**Engendering Ethiopia' Forest and Climate Governance for
Equitable and Rights-based Carbon Market and Clean Development Mechanisms**

This document provides a response to the following questions from a gender perspective

- What kind of institutional arrangements will be appropriate at the federal and regional levels?
- How does the forestry governance system affect the implementation of initiatives to support Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation (REDD+), CDM projects of Afforestation and Reforestation in particular, and bio carbon in general?
- The Participatory Forest Management approach (drawbacks, potential to be scaled up, etc.).

It is a gender policy analysis of the following climate documents *Ethiopian Forest Resources: current status and future management options in view of access to carbon finances; Manual for Measurement and Monitoring of Carbon Stocks in Forests and Other Land Uses in Ethiopia; Forum Brief*.

The aim is to give a situational analysis of the link between gender and REDD+ and CDM processes, mechanisms, and policy (context, challenges, opportunities, , implications, and experiences from other countries); also propositions on how to make REDD+ and CDM pro-gender, pro-poor, and pro-rights and tenure with strong forestry institutional arrangement with adequate capacity, proper policy and legislation, access to finance and benefit sharing, and capacity building. The following questions have guided the gender analysis.

Gender questions in the context of carbon market and CDM

- What are the gender options under REDD+ and CDM? What are the strategic paths to pursuit, and how to link it with the existing policy choices (poverty reduction, renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, community-based adaptation, etc.)?

- Adequate financial compensation for efforts to preserve forests and to participate in sustainable forest management (SFM) initiatives.
    - What kind of attractive financial compensation is needed for women?
    - How to make sure there are fair compensation and viable alternatives for women (fuel efficiency)

- What are the different gender international conventions, declarations and treaties for the advancement and respects of women's rights that Ethiopia has ratified and/or is signatory? What is said in terms of women's tenure rights (access to, control and ownership over resources forest and land), women's role, responsibilities, needs, constraints, interests and benefit sharing in forest management, etc.? Are they taken into account in Ethiopia land and forest policies, laws and regulations?

- How to establish the link between gender and CDM?

- Carbon project and gender: what are the gendered opportunities, challenges, and implications of carbon and CDM projects?

- Who owns the land dedicated for REDD and CDM? How are the bundles of rights taken into account mainly the rights of women?

- Linking gender- REDD+- and CDM: how to take into account subsistence agriculture and how to create affordable and suitable alternative energy for women?

- What is the rhetoric of drivers of deforestation in Ethiopia: and what are the gender implications?

- What does institutional capacities means from a gender perspective in the context of REDD+ where funding is seen by government as source of national economic growth? Will the money reach the communities (men and women) and the poor whose livelihoods depend on forest resources?

- How to effectively link gender with participatory forest management?

- How to make sure power rural women get economic return from managing the forest; and make sure government and conservation organizations objectives in REDD projects do not jeopardize women's tenure rights, livelihoods, and economic capacities to get benefit from forest resources such as commercialization of NTFPs?

- What are the innovative/alternative equitable forest management approaches in relation to emerging carbon finances?

- How to make good use of the work/ studies on gender/ women and forestry in Ethiopia if any? If not, what are the experiences in Africa and developing countries that can inform the process in Ethiopia? What are the new studies on gender and forest governance in Ethiopia that need to be commissioned?

- Do the benefit sharing and funding systems in place recognize women's leadership role and the need for securing their tenure rights?

- Are there transparent gendered accountable and gender equitable benefit sharing systems in place which consider forest communities, indigenous people, and civil societies' organizations (CSOs), and women's groups?

Situational analysis: REDD+ and CDM principles with direct and indirect implications on gender/women's issues

Drivers of deforestation

When analyzing national forest policy documents and the national climate change discourse around REDD, it is important to keep in mind how they analyze the drivers of deforestation and think of the gender implications and the impacts it may have on women's initiatives in forest management. Agriculture expansion, conversion to pastureland, and firewood are considered by the international community as the main drivers of deforestation; while in Africa we know how women are involved in these activities for livelihoods purposes. Now, the question is how to make sure this does not mask women's initiatives/ leadership role in reforestation, in Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), as primary users and managers of forest, and women's local knowledge.

