



Role of women in climate change adaptation and mitigation.

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Tropical Biology Association

- Conservation Capacity building NGO
- Training tomorrows conservation leaders
- Invest in people for conservation
- Field courses – launching conservation careers – 2600 alumni
- Practitioners - We put people at the heart of conservation, giving them the skills and support they need to maximize their impact on the ground. – Mentoring, Virtual masterclasses, Tailor made courses
- <https://tropical-biology.org/>





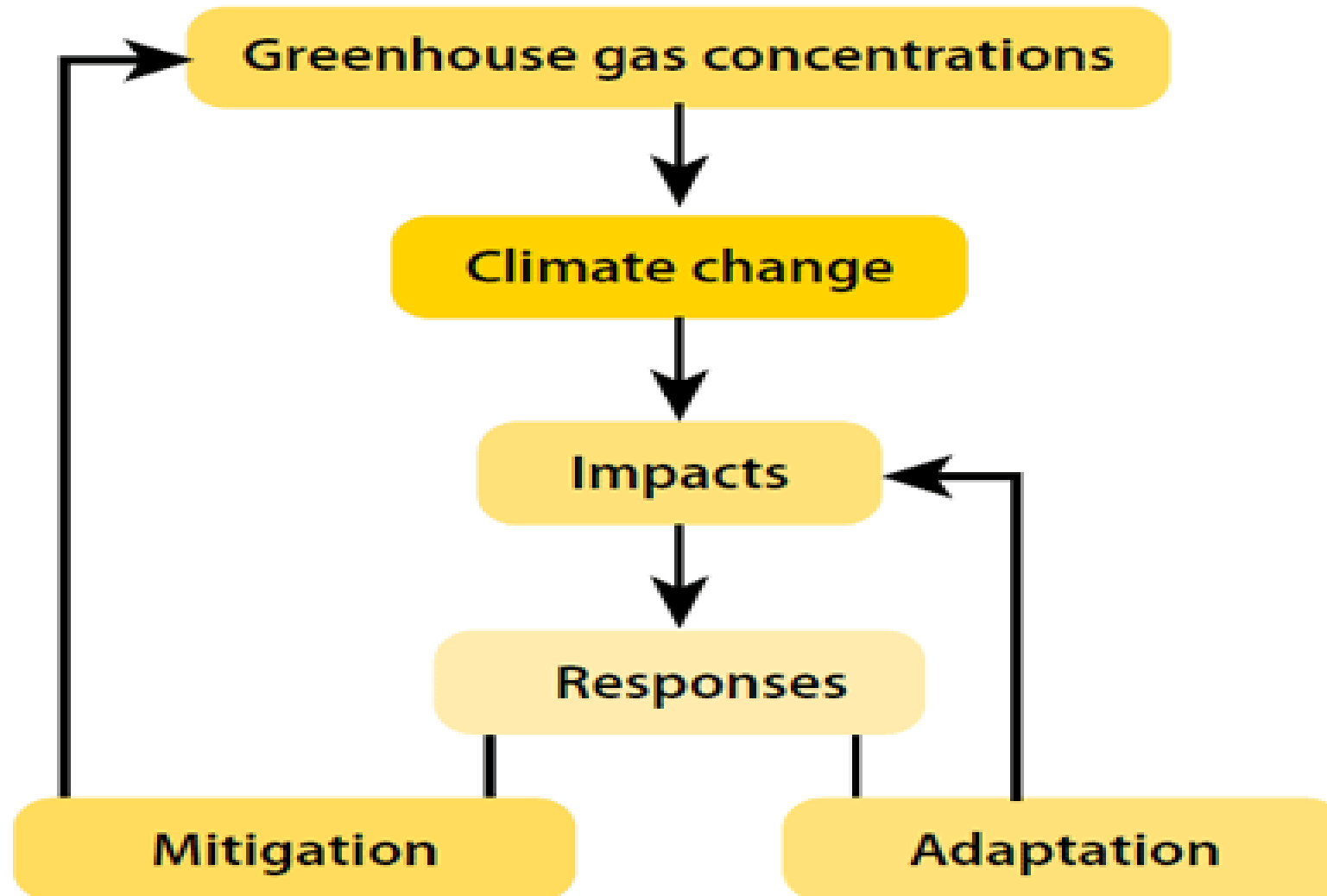
Climate change

- Climate change is one of the most complex issues facing us today.
- It involves many dimensions – science, economics, society, politics and moral and ethical questions – and is a global problem, felt on local scales
- CC multiplies threats - increases inequality, conflict, political instability, displacements
- Even if we stopped emitting all greenhouse gases today, global warming and climate change will continue to affect future generations. - 40 years climate lag
- The topic of CC adaptation and mitigation is therefore important





