-12-2019	06
<b>Total Sud-Comoé</b>			<b>34</b>
<b>Agneby-Tiassa region</b>			
Agboville	Guessiguié 2	12-12-2019	32
Agboville	Aboude-Mandeke	13-12-2019	20
<b>Total Agneby-Tiassa</b>			<b>52</b>
<b>La Mé region</b>			
Adzopé area	Diasson	12-12-2019	36
Yakassé-Attobrou area	Bieby	13-12-2019	35
Akoupé area	Affery	14-12-2019	35
<b>Total la Mé</b>			<b>106</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>192</b>

Thanks to this mission, 70 persons in Sud-Comoé, 81 in Agneby-Tiassa and 121 in la Mé region were met, i.e. a total of 272 persons<sup>1</sup> of which 192 were interviewed with a questionnaire survey instead of the 150 planned at the beginning.

At the level of guidance structures (ANADER zones), decentralised administrations and local authorities 43 people, including 10 women and 33 men, were consulted through semi-structured interviews. Five (5) women's NGOs of 10 women were consulted through structured seed meetings. 15 Customary authorities (chiefs and notables), all men were consulted through semi-structured interviews; Five Cocoa cooperatives with 22 people met, of which 12 women and 10 men were consulted by focus group and survey with structured questionnaire.

Women cassava processors and other women's cooperatives and associations were consulted in focus groups and were surveyed using a structured questionnaire; 68 people, including 62 women and 6 men, were consulted.

Mission's results are related to the socio-demographic characteristics of the actors, work distribution between men and women, agricultural organization, land allocation, agroforestry, promising sectors

<sup>1</sup> The mission met with 272 people, including 137 women and 135 men. The types of stakeholders met are :

- Guidance / technical structure (ANADER zones)
- Customary authorities (Chiefs and notables) ;
- Decentralized administrations
- Territorial authorities
- Women's NGOs
- Women's cooperatives and associations
- Cassava processors
- Cocoa Cooperatives
- Head of Household

for the empowerment of women, the main barriers and needs of women in the project areas as well as the presentation of potential REDD + project partners.

## 1- General background

### 1.1. General development context of the country

Côte d'Ivoire has an estimated population of 25.8 million in 2019,<sup>2</sup> 51.7% being male and 48.3% female, and therefore a sex ratio of 107 men per 100 women. 75.5% of the population lives in forest areas and 49.7% in rural areas. In terms of electricity, 4,500 localities were electrified in 2017 compared to 2,800 in 2011, representing a growth rate of 57%. With regard to access to water, 80.7% of households are connected to drinking water.<sup>3</sup> The population is also relatively young with 36.2% being between 15 and 34. In 2016, the fertility rate remains high with an average of 4.6 children per woman, with differences between rural (6.0 children) and urban (3.4 children) areas.<sup>4</sup>

The National Development Plan 2016-2020 (NDP) was built around five (05) strategic axes which are:

- i. Strengthening the quality of institutions and good governance;
- ii. Accelerating the development of human capital and social well-being;
- iii. Accelerating the structural transformation of the economy through industrialization;
- iv. Developing infrastructure that is harmoniously distributed throughout the country and preserving the environment;
- v. Strengthening regional integration and international cooperation.

The 2017 report on the implementation of the NDP indicates that Côte d'Ivoire has achieved generally satisfactory macroeconomic performance and according to the IMF, the Ivorian economy is resilient to endogenous and exogenous shocks. Despite this positive economic performance and the gradual strengthening of its stability, Côte d'Ivoire remains classified as a low human development country with a ranking of 170<sup>th</sup> out of 189 countries in the world<sup>5</sup> - poverty remaining high (46.9%, 2015).<sup>6</sup> In addition, the illiteracy rate for people over 15 years of age is 56.1%.<sup>7</sup> Proportion of women concerned is 63% and that of men 49%.<sup>8</sup> As a result, the average length of schooling in 2015 was 4 years for women compared to 6.2 years for men. Education remains key if a country wants to achieve gender equity.

Life expectancy in the country is, in average, around 54.1 years<sup>9</sup> and higher for women (55.7 years) than for men (52.7 years).<sup>10</sup> Maternal mortality rate is 614 per 100,000 live births, while the birth rate for adolescent girls (15-19 years) is estimated at 132.7 per 1,000 live births over the period 2015-2020.<sup>11</sup>

According to the World Bank, women's participation in the labor market stood at 64% in 2015, mainly in the informal sector.<sup>12</sup> They represent 29 out of 255 or 11.37% of the Deputies elected in 2016, 19

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<sup>2</sup> INS, population projection

<sup>3</sup> 2017 PND Implementation Report

<sup>4</sup> Social Indicators by the National Statistical Institute

<sup>5</sup> UNDP, Human Development Indices and Indicators Report, 2018.

<sup>6</sup> Survey of Living Standards, 2015.

<sup>7</sup> UNDP, Human Development Indices and Indicators Report, 2018, P57.

<sup>8</sup> General Census of Population and Housing (RPGH), 2014.

<sup>9</sup> UNDP, Human Development Indices and Indicators Report, 2018, P24.

<sup>10</sup> UNDP, Human Development Indices and Indicators Report, 2018, P36.

<sup>11</sup> UNFPA Report, 2010.

<sup>12</sup> World Bank, Economic Situation of Côte d'Ivoire, "and if emergence were to be a woman", July 2017.

out of 99 Senators or 19.19% of Senators and 7 out of 41 or 17.57% of Women Members of the Government in July 2018. Such data indicate that women are still under-representation.