In Ethiopia, agricultural expansion and demand for fuel wood are considered by the government as the two major causes for the high rate of deforestation in the country. In the context of REDD+ and CDM, charcoal production is blamed as one of the drivers of deforestation. However, it is considered as a "necessary evil" because it plays a key role in supplying the domestic both in urban cities and rural areas. The REDD+ and CDM principles and projects include achieving a major transition in the agricultural sector, including rapidly transforming prevailing subsistence practices into commercial plantations and putting the blame for driving deforestation and Climate change on the poor rural agrarian slash and burn subsistence farmers (men and women) who are struggling to survive small land per household.

The fact is that in many African countries, many governments (if not all) have no plan to significantly address the drivers of deforestation as well as mitigating the impact of rural people clearing forests for subsistence agriculture. As a result, rotational slash and burn agriculture has come under attack by the pro large scale plantations as the major driver of deforestation. Empirical evidences of large scale plantations contribution to deforestation need to be shown and compared to subsistence agriculture.

From a Green House Gas emissions mitigation perspective, empirical evidence from large scale plantations, agriculture, and woodfuels should be a pre-requisite to design equitable and well informed mitigation policies and institutions.

<u>Gendered impacts of mono culture tree plantations (eucalyptus) and agrofuels</u>

Ethiopia recognizes eucalyptus plantations as a major alternative in the carbon market "*Eucalyptus* stand of one hectare could generate an additional value of 65,000 Ethiopian Birr in 30 years". However, experiences from countries like Brazil, Nigeria, and Papua New Guinea have shown negative of plantations established with the objective to generate timber, pulpwood, oil or carbon sinks also the recent boom in agrofuels is creating greater demand for oil palm, soy, sugarcane and jathropha plantations on communities and mainly women.

Many families are forced to sell their lands which results in loss of agricultural land for family subsistence, rural exodus of men and women. Studies have showed that life has become harder for communities. The gender findings show that large scale plantations mostly offer jobs to men while the few opportunities open to women reinforce their role in services considered as inferior and less visible. Tasks developed by women are almost insignificant and they may only work as cooks; women have health problems due to chemical products. When men leave to work in the eucalyptus plantations women usually become overburdened as they have to take care of the family and deal with traditional household chores without help. The women and the family are alone for a longer time and women need also to assume the tasks in the farm.

While it is important to talk about carbon trading; it is absolutely urgent to think of how communities (men and women) face with carbon offset projects. What are the gender dimensions and impacts? Land grab is a major component that needs to be looked at in general and from a gender perspective.

The purpose of plantations can be wood production or protection under the ownerships of the private sector, individual farmers, the community, or the state (EFR, p.16).Today, in Ethiopia, tree plantations cover approximately 500, 000 ha (WBISPP, 2005), out of which 133,041 ha were established as community plantations between 1978 and 1989. *Eucalyptus species* (58%) and *Cupressus* (29%) are the dominant plantation species. Other species include *Juniperus procera* (4%), *Pinus* species (2%) and the rest (7%) (EFR¸p.17).

What are the lessons learned from Community plantations? How do they contribute to communities (men and women) economic development versus large scale plantations?

<u>The lack of legal and political clarity regarding land ownership and carbon rights mainly women's tenure rights and carbon rights: who owns the carbon?</u>

Any REDD program will be premised upon the exchange of rights to carbon, likely in the form of area of forest/volume of trees preserved, for a credit. This exchange can only be accomplished by an individual or institution with rights to the carbon. Then, who has the right to carbon is who owns the land and trees in land. With women' lack of tenure rights (only access and usage and small land in many cases degraded land) in many African countries including Ethiopia, it is misleading for women to see REDD+ and the carbon market as an opportunity.

