



CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP REPORT

ENHANCING GENDER ENGAGEMENT IN THE UPTAKE AND USE OF CLIMATE INFORMATION AND SERVICES (CIS)

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Summary

The low levels of generation of climate information, coupled with inadequate uptake and use of existing climate information services (CIS) accounts for the limited climate informed policy development and decision making in Africa. Moreover, the CIS continues to be inaccessible to large numbers of climate-vulnerable people in Africa including women. Appropriate support is, therefore, required to develop capacities of women in the generation, uptake and use of CIS and thereby enhance their resilience to climate change impacts. Consequently, the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), under the auspices of the UK Department for International Development (DFID), is implementing the Weather and Climate Information Services for Africa (WISER) programme to address the CIS gap and ensure accelerated uptake of CIS for development planning and practice.

In recognition of limited involvement of women in the generation, uptake and use of CIS and to keep climate change impacts at bay, the ACPC in collaboration with the UNECA's African Centre for Gender (ACG), has organized a two-day consultative workshop to discuss the nexus between gender and climate change and explore ways of enhancing women's role in the production, uptake and use of CIS at policy and practice levels. This consultative workshop was structured in a mixture of presentations, panel discussions and breakout sessions and addressed the following topics:

- Gender, climate change and development nexus in Africa,
- Reasons for underrepresentation of women in climate science as well as climate forum,
- Roles of women to enhance the generation, uptake and use of CIS,
- Challenges, needs and best practices to women's involvement in climate science and CIS,
- Concrete steps and strategies for gender inclusion on CIS.

The workshop was attended by women scientists, academics, practitioners, researchers and opinion leaders from different African countries as well as men with strong engagement and knowledge of gender and climate change issues.

1. Introduction

The Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has proven beyond reasonable doubt that the Earth's climate is warming. The report further indicates the resulting climate change will be widespread with far reaching consequences on African people and their socio-economic activities such as agricultural production, food security, water availability and human health. The impacts of climate change in Africa necessitates more than ever adaptation measures to manage risks and thereby build resilience. The risk of changing climate is further compounded by challenges of access to climate data and information, which creates difficulties in assessing the overall risks and vulnerabilities. The newly released IPCC special report on 1.5 degrees warming reaffirms many of the findings of the 5th assessment report, and cites disproportionately higher flooding risks for women living in cities as well as potential for increased workloads for women due to the much needed agricultural coping and adaptation measures.

In Africa, women are often responsible for gathering and producing food, collecting water and sourcing fuel wood for cooking and heating, which increases their exposure to adverse climate events compared to male folk. Gender inequalities exacerbate vulnerabilities to climate shocks and determine ways in which men and women experience, cope and get affected by climate change. A deeper appreciation that climate change impacts differently and disproportionately on men and women is critical and calls for gender sensitive climate policies to address the reality of their needs. The link between gender and climate change vulnerability is inarguable although this is not extensively researched and well documented in Africa. Failure to understand this link is likely to affect the overall achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) specifically goals 5 and 13.

Women have significant knowledge and understanding of the changing environmental conditions, which could play a critical role in identifying viable and practical community adaptation. However, the limited engagement of women in CIS and related climate change dialogues poses serious challenges in sufficiently adapting to and mitigating against climate change impacts. To respond to the climate change and CIS challenges, under the auspices of DFID, the ACPC in collaboration with the UK Met Office, are implementing the WISER programme whose aim is to contribute to addressing the CIS gap and ensure accelerated uptake of CIS for development planning and practice. In implementing the WISER programme, the ACPC has noted the limited engagement of women in the production and uptake of CIS, despite the continuing efforts made to involve them. This could be due to weak policy and legislative environment, which do not sufficiently provide the incentives for women to engage in the uptake and use of CIS. Sectoral policies (environment, agriculture, climate, gender) have not sufficiently addressed differential impact of climate change and how it affects men and women. ACPC in collaboration with the ECA's African Centre for Gender (ACG) has, therefore, organized a two-day consultative workshop to deliberate on the above issues and come up with recommendations to address them.

“Women have significant knowledge and understanding of the changing environmental conditions, which could play a crucial role in identifying viable and practical community adaptation.”

