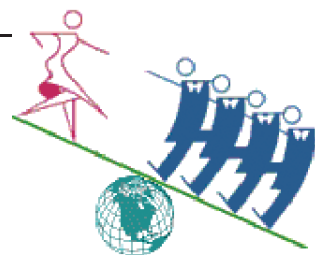


Women in Focus



Sustainable Energy News

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Photos on the front page are from the articles of this issue.

In this issue we publish a *Women Theme* for the 4th time in Sustainable Energy News. Since the first time, the focus on gender issues is increasingly recognised internationally and within many countries. When you look through the articles in this Theme you can see that there has been progress towards improving the situation. In this respect, at least part of the world has been changing for the better.

In the UN climate process, GenderCC and other NGOs lobby for integration of gender issues into the outcome of the negotiations. They speak with negotiators, organize side events, submit positions, etc. The NGO Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) actively works to change the CDM project framework to allow easier participation for smaller projects with a focus on poverty reduction, which could benefit many poor women. WECF, Gender CC and other NGOs also protest any attempt to finance nuclear power through climate financing mechanisms.

Publication and readership of resource guides and of books on gender and energy are booming. Many of them are published by the Global Gender and Climate Alliance, which includes the UN and NGOs like the INFORSE member ENERGIA. In addition, the Boell Foundation has just published a book that offers great recommendations on all levels to realise the goal of equal participation by women.

At the same time, Gro Harlem Brundtland and two other well known women have launched "road-to-copenhagen.eu", using internet-based methods to involve the public in the UN Climate negotiation process.

In EU, the Swedish Presidency wants to speed up the process to balance gender representation on boards of private companies as well as in leadership of public institutions.

In the energy sector, women often feel like a "special species". This happens, though, not only in Brussels, and not only in the energy sector, but also in most other places.

To reform the UN, 307 NGOs launched a campaign called GEAR towards a gender balance in the UN system.

Also on the EU level, the European Women's Lobby's 50/50 Campaign for democracy, to get more women into the European Parliament, has reached a major milestone, having delivered fact sheets, analyzed legislation, and obtained 19,000 signatures so far on a petition on the issue. After the election, the Campaign continues for the European Commission and other "EU top" jobs.

Through all these efforts, the world is slowly changing. However, at the G8 meeting there was only 1 woman present among the all the leaders - There is still a long road ahead before equality is reached!

But why is gender equality important at all? One basic argument is that half of the world's human population is women and therefore they have the right to be represented fairly in all levels of society. But more importantly, studies show that women are more concerned about environment, family well-being, social justice and peace than men.

Women as 'mothers' are more concerned about their children's environment than men are. Women are more concerned about stopping a development that could lead to an environmental and health catastrophe caused, e.g., by radiation from a nuclear accident or from nuclear waste.

Also, women and children are more vulnerable to climate changes and suffer more from poverty.

Therefore, we need not only a better balance of the two sexes among decision-makers but also more focus on women's problems concerning climate change and poverty for sustainable development.

In preparation for the UN climate conference in Copenhagen in December, it is crucial to support initiatives to include gender issues in the results, and to try to have a greater number of concerned women take part in the decision-making processes together with the men.

Only then can we hope for an outcome that will lead to a more stable global climate and to improvements for those worst affected, not the least of whom are women living in poverty.

Judit Szoleczky
Editor



Women in Bonn'09

Lobby for the Integration of Gender into the Copenhagen Outcomes

Women and gender experts are extremely busy lobbying for the integration of gender into the Copenhagen outcomes of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP15).

GenderCC, a global network of women, gender activists and experts working for gender and climate justice, organised the following joint efforts with several NGOs during the Preparatory Sessions in Bonn, June 1-19, 2009:

- **Daily Women's Caucus** to strategize and to share information, as well as to undertake further steps towards being recognized as a constituency in the UNFCCC process.
- **Side Event**, "*Gender Mainstreaming and Beyond. National Strategies to Engender Climate Change Policy*" on 5 June, organised together with Life eV. Achieving true justice between women and men in relation to climate change involves fundamental cultural, structural and institutional change and the strengthening of individual capacities. Women from various world regions presented their strategies for meeting challenges and overcoming obstacles.
- **Conference and film festival**, "*Survival at Stake? What is Needed in Copenhagen for the Most Vulnerable?*" on 6 June,

organised together with Germanwatch e.V., and several other NGOs. The event was geared to put a focus on those people, communities and countries whose survival is at stake, who are most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