Adaptation and mitigation



Mitigation and adaptation are the two strategies for addressing climate change





Mitigation

- An intervention to reduce emissions sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases.
- attempts to reduce the causes of climate change and prevents further climate change from happening

(IPCC
2001)

Adaptation

- An 'adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities'
- attempts to manage the impacts of climate change -deals changes that have already happened



Mitigation

Adaptation

Spatial scale

Primarily an international issue, as mitigation provides global benefits

Primarily a local issue, as adaptation mostly provides benefits at the local scale

Time scale

Mitigation has a long-term effect because of the inertia of the climatic system

Adaptation can have a short-term effect on the reduction of vulnerability

Sectors

Mitigation is a priority in the energy, transportation, industry and waste management sectors

Adaptation is a priority in some sectors e.g. water, agriculture and health sectors and in coastal or low-lying areas



Role of men, women and youth in CAM

- Climate change (CC) reality is recognized as the greatest challenge for societies in this century. So it is not for women or men or youths to solve it. It is a partnership of everybody
- The hazards associated with CC impact societies all over the world, but have different effects on men and women, ethnic groups, social classes, age groups, etc.
- Recent IPCC report on impacts of CC classified Africa as very vulnerable
- 70% of the 1.3 billion people living in conditions of poverty are women
- In urban areas, 40 per cent of the poorest households are headed by women.





Actions contribute to adaptation and mitigation

What can you do at your individual level to mitigate climate change?

What adaptation to CC have you observed in your community?



Personal choices to reduce your contribution to climate change

* Cumulative emissions from descendants; decreases substantially if national emissions decrease.

Average values for developed countries, based on current emissions.

Annual climate savings (tCO₂e)

