

INDIGENOUS WOMEN “ HEALING OUR WATERS”: Protection of forests , the watershed

**Event: Mainstreaming Biodiversity Issues into Forest:
Indigenous Womens Agenda
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- Africa



Introduction

- Forests play important ecological, other roles and encompass all life forms in it(plants, animals etc)
- Within specific forest ecosystems, the maintenance of ecological processes is dependent upon the maintenance of their biological diversity e.g. watershed
- Challenges:Deforestation conversion of forests to agricultural land, unsustainable forest management – freshwater access issues
- Forest degradation impacts forest biodiversity and threatens resilience of forest ecosystems i.e to cope with climate change

Forests Matters: Other forest functions and services, such as recreation, health and well-being, biological diversity, maintenance of ecosystem services and adaptation and mitigation to climate change



Challenge- Access to Freshwater



Strategies for implementing Forest Biodiversity Conservation

Initiatives by Indigenous Women:

- The preservation/protection of forest ecosystems i.e demarcation of boundaries
- The naturalization of forest systems i.e Reforestation activities(indigenous species)-ecosystem based adaptation
- The maintenance of traditional forms of forest use - a part of the indigenous peoples culture and traditional knowledge.
- The implementation of models for sustainable management that allow the integration of the conservation of the forest biodiversity along with social-economic development e.g Formation of forest user groups, Introduction of agro-forestry practices, tree nurseries.
- Capacity building-exchange of experiences

Key Lesson:

- Biodiversity can be mainstreamed at the local level through rights-based approaches that benefit both nature and peoples' livelihoods
- Strengthened role of indigenous women in forest management and decision making
- Enabling environment: policy/legal frameworks, strong institutions

Results: Restored watersheds, healthy environment, livelihoods-resilience built





Soro nyo wogh
Thank You

Know your
where
your water
comes
from,
where
your food
comes
from,
Know
where you
are going
to find
your food.