- **Side Event**, "*Gender, Migration and Climate Change*" on 9 June, organised together with WECF. Climate-change-related migration patterns have different impacts on women and men: migration is influencing and changing social roles while increasing prevailing gender imbalances. Migration is perceived as a humanitarian challenge by the international community. At the same time, climate-change-induced migration is treated increasingly as a security issue by countries and international institutions.
- **Intervention** of the Women's Caucus during the closing plenary of the 8th session of the Ad-hoc Working Group of the future of the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) was presented by Khamarunga Banda, South Africa (ENERGIA/WEDO).
- On behalf of women and gender NGOs, GenderCC issued a joint statement with the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), speaking on behalf of the trade unions at the Final Plenary Session of the Ad-hoc Working Group Long-term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA) 5th and 7th sessions.

"Don't Nuke the Climate" Actions

Banner Rally
organized by
Ecodefense,
GenderCC,
Life and WECF.



Carrying banners reading "No Nuclear in CDM, JI and technology transfer" and "More Equity in Climate Protection", activists from all over the world e.g. Russia, Georgia, Germany and the USA stood in front of the Maritim Hotel, where the UNFCCC talks took place, and asked the delegates for an intelligent and sustainable strategy to cope with climate change without resorting to nuclear power.

The action protested any attempt to finance nuclear power through market mechanisms like CDM/JI and technology transfer.

Side Event: "*Both Feasible and Nuclear-Free: A Safe and Sustainable Energy Scenario for post-2012*" organised by WECF on June 9, 2009.

GenderCC: www.gendercc.net
WECF: www.wecf.eu



WECF to Simplify CDM Rules for Poor Community Projects



By Sabine Bock,
WECF, Coordinator
Energy & Climate
Change

Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) seek to influence the UN Climate negotiations to create a simplified Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) for sustainable-energy projects in households and in communities, including improved funding conditions for smaller-scale and cutting-edge technology projects.

Such projects should be developed in consultation with local communities, in particular with women, who are more vulnerable to climate change due to their limited access to resources and assets.

In order to achieve this, we see the need to introduce simplified registration

procedures for micro projects (<15.000 tCO₂ eq/year) and to appoint specialised Designated Operational Entities (DOEs) for small community projects.

Background: For many communities in the world who are living in poverty, survival is dependent on access to energy. Currently, many poor communities suffer health effects from the burning of dirty fuels, lack of heating in cold winters, and lack of energy for lifesaving medical devices and other supplies. Women bear the brunt of these negative effects.

Just in the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia region (EECCA), 21,000 people, mainly women and children, die of indoor air pollution every year, according to the WHO. These communities would require relatively little funding to improve greatly the health and life expectancies of their residents, if they were able to invest in safe renewable energy sources and ener-

gy-efficiency measures. At the same time, these investments would contribute significantly to reducing CO₂ emissions and, especially, would improve the situations of women and children. Currently, however, the poor communities have hardly any access to funding via the CDM.

Keep Nuclear Out of CDM

WECF also calls for keeping nuclear power out of the CDM as a high risk technology.

In the coming months, world governments will take the decision on whether to make nuclear power eligible for the CDM under the UNFCCC. If the wrong decision is made, the nuclear industry will have secured access to new sources of financing.

WECF made a statement at UNFCCC talks in Bonn, Germany, June, 2009, along with joint submissions. See: www.wecf.eu/english/issues/energy.php.

5♀/5♂ No Modern European Democracy Without Gender Equality

50-50 Campaign for Democracy

Launched by the European Women's Lobby

The European Women's Lobby (EWL) – an umbrella organisation of over 2,000 women's organisations in 30 countries across Europe - launched their 50/50 Campaign for Democracy on 16th September 2008 aimed at achieving gender balance in the EU Parliament and Commission.

The Campaign was very active in relation to the European elections of June 2009 and was successful in the sense that the number of women increased from 31% in the outgoing Parliament to 35% in the new Parliament.

The campaign now continues in relation to the nomination of the European Commission and "EU top jobs".

A representative democracy without gender equality is a contradiction in terms!

Women make up just over half of the voters in Europe. Logic dictates that they should account for half of the elected politicians and half of the top-level policy-makers, but this is not the case at present. Some exceptional governments, such as that of Spain, have achieved gender balance, but most European governments are largely made up of men. The same is true at EU level: less than one in three Members of the European Parliament is female; and only 10 out of 27 Commissioners are women.