Upgrade light bulbs

Hang dry clothes

Recycle

Wash clothes in cold water

Replace typical car with hybrid

Eat a plant based diet

Switch electric car to car free

Buy green energy

Avoid one transatlantic flight

Live car free

Have one fewer child

Low Impact

< 0.2 tCO₂e

Moderate Impact

0.8-0.2 tCO₂e

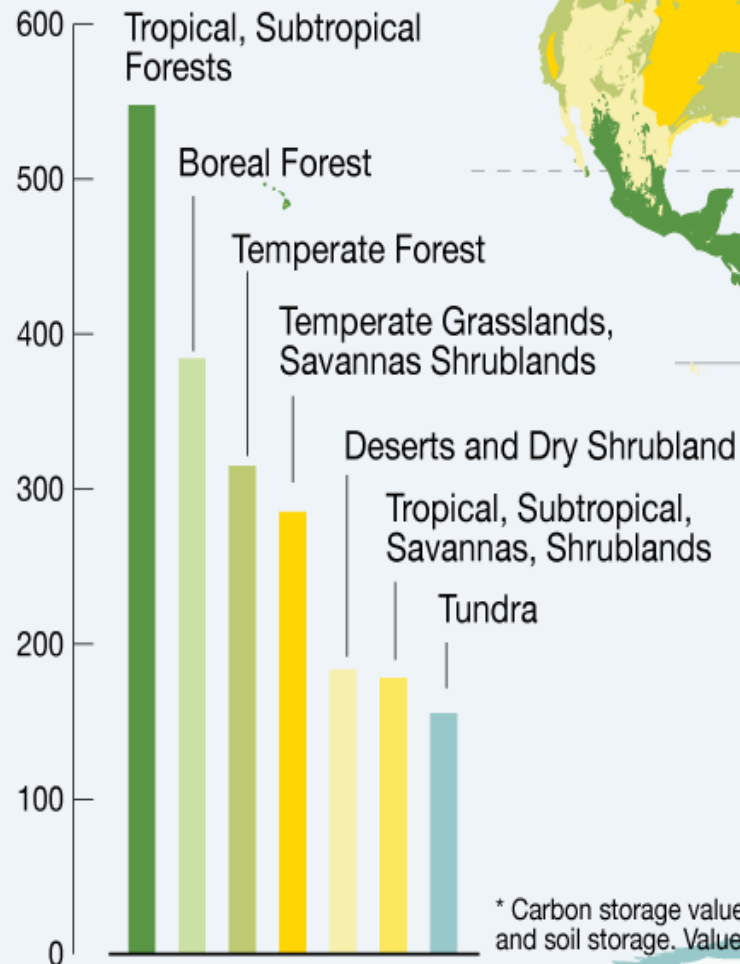
High Impact

> 0.8 tCO₂e

Seth Wynes & Kimberly Nicholas, 2017, Environmental Research Letters

World biomes and carbon storage

Carbon stored by biome*
Billion of tonnes (Gigatonnes)



* Carbon storage values include above- and below-ground storage and soil storage. Values calculated by UNEP-WCMC, 2009

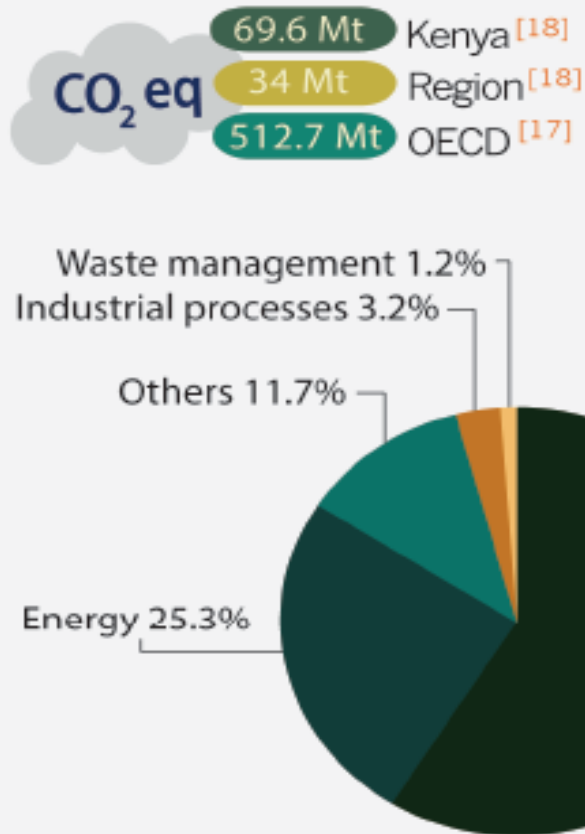
Forests contribute to mitigation because of their capacity of remove carbon from the atmosphere and to store it.
Deforestation and forest degradation cause 15-20% of global GHG emissions.

Source: Adapted from Olson, D., M., Terrestrial Ecoregions of the World: a new map of life on Earth. Bioscience, 2001; WCMC 2009