2. Objective

The overall objective of this consultative workshop is to discuss the nexus between gender and climate change and explore ways of enhancing the role of women in the production, uptake and use of CIS both at policy and practice levels. The specific objectives include:

- Deepening appreciation of the link between gender and climate change in Africa;
- 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;
- Exploring ways of strengthening the enabling environment for enhancing women roles in CIS;
- identifying best practices and innovative ways of boosting women's involvement in CIS;
- Discussing mechanisms and a strategy for partnership building with women in the climate change sector across Africa.

3. Opening Remarks

The first opening remark was given by Dr. Rose Mensah-Kutin, Director of ABANTU for Development, Ghana. She expressed her gratitude to the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) for giving ABANTU the opportunity to host such regional workshop focusing on enhancing gender participation in the uptake and use of CIS. She reminded participants that this workshop is being held prior to COP24 that will discuss the rules of implementation of the Paris Agreement.

As a risk multiplier, climate change is already exacerbating natural changes, among other, desertification, seasonal variabilities in precipitation (including increasingly devastating droughts, intense storms and frequent flash floods), heatwaves, and accelerated coastal erosion. The impacts of climate change are significantly altering the livelihood patterns and strategies of rural communities, changing the landscapes of human settlement and migration, and creating new and novel tensions between the different land use strategies that have existed on the continent for generations – all of which impact women and girls the most. She noted that because of the impacts of climate change, many landscapes and ecosystems in Africa were and are being affected. For example, the Volta Lake experienced variability in the volume of runoff receiving from the surrounding areas and posed challenges to the Ghanaian people as well as its energy sector.

She reiterated that enhanced uptake and use of climate information services by women is essential to build resilience and reduce poverty. In this regard, she applauded ACPC for its effort in improving the generation, use and uptake of weather and climate information services by different stakeholders. However, for better impacts in the continent, she recommended:

- WISER and other similar initiatives should have strong gender components and consider women's CIS experiences during their implementations;
- CIS packaging and dissemination should be designed in a way to allow the participation of end users;
- Efforts are needed to provide quality and timely weather predictions to the end-users. She reminded that wrong rainfall forecasts in the past affected the agricultural activities in Ghana and consequently erode farmers perception on the reliability of weather and climate predictions by MET services;
- Gender inequalities and development gaps in Africa should be reduced as climate change ultimately places a greater burden on women than it does on men.

She later concluded her opening remark by calling all actors to engage women at all levels, since experience shows that where women are fully involved at decision making processes, there is a quick economic and social returns.

The second welcoming remarks was given by Hon. Fatoumatta K. Jawara, member of the national assembly of The Gambia. She said that African women are mostly recipients of climate governance decisions into which they have had no input. The representations of women at ministerial and cabinet levels as well as in private

“All actors should engage women at all levels, since experience shows that where women are fully involved in decision making process, there is a quick economic and social development”

sector, civil societies as well as community are also severely limited. This is particularly disadvantageous for women as they are already disempowered in local resource management and other decisions. There is thus an urgent need to amplify the voices of women and marginalized constituencies in the further development of the climate initiatives. She concluded her remarks by saying – most decisions that affects women are being made by politicians and efforts should be put in place, with pro-active targeting where possible, to increase the participation of women at high levels.

Mr. Frank Rutabingwa, Senior Natural Resources Officer, UNECA, welcomed the guests on behalf of Mr. James Murombedzi, OIC of ACPC, and expressed his gratitude to all participants for making the time to attend this meeting. He said that the UNECA is working to support the economic and social transformation in member states where it recognized climate change and gender as its core components.

He reiterated that climate change is not gender-neutral where women are disproportionately (and, often, more severely) affected by climate change while gender-based inequities led women to face more adverse impacts than men. Women are particularly exposed to disaster risks and are likely to suffer higher rates of mortality, morbidity and post-disaster ruin than men.

He further mentioned the underlying factors exacerbate women’s vulnerability to the impacts of disasters as limited livelihood options, restricted access to education and basic services and discriminatory social, cultural and legal norms and practices. This is partly because of the societal and cultural roles and responsibilities women assume in the family/community as well as inadequacy of policy intervention against the effects of climate change.

He also stated that ACPC facilitates the use of relevant climate information across different socio-economic sectors as well as risk management and adaptation to future climates. The mismatch between available information and what is needed to support on-the-ground decision-making is, however, a major barrier that reduces resilience to climate risk and thereby weakens adaptation efforts.