## **1-2- Specific context related to gender issues**

At the international level, Côte d'Ivoire has ratified most international conventions, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1995 and its Optional Protocol in 2012. Côte d'Ivoire has also participated in all the major meetings leading up to the Beijing conference and the country produces all its periodic reports on the implementation of CEDAW and the Beijing recommendations. It was the first country to operationalize resolution 1325 on women, peace and security in Africa. It is also a State Party to the Solemn Declaration of African Heads of State and Government on Gender Equality in Africa adopted in July 2004.<sup>13</sup> The country has committed to implement the recommendations of international and African conferences, including those of Mexico City (1975), Copenhagen (1980), Nairobi (1985), Cairo (International Conference on Population and Development, ICPD, 1994), Beijing+5 (2000), the African Women's Decade Programme 2010-2020 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the voluntary report of which was made in July 2019 at UN Headquarters in New York.

At the national level, the formal framework for gender equality is established by the Constitution of 8<sup>th</sup> of November 2016, which enshrines the principles of gender parity in the labor market and equal opportunities in employment and elected assemblies in articles 36 and 37.<sup>14</sup> Pursuant to this new Constitution, the country has embarked on a process of implementing specific measures to promote gender equality in access to elected office. This process took the form of the adoption by Parliament on 02<sup>nd</sup> of August 2019 of a law requiring political parties to present a quota of at least 30% women on the lists of candidates for single-member and multi-member elections.

The National Policy on Equal Opportunities, Equity and Gender was updated in 2018 but has not yet been adopted. A national strategy for the empowerment of women is being finalized.

It should be noted that the National Development Plan addresses the gender issue with a dedicated budget. In the process of domesticating the country's international gender commitments, the Ivorian legal system has been enriched by new laws that are more favorable to gender issues, in particular the Marriage Act, which maintains the abolition of the notion of head of family and force spouses to jointly manage their household,<sup>15</sup> the Compulsory School Act for all children (girls and boys) from 6 to 16 years of age.<sup>16</sup> However, gender inequalities, both *de jure and de facto*, persist at several levels and in all areas of activity.<sup>17</sup> For example, resources and factors of production are unequally delivered between women and men. This situation is likely to create an imbalance in the evolution of Ivorian society.

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<sup>13</sup> Maputo Protocol

<sup>14</sup> Law No.2016-886 of 8 November 2016 on the Constitution of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

<sup>15</sup> Law No.2013-33 of 25 January, 2013 on marriage in Côte d'Ivoire as amended by Law No. 2019-570 of 26 June 2019 on marriage

<sup>16</sup> Law No.2015-635 of 17 September 2015 on amendment of Law 95-696 of 7 September 1995 on Education

<sup>17</sup> Gender Inequality Index: 0.663 ranking Côte d'Ivoire 155<sup>th</sup> out of 160 in 2017

Côte d'Ivoire's Gender Profile, prepared by the African Development Bank (AfDB) in September 2015, states that the country is committed to the promotion of gender and the empowerment of women, making remarkable progress in this area in recent years. However, challenges still need to be addressed. The World Bank report "*If the emergence were a woman*", produced in July 2017, states that gender equity can help Côte d'Ivoire achieving emergence: "*If Côte d'Ivoire were to improve gender equity, its economy could benefit from gains in the order of \$6-8 billion in the long term, when most discrimination against women would be eliminated*".

Despite constitutional provisions that enshrine equality among all citizens, concerted efforts by national and international organizations and a fairly favorable legal context, socio-cultural practices that are unfavorable to gender equality persist. According to the National Observatory on Equity and Gender (ONEG), in the context of the study carried out from October to December 2018 on Gender and Climate, gender mainstreaming continues to be treated as a separate issue and a fashionable effect whose added value is not well perceived.

Challenges in the AfDB's strategy paper include a better knowledge of the gender approach, its tools for national actors being taken into account, the development of gender equality measurement indicators, and the establishment of a gender-responsive budgeting mechanism. In this national context of a persistent gap between international and national commitments, policies, strategies and results, one of the current challenges will be to review progress achieved, roles of the mechanisms attached to management and governance bodies in the country, with a view to improve managerial and operational practices related to the collection, planning, programming, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation of gender equality.

### **1-3- Context related to the environment and climate change**

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in 1995 took into account the difficulties of men and women. Social issues previously overshadowed by political and security priorities have begun to be part of international meetings. A new dimension was highlighted: one that recognizes that women are more often victims of inequality, but also that they are effective agents of natural resources management (Agenda 21) and sustainable development.

The 2030 Programme and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2015, promote the implementation of reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control of land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and property rights. Natural Resources (MDG 5 on gender equality) have an objective to double agricultural productivity and incomes of smallholder farmers through secure and equal access to land, knowledge, financial services, markets and value-added opportunities (Objective Zero Hunger<sup>2</sup>).

The 2015 Paris Declaration on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, following COP20 in Lima (2014) and the G8 Gender Equality Action Plan in Bonn in 2017, aims to (i) ensure women's participation in the COP of conferences; (ii) develop gender-sensitive climate policies and implement gender-sensitive adaptation and capacity building measures.

Despite the existence of many texts calling for the integration of a gender approach in all areas of development, human rights and the environment, this approach is still weak in international climate change policies. However, the UNFCCC falls within the UN normative framework, therefore, General Assembly decisions and gender conventions and treaties are binding. If climate change responses have to take into account vulnerabilities and capacities of both men and women, then climate change debate must take into account development and human rights issues.

Currently, international negotiations on climate change are mainly focused on reducing greenhouse gases through the UNFCCC, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol and other related mechanisms. These negotiations have not concretely addressed the gender dimension in adaptation and mitigation and therefore do not provide sufficient legal framework as required to provide equitable responses to climate change for both men and women. Thus, general analysis of the Ivorian context reveals the following weaknesses:

- Female illiteracy rate still high (about 63% according to RGPH 2014)
- Persistence of low representation of women in decision-making spheres
- Insufficient enforcement of laws (customs often take precedence)
- Persistence of socio-cultural burdens and the effects of climate change
- Women's low land tenure security
- Weak involvement of women in decision-making processes in national REDD+ policies and strategies.
- Poor consideration of women's interests in actions to combat climate change, including the REDD+ process.
- Insufficient promotion of women's income-generating activities
- Insufficient proven expertise on gender issues and natural resource management.

