Inclusive engagement in CIS and climate change issues
Ms. Ann Kobia, Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), Kenya

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ABOUT PACJA

- A continental coalition of 1000+ CSOs from diverse backgrounds in 48 African countries
- Brings together FBOs, CBOs, NGOs, Trusts, Foundations, Farmers and Pastoralists’ Groups among other sectors.
- Founded in 2008, Continental Secretariat in Nairobi
- Works with Governments to drive African agenda at Int’l level
- Strong partnership with several int’l partners in North & South to spearhead major campaigns; eg the “Big shift” aimed at 100% renewables
- The attainment of SDGs & other development aspirations can only be possible if we address the question of energy
PERSPECTIVE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

- A humanitarian issue: Many catastrophes and disasters are caused by climate events.
- It is a food security issue, a water issue, forest issue, etc.
- An economic issue: It has stunted growth of some economies while big economies fear cutting emissions will affect them.
- A political issue: currently its shaping international diplomatic and political interactions; Agenda 2030 (SDGs).
- Gender Issue: Climate Chang affects women and Men differently depending on their roles and responsibilities.
Key component areas in the Conversation

- Identifying conditions that inhibit women’s strong engagement in CIS and climate change issues.
- Identifying options for enhancing the involvement of women in CIS and climate related issues.
- Explore ways of strengthening the enabling environment for enhancing women roles in CIS
- Catalogue best practices and innovative ways of boosting women involvement in CIS
CC & Gender - Who are the most at-risk?

- CC disproportionately impacts women and girls, exacerbating existing social inequalities and threatening health, safety, and economic well-being.
- Gender inequalities and development gaps - amplify the effects of climate change for women, especially for those that depend on natural resources for their livelihoods.
- Women are more likely than men to have primary responsibility for household tasks - “double work day” means that women bear an additional burden when drought, erratic rainfall, depletion of natural resources.
- Poverty and inequality, the forced relocation of communities to ecologically vulnerable areas, and discrimination – also exacerbate women’s vulnerability to climate risks.
**Why Include women**

- Women's essential roles in managing resources such as water, forests and energy and also lead fights for environmental protection.
- Women are extraordinary agents of change.
- Women hold critical knowledge, highlighting the importance of consulting them for purposes of developing policies and strategies that meet the needs of climate information, climate services and climate change issues.
- Women in developing countries feeling the effects of climate change have been identified as particularly adaptive and innovative.
Bottlenecks – Women uptake of CIS

- Socially constructed roles and responsibilities have put women at a disadvantage in accessing information.
- Women have also been ignored in emerging climate change conversation.
- Oversimplified framings of women as a group in both the adaptation and climate services literatures.
- Overgeneralizations that hinder the ability to address the climate-related development and adaptation needs of the most vulnerable.
- Women are overlooked as scholars and decision makers.
Alignment of climate information's services with emerging literature on gender and adaptation

Women have limited decision-making authority

Lack of access to vehicles of climate information services i.e. Smart phones

Lack of effort to identify and cite women involved in climate change dialogues

Legacy of discrimination, lack of educational opportunities.

Women are underrepresented in key disciplines for the study of climate change
What are available options?

- Need to highlight the work of women and to include more women in major committees in order to provide gender balance, social justice, and inspiration to young women to enter careers in science.
- Reflects more on the barriers to women's advancement and the need for women to 'Lean in' to leadership positions in climate change dialogues.
- Mapping of women involved in Climate change and climate information services.
- Look at the membership of the global change committees.
Available Options Conti....

- Understating the different levels of women who consume climate change information services
- Use available women network platforms in popularizing the dialogue on climate information, climate services and climate change issues – PACJA provides such a platform
Recommendations

- In depth research and evidence based analysis of women involvement in climate change information services
- **Integrate** climate information services and climate information in various programmes
- Ensure full **meaningful, and consistence participation** of women in conversation on climate services and climate change
- Exploring various **dissemination channels** of CIS to ensure women have access
Gender-specific needs for climate change adaptation, must be mainstreamed into the design of climate information services to improve their equity and effectiveness for both men and women.

Promoting policies and development programs that improve women’s access and use of CIS

Building capacity of women and provide them with the logistical support to effectively apply climate information which will enable adaptive capacity to climate change and variability.
Thank you!

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