He said that women are more vulnerable to the impacts of weather and climate change than men because they constitute the majority of the world’s poor and are more dependent for their livelihood on natural resources. Furthermore, because gender related inequalities tend to be pervasive in the developing world, women face social, economic and political barriers which limit their capacity to cope with climate. This workshop is, therefore, organized to enhance an enabling environment for substantive investments in and uptake of CIS by gender groups.

The official opening was given by Dr. Comfort Asare, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP), Ghana. She reiterated the importance of this meeting as it focused on women who are disproportionally suffering from the impacts of climate change. She later called for women to unite and work together to stop such sufferings. With this, she officially opened the meeting.

“Climate change is not gender-neutral. Women are disproportionately affected by its impacts where gender-based inequities lead women to face more adverse climate change impacts than men.”

4. Part I - Presentations

In this session, two consecutive presentations were presented to set the scene. The first presentation provided a brief introduction on ‘*why this consultative meeting is organized under the WISER programme*’ while the second presentation focused on ‘*the nexus between Gender, Climate Change and Development in Africa*’.

4.1. Weather and climate Information SERVICES for Africa (WISER)

Mr. Frank Rutabingwa gave a brief introduction about the DFID funded WISER programme. Since the increasing complexity of climate change challenges requires policy analysis, the Pan-African component of WISER, led by the ACPC, has conducted analytical studies to strengthen enabling environment for the generation, uptake and use of weather and climate information services to support sustainable development in Africa.

He further gave a brief introduction on the Climate Research for Development (CR4D) initiatives and it's soon to be launched research grant. Currently, WISER has funded small but potentially scalable research grant to generate precise downscaled and location-specific, reliable, timely, and user-friendly weather and climate information to provide fit-for-purpose CIS that effectively address vulnerability in communities, as well as capitalizing on emerging opportunities due to climate change.

Support for gender sensitive climate research as well as promotion of women's leadership in African climate research will also be among the CR4D key research priority areas. He said that the participation of women and girls in the CIS co-production process is crucial as it provides for opportunities for self-empowerment through informed decision making and opportunities for enhanced income generation.

He told participants that the WISER business case acknowledged the effects of weather and climate are not gender-neutral and recognised the type of information required by men and women is different. Moreover, lower literacy rates amongst women in sub-Saharan Africa make them less likely to respond to written early warnings whilst limited access to communication technologies makes them reliant on a male family member for this information.

He concluded his presentation by saying this consultative workshop is held as part of the on-going efforts of ACPC under the WISER programme in looking for conducive options that could engage women in CIS generation, uptake and use and keep climate impacts at bay.

“The Pan-African component of WISER strengthens enabling environment for the generation, uptake and use of weather and climate information services (CIS) to support sustainable development in Africa.”

4.2. Gender, climate change and development nexus in Africa

This presentation was given by Ms. Keiso Matashane-Marite, gender expert from the African Centre for Gender (ACG) of the UNECA. She said that weather and climate information services are important to make informed decision on adaptation and mitigation interventions. However, the generation, packaging and dissemination of CIS are not often done to address gender concerns. In an attempt to address gender and climate change worries, the Lima Work Program on Gender - COP20 (gender balance in negotiations) and COP21 outlined gender considerations to be a standard. This is in line with Goal 5 of Agenda 2030 and Inspiration 6 of Agenda 2063 as failing to address gender issues in climate change impedes the effectiveness of mitigation and adaptation policies and programmes and thereby significantly hampers Africa's sustainable development prospects.

She further elaborated that women are disproportionately vulnerable to the impacts of climate change as they have unequal access to resources of production (including land, technology and credit), limited involvement in decision-making processes, cultural and social discrimination and high/direct dependence on natural resources than men. Women also faced various challenges during and after climate-induced disasters mainly because of gendered division of labor (i.e., they involved in heavier workloads including clean-up work, subsistence activities and care-giving).

The existing climate change related policies are less gender-insensitive and/or they are not implemented fully. Gender components should, therefore, be mainstreamed into national climate change policies by collecting/utilizing sex-disaggregated data, establishing gender-sensitive indicators and benchmarks, conducting systematic gender analysis, and developing practical tools to support increased attention to gender issues.