Gender mainstreaming ensures the effective participation of women and men in development actions and opportunities; to this end, it is important to:

- Create national expertise on gender and climate change issues,
- Enhance women's knowledge of climate change mechanisms such as REDD+,
- Strengthen women's organizational capacities,
- Provide women with alternatives for sustainable forest management.

### **Gender based violence (GBV)**

Shocks, disasters and impacts from climate change can contribute to an increase in gender based violence.

The formulation of local development plans in the context of territorial planning and land security should include aspects of gender based violence as secure land access and the improvement of land security – the issuance of land certificates – could be source of gender based violence ; the agro-forestry initiatives and financial services that would be enhanced by the project could increase violence against women; the household dialogue mentioned under activity 2.2.3: strengthening social cohesion of households /couples dialogue for men and women (related to activity 2.1.1) should contribute to the reduction of the risks for the increase of GBV;

Upstream, prevention mechanisms through awareness campaigns for all stakeholders (especially men) will be organized. The *Ecole Des Maris* (EDM) and forum theatre are tools that have proved very effective in field experiences.

Downstream, actions to address GBV cases through existing mechanisms at the national level will be implemented. The GBV platforms that have been set up in several regions have the capacity to provide medical, psychosocial, legal, judicial, security and socioeconomic support to GBV victims (in South Comoé, there are some in Ayamé).

The prevention and management of GBV will be included in the project's terms of reference for the gender resource person.

Social centers and front-line organizations where GBV can be reported should be involved in local development planning and the topic of GBV should be clarified (including information about where GBV can be reported); women's groups and women leaders should be informed about where GBV can be reported. The project should train the staff in charge of implementation as well as the beneficiaries on gender issues, including GBV and mechanisms for recourse and management. There is a national strategy to fight GBV that provides all the guidelines for prevention and management, including complaints.

There are several ways for women to access complaints mechanisms:

- They can go to social action structures that now have the capacity to prevent and respond to violence against women and children to accompany them.
- They can go to the gender reception offices that have been set up in police and gendarmerie units to receive judicial services adapted to deal with cases of violence appropriate to their situation.
- They can be listened to in the platforms against GBV or the listening desks in police stations. This is an annex office, isolated from the central building, run by an officer assisted by a non-commissioned officer, all of whom are trained. For the other police stations that do not yet have a gender desk, there is an officer designated as a gender focal point. GBV platforms have been set up in several regions for the medical, psychosocial, legal, judicial, security and socio-economic management of GBV.
- GBV focal points in courts and appeal courts can also accompany them.
- With the help of the project, women victims of GBV can, through community mobilization, make their voices heard.
- There are legal clinics that function as listening and referral centres. Counselling is free of charge, with the aim of enabling people to better understand and, above all, claim their rights and to facilitate access to justice for victims of sexual violence in order to lodge complaints.
- Caravans and mobile legal clinics also criss-cross the entire country and the project will be able to organize a synergy of action with these caravans.
- There is also a Legal Assistance Unit, which is a mechanism to ensure equal access to justice. (Decree 2016-781 of 12 October 2016 establishing local legal aid offices). Women can make use of this assistance.

All these measures presuppose that gender and GBV training has been provided to project stakeholders. Depending on the extent of GBV (see the baseline situation to be established at the beginning of the project), the project will adapt the appropriate strategy.

## **2- Presentation of the role of women in agriculture, agroforestry development and forest conservation**

Objective of this analysis is to give basic information on the situation of women in Côte d'Ivoire, including their socio-economic situation, an analysis of their role in the context of the project and REDD+ (particularly in the agriculture, agroforestry and forestry sectors), as well as the main findings and recommendations to guide the development and implementation of the project. As such, it will imply:

- A census of the women's groups relevant to the project,
- A report on potential stakeholders and key recommendations to ensure that project activities contribute to gender equity, women's empowerment, communication and their full participation,
- A detailed analysis of the needs, interests, issues and barriers of women in agriculture, agroforestry and forestry in the targeted areas, related to the following topics:
  - Their contribution to the work;
  - Land use;
  - Wood energy;
  - Access to and use of agricultural and forest resources (e.g. non-timber forest products, food security);
  - Value chains and financing tools;
  - Women's land rights and access to land and forests (formal and customary);
  - Sharing of benefits related to agricultural and forestry activities;
  - The main recommendations to be included in the project.

### **2-1- Women in agriculture and agroforestry**

#### **2-1-1- Contribution to agricultural work**

In agriculture, women and men have different contributions to adapt on speculation and socio-cultural contexts. In general, people are involved in export crops and high value-added perennial crops. Women, on the other hand, are involved in both perennial and food crops. At the level of agricultural operations, men are in charge of all operations related to tree felling and land preparation, while women are more involved in self-employment, seeding, weeding and other field maintenance.

In the three study areas, women interviewed are mostly farmers or producers. Some women are traders or working in handicraft (seamstresses for instance). Trade remains the dominant secondary activity. Women agricultural producers are sometimes found individually or in cooperatives. There are many women's organizations, the Agneby-Tiassa region has for example nearly 254 with more than 13,000 members (ANADER, 2017). The groups that are subject to technical supervision are less (the ANADER zones of Agboville, Adzopé and Aboisso respectively supervise 25, 18 and 32 women's organizations as part of the advisory support for intelligent agriculture).

These women generally grow manioc, rice, bananas and all kinds of market gardening in small areas due to land constraints. The most common crops are cassava, bananas and market gardening - in addition to their interventions in cocoa. 61% of women interviewed work in food crops while 40% work in cash crop. Recent Oxfam and FLA reports highlight how women's contribution and participation in the cocoa sector remains largely unnoticed and unrecognized. This is despite the fact that 93% of the women interviewed in the FLA study were found to be directly or indirectly involved in cocoa production. Table 2 gives interesting information on crops related to sex of individuals.

