Mainstreaming Gender in Climate Change Policies:
urgencies, challenges and perspectives

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CC manifests itself already widely in many regions of the world.

Nature and extend of climatic changes: hinder development and environmental sustainability – and human security itself.

Most vulnerable groups (and species/ecosystems) hardest hit.

Road from awareness and commitments towards effective action is long....
Climate Change
not Gender Neutral

- Gender equality one of the most pervasive inequalities in the world.
- MDG Report 2008: women still majority of those who live in poverty, lack of assets etc.
- CC magnifies existing inequalities, and gender inequality in particular.
- Women face specific vulnerabilities and have specific capacities: WEDO/ELIAMEP study.
- Urgent need to ensure that CC policies and plans are gender sensitive.
Gender mainstreaming

• Gender mainstreaming in CC to ensure that policies and actions:
  - Are beneficial to women (and men)
  - Do enhance (and not hinder!) gender equality
  - Are effective.

• More than adding a women’s / gender equality component.
• Goes beyond women’s participation.
• Bringing knowledge, experiences, interests of women and men to the forefront: Changing agenda itself!
Situation analysis

Rachel Mayanja (UN Special Advisor) at ECOSOC Discussion on mainstreaming a gender perspective into UN policies and actions (July 2008):

- Particular vulnerability of women to climate change
- Steps taken by UN system to mainstream gender equality: creation by Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality of a Taskforce on Climate Change.

However: arenas of (technical) CC – social issues, incl. gender equality, women’s rights, Still very much separated.
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change


**COP-negotiations**: indicator gender sensitivity.
• Only in 2005 at COP-11 (Montreal): opening up (some) space for women to be heard thanks to a strong lobby of women’s groups, UN institutions and female ministers.
• Only in 2007 at COP-13 (Bali): recognition by some delegations of inclusion of gender perspective in deliberations.
• But recognition and modalities, like in CSD (women as major group) are failing.
Debates are quite technical and economic: link to social and development aspects is lacking.

UNFCCC decisions and mechanisms: gender-blind and link to sustainability is lacking.

Lessons can be learned from UNCCD, CBD, CSD, Disaster Risk Reduction work + scientific program such as those of UNU-EHS.

Major opportunities at COP-14 (Poznan) and COP-15 Copenhagen!
Participation in Decision-making.

Women’s share in delegations to COPs: period 1996-2006: 20.5% - ca. 28%.

Female heads of delegations: period 1996-2006: 13.5% to 12%.

(See: www.gendercc.net)
National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPAs)

Not: National Communications + National Greenhouse Gases Inventories.

NAPAs: gender equality is a guiding principle in its design and advise to include gender expertise in the NAPA teams.

July 2008: 38 (of 50) NAPAs submitted: many reports refer to women’s vulnerability and importance gender equality;

Few more detail how urgently affected (Tuvali, Uganda, Tanzania);

Less describe women as agents of change, as actors, and even less (Malawi): give priority to women’s involvement and gender-specific action.
Actors on gender-climate change

- NGOs: gender-cc network, ENERGIA, WEDO, WECF, regional networks (e.g. Africa), gender-disaster network, IUCN
- Ministers: Network of Women Ministers of Environment
- UN agencies: UNEP, UNDP, FAO/IFAD, UN/ISDR
- Academics: UNU-EHE,
- Local women and men themselves.
- Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA).
Strategies applied by NGOs and institutions

- Information generation + dissemination /g.s. data
- Gender analyses of CC policies and mechanisms
- Advocacy for gender mainstreaming during deliberations.
- Training and empowerment of women
- Supporting/facilitation women’s engagement
- Increase disaster preparedness and response plans
- Provision of assets to women affected by CC.
- Prioritizing adaptation needs of poor women.
- Awareness-raising: concern of women and men!
Example: Pintadas Solar Project

- Project of local partners in Pintadas, national women’s NGO REDEH and the SouthSouthNorth Network.
- Promotes use sustainable technologies for irrigation and water pumping, access to water, use of solar power, in order to promote small-scale farming, improve food security and create income.
- Received the SEED Award 2008 (IUCN, UNDP, UNEP).
Underlying Factors- that influence effectiveness GM.