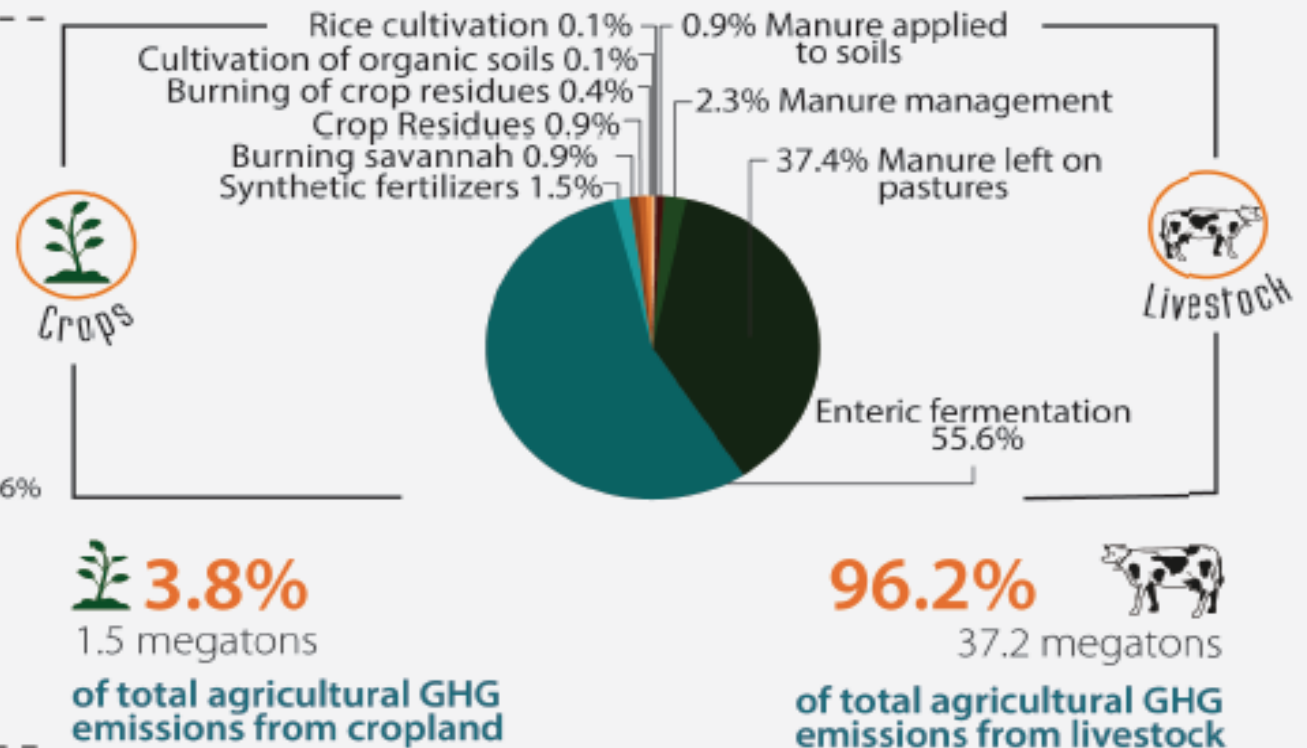


Agriculture affects and is affected by climate change in a wide range of ways

Total Emissions



Agriculture GHG Emissions





Role of men, women and youth in CAM

- Women generally understand better the causes and local consequences of changes in the climatic conditions because of the roles they play in society (productive, reproductive and community)
- Women have build important knowledge and skills for orienting the adaptation processes
- This fact have remained invisibility because of structures and patriarchal ideology
 - women are more strongly affected by the effects of CC
 - access to and control of resources
 - low participation in decision-making





Role of women in food security

- Climate change has serious ramifications in four dimensions of food security: **food availability, food accessibility, food utilization food systems stability**
- Women (50-80 %) predominate the world's food **production - but they own less than 10 per cent of the land.**
- Women farmers currently account for 45-80 per cent of all food production in developing countries depending on the region.
- About two-thirds of the female labour force in developing countries, and more than 90 percent in many African countries, are engaged in agricultural work





Role of women in forestry

- Women's domestic roles make them disproportionate users of NR - water, firewood and forest products.
- NR becoming scarcer, women experience an increased work burden - fall further into poverty.
- Increasing population puts further pressure on NR.
- Women in developing countries have primary responsibility of providing for their families, they are more reliant on NR and are thus more careful stewards of the environment





Worldwide, women bare the blunt of climate change and its impacts on health, livelihoods, food insecurity, gender based violence

At the same time, women have less access than men to resources such as land, credit, agricultural inputs, decision-making structures, technology, training and extension services that would enhance their capacity to adapt to climate change





WHAT CAN BE DONE

Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender

Priority Area A



Capacity
building

Priority Area B



Women's
Leadership

Priority Area C



Coherence

Priority Area D



Gender
Responsive
Implementation

Priority Area E



Verification





What are women doing

- Activism at policy level e.g. on climate justice
- Inventing new technologies
- Deploying agriculture practices e.g. CSA
- Building zero waste food models
- Managing renewable energy
- Forest restoration
- Water and forest conservation