*Table 2 : Order of priority in the choice of agricultural crops grown by men and women in the different regions.*

N°	SUD-COMOE		AGNEBY TIASSA		LA ME	
	Woman	Man	Woman	Man	Woman	Man
1	Manioc	Rubber	Manioc, attiéké, placali	Cocoa	Manioc	Cocoa
2	Plantain banana	Palm tree	Vegetables (gombo, chili, tomato)	Rubber	Plantain banana	Rubber
3	Vegetables (chili, eggplant)	Cacao	Fish trade, bananas, thrift shop	Cola	Vegetables (chili, eggplant, gombo)	Coffee
4	Ignames	Coffee			Corn	Manioc
5	Taro	Corn, rice			Cocoa / Rubber	Bananas

There is an important link in food security for families by producing, procuring and preparing food, marketing agricultural products and their primary processing. They all perform these roles in agriculture in addition to their domestic roles (within the household), which also takes into account the care of children and people sick. Indeed, women also engaged in other activities, depending on the realities of the regions, to meet the costs related to the education of children. Situation of women is therefore characterized by a difficult and heavy workload that project interventions must ensure that they alleviate. A large part of women's work (unpaid work) remains invisible because it is not captured by statistics. According to mission results, nearly 85% of women surveyed carry out a main activity but do not receive remuneration for this activity. However, for those receiving incomes, average income perceived in the main and secondary activities is respectively CFA 39,375 and CFA 29,500 (USD 78 and USD 59).

Moreover, in the working population, the rates are 66.2% for men and 48.1% for women (estimates modelled by the ILO and included in the 2018 report of UNDP indices and indicators). In agriculture, 90% of the working population is made up of women. According to the World Bank, women's participation in the labor market stood at 64% in 2015, mainly in the informal sector.<sup>18</sup> As Table 3 shows it, women generate lower incomes than men.

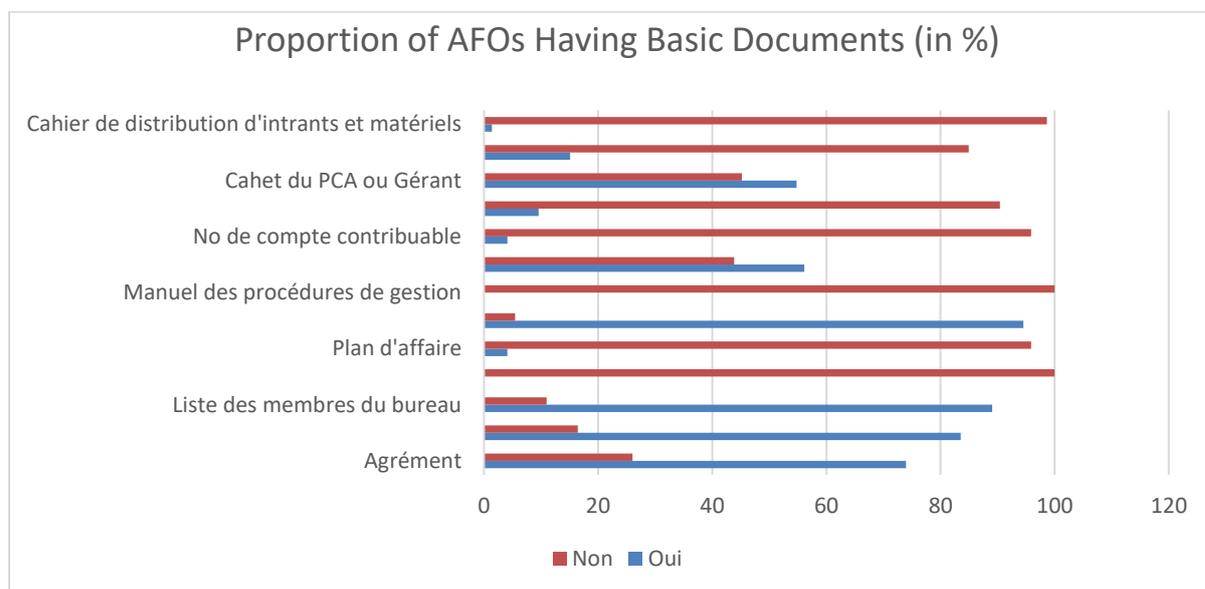
*Table 3 : Statistics on labor input in Côte d'Ivoire*

**EMPLOYMENT**

<sup>18</sup> World Bank, *Economic Situation of Côte d'Ivoire, "And, if emergence were to be a woman"*, July 2017

<b>Net activity rate</b>	F : 42,1% H : 79,5%
<b>Unemployment rate</b>	F : 3,5% <sup>19</sup> H : 2,3%
<b>probability of being employed</b>	F : 24 % H : 43 %
<b>average salary</b>	F : 68,801 FCFA (USD 137) H : 93,829 FCFA (USD 187)

In addition, women's work is characterized by a low level of organization and functioning. Women's groups have a basic level of organization. According to the results of the survey, women tend not to integrate an OPA compared to their male counterparts (only 19% for women against 25% for men<sup>20</sup>). This situation is linked to the fact that men are in the majority of cases in the production of export crops, must rely on takeover crops to benefit from adequate inputs for their culture and to facilitate the marketing of their products. Social objectives often take precedence over economic objectives. Their management is very approximate. Box 1 shows that in 50 women's organizations observed in Côte d'Ivoire, administrative documents are not kept. This situation is partly due to the low level of education of women leaders. The REDD+ project will be able to contribute to the improvement of the management of women's organizations.



*Figure 1: Presentation of women's skills in farmers' organizations*

### Female headed households (FHH) in the intervention zone:

<sup>19</sup> ENSESI 2016

<sup>20</sup> Women belonging to take-over organizations receive services from them, the most important of which would be training (62%); product sales (34.5%); agricultural work (24%) collecting and transporting products (24%). Regarding input supplies, loans and social services, the rates are lower and respectively 20.69%; 13.79% and 6.90%.

