

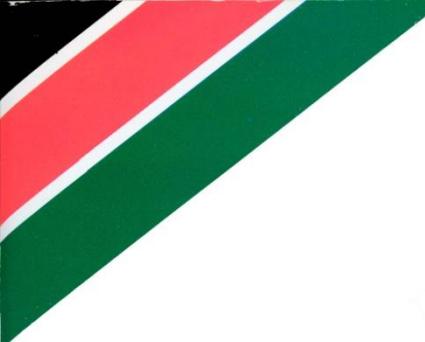
# THE GENDER JUICE IN CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

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# OUTLINE

- ❑ Definitions and Rational
- ❑ What is climate change mitigation
- ❑ What nexus (es) exist between climate change and gender; climate change mitigation and gender?
- ❑ Why gender in climate change mitigation?
- ❑ Areas for mitigating climate change
- ❑ Case studies



## Definitions and Terms

***Mitigation:*** Refers to efforts that seek to prevent or slow down the increase of atmospheric GHGs concentrations by limiting the current and future emissions and enhancing potential sinks of GHGs; OR  
**LOW-CARBON DEVELOPMENT**

Climate change mitigation includes strategies to remove carbon from the atmosphere (carbon capture, carbon sequestration) and fix it in these reservoirs (carbon fixing and storage).



# Background

- North America and Europe are the regions responsible for most greenhouse-gas emissions to date
- *Future growth in emissions will come mainly from developing countries, due partly to population growth.*
- The energy that people use is consumed both directly eg when fossil fuels are burned to provide domestic energy and transport / and indirectly, through the products bought, which produce greenhouse gases during their manufacture, transport, and disposal.
- Many environmental groups see the problem of climate change as rooted in unsustainable lifestyles in (rich) nations.

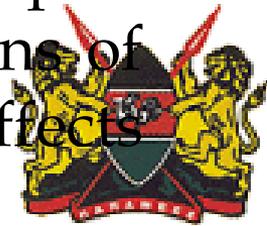


# Introduction

✓ The climate-justice lobby highlighted contrasts between energy consumption in the North and South, rather than disaggregating emissions within countries;

✓ Energy-use patterns and lifestyles in industrialised countries are rarely subjected to gender analysis. Yet, gender issues are involved in rich countries' energy consumption at every level.

✓ Globalisation and consumerism accelerates carbon emissions, is driven by a particular type of masculinity that values power and ruthlessness, and is creating a super-wealthy people, mostly men, at the expense of millions of poor men and women who endure its negative effects (Connell 2005).



# Why gender in climate change mitigation

- ✓ Gender-blindness is not only a problem for vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, but also for low-carbon development
- ✓ Improving energy efficiency and introducing low- or zero-carbon technologies as well as storing and capturing carbon in forests or soil (DFID 2009: 58).
- ✓ Majority of funds that have been designed to address climate change in developing countries are dedicated to low-carbon development, marked by natural science-based approach to low-carbon technologies and carbon market-oriented approaches
- ✓ These have neglected social and political issues, particularly gender equality (Terry 2009; Masika 2002)



# Key focus Areas/Sectors for Climate change mitigation

*A lack of good practice of integrating gender into mitigation efforts particularly at national level, the transaction costs of small-scale initiatives that tend to have more gender co-benefits, along with gender-biased assumptions and gender-inequitable laws, regulations and customs underpinning markets, have obstructed the integration of gender and other human development concerns into climate finance .*

NCCRS Kenya, 2010 has outlined four sectors for climate change mitigation:

- ❖ Forestry
- ❖ Agriculture
- ❖ Energy
- ❖ Transport



# Forestry

- The key to reduction in emissions and good carbon sinks
- Serious logging is a challenge? But who is logging?
- Women's roles and needs in the management of forests (IUCN et al. 2009: 157) has been ignored
- The rehabilitation of forests targets *35,000 schools; 4,300 women groups, 16,350 youth groups* and 6 regional development authorities
- Investing in girls' education and family planning can also mitigate climate change by reducing population growth in developing countries and thus limiting their future carbon emissions (Wheeler and Hammer 2010)



# How about blue carbon sinks ?

- Wetlands
- Mangroves
- Sea grass beds
- Exploring these blue carbon sinks in mitigation efforts from a gender perspective
- Designing gender-responsive climate mitigation programmes for the blue carbon sinks?
- Who extracts what products and who receives the impacts/consequences?



