



CENTRAL AFRICA WOMEN'S INITIATIVE FOR CLIMATE ACTION (WICA) | PROGRAM FACTSHEET 2024



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The U.S. Forest Service International Programs works with Congo Basin governments to sustainably manage forest landscapes and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. These efforts aim to improve livelihoods, conserve biodiversity, and stabilize the global climate. Currently, the region has few women in technical roles related to natural resource management and climate action. Many countries also face challenges meeting their United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) reporting requirements due to a lack of national GHG accounting experts.

To address these challenges, the U.S. Forest Service International Programs, with funding from the U.S. Department of State's Climate Fellows Program, launched the Central Africa Women's Initiative for Climate Action (WICA) in January 2021. This initiative, which focuses on strengthening women's skills and involvement in climate action, was initially implemented in Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, and the Republic of the Congo. WICA has since expanded its programs to the Central African Republic and Equatorial Guinea.

Through various activities such as in-person workshops, virtual webinars, self-learning courses, internships, and participation in national and international conferences, WICA participants gain knowledge in GHG accounting under the Enhanced Transparency Framework of the Paris Agreement and deepen their understanding of climate change diplomacy. These activities are carried out in collaboration with regional GHG experts, national partners, and international institutions.

WICA is currently funded by the inter-agency U.S. Government technical assistance program SilvaCarbon, USAID's Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE), and the U.S. Forest Service International Programs.



PROGRAM COMPONENTS



NATIONAL WORKSHOPS ON
INTRODUCTION TO CLIMATE
CHANGE



PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL
AND INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE
MEETINGS*



WEBINARS ON GHG
ACCOUNTING AND
INTERNATIONAL REPORTING
FRAMEWORKS



ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL
AND REGIONAL NETWORKS OF
YOUNG-WOMEN PROFESSIONALS
IN CLIMATE FIELDS



GHGMI DIPLOMA PROGRAM
ON GHG MEASUREMENT
REPORTING AND VERIFICATION
(MRV)*



LEADERSHIP TRAINING



INTERNSHIPS WITH NATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS AND
INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS*