Women heads of household generally have the entire burden of family expenses (health, education, food) and often do not have land (inheritance disadvantages women).

Women heads of household have an average household size of 4.3 persons (South) and 5.1 (South-West) (EDS-MICS, 2012). Female headed household represent between 19 and 28% of the households in the intervention zones. Their households are composed of an average of 2.88 to 3.00 individuals. Because of their work burden they are less often member of community organizations and associations. They should be specifically targeted as beneficiaries.

The 2015 Living Standards Survey (ENV 2015 data) provides information on the proportions of female heads of household (see table 4).

*Table 4: Statistics on Female Head of Household*

<b>Some statistics on Female Head of Household (data in brackets refer to men)</b>	<b>Sud-Comoé</b>	<b>Mé</b>	<b>Agnéby-Tiassa</b>
Percentage of female heads of household (based on ENV 2015 data)	28% (72%)	25% (75%)	19% (81%)
Size of female-headed households (average number of individuals)	3,00 (3,26)	2,78 (3,07)	2,88 (3,37)
Enrolment (percentage of women to be enrolled once in school) among female heads of household	47% (52%)	51% (57%)	46% (56%)
Percentage of female-headed households owning arable land among female-headed households	15% (23%)	28% (43%)	33% (53%)

To be noted that there is no indigenous women as per the definition of Indigenous women by the United Nations (globally, there is no indigenous people as for UN definition on Côte d'Ivoire).

The population of Comoé District is characterized by the presence of several major ethnic groups (Agni, N'Zima, Abourés, etc.). The territory is mainly dominated by the Agni, who represent the main ethnic group of the District. The rest of the population is made up of the other ethnic groups of Côte d'Ivoire and foreigners coming mainly from countries of the West Africa sub-region (Burkina Faso, Ghana, etc.). Many of the non-native families are involved as agriculture labour in the cocoa and rubber farms, Ghanaian in fisheries and their women processing the fish.

In Lagoons district the populations is made up of native people (Odjoukrou, Abbey, Attié, Ebrié, Krobou...), and non-native people (from other districts of Côte d'Ivoire and other countries). In both districts the non-native people should be benefiting from the project interventions.

**Elderly :**

In Comoé district , the proportion of persons aged 60 and over is low with 3.8% and 3.6% in the regions of Indénié-Djuablin and Sud-Comoé, respectively (source Monography of the district).

In Lagoons district the proportion of people aged 60 and over is low in the three regions of the District, with 4.5%, 4.3%, and 5.1%, respectively for the regions of Grands Ponts, Agnéby-Tiassa and Mé.

**Challenges of the elderly**

Data collected during the field mission showed that elderly people face specific challenges and view the contributing factors to the constraints as follows: there are deteriorated road infrastructures and related to this the problem of marketing agricultural production (traders set derisory prices that are demotivating for producers).; low rubber prices and delays in payment procedures; the unavailability of arable land for agro-forestry and an important number of land disputes ; the fact as well that access to land is reserved for men and the lack of labourers with the aging of the agricultural population (average age is 45 years). Another factor is the lack of team spirit and important misunderstandings amongst the community.

**Challenges for Youth:**

In lagoons district with a total population estimated at 1.2 million in 2014, or 5.3 per cent of the national population; the youth represents more than 40 per cent (under the age of 15).

In Comoé district the under 15 age group represents 42.8 % of the population.

During the project development, the field survey shows that, as in general, the challenges differ according to age and gender.

At the level of young people, the challenges are of several kinds: access to land, access to other factors of production, access to credit, organization, level of education, etc.

The major challenge seems to be linked to the mentality and lack of interest of young people in agriculture. It is important for the project to identify models of young people who practice environmentally friendly agriculture and who are successful in their community ("successful activity") in order to raise awareness among other young people, but also among older people who need to give more credit and motivation to encourage young people in agriculture. The following table (5) shows the constraints faced by young people:

*Table 5: Constrains for young people*

Identified Youth Constraints and Threats	Level of Importance of Constraint / Threat to Youth
1- Limited access to land	★★★★☆☆
2- Difficult access to selected plant material and other specific inputs	★★★★★☆☆
3- Lack of mechanization, protective equipment and the drudgery of production work	★★★★☆☆☆☆
4- The lack of interest of young people in agricultural activity	★★★★★★☆☆
5- The high cost of agricultural labour force	★★★★☆☆☆☆
6- The low level of supervision of actors	★★★★★☆☆
7- The high illiteracy rate of producers	★★★★☆☆☆☆

8- The infidelity of producers towards their cooperatives	★★★★☆
9- Lack of funding for plantation creation projects	★★★★☆
10- The low level of bankable players	★★★★☆

The questionnaire in Annex 2 allows the targeting of beneficiaries and the assessment of their degree of vulnerability (beneficiary and household). This questionnaire is to be filled in at the start of the project, at mid-term and at the end to assess the targeting and vulnerability reduction carried out by the project. The gender resource person who will be assigned to the project should have the capacity to carry out this targeting and related analysis.

The below table (6) presents the most common speculations in 2 departments of the targeted area.

*Table 6 : Presentation of the most common speculations in the departments of Agboville and Aboisso*

Rank	Collective Farming (in % of OPA visited)	Individual Farming (in % of OPA visited)
1	Cassava (67.92%)	Cassava (60.38%)
2	Rice (33.96%)	Market-gardening crops (32.07%)
3	Market-gardening crops (32.07%)	Maize (26.42%)
4	Yam (18.87%)	Groundnut (26.41%)
5	Maize (18.87%)	Rice (13.21%)
6	Groundnut (11.32%)	Fish (9.43%)
7	Pawpaw (7.55%)	Yam (5.66%)
8	Plantain (5.66%)	Plantain (5.66%)
9	Palm Oil (1.89%)	Palm Oil (3.89%)
10	Fish (1.89%)	Pawpaw (1.88%)

Interviews with ANADER in areas of Aboisso, Agboville and Adzopé revealed that services in the field for agroforestry and climate change are provided to producers and their cooperatives. These services are supported by various partners sensitive to the question of gender (CARGILL, GIZ; Cocoa coffee advice, etc.). The exchanges also made it possible to make other observations:

- Poor accessibility of information on low-carbon technologies and practices as well as funding for women's projects,
- Low participation of women in mixed meetings (they do not speak in public; their domestic workloads limit their availability for meetings),
- Funding opportunities are not always accessible to women (distance from MFIs, difficult procedure, etc.),
- Weak capacity of the institutions visited to address gender issues (no training received in Gender; no objective formulated for taking gender into account. Taking gender into account is not one of the results specifically expected for the projects and programs implemented in the mitigation and / or adaptation to climate change.