# Agriculture

- The IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report (WG3, 2007) identified a number of opportunities for mitigating greenhouse gases in agriculture.
- These options for mitigation fall into three broad categories: (1) reducing emissions; (2) enhancing removals; and (3) avoiding (or displacing) emissions (pp 505-508)
- **Reducing emissions:** Effective agricultural management can help reduce the emissions of carbon and nitrogen flows in agricultural ecosystems.
- **Enhancing removals:** Improved agricultural management such as practices that increase the photosynthetic input of carbon and/or slow the return of stored carbons can result in enhanced greenhouse gas removal; and
- **Avoiding emissions:** Crops and residues from agricultural lands can be used as a source of fuel. Emissions, notably



## Agriculture contd'

- Irrigated agriculture accounts for almost 70% of world water withdrawals
- close to 90% of the total consumptive water use (the portion that is lost to the immediate environment for use)
- Water management for agriculture is an increasingly important concern as a way to cope with climate-related water-stress, particularly in rain-fed agriculture.
- Crop productivity will depend upon sufficient precipitation to meet both evaporative demand and soil moisture needs. The two sectors in the world that use the most water are chemical intensive agriculture and fossil fuelbased energy production
- Organic agriculture presents an opportunity for  mitigation; sequester CO<sub>2</sub> in the soil and use less energy

# Agriculture contd

- According to NCCRs 2010, emissions from agriculture sector are low and rather 'survival emissions'.
- Initiatives include promotion of biotechnologies as per National Biotechnology Development Policy 2006, reducing methane emission thro' transforming agro-waste into biogas, mulching, tree-based intercropping,
- All these provide starting points and opportunities for engaging with women who provide the bulk of labour for agriculture



# Energy

- Government aims to achieve carbon-neutral energy such as wind power, geothermal, solar and other renewable energy sources
- Emphasis is also on co-generation and switching from waste to energy
- Solar-based rural electrification has potential to improve women and men's health, reduce work loads and time spent to fetch firewood, costs of parafin, burden of disease, increase girl children participation and academic standards,
- Biodiesel production can create income and employment sources for poor rural households, somewhat minimise male-migration to towns, reduce burden on women.
- Such initiatives must be gender-aware to provide equitable benefits to both women and men, otherwise they can perpetuate inequality.



# Energy contd

- Energy-efficient cooking stoves (Improved Cooking Stoves-ICS), solar cookers, micro-hydro technologies or wind mills fail to take into account a variety of factors of technology choice, eg gender, income and maintenance cost, they often fail (Tsephel et al. 2010).
- It is not only important to ensure access of both men *and* women to new technologies, but to understand gender risks and opportunities attached to them.



# Energy case studies

- **Bolivia** : Electrification and lighting enable study and work outside daylight hours and, in addition, increasing safety.
- ‘migration decrease with access to energy’ (Rojas Portillo 2010). Finally the case studies highlight the positive health co-benefits of reduced indoor air pollution—and the socially and economically empowering effects of not only the time and money saved but of women’s new roles as producers, managers and promoters of modern energy (Aguilar 2010; UNDP 2004: 16; GTZ and NL Agency 2010),
- **Ethiopian “No Silver Bullets in ICS”**: technologies are culturally sensitive, and no type of stove, however perfect, will be applicable across all communities; preferred low-priced ICS to lower usage