It is high time we take action and urge European and national political parties, European governments and high-level European decision-makers to apply principles of gender balance, for there can be no modern democracy without gender equality.

19,000 Signatures

The Campaign is personally endorsed by Margot Wallström (EU Commissioner), together with over 150 well known personalities across Europe. 19,000 people had signed the petition by the time of this writing in July, 2009.

To support the Campaign, a 30-page Gender Audit Report, Summary, Press Release, and Fact Sheets were published, May, 2009, in English and in French.

The Campaign held a Conference on June 29, 2009.

Do you agree that women and men should be equally represented in all EU institutions?

*Support the 50/50 Campaign!
Sign the Supporting letter on-line at
www.5050democracy.eu
www.womenlobby.org*

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY



*EWL was established in 1990.
An organisation can be voting or associate member; individuals can be supporting members.*

Join the EWL 5♀/5♂ Campaign

Swedish EU Presidency: Full Speed on Gender Equality

When Sweden takes over the EU Presidency in July, 2009, it intends to highlight gender and equality issues in Europe.

Learning from the Norwegians: Quotas actually helped!

Presently the percentage of women among top leaders in the 27 EU countries is *very low; only 11% are women*. Norway is an exception, where 41% of the persons in private companies' boards are women. This development was sparked by the implementation of new legislation a few years back that requires at least 40% representation of women in company boards. "We can learn from the Norwegian example", says Margot Wallström, who is the vice-chairman in the EU Commission. She is Swedish and ensures that Sweden will put full speed to gender and equality issues when it takes over the EU Presidency in July, 2009: "I am a strong supporter of a quota system in favour of greater women representation. This is very important! We strongly need more women in top positions in order to get a positive change in development."

Women are underrepresented in top leadership positions despite the fact that 60% of all graduates of universities and of other higher education in Europe are women.

Quota or Not Quota

"I think quota is a useful tool to improve equality. We are now in a situation where there are enough of qualified women to take over top positions in the boards," says Margot Wallström, who also acknowledges that the EU does not have the mandate to impose quota legislation onto its member countries, but has to work through various methods of pressure on each country. One example is that the Danish Ministry for Gender Equality launched a Voluntary Charter for More Women in Leadership to be signed by at least 100 bigger companies. Other examples are mentor, and motivation programs.

One important factor is to promote equality in the homes. Women do not look for the top leading positions if they also have to shoulder primary responsibility for running the homes. The EU-equality report from March, 2009 spells out what we already know: Women are by far the

main caretakers responsible for the homes. On average, women spend 25.5 hours per week working in the home whereas men only lay down 7.8 hours. M. Wallström continues: "If women shall have equal chances as men to get top leader positions they need to have the practical possibilities to do so!" As long as they work three times more than men in the homes this will never happen. The EU needs to work intensively to change this scenario.

Gender Equity Benefits the Environment and Thereby Everyone

Women tend to be more concerned about the environment and about social inequalities. They are often particularly gifted peacemakers. Evidence shows that when women form a "critical mass", legislative priorities reflects the women's interests in social policy.

Therefore, in the long run, the participation of more women should have an impact on issues of environment as well. There can be no sustainable development without equitable development; and there can be no equitable development without gender equity.

Source: Politiken.dk 19.06.2009 and blog and publications by M. Wallström.



Road to Copenhagen Conference, Forum via Wiki

Minister of Norway, current UN Special Envoy on Climate Change and member of the Club of Madrid's Global Leadership for Climate Action (GLCA); and by Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland, Vice President of the Club of Madrid and member of the GLCA.

On the website you can listen to the avatars to hear why these three eminent women are chairing this unique initiative.

A Communiqué will be developed from the input to the forums, via the Wiki, and during the final Road to Copenhagen III Conference in 8-9 December 2009.