Most of these they do as women groups





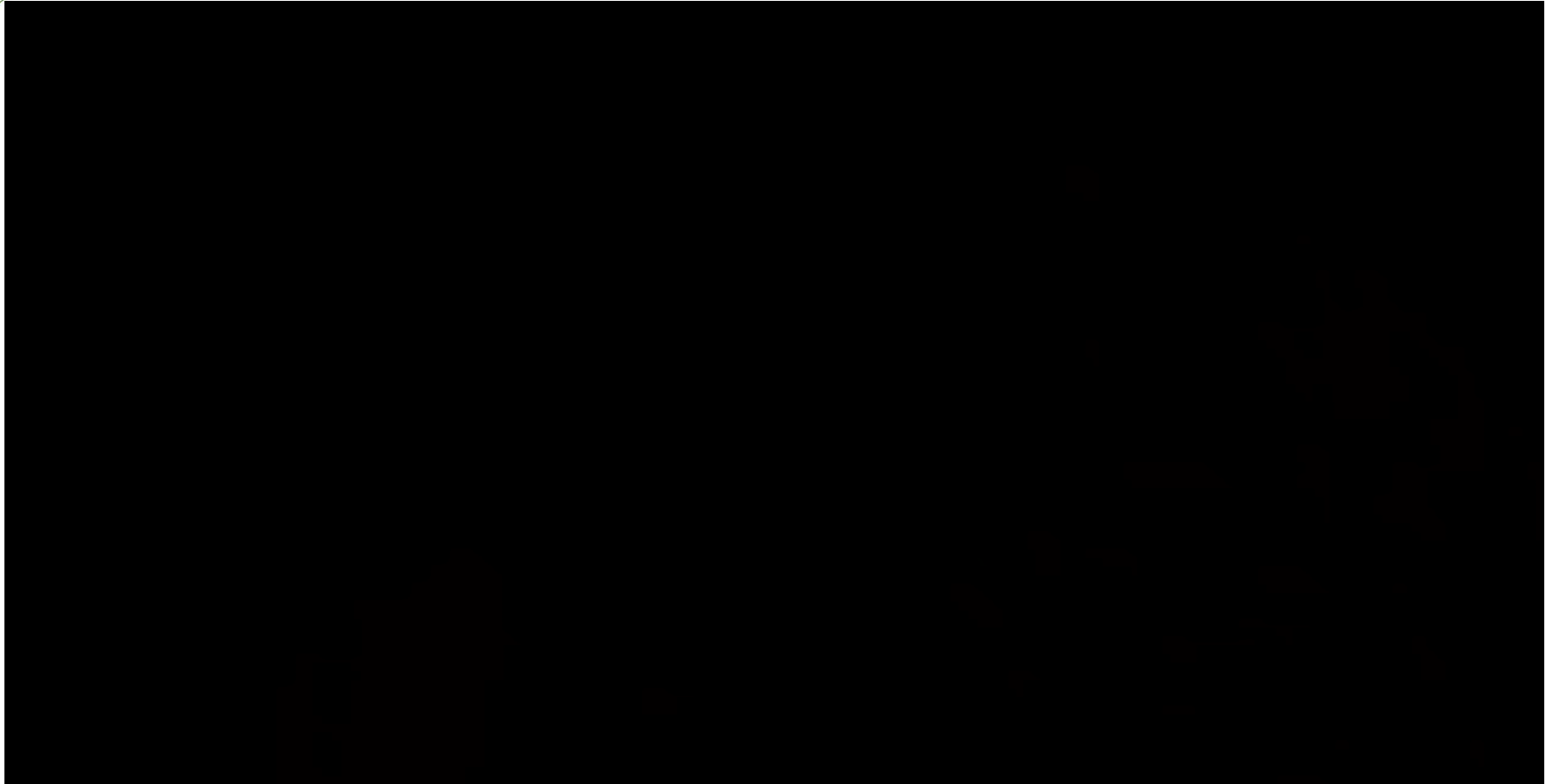
WHAT MORE DO WE WANT DONE

- Gender response to CC impacts is inevitable – we cant meet CC goals without women
- Include women voices in decision making tables
- Enhance women collective efforts – networks
- Prepare women by empowering them and making them autonomous
- Advocate, educate, promote, Act. Be a role model
- We cant afford to loose more time, lets involve women. More women in power = more sustainability in CC issues





ARE WOMEN THE SOLUTION TO CC





Conclusion

- It is important to identify gender-sensitive strategies to respond to the environmental and humanitarian crises caused by climate change
- Adaptation initiatives should identify and address gender-specific impacts of climate change particularly in areas related to water, food security, agriculture, energy, health, disaster management, and conflict.
- Those who are most affected by climate change today– women, girls and marginalized communities– must be involved in the design and implementation of climate response actions
- Women's and girl's full and equal participation in decision-making processes is a top priority in the fight against climate change.