<u>Land use planning</u>

In Ethiopia, it is recognized a weak implementation of the policies concerning land use planning, creating capacitated institutions at various levels, land use conflicts, illegal cutting of trees, benefit sharing mechanisms in participatory forest management (EFR, p.31). In many African countries (for example Liberia, DRC, Cameroon) there is very little coherent land use planning. Maps of planned forests, plantations, agricultural concessions or development corridors are hardly available.

Since the 2000's, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has set up a complex process aiming to restructure the overall legal and regulatory forest governance framework. Initial institutional, administrative and technical arrangements are also underway through decentralization processes (like in Ethiopia). The goal is to reduce biodiversity loss and the rate of deforestation. This has led a process to demarcate conservation landscapes in Central Africa, including DRC as a key country (in Ethiopia, the land use planning will consider large scale plantations, community plantations, and community agricultural fields, etc.). The basic methodology is land use planning, which demarcates macro-zones of land and forests in what are labeled as conservation landscapes, including protected areas (PAs), extractive resource macro-zones (ERZs) and community-based natural resource management [CBNRM] macro-zones.Another crucial element in DRC is the current land grab phenomenon taking place throughout the country for agro-industrial concessions, and the 'new boom' of extractive concessions [mining, oil and gas]. All these policy reforms and economic development programs can be considered threats to local communities' and Indigenous People's rights. The problem with land use planning in the DRC (i.e. macro- zoning) is that the government and its partners are likely to give out protected areas and logging concessions as soon as the moratorium is lifted, which will remove the rights of communities to develop their own community forestry systems and may even threaten their user rights.

In the context of REDD+ and CDM in Ethiopia the major threats are land grab with large scale plantations for carbon market and agro-industrial for bio-energy. The government of Ethiopia should avoid allocating land that belongs to communities. It is happen it should respect the principles of Free Prior Inform Consent (FPIC) principle and not put communities in a losing position in the negotiations. Another approach is to adopt participatory community (men and

women, minorities, indigenous people, etc.) rights mapping as a fair and equitable method to identify which people (men and women) occupy what spaces, and how they perceive their rights.

The success of a coherent REDD arrangement appears to require also, at minimum, the development of a clear and credible land use policy linked to a strategic analysis of the various land use options and the costs and benefits associated with each of these. Ethiopia can draw on the experiences of other African countries (Cameroon, Liberia, Tanzania, Central African Republic, and Congo-Brazzaville) which are going through these processes. Brazil is also a good example as it has made progress in implementing land tenure reform.

Lack of benefit sharing mechanisms

It is clearly recognize the "absence of benefit sharing mechanism e.g., how much for community and how much for the project developer, and how much for the government (Ethiopian Forest Resources, p. 23).

The simple answer here should not be make sure the climate funding reach "communities" as a homogeneous category but the different forest users groups within the community. Men and women (including youth, the poor, etc.) have different relationship with the forest i.e. different roles, responsibilities, interests, constraints due to social, cultural, economic, and ecological factors. Therefore, any forest mechanism put in place should consider the gendered differences between men and women in relation to resources and institutions (central and local governments, social networks) who serve as channel to access to forest resources. The main question is how are gender issues are or will be taken into account in benefit sharing mechanisms?

Ethiopia recognizes the need for paradigm shift from classical forest management focused on wood production to a new forest management approach for multiple objectives that includes carbon stock and carbon trading scenarios and the fact that forest management is evolving from classical management targeting timber production to attaining objectives of environmental services and social demands (Ethiopia Forest Resources, p.5).

Therefore, while financial instruments such as REDD+ and CDM are seen as a catalyst for promoting management of forest resource to create sustainable socio-economic development; it is essential to develop alternatives such community based forest enterprises for example the social and economic value of Non Timber Forest products (NTFPs) in which African women play a key roles but still face the competitive constraints of the global market.