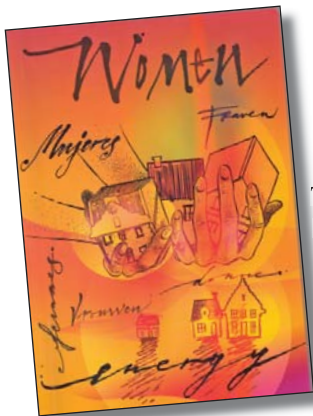
www.roadtocopenhagen.org

The Road to Copenhagen is a unique initiative enabling YOU to contribute to the UN negotiating process that we very much hope will result in a new international climate-change agreement for the post-2012 period, to be agreed in Copenhagen in 2009. This initiative is chaired jointly by Margot Wallström, current Vice President of the European Commission, and former Environment Commissioner; by Gro Harlem Brundtland, former Prime

Environmental Polls in Estonia

July 2009 - A poll made in Estonia shows that 76 % of women and 39 % of men are against a nuclear power plant. In average 60 % of Estonian residents are against establishing a nuclear power plant in Estonia. In opposition to the majority of the population, the state owned Estenergo wants to build a nuclear power plant, either in Estonia or together with other power companies in Lithuania.

More on Sustainable Energy Scenarios in Lithuania, and Latvia:
www.inforse.org/europe/vision2050 .



Women's Energy – Brussels Women's Energy Club, 1999 - 2009

This book contains a series of articles written by 28 women who are energy experts based in Brussels,

networking informally to exchange information and experiences in the Women's Energy Club since 1999.

The network includes women from many roles relevant to the energy business, representing many different views. The book is dedicated to all women, who comprise more than half the world's population.

It offers women's essays on combatting climate change and on achieving energy security, as well as historical views and insights into the world of lobbyists in Brussels.

The authors are struggling to cope with the fact that women are an exotic species in the male-dominated energy sector: Why is it so? What does it imply? Would the world have been different if it were rather ruled by women?

• Margot Walström urges that ensuring gender equality be placed at the forefront of energy policy initiatives, which is a must to reach democracy. Democracy means including stakeholders, and excluding women from decision-making means excluding half of all stakeholders. She makes it clear that women's increased participation in decision-making is a key to the fight against climate change and to struggles for peace, as women are more concerned about environment, social policy, and peace-building than men are.

• Sabina Froning calls for a European energy revolution involving more than just technical innovation. After brief historical views of energy crises, she points out that all crises are, at the same time, opportunities. She admits that targets and research in new technologies are important to success, but she believes that we all need to change our habits even though it is not always comfortable, and to accept that sustainable living has a price.

• Teresa Luis-Ruis's children tell her that energy is a treasure to preserve, as it has great importance in our daily life. She concludes that, to avoid global warming, "We have to act!", to produce and use power

Create a Strong UN Women's Agency Now!

The UN General Assembly will make a decision on the structure of a new gender equality entity in September, 2009.

Sign the Petition to the UN and to the EU countries urging decision-makers to create a strong UN agency for women's rights. The desired agency will not only speak for women but will ensure that at long last, women's own voices can be heard at all levels of society and in the decisions that affect their lives.

www.un-gear.eu/takeaction.shtml

www.thepetitionsite.com/1/GEAR



GEAR stands for Campaign for "Gender Equality Architecture Reform" at the UN.

GEAR became a network of 307 civil society organisations.

It was launched in 2008 to follow up a UN reform started in 2006.

It is a result of pressure from all over the world to put gender equality on the agenda of the UN's current reform process.

Only 21 % of all employees in the German energy and water sectors are women. Of middle- and top managers, only 2.8 % are women. Even within the construction sector, which typically is dominated by men, women hold 14% of management positions, close to the average rate of 15.4 %.
(From the Women's Energy Club Book)

more efficiently and to exploit wind, solar and energy crops. It is not an easy task, but what is life without challenges?

Unfortunately, women's critical views against nuclear energy are not included in the essay collection, even though many women have been active politically against nuclear power, realising its danger to health and environment after the Chernobyl catastrophe. We can read about women who were active in nuclear-energy research, but the historical view of women finding out the dangerous sides of nuclear energy and radiation are not part of the book. There are no authors from the renewable-energy industry either. It is a pity, because including these two angles would have made the book more worth reading.

2008, 175 pp. 24 EUR.

Published by *Energiewirtschaft und Technik Verlagsgesellschaft mbH (ETV)*, Germany.

ISBN: 978-3-925349-56-0

Contacts: ETV: pia.toben@tevessen.de.

Contact for the editorial committee: sabine.froning@euroheat.org .



Grameen Shakti, an INFORSE member in Bangladesh, won Zayed Future Energy Prize

Dipal Chandra Barua, the managing director of the non-profit organisation Grameen Shakti (INFORSE member), was awarded the first Zayed Future Energy Prize in Abu Dhabi in January 2009.