### 2-1-2- Land rights and access to land

In all three project areas, access to land is based mainly on customary rules rather than positive law. These customary rules are not generally to the advantage of women. Indeed, traditionally, women in most customs have only indirect access to land. They generally benefit from land acquired through the intermediary of a third party (usually a man: husband, lineage chief, other relative with the consent of the spouse, etc.) for their production, but have no control over resources. They are allocated degraded and remote land, which still has an influence on the working time already spent on household. In the project area, it was noted that for the creation of their own plantations, customary practices exclude them from inheritance tax in the majority of the potential regions of the project. However, among certain peoples like the Agnis of Aboisso, women have the possibility of inheriting land. In Agboville, it was reported in the Guessigué focus groups that some of them can inherit the land, provided that they assume the responsibilities of men, such as sacrificing an ox on the death of a close relative (father or mother).

Given the importance of women in agricultural work, it is necessary to improve their access to land and productive capital as well as their agricultural income to address some of the gender issues. This requires strengthening women's productivity to make them a powerful leader. In addition, ensuring secure land rights for women and men, promoting sustainable forest management and alleviating poverty is also necessary. As a reminder, at the global level, FAO estimates that women own only 2% of the world's land.

Constraints and concerns of women in the three areas regarding land can be summarized in several points:

- Lack of property rights and especially control over the land due to their traditional social status;
- Lack of useful information to improve their land situation;
- Poor access to technologies to intensify agricultural practices on allocated degraded land;
- Reinforcement of the precariousness of the land situation of some women due to the increase in the needs of families for fertile land, needs that are increasing with the segmentation of family farms, urbanization but also the arrival of new actors in the agricultural sector.

### 2-1-3- Production factors

In terms of production factors, rural women represent a resourceful economic force and contribute to family incomes. On family farms, they perform most of the work without perceiving any salary.

### 2-1-4- Positioning women in value chains

In Côte d'Ivoire, women play a central role in the supply chains, especially in crop production, food crops and market gardening. Food production in Côte d'Ivoire represents about 70% of agricultural added-value.

At the production level, the workforce is generally "family-based", with a workload shared between men, women and children. The woman's work consists of sowing, weeding, harvesting, transporting, storing, managing the attic and processing. Men contribute to the plot preparation work (weeding, cleaning, etc.), which can have a greater impact on deforestation and forest degradation, and also contribute to the uprooting of tubers at harvest time.

Cassava is mainly processed into *placali* and *attiéké* by individual women or women in groups. The motorized crushers used belong either to private individuals or groups, which in most the case receive them as donations from development partners. After grinding, the process of transforming the dough into *attiéké* can be family, cooperative, entrepreneurial, artisanal, semi-industrial or industrial. For the market gardening in the project regions, the processing system remains traditional. Two types of processing are available at this level: either drying and then making the powder, or using the crushers to transform it into paste.

On the commercial side, women are more represented than men. Despite this, they perceive fewer financial resources from their efforts than men. The marketing of agricultural products (cassava, vegetables) is still informal. For cassava and market gardening products, women are almost entirely responsible for marketing. Sales prices are very volatile and depend on supply and demand. The actors involved in marketing are:

- Wholesalers or semi-wholesalers: These large rural traders manage part of the local market through their control over the sector. They temporarily employ collecting agents and have storage facilities and sometimes means of transport. This organization gives them a great deal of speculative capacity
- Retailers: Trade in locally produced fresh cassava is mainly carried out by rural traders, usually women. These local traders often have few financial resources, which forces them to quickly put the product back on the market without any real possibility of speculation.

For *placali* and *attiéké*, retailers obtain their supplies from processing units or wholesalers. They buy bags from 120 to 140 kg (for *placali*) and 40 kg bags or baskets for *attiéké* to repack them in bags or by ball.

For the cocoa value chain, women's activities are more concentrated at the production level, from land development to the transport of nurseries, interviews, harvesting and post-harvest activities. Indeed, the work of Kossonou et al (2018)<sup>21</sup> with 268 women involved in the management of cocoa-based forest systems showed that women are the main actors in plantation maintenance (91.4%) during the first year. They are active in the creation of nurseries (28%), planting (37.7%), pods harvesting (48.9%) and bean maintenance (36.4%). Their impacts on deforestation and forest degradation are thus less important than men.

Finally, in all areas visited during the mission, marketing problem was raised in the focus groups. In Sanhonkro (Aboisso) and Guessigué (Agboville), failure of road infrastructure exacerbates marketing problems. In general, producers have no commercial education. Women's productions are fragmented and their associations and cooperatives are not strong enough to organize the marketing of their members' productions and influence prices and marketing methods. In addition, difficulties in accessing credit and poor financial education are exacerbating these marketing problems. Associations and cooperatives are not financially capable of buying their members' production for cash and then marketing it. Mentalities and a weak cooperative spirit do not allow production to be regrouped for after-sales payment. This becomes a vicious circle in which women are engulfed with regard to marketing problems, especially among native women. Non-native women have mentalities and

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<sup>21</sup> Kossonou, Vroh, Tra et Al (2018), *Involvement of women in the family management of cocoa farms agroforestry systems in the Center of Côte d'Ivoire*

practices (tontines, grouping of productions, agreement on sale prices, etc.) which alleviate their marketing problems.