# Transport

- Like energy, decisions and processes to establish transportation systems and new communication technologies, are not gender-neutral, and women's and girls access to these processes and their benefits tend to be inadequate for their needs, constrained by social and cultural bias, lack of literacy and disposable income, and may, therefore, exacerbate gender inequalities and poverty (IUCN et al. 2009: 180).
- Men tend to own more cars than women, drive more luxury (fossil-fuel consuming) cars and travel quite often than women...this increases their ecological *footprints*!
- Attributable to disposable income levels by the two genders and also caregiving/reproductive /more sedentary roles of women as opposed to men. In contrast, women live in a more sustainable way, leave less ecological footprint than men.
- The **bicycle**, has been identified as a 'vehicle to health' (Johnsson-Latham, 2007)



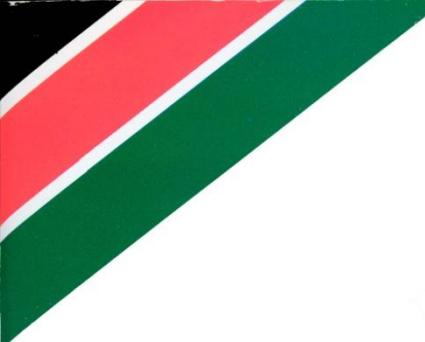
# Transport contd

- Kenya's NCCRS states that transport sector emissions are growing rapidly owing to increasing private car use-attributable to expanding middle class and degradation in public transport?
- It proposes a number of strategies to curb emissions from this sector such as LRT, use of NMT eg pedestrian walkways, bikeways but quiet silent on the gender dimensions of these services and assumes both men and women require similar transport / means-the architecture etc???
- Case study of **Swedish** transport system



# Pictorials

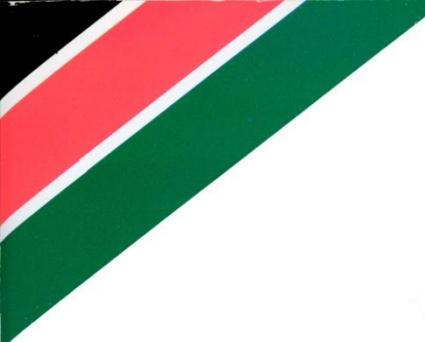




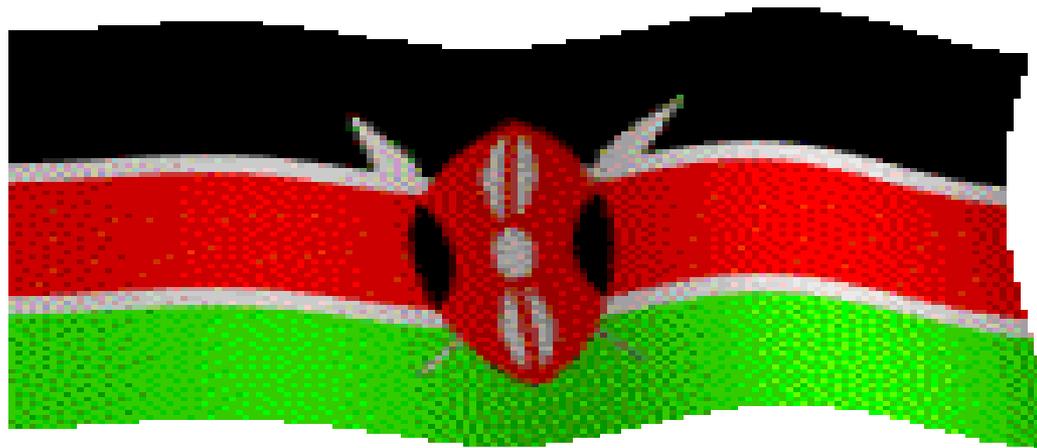
# Activity

1. What is your own understanding/perspective of climate change mitigation?
2. List some of the practical ways/interventions for mitigating climate change with gendered co-benefits/outcomes
3. How can you move the gendered climate change mitigation forward in your set-up/organization





END



**THANK YOU**