The Prize was given in honour of his innovation and commitment through Grameen Shakti, which enabled more than 200,000 homes of rural poor to purchase solar energy systems through micro-credit schemes.

The Prize includes a cash award of US\$1.5 million, which Dipal plans to use to fund a scholarship programme for women entrepreneurs helping to create 100,000 green jobs in Bangladesh. Grameen Shakti is part of the Grameen



Bank, which developed the micro-credit scheme into an important instrument in the struggle against poverty. Micro-credit has proved to be an important liberating force in societies where women in particular have to struggle against repressive social and economic conditions. In honour of these efforts, Grameen Bank and its founder of Muhammad Yunus received a Nobel Peace Prize in 2006.

Grameen Shakti plans to install one million solar energy systems by 2015. It has created technology centers to train rural women as solar and improved-cook-stove technicians.

Prize of US\$ 1.5 Million to be used to Benefit Bangladeshi Women

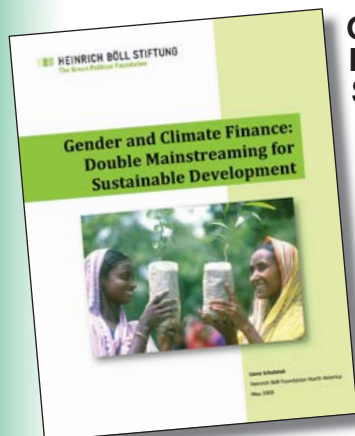
As part of INFORSE-South Asia, Grameen Shakti contributed to a manual on the role of renewable energy in reducing poverty; the book is available in several South-Asian languages.



More info is available on the back page of this issue of SEN, in previous articles on

Grameen Shakti in Sustainable Energy News, and at www.gshakti.org, www.grameen-info.org, as well as at www.inforse.org/asia.

Publications: Women, Climate & Bioenergy



Gender and Climate Finance: Double Mainstreaming for Sustainable Development

This is a study on the need for financing instruments and mechanisms committed to climate-change activities to take gender-differentiated impacts into account.

It includes an overview of cost estimates for global mitigation and adaptation measures.

It also presents an analysis of gender points of view, looking closely at the climate finance mechanisms, the new climate and environment funds, CDM, adaptation finance, REDD, and domestic emissions permit sales or auctions.

Key recommendations are offered to eliminate decision-makers' reluctance to consider, and ignorance about, the relevance of gender in making climate financing mechanisms effective contributors to long-term sustainable development.

On the global level, one of the main recommendations is:

- **Shift the focus** of the global discussion on climate change away from a primarily technocratic exercise to one employing the language of global justice and human rights, including the right to development and gender equity.

This is more than a semantic shift; it acknowledges that a North-South deal on climate change can only be completed when it incorporates a financial agreement that considers the questions of equity and fairness on par with the need to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions fast. In such a climate-just deal, gender-equity will have to feature prominently.

On a multilateral level, the recommendations are e.g.:

- Develop a set of gender-sensitive criteria for all new climate-finance mechanisms supporting adaptation, mitigation, capacity-building and technology transfer. This includes the funds administered under the UNFCCC and the GEF as well as the bilateral funds.
- Strive to incorporate gender-specific language and gender considerations in

the outcome document of the COP15 in Copenhagen so that gender does feature explicitly in a post-Kyoto agreement under the UNFCCC, specifically with reference to financing, capacity-building and technology transfer.

- Require the UNFCCC Secretariat to develop a Gender Plan of Action.
- Ensure the generation and collection of sex-disaggregated data in all sectors relevant to climate change by governments, international organizations and financial institutions.
- Demand mandatory periodic gender-audits, the workings and results of which should be publicly accessible.
- Develop publicly disclosed gender budgets for projects and programs financed via recent and future publicly financed climate-funding mechanisms.
- Improve the participation of women in stakeholder and consultation processes for climate-finance instruments.

Edited by Liane Schalatek Associate Director, HBF North America
Published in Heinrich Böll Foundation (HBF).

29 pp. May 2009, pdf 1.6 MB.

Contact: HBF, www.boell.org,

Download link: www.boell.org/docs/DoubleMainstreaming_Final.pdf



Resource Guide on Gender and Climate Change

Poor women's limited access to resources, restricted rights, limited mobility, and muted voices in shaping decisions make

them highly vulnerable to climate change. This resource guide aims to inform practitioners and policymakers of the linkages between gender equality and climate change.