Gendered "Community" Participatory forest management

To increase afforestation and reforestation, the Ethiopian government would like to support opening seed centers, seed orchard development, develop management tools, and guidelines for enhanced wood and carbon production, and for optimizing other ecological services. These initiatives seem promising but one needs to be aware of the fact that they are not new and have failed in the past.

It is mentioned Ethiopia have started afforestation and reforestation activities since the 1400s. Ethiopia has a long history of tree planting activities. According to historical records, afforestation started in the early 1400s by the order of King Zera-Yakob (1434-1468). Modern tree planting using introduced tree species (mainly Australian Eucalyptus) started in 1895 when Emperor Menelik II (1888-1892) looked into solutions for alleviating shortage of firewood and construction wood in the capital, Addis Ababa. However, the historic rapid expansion of large scale and community plantations occurred during the Dergue regime, which resulted in the establishment of large scale plantations (Ethiopian Forest Resources, p.18). One could ask why hundred years later afforestation is emerging as an urgent need? Is it really the solution?

The types of afforestation and reforestation programs/projects being promoted under REDD+ are not new approaches being promoted in by the international community. They existed during the 80s and 90s in many African countries mainly in the Sahel to fight droughts and desertification. The lesson learned is that they have all failed because the large scale reforestation programmes were interventionist rather than participatory. Currently in Ethiopia NGOs are pioneering special forest management strategies such as Biosphere Reserves, CDM and REDD carbon projects. This new NGO approach needs to be analyzed and promoted. The remaining question is how do they take into account gender issues?

Similar to the CDM, REDD+ pilots are in preparatory stages in Ethiopia by various nongovernmental organizations, such as FARM Africa/SOS Sahel in the Bale eco-region (500,000 ha):
- At this initial stage need to make sure gender is taken into account
- NGO approach versus conservation approach? What are the gender implications?

Feminist environmental scholars are especially interested in how power relations shape women's participation within natural resource management institutions and how their voices are heard and interests served within decision-making processes.

In order to make participatory approaches more truly democratic (here in the context of decentralization in Ethiopia), some scholars are now calling for greater consideration of gender differences in interests, constraints and preferences in development, sustainable forest management, and climate change adaptation and mitigation for appropriate shifts in analytical methods. They suggest that there should be an analytical shift of participation downwards to the village level, allowing a better understanding of the processes through which class, ethnic and gender-based dimensions of marginalization operate.

Programs and projects have tended to concentrate primarily on women in the development process as something additional to the main thrust of development. As a result, solutions have been ad hoc or 'add-ons' often resulting in tokenism and marginalization of women's long term interests (Bainbridge et al., 2000). Women are considered a separate category of analysis and intervention without any consideration of specific cultural, social, historical, and economic dynamics.

Women's effective participation should be measured through equity and efficiency of programs and policy. Equity in community forest groups is measured through women's presence and voices in decision making, in framing of forest closure rules in access to benefit sharing and funding allocations. However, women's simple presence in decision making is insufficient to solve inequities. Efficiency of process involves a consideration of "women's knowledge in rule making, by allowing them to formulate rules that are not only fairer but also perceived by them to be so" (Agarwal, 2001: 1637).

Feminist political ecology treats gender as a critical variable in shaping resource access and control, interacting with class, caste, race, culture, and ethnicity to shape processes of ecological change, the struggle of men and women to sustain ecologically viable livelihoods, and the prospects of any community for sustainable development (Rocheleau et al., 1996). The lack of consideration of gender might give rise to political ecological dynamics that have profound implications for women's involvement in environmental management (Schroeder, 1999). Gender differences crucially affect how natural resources (including forest resources) are managed and used, and gender relations shape, and are themselves shaped by, women's and men's access, use and control of resources (Leach, 1994). Forest resource management cannot be understood without a concern for gender and the consideration of local people's own