She suggested various points as part of gender-responsive measures to enhance women's group participations in climate change initiatives. She pointed out that *women's local knowledge and expertise should be harnessed* as African women have valuable knowledge as well as experiences regarding several mitigation and adaptation actions. Since they have unique position to curb the consequences of climate change, it makes *women repositories of indigenous knowledge on sustainable practices and coping strategies*. Technological developments related to climate change is also mentioned as one of gender-responsive measures. *Technologies should take into account women's specific priorities and needs* and make full use of their knowledge and expertise, including traditional practices. Women's involvement in development of new technologies ensure the technologies are user-friendly, effective and sustainable. *Women should have equal access to training, credit and skills-development programmes* to ensure their full participations in addressing climate change and its impact.

She said that CIS knowledge transfer and sharing mechanisms are critical in determining the accessibility of CIS by the beneficiaries. Hence, climate scientists should avoid talking to themselves and avoid jargons. The CIS should be communicated in such a way that there is minimal or no erosion of cultural heritage and loss of livelihoods. Aggressive policy interventions are needed to avoid

“Women's local knowledge should be harnessed as African women have valuable knowledge as well as experiences regarding several adaptation and mitigation mechanisms to environmental stressors.”

catastrophes of food, water, energy shortages as well as public health threats. Collaboration, partnerships and networks are also critical for better gender responsive climate-smart information transfer and sharing.

She concluded her presentation by giving participants a brief introduction on a joint Gender and Climate Change programme by ACG and ACPC. She summarized the objectives of the programme are to:

- Build a concrete body of knowledge on gender and climate change in order to promote a greater understanding of the gendered dimensions of climate change;
- Inform national policies and regional initiatives on how to address the gendered dimensions of climate change in Africa;
- Contribute to capacity-building initiatives on addressing gender and climate change; and
- Enhance the participation of African women in regional and global discussions on climate change.

4.3. General discussion

Participants agreed that climate change threatens the attainment of regional (e.g., Agenda 2063) and global (e.g., SDG, the Paris Agreement) frameworks and thereby impedes the effectiveness of mitigation and adaptation policies/programmes in Africa. Achieving agreements on climate change requires, inter alia, addressing the roles of gender in both adaptation and mitigation interventions. Thus, the following were suggested for better impact:

- Major circumstances that inhibit meaningful and consistent participation of women in the CIS generation, uptake and use should be identified and properly addressed;
- Targeted capacity building initiatives on gender should be initiated as women are very capable of solving climate change challenges;
- CIS should be packaged in a simplified and understandable way to ensure sustainable development;
- Tool that connects the missing link between gender experts and climate scientists should be established for better dissemination of CIS;
- Climate change, like gender, is a cross cutting issues and shall be included in school curriculum;
- CIS should be more focused on local people demand rather than donors;
- Gender equality is not the lonely responsibility of women but it is everyone's responsibility;
- Current trend to frame climate change as a problem needs technical (i.e., climate change language needs to be demystified), scientific, human rights and multisectoral solutions;
- Meteorological services in most countries are not been effective and we should work to ensure that information provided by MET stations are practical and will help the local people.

“CIS should be more focused on local people demand rather than donors.”

5. Part II – Panel Discussion

The panel discussion focused on ‘*women challenges and inhibiting factors of women engagement in CIS and climate change issues*’. The discussants were Dr. Janet Kabeberi Macharia, UNEP, Kenya; Dr. Rose Mensah-Kutin, Director of ABANTU for Development, Ghana; Dr. Diongu Ep Niang Aïda, Agence Nationale de l'Aviation Civile et de la Météorologie, Senegal and Mr. Patrick Kapanda Kabanda, Zambia Climate Change Network (ZCCN). They agreed that the rural women understand the climate very well but need to be validated scientifically. Ownership of these knowledge is also very important as they empower women and able to make decisions on the matters that affected them. Women need solidarity among themselves and strive to bring role models to the forefront. Generally, the panel discussion was around three questions and the following major points were captured from the podium as well as from the general discussion.