The themes of the book are: Climate change: reference framework; Gender and climate change; Energy and gender; and Mitigation and adaptation.

The publication includes a 40-page bibliography, and a section including specialized guides and manuals, information sheets, web sites and portals. Every entry includes a web-site link.

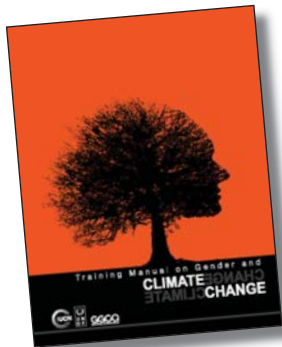
Edited by Lance W. Garmer. The book is a collaborative effort between the UNDP Gender Team in the Bureau for Development Policy and the UNDP Country Office in Mexico. The original version is in Spanish.

Published by UNDP.

May 2009, 151 pp., 2.9 MB pdf file.

ISBN: 978-92-1-326031-9

Download: www.undp.org/women/publications.shtml .



Training Manual on Gender and Climate Change

To meet the demand for improving skills in gender and climate change, and to build up a pool of trainers in different regions and

countries, the Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA) has developed this training manual.

The purpose of presenting the concepts in this manual is to inform policy- and decision-makers such that efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change will be more gender-sensitive. The training manual draws on existing in-house materials (research data, analyses and extracts from international frameworks) that have been

adapted or expanded, but also includes newly compiled case studies to illustrate the concepts in each module. It presents key conceptual and methodological advances in gender relations in the context of climate change. The topics covered in this manual relate to the topics covered in the Bali Action Plan.

Edited by Lorena Aguilar

Produced by the IUCN and UNDP in partnership with the Gender and Water Alliance, ENERGIA (INFORSE member), UNESCO, FAO, WEDO as part of GGCA.

March 2009, 262 pp. pdf 5.98 MB

Contact: GGCA www.gender-climate.org

Download from: www.iucn.org/resources/publications/



Report: Small-Scale Bioenergy Initiatives

Brief description and preliminary lessons on livelihood impacts from case studies in Asia, Latin America and Africa.

15 case studies are examined to assess the impacts that different types of local-level bioenergy initiatives can have on rural livelihoods. The report concludes with recommendations for further work.

Edited by Steven Hunt, Practical Action Consulting.

Published by FAO and PISCES Project. PISCES (Policy Innovation Systems for Clean Energy Security - New Knowledge for Sustainable Bioenergy) is an Energy Research Program Consortium (2007-12) coordinated by the African Centre for Technology Studies.

January 2009, April update, 142 pp.

Contact: PISCES, www.pisces.or.ke

Download: www.fao.org/bioenergy/home/en/ (1.2 MB), or (2.4 MB April): www.pisces.or.ke/pubs/index.html .

Biofuels for Sustainable Rural Development and Empowerment of Women



This book is a collaborative effort to explore the potential of biofuels to provide sustainable

livelihoods and local sources of energy for people in rural areas of developing countries, with a special emphasis on women. The book includes case studies from Cambodia, Nepal, Ghana, India, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. Although there are many forms of bio-energy that can be useful in this regard, our focus in this book is on plant products, mostly seeds, used to produce oil that is then either utilized directly in engines or equipment or processed into biodiesel. The book was presented at the current 17th session of the UN Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD 17) in New York and was developed with support from IUCN.

Edited by Gail Karlsson and Khama-runga Banda.

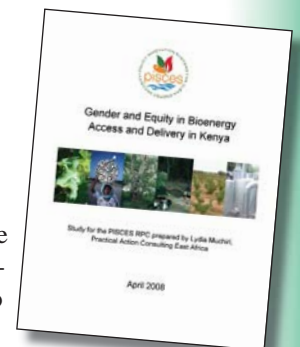
Published by ENERGIA, the Netherlands.

May 2009, 54 pp. pdf 2.7 MB.

Contact: ENEGIA, www.energia.org

Download: www.forestrynepal.org/publications/reports/4287

Gender and Equity in Bioenergy Access and Delivery in Kenya



A comprehensive assessment of gender as it relates to bioenergy access, delivery, supply, and production. Policy dimensions and other issues are also considered.

Edited by Lydia Muchiri, Practical Action Consulting East Africa

Published by PISCES.

April 2008, 24 pp., pdf file 268 kB,

Download: www.pisces.or.ke/pubs/index.html .