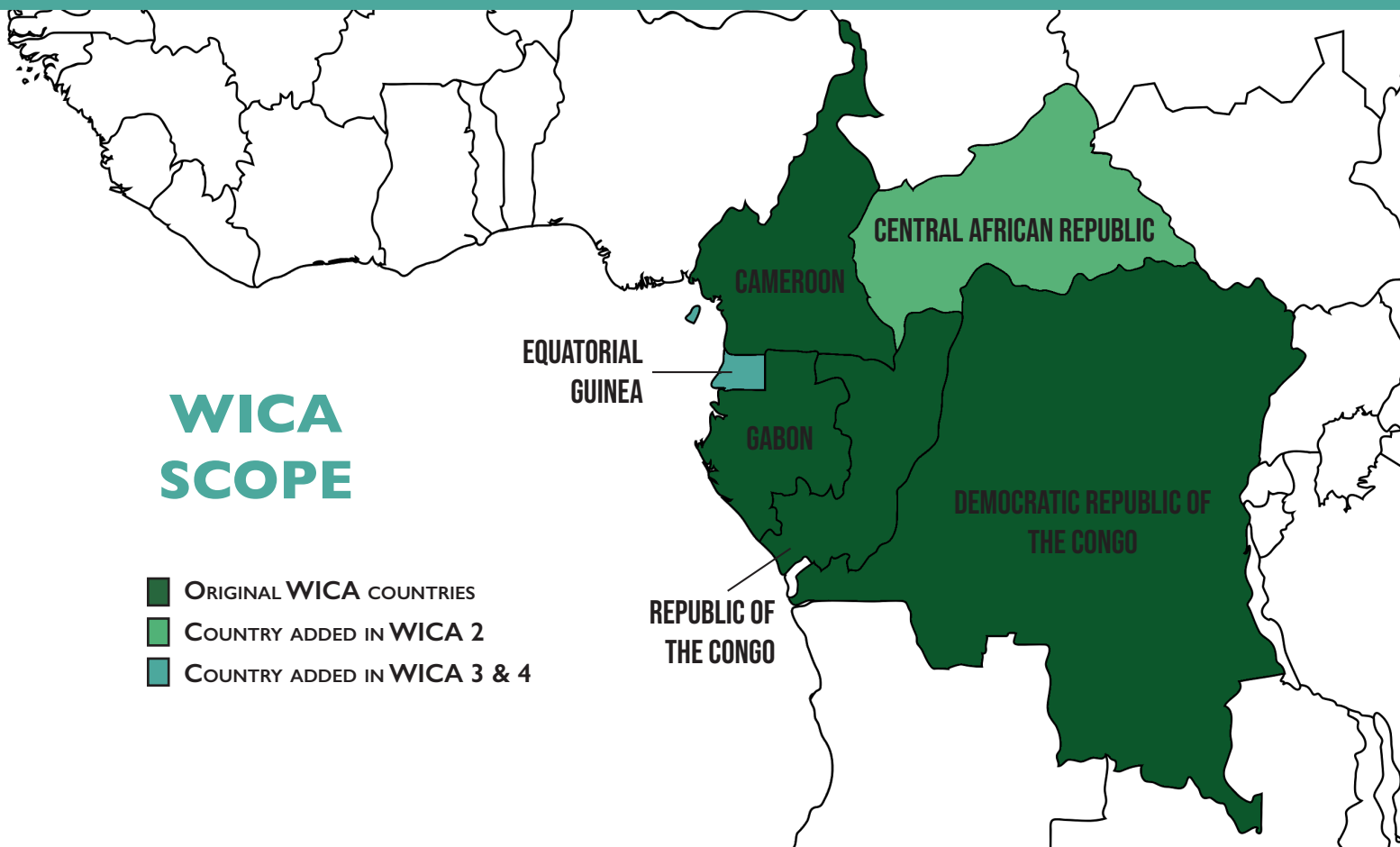


FINAL CLOSE-OUT MEETING FOR
DIPLOMA HOLDER INDIVIDUALS*

*SELECT FELLOWS

WICA SCOPE

- ORIGINAL WICA COUNTRIES
- COUNTRY ADDED IN WICA 2
- COUNTRY ADDED IN WICA 3 & 4



WICA AT A GLANCE

JANUARY
2021
WICA 1
BEGINS



WICA 1

35

DIPLOMAS
AWARDED

105

TOTAL
PARTICIPANTS

4

COUNTRIES
INCLUDED

FUNDED BY:
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CLIMATE FELLOWS PROGRAM



FEBRUARY
2022
WICA 2
BEGINS



WICA 2

25

DIPLOMAS
AWARDED

95

TOTAL
PARTICIPANTS

5

COUNTRIES
INCLUDED

FUNDED BY:
• SILVACARBON
• U.S. FOREST SERVICE
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

 SilvaCarbon



NOVEMBER
2022
WICA 1
ENDS

JULY
2023
WICA 2
ENDS

WICA 3&4

70

WOMEN
ENROLLED
IN THE DEGREE
PROGRAM

135

TOTAL
PARTICIPANTS

6

COUNTRIES
INCLUDED

FUNDED BY:
• SILVACARBON
• U.S. FOREST SERVICE
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS
• USAID'S CENTRAL AFRICA
REGIONAL PROGRAM
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
(CARPE)



 SilvaCarbon



APRIL
2024
WICA 3&4
BEGIN

MAY
2025
WICA 3&4
ANTICIPATED
END

PROGRAM IMPACT



335

WOMEN IN THE WICA
NETWORK

60

GHGMI MRV
DIPLOMA HOLDERS AND

70

FELLOWS CURRENTLY ENROLLED
IN THE DEGREE PROGRAM

13

WICA ALUMNAE REGISTERED ON THE
UNFCCC ROSTER OF EXPERTS



18

FELLOWS ATTENDED INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE
EVENTS INCLUDING UNFCCC COP



52

INTERNSHIPS COMPLETED AND

40

MORE ANTICIPATED

24

WICA ALUMNAE EMPLOYED OR ENROLLED
IN CLIMATE-RELATED POSITIONS OR
HIGHER STUDIES (SELF-REPORTED)



TESTIMONIALS



“WE ARE BUILDING
A MORE EQUITABLE
AND RESILIENT
FUTURE, WHERE
THESE WOMEN
PLAY A CENTRAL
ROLE IN CREATING
SUSTAINABLE
SOLUTIONS TO THE
CHALLENGES OF
OUR TIME.”

“THROUGH WICA, I ACQUIRED THE KNOWLEDGE NECESSARY TO COLLABORATE WITH EXPERTS IN MY COUNTRY TO ESTIMATE AND REPORT OUR EFFORTS TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE IN OUR FIRST BIENNIAL TRANSPARENCY REPORT TO THE UNFCCC. THE PROGRAM HAS ALSO BOOSTED MY PASSION FOR RESEARCH.”

SHANWOUL-K NEE RAÏSSA JOSIANE MORDOMTI-BANGASSI

WICA ALUMNA | CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

“WICA HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN IMPROVING MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE IMPORTANCE OF GREENHOUSE GAS ACCOUNTING IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE. THE COURSES AND MENTORSHIP SET ME ON THE RIGHT PATH AND I AM NOW WORKING WITH NATIONAL EXPERTS TO ELABORATE NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE REPORTS. THANKS TO WICA, I CAN MAKE REAL-LIFE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE.”

MBIA BOURDETTES SANDY JOAN

WICA ALUMNA | GABON

“THE BATTLE AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE WILL NOT BE WON WITHOUT THE FULL INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN, WHICH IS WHY WICA’S TRAINING PROGRAM PUTS WOMEN AT THE HEART OF THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE.”

GILBERT NZOBADILA

WICA INSTRUCTOR, GREENHOUSE GAS ACCOUNTING IN THE ENERGY SECTOR | RoC

“THE WICA PROGRAM IS A TRANSFORMATIVE INITIATIVE THAT ENABLES YOUNG WOMEN IN CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICA TO DEVELOP CRUCIAL SKILLS TO BECOME LEADERS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES. BY INVESTING IN THEIR POTENTIAL, WE ARE BUILDING A MORE EQUITABLE AND RESILIENT FUTURE, WHERE THESE WOMEN PLAY A CENTRAL ROLE IN CREATING SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS TO THE CHALLENGES OF OUR TIME.”

MOUSSA JULES MAXIME NGUEMADJI

WICA INSTRUCTOR, INTRODUCTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES | CAMEROON

CONTACT

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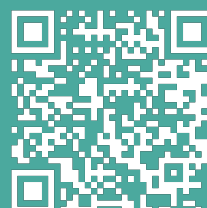
Gabon Program Manager

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Africa Climate Change Program Specialist

U.S. Forest Service International Programs



www.usfscentralafrica.org/WICA