#### 2-1-5- Benefit sharing from agricultural activities

Women often play an important role in agricultural production, they do not always have control over their shares of agricultural income and are frequently trapped in a cycle of low agricultural productivity and poverty, thus contributing to food security and nutrition problems for women and youth.

There are several possibilities regarding profit sharing. Generally, the husband is responsible for managing the income generated by agricultural activities in households, however in women's cooperatives, profit sharing can be done between members according to established internal rules. In the study area, recurring practices in this area consist in saving the group's income in a fund (or account) to finance a community project.

### **2-2- Women in forest management**

#### 2-2-1- Access to and use of forest resources

Forest harvesting is the use of wood, non-timber forest products and food products. Rural women are involved in several activities related to the use, harvesting and conservation of natural resources. They practice agriculture, non-timber forest products (NTFP) collection or fishing. These activities, while contributing to women's economic development, family food security, and improved livelihoods, often degrade forest areas and emit GHGs. Emissions of these gas related to women's employment are presented in the following section. However, women are involved in agroforestry, community forestry, and the rehabilitation of degraded areas through reforestation and forest restoration. Women and youth are responsible for collecting and using wood for family needs.

It is recognized that women play an important role in the management of natural and particularly forest resources. Most of them derive resources necessary for their survival and for their families from agriculture but also from food and market gardening production and the exploitation of non-timber forest products (NTFPs).

At the local level, women's involvement in forest governance is still a challenge. Although women in rural areas are involved in a range of important forest-related activities (fuelwood collection, harvesting of non-timber forest products, etc.), they are almost non-existent in decision-making regarding the management of forest resources. Here as well, with education, this aspect needs to be solved if the country wants gender equity.

During focus group interviews, proposals were made for existing local species and those of interest to women. Table 7 shows identified species by region. In the 3 targeted areas, the Apki, the Kplé, and the fruit trees were mentioned. Non-wood products of these essences are used for consumption by most of the women. Some women are selling these products. Some lianas are used for medicinal purposes; around twenty women in Agboville, in the village of Guessigué, are already practicing this activity as a profession.

*Table 7 : Species and non-wood forest products per region.*

Area	Sud Comoé	Agneby Tiassa	La Mé
Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Teck,</li> <li>- Fruit tress (Avocado, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Akpi,</li> <li>- Cola,</li> <li>- Kplé or « boubouri »,</li> <li>- Mushroom,</li> <li>- Lianes Akpi,</li> <li>- Petit cola,</li> <li>- Fruit trees (avocado, mango, orange)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Frake,</li> <li>- Akpi,</li> <li>- Pklé,</li> <li>- Iroko,</li> <li>- Fruit trees (colatier, avocado, mango, orange)</li> </ul>

### 2-2-2- Sharing of profits from forestry activities

They are poorly included in timber harvesting activities and do not influence income use decisions, which does not allow them to ensure that their needs are taken into account when implementing simple management plans.

### 2-3- Strengths and weaknesses analysis

During the implementation of the project, steps will be taken to specifically target smallholder farmers with the aim of improving their livelihoods through improved productivity and decision-making power.

*Table 8: Matrix of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats*

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Important role in agricultural and cocoa production,</li> <li>- Role as guardians of traditions,</li> <li>- Sensitive to environmental issues,</li> <li>- At the institutional level, there is a real willingness to take gender into account in governance,</li> <li>- Women as backbone of the rural economy and Key role in household management and involvement in community management,</li> <li>- The important role of women in the production of dried and fermented cocoa (involved in 12 out of 19 farming groups),</li> <li>- Women bear the main responsibilities for agriculture, agroforestry and forestry in rural areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- laws and conventions are not always applied</li> <li>- the capacities of development actors are still weak in formulating measures and policies to truly transform the source of inequality at the grassroots level,</li> <li>- Low access to land and productive resources (inputs, financing),</li> <li>- Agricultural work and in particular in cocoa not recognized at its fair value,</li> <li>- Low representation in local governance,</li> <li>- Low organizational capacity of women,</li> <li>- Women also participate in the destruction of forest resources through the use of wood energy,</li> <li>- Socio-cultural norms and feminist stereotypes forged by community members about the distribution of tasks and burdens in families negatively influence women's well-being,</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A high vulnerability of women to environmental degradation with an exposure ratio of 90% to the total population,</li> <li>- A weak capacity for gender mainstreaming by institutions in charge of training and supervising cocoa farmers,</li> <li>- Gender mainstreaming is not systematized in all parts of the cocoa value chain. Institutions involved in cocoa production do not always have the numbers and positioning of women in decision-making positions to set an example of gender-sensitive institutional integration,</li> <li>- Various initiatives have been undertaken in the cocoa sector without taking into account the needs of women,</li> <li>- The illiteracy rate is higher among women,</li> <li>- Socio-educational infrastructures in cocoa communities need to be strengthened to provide better environments for enhancing cocoa production. (Schools and health centers, etc.) in insufficient number and/or far away.</li> </ul>
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Women in the target regions are receptive to environmental and forestry issues,</li> <li>- There is a strong political and institutional will for gender mainstreaming in Côte d'Ivoire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Men remain dominant in the sector and show a reluctance/fear of losing their authorities if women are emancipated and/or empowered</li> </ul>

## 2-4- Mission recommendations

Among this analysis, some recommendations can be made on the basis on field mission results which are listed below and have been used to enrich gender action plan:

- Empower women in awareness-raising actions on reforestation,
- Define quotas for taking women into account in projects and programmes, in particular those implemented by ANADER with its various partners and those to be implemented in the context of REDD +,
- Facilitate women's access to finance,
- Facilitate women's access to land,
- Continue raising public awareness of the land certificate,
- For the empowerment of women, and at their request promote the following activities:
  - o Functional literacy,
  - o Acquisition of large-scale grinders to improve the production conditions of attiéké,
  - o Improve the productivity of food crops (Cassava, plantain, chili, eggplant),
  - o Inform women about funding opportunities,