- Gender (in)equality – women’s status (culture)
- Diversity amongst women.
- Women’s livelihood systems and multiple tasking.
- Necessity to deal with different levels (impacting on each other)
- Disaster chains: e.g.
  - environmental change,
  - scarcity, conflicts, violence.
Challenges

- Lack of priority for social issues and of (political) will to deal with gender issues.
- Different sectors involved (vocabularies/lack understanding).
- Words easier than action, c.q. change.
- Lack institutional capacity.
- Lack gender analyses, participatory research etc.
- Lack of gender specific information, data, indicators.
- Lack of gender sensitivity in policies, strategies, funding.
- Women mainly seen as victims, not as actors and key agents.
- Regressive cultural practices.
Towards an Action Plan

I. Develop, present, adopt a Decision at COP 14/15 to enhance gender mainstreaming in climate change policies, mechanisms and actions.

II. Information and research:

(a) Support participatory research to explore gender-CC relationships.

(b) Conduct gender impact analysis.

(c) Make vulnerability assessments gender specific.
III. Institutional capacity

(a) Enhance institutional capacity to mainstream gender in CC.

(b) Develop gender strategy and action plan to mainstream gender in CC institutions.

IV. Enhance women’s involvement

(a) Ensure: women participate in decision-making re CC.

(b) Promote participatory approaches to CC adaptation and mitigation.

(c) Involve local women in decision-making at all levels

(d) Involve local women in CC risk assessment and monitoring, and in all stages of af/reforestation and conservation measures.
V. Women’s roles and positions
(a) Enhance the roles and status of women, as participants and agents of change.
(b) Strengthen women’s livelihood opportunities, incl. ecological resilience.
(c) Take women’s vulnerabilities and capabilities into account in disaster preparedness and response plans.

VI Energy Planning
(a) Integrate gender perspective in energy planning, decision-making and management.
(b) Apply gender audits of energy policies and plans.
(b) CDM should fund projects that make clean renewable energy available for (poor) women.
VII. Adaptation funds and other mechanisms

(a) Adaptation plans should be gender-sensitive and promote women’s rights.

(b) Market-based mechanisms (CDM etc) should be accessible to women/men and ensure equitable benefits.

VIII. National reports, programmes and plans

(a) NAPAs and National communications should be made gender-sensitive.

(b) Develop gender-sensitive criteria for use by GOs and institutions in reports, plans and mechanisms.
IX. Legislative measures

(a) Construct legal regime that ensures women’s legal rights in climate change policies and programs and women’s security in case of CC.

(b) Ensure that GO policies and programs on HRs, women’s rights (incl. CEDAW) and CC and coherent and reinforce each other.

(c) Incorporate CC in discussions on women’s rights.
Embrace local realities in CC policies and actions

“... We will continue the struggle for a peaceful, just and healthy planet for all, in the spirit of full cooperation and global solidarity. ... We call upon all concerned to step up action.... Together, as agents of change, bound together by our commitments to justice, equality and peace, we can sustain our environment, and our common future.”

(WAVE, UNEP, Oct. 2004)
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Human security</th>
<th>Security aspect</th>
<th>Climate change</th>
<th>Gender aspects</th>
<th>Adaptive strategies women</th>
<th>(Policy) Opportunities</th>
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<td>Sec. of Survival</td>
<td>Mortality/ injury</td>
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<td>Health</td>
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<td>++++</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sec. of Livelihood</td>
<td>Food security</td>
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<td>Water security</td>
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<td>Energy s.</td>
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<td>Shelter s.</td>
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<td>Basic HRs</td>
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<td>Participation</td>
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DEATH, LOSS
Primary official estimate

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<th>Value</th>
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<td>Death feared</td>
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<td>Affected families</td>
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<tr>
<td>Livestock death</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crops destroyed</td>
<td>23,000 acres</td>
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