5.1. What are the reasons for underrepresentation of women in climate science as well as climate forum?

- *Less self-interest for science.* This issue is related to women vs men preference to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEMs) and they consider sciences as difficult and complicated. Research at the universal level shows a lot of disparity between girls and boys in the sciences (i.e., boys opt for sciences and girls for arts and the effects are continued to be felt today). Moreover, women’s own low self-interest together with limited support from the communities stifle their capacity and limit her engagement in climate science. Educational curriculum in Africa should, therefore, encourage women’s involvement in STEMs area.
- *Cultural and social barriers:* Most cultures in Africa give more opportunity to boys than girls. There is poor perception about women’s ability to do a hard science and give low value for their climate knowledge. Consequently, the culture as well as the society gave low recognition and appreciation for their climate-related indigenous/local knowledge.
- *Poor access to control and use of economic resources.* In Africa’s agriculture, for instance, women comprised of an estimated 48% of the economically active population but they tend to own less than 15% of agricultural lands. Because of limited access and control on natural resources and finances, women are limited to venture into sciences.
- *Limited involvement in decision making processes.* The exclusion of women from decision making processes at all levels is one of the reasons for underrepresentation of women’s in climate science as well as climate forums despite the fact that they are the highest number of potential users and beneficiaries of CIS. Hence, countries need to comply with international resolutions concerning women representation.
- *Women are often shy.* Many women who are geographers are less vocal in most climate sciences forums (e.g., low level of engagement in IPCC reports) and have not done enough to encourage more girls to follow their suite.

“Underrepresentation of women in climate science/forum is related to less self-interest, cultural and social barriers, poor access to economic resources, limited involvement in decision making process, and others.”

5.2. How can we enhance women's access and use of CIS?

Their access and use of CIS could be enhanced through:

- *Increased partnerships and collaboration.* Collective effort is needed in approaching participation of women in CIS uptake and use.
- *Identifying women's specific needs.* We should understand the need of target groups for CIS while packaging.
- *Provision of equal access to information:* Allow women to participate from message generation to dissemination.

5.3. What role can women leaders play to enhance the uptake and use of CIS?

Women's role in the uptake of CIS should be looked at various level, with women at the institutional level are carriers of the information and lobby/look for ways in which CIS can be transmitted to women at the local levels. Specifically, women leaders could enhance the uptake and use of CIS by:

- *Developing initiatives that improve the inclusion of women's indigenous knowledge in climate forecasting and climate change interventions.* Women's practical experience, observation and indigenous knowledge on climate change shall be incorporated in CIS generation and packaging while validating them as part of the African climate science research.
- *Creating/Supporting enabling environment for women.* Support should focus on creating/improving enabling environment (e.g., institutional structure, policy framework, etc) for substantive investments in the uptake and use of CIS by women. Women who are already working on CIS together should identify and mobilize resources for sensitization of climate change and CIS.
- *Providing training and build capacity.* We need women ambassadors/climate champions to encourage girls to participate in STEMs by making themselves accessible. They should also look practical options to incentivize girls to pick up sciences. Role models can help to pick a girl and mentor. They can use, among others, a focus group discussion as women are able to come out with pertinent issues, lessons, and best practices and share with others. Moreover, syllabuses that are relevant to CIS should be given in schools.
- *Engaging NGOs, civil society organizations (CSOs) and gender-based organizations in policy planning:* These have significant roles to play in pushing for gender sensitive issues and policies regarding climate science and CIS. Moreover, create liaisons with women in various communities on CIS. Incentivizing and channeling climate information through local leaders/elders is a best approach as they are often trusted by the local people.
- *Advocating/Promoting women's success stories.* Women leaders should use practical experiences and observations – learning by experience from one woman to another can impact on others. Successes from women's past and

“Women's access and use of CIS enhanced through partnership and collaboration, identification of women's specific needs and provision of equal access to information.”

existing structures/programmes/activities (e.g., saving schemes, radio jingles, and caravans) can be used to improve their involvement in CIS.

- *Using effective communication mechanisms to address women.* Effective communication and extension of media coverage, as well as attractive packaging by women ambassadors is crucial for better uptake and use of CIS by women. Women who have adequate knowledge on climate change can target local women to pass information on climate change and gender.
- *Using improved technologies:* Making sure that women are familiar and have access to modern ICT tools. In this regard, the use local languages, songs and social media in CIS dissemination are proved to be effective.

6. Part III – Breakout Session: Challenges, Needs and Best Practices to Women’s Involvement in Climate Science and Climate Information Production

Before they departed for breakout session, participants reached agreement on the definition of the following key words.

- ▶ **Challenge**: The situation of being faced with something new and/or difficult that requires great mental and/or physical effort in order to solve it successfully.
- ▶ **Need**: Something that is required because it is essential or very important.
- ▶ **Best practice**: A procedure that is proven by research and/or experience to produce optimal results.

6.1. Challenges to women involvement in CIS

Participants identified the following “*challenges*” to limit the involvement of women in CIS:

- Women are not often involved in the policy making processes. For example, in the Zambian tree planting project, women involvement is limited to watering,
- Lack of funding to the organizations that have the best interests at gender,
- Entrenched retrogressive practices in the society due to ignorance and lack of knowledge about women’s capacity,
- Traditional cultural barriers,
- Lack of interest by women-based stakeholders in the CIS campaigns,
- Inadequate sensitization,
- Mis-targeting the CIS messages – CIS packaging is not often done to address the concern of women,
- Lack of up-to-date, dedicated and dynamic databases of the contacts as well as specific needs of women,
- Mind-set – lack of strategy, solidarity and vision of the mind-set,
- Poor information dissemination strategy
- Lack of a deep understanding of what women do at the program formulation and implementation stages,
- Vulnerability occasioned by early marriages (directly or indirectly),
- Lack of peace in some areas that hinders any meaningful engagements of women on the subject matter,
- Time unavailability for women - too much multitasking.

6.2. Needs

“Needs” or “*what are required*” to enhance women’s participation in CIS:

- Sensitize women on the CIS message – for example weather patterns are different from climatic pattern or climate change and these should be clarified for women,
- Sensitize community leaders, religious leaders and opinion leaders on CIS,
- Localize climate information services for the community,
- Make access to climate information easy and open,
- Forge partnership with their husbands and family for better climate action. A “He-for-She” to touch a woman you have to touch other people around her ,
- View climate change as a marketable products – CIS should be a product with price, place, market promotion strategy in order to get traction among women ,
- Incorporate modern technology along the CIS value chain with a careful balance between traditional and modern approaches,
- Use innovativeness in engaging women in CIS,
- Incorporate deliberate sustainability and posterity measures of CIS – focus on projects beyond their financing life times,
- Produce accurate statistical data on the progress and penetration of gender in CIS per unit region.

6.3. Best practice

The following were suggested as “*best practices*” or “*approaches*”:

- *Centralized comprehensive dynamic databases*: These databases shall encompass all relevant data and stakeholders involved in the CIS production, uptake and use in Africa,
- *Strengthened linkages between all stakeholders*: entities at the grassroots level as well as policy makers for better efficiency and effectiveness,
- *Strong collaboration and partnership*: Engaging scientific experts to collect, process and archive information and influence policy formulation based on empirical data,
- *Use of local corporate partnerships for tailor made CIS dissemination*: e.g Community radios, Ghanaian & Nigerian megaphones, free peer to peer call networks, Esoko Ghana that devised ways of disseminating climate information to farmers – rainfall patterns, appropriate seeds, pricing etc,
- *Strong financing mechanisms*: strengthening resource mobilization, sustainability and active government engagement in the CIS programs.
- *Integration of CIS into SDGs as a concurrent deliverable*,

- *Training CSOs and other players in various sectors*: such training could help to create synergy among themselves for sustainability and posterity,
- *Balance between modernization and traditional approaches* in CIS programs,
- Incorporating HSEVs as IGUs approach in the CIS drive as a motivator. (Hybrid social enterprise ventures as Income generating Units),
- *Use of GIS* (Geographical Information Services) in mapping of all of the African regions with the specific objective of gender in CIS in mind,
- Advocate for, develop, revise and implement policies and initiatives that incentivize female participation in STEM, climate science, and CI production and dissemination,
- Establish and enhance educational opportunities and mentorship programmes targeting females, youth and other special groups on climate science & CIS,
- Implement the *“Talking Books Initiative”* in CIS,
- Implement an enhanced Participatory Scenario Planning model,
- Increase female climate champions - enhance their confidence e.g. through capacity development,
- Strengthen affirmative action and implementation in CIS.

6.4. Scaling-up

Best practice can be scaled-up if we:

- Produce targeted and simplified CIS messages in local languages for different groups using audio, animations and pictures,
- Identify ambassadors/champions to disseminate CIS,
- Link CIS and gender issues to larger poverty issues and incorporate the CIS and gender issues into implementing plans of decentralized structures,
- Strengthen existing platforms and structures (Government and NGOs) by building capacities of planners, economist, etc,
- Sensitize and simplify CIS for different groups e.g persons living with disabilities, ages, other vulnerable groups,
- Have clear quantitative and qualitative objectives for CIS and gender indicators,
- Identify and train strategic partners such as, policy makers, corporate organizations, media, etc, on gender mainstreaming and leverage on existing channels to ensure mainstreaming of CIS e.g WASH programmes,
- Document the inclusive approach on CIS and Gender but do not create competition between men and women.

6.5. Critical reflections from participants

- Women are undervalued in producing and using climate information ;
- Indigenous knowledge are often ignored and not incorporated into modern CIS production, uptake and use processes;
- Most terminologies in climate science are not clear (weather, climate, climate information, CIS, etc...);
- Women have limited power in CIS decision making process;
- Women in rural area do not have an easy access to climate information and services;
- Women require specific actions and skills to participate in CIS;
- The issues of women do not get much attention with scientific communities;
- Existing curriculum in schools do not sensitize gender and climate explicitly;
- Lack of simplified and localized climate information and their packaging do not attract those who need them;
- Strong missing link between gender and climate science to complement each other.

6.6. Concrete steps and strategies for gender inclusion on CIS

Participants have proposed concrete steps and strategies for gender inclusiveness based on short, medium and long terms for three women categories.

Category	Short (<1yr)	Medium (1-5yrs)	Long (>5yrs)
Urban (well informed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy and awareness campaign in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Tertiary and high schools – Social media – Religious areas • Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Short programmes at the universities for graduates – Engage NGOs to involve such women who are interested in CIS – Supports and incentives from NGOs and other actors for women start-up after the training – Project work of students • Information Packaging <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Infotainment – Audio visual – Pictorial information encouraged – Link information with existing challenges like Health • Climate journalism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building of CIS • Female climate ambassadors • Encourage women in media for reporting CI • Encourage clean cooking solution for economic benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholarships for women • Training of trainers and influencers • Consistent support for women in highest decision structures

<p>Rural (partly informed)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of climate change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Use religious groups for information • Alternative livelihood solution • Encourage clean cooking solutions for Economic benefits • Saving the environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced Participatory Scenario planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of trainers and influencers • Woodlots production
<p>Grassroots (not informed)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy, awareness creation through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – existing traditional women groups – religious platforms • Training of women group leaders • Engage influential women in the private sectors • Pictorial information • Visual and performing arts (demonstration of ideas) • Giving back to our roots by community role models • Initiating goodwill (Souvenirs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening institutional interactions and coordination on CIS (Ministries, Departments and MMDCEs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobby for women into assembly • NGOs (like ABANTU) to support women willing to contest for positions

7. Recommendations

Participants recommended the following for enhanced uptake and use of CIS by women:

1. Organize consultative workshops/seminars on CIS on regular basis: These could be held between stakeholders across different sectors and discuss about their needs, challenges and the way forward.
2. Establish effective communication channels for better uptake and use of CIS: Use of simplified and reliable communication channels such as audio, visual arts, drama, music etc.
3. Support teaching programs on CIS: Advocate adult training programs on climate change as well as mentoring the young girls about CIS (i.e., include CIS in school curriculum and adult education programs).
4. Secure sustained financing source for CIS: Lobby for climate change finance by developing bankable projects.
5. Establish effective database on CIS: Project/programs/activities on climate and environment should generate gender specific data. This can be achieved through establishing strong partnerships with organization specialized on statistics. More importantly, use already existing data while identifying, compiling and analyzing up-to-date sex disaggregated data.
6. Use improved technologies in CIS: use of scientific tools such as geo-localization – using remote sensing and GIS – to better identify and evaluate climate-related risks and vulnerability.
7. Conduct comprehensive need assessment on CIS and gender: this has to be conducted at urban, peri-urban and rural levels across various sectors (health, agriculture, water, energy. etc) with reference to women.
8. Make CIS marketable: Approaching CIS as a product to be marketed professionally (i.e., use the 4Ps approach – Product, Price, Place, and Marketing Promotion).
9. Identify CIS champions/ambassadors: Identify champions among women which can be involved in CIS.
10. Strengthen existing platforms and structures: Leveraging on existing structure and channels to ensure mainstreaming of CIS.
11. Promote appropriate legislation and policies: Promote policies that emphasise the role of women in support of CIS.

8. List of Participants

Title	First name	Middle name	Last name	country	Gender	Nationality	Organization
Mrs.	LUM		EDITH ACHAMUKONG	Cameroon	FEMALE	Cameroon	CRTV
Ms.	Chiedza	Cecilia	Gwata	Zimbabwe	FEMALE	Zimbabwe	Institute of Environmental studies, University of Zimbabwe
Ms.	BEAUTY		SHAMBOKO-MBALE	Zambia	FEMALE	Zambia	WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
Ms.	Catherine	Njeri	Mungai	Kenya	FEMALE	Kenya	CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change Agriculture
Mr.	Daniel	Kotonya	Bundi	Kenya	MALE	Kenya	Softlink Kenya Tech Ltd
Ms.	EUSTER	ATUPELE	KIBONA	Tanzania, United Republic Of	FEMALE	Tanzania, United Republic Of	TANZANIA CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE
Mrs.	Ann	Makena	Kobia	Kenya	FEMALE	Kenya	Pan African Climate Justice Alliance
Ms.	Maselebalalo	Rachel	Mpe	South Africa	FEMALE	South Africa	Bohlokoa SHE Services & Projects
Dr.	JANET	KABEBERI	MACHARIA	Kenya	FEMALE	Kenya	UNEP
Mrs.	WINFRED	OSIMBO	LICHUMA	Kenya	FEMALE	Kenya	OSIMBO LICHUMA ADVOCATES
Ms.	Aicha		Detsouli	Morocco	FEMALE	Morocco	Greeningmadinaty TRAVIVE
Ms.	Yodit Balcha		Hailemariam	Ethiopia	FEMALE	Ethiopia	MoWIE
Mrs.	Fatou		CISSE	Senegal	FEMALE	Senegal	Ministère du Renouveau Urbain, de l'Habitat et du Cadre de Vie
Dr.	Diongu Ep Niang		Aïda	Senegal	FEMALE	Senegal	Agence Nationale de l'Aviation Civile et de la Météorologie
Dr.	Prosper	Bvumiranayi	Matondi	Zimbabwe	MALE	Zimbabwe	Ruzivo Trust
Mrs.	Fatou	K.	Jawara	Gambia	FEMALE	Gambia	National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia
Mr.	Kenneth	Nana	Amoateng	Ghana	MALE	Ghana	Abibiman Foundation
Dr.	Yosef Amha		Amde	Ethiopia	MALE	Ethiopia	EIAR
Ms.	Zebad	Alemayehu	Mekuria	Ethiopia	FEMALE	Ethiopia	UNECA
Ms.	Kedumetse	Pauline	Seosenyeng	Botswana	FEMALE	Botswana	Botswana Climate Change Network

Mr.	PATRICK	KAPANDA	KABANDA	Zambia	MALE	Zambia	ZAMBIA CLIMATE CHANGE NETWORK (ZCCN)
Mrs.	Confidence	Munchep	Konfor epse NJAMNSHI	Cameroon	FEMALE	Cameroon	The Active Womens Groups
Mrs.	Charlotte	Remteng	Fomum	Cameroon	FEMALE	Cameroon	Watershed Task Group and Partners
Ms.	Irene	Bih	Chinje	Cameroon	FEMALE	Cameroon	Women's Empowerment Enterprise Network
Mr.	Bruk		Tekie	Ethiopia	MALE	United States	Private
Mrs.	YUVEN	DZEKESEN	MUNA JULIANA	Cameroon	FEMALE	Cameroon	Footsteps for Women and Children-Cameroon (FOWEC-CAM)
Mrs.	Therese		ISSEKI	Benin	FEMALE	Benin	PANAPRESS
Ms.	Rose		Mensah-Kutin	Ghana	FEMALE		Ubuntu for Development