- Formalize and strengthen the capacities of women's groups (start with activities aimed at bringing about changes in mentality on the need for a cooperative spirit for the resolution of common / collective problems),
- Popularize agricultural equipment saving labor,
- All women use the mobile phone. It's an opportunity to popularize information,
- Take into account the entire value chain in supporting women (from production to marketing through processing),
- Provide accompanying measures (acquisition of inputs, seeds, etc.),
- Raising awareness of the cooperative spirit and the organization of producers,
- Strengthen the capacities of women on well identified needs aligned with the needs of traders (market needs) and on opportunities and capacities for transformation,
- Better organize the value chains by taking into account all the actors in the value chain,
- The common sites (community field) must serve as a training site (school field) and not constitute the foundation of the organization. The organization must serve to unite the forces for more power in terms of prices, organization of supplies and marketing, influence on strategic decisions.

One of the main issues in logic of the interventions will be to increase the number of women in decision making bodies in terms of local development plans and in establishing/ defining and budgeting the pathways for forest restoration and agroforestry: the crops that will be chosen and the investments in a number of value chains will have major implications on women's empowerment in the process:

- Choosing cassava and banana as source of livelihoods diversification in restoration; investing in certified processes for producing attiéké, flour of banana and cassava that could be used in the production of bread in cities (Abidjan);
- Cola, Gliricidia (potential for animal feed and IGA or women) as associated shade trees for cocoa (agro forestry).

For forest restoration interventions, there should be a preliminary assessment on male and female interests in the restoration and how to make sure that 30% of the beneficiaries will be women.

### **3. GHG emissions related to women's activities in REDD+ project areas**

In project areas, women are most often wives or relatives of cocoa farmers. They are aids, often unavoidable, on family farms. As a result, they cultivate food crops on small areas outside the family field or they practice animal husbandry. In the five communities visited in Agboville and Aboisso (Fair labor, 2015), women are the first responsible for food production and are the backbone of this activity.

Individually or in association, women still cultivate food crops. In general, women produce the food in association with perennial crops in the family field. However, outside family farms, women often also own food gardens. They grow vegetables, groundnuts and/or cassava. Regarding GHG emissions from agriculture related to women's activities in the project areas, they can be described as low. Indeed, women's crops are grown without turning the land upside down and with low use of chemical

fertilizers due to financial constraints and land insecurity. As a result, nitrous oxide emissions from women's subsistence agriculture are relatively low.

As for men, only a tiny part of them grow food products. They are mainly used in the production of maize, rice, manioc and tomatoes. In tomato production in particular, chemical inputs are used, contributing to GHG emissions.

Livestock, commonly considered as a GHG emitting sector (specifically methane), is practiced by women in a traditional way. Indeed, they raise on a small-scale animal species such as pork, goatee, sheep and traditional chicken commonly known as *bicycle chicken*. In the Agboville and Aboisso areas, a few men are also trying, but women largely dominate this activity. Large ruminants, such as cattle that contribute significantly to methane gas emissions, are not among the animals raised by women in the project areas.

Commercial-scale fisheries production is negligible in the five communities visited in Agboville and Aboisso (Fair labor, 2015). No women interviewed mentioned their involvement in this activity. Nevertheless, due to the existence of natural watercourses in both regions, some young men are involved in fishing activities and women are involved in the marketing of fishery products as mentioned in the study report. Fishing is traditionally carried out by pirogue or fishing rod and the products produced from it are very marginal and are primarily intended to feed the households of those who practice it. When catches are large, the surplus is used to supply the market. In this case, women are the main distribution channels in the markets. Food processing and conservation methods remain traditional and limited. These techniques use wood from forests as fuel. This use of wood energy can contribute to increasing GHG emissions through the release of previously stored CO<sub>2</sub>.

In addition, it should also be noted that, at the marketing level, there are women wholesalers in the Agboville, Aboisso and La Mé areas. They collect crops from food crops and take them to urban centers. This marketing activity requires vehicles (vans or trucks) that consume fuel (fossil fuel). So indirectly, marketing contributes to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Extension workers offer service packages to improve productivity while reducing GHG emissions and deforestation to women and men producers. Many constraints reduce women's ability to apply these responses. These include low access to land ownership, illiteracy, overburdened and difficult work for women (archaic tools and materials), poor access to information on availability (where to find improved seeds?), poor access to finance, low decision-making power of women within the household on resource allocation, priorities and family budget.

In summary, GHG emissions from women's activities can be described as relatively low, given the low use of inputs in crops and non-intensive livestock production focused on chickens and small ruminants. Table 4 provides a summary of activities and perceptions (low to high) of GHG emissions and women's constraints.

Table 9: GHG emissions related to women's activities in the project regions

Type of activity of women	Characteristics of the activity	GHG emissions	Technologies recommended by ANADER extension	Women's constraints on access to low-carbon practices and technologies
Food crop cultivation	No or low intensification: - No turning of the soil, - No or low use of chemical inputs	Low	High yielding variety resistant to drought and disease - Burying of plant debris - Bio-pesticide based on local products	Low access to land ownership does not motivate investment Poor access to information on low-carbon technologies and practices Lack of money/no access to credit Low time available to participate in training and practice time-consuming technologies
Marketing of food products	Use of freight transport vehicles that consume fossil fuel (fuel)	Low to Medium	Prior information on marketing channels Contracts with merchants	Women's illiteracy Spray production Need for an organization for sales consolidation and price negotiation
Breeding	- Small-scale breeding of chickens and small ruminants, - Absence of large ruminants in women farmers	Low methane emission	Not documented	Not documented
Fishing	Processing and conservation of fishery products using wood energy	Low	Improved wood-efficient and energy-efficient furnaces	Poor access to information
Meal preparation	Use of wood energy	Low	Promotion of improved stoves, Processing of agricultural residues	Time constraints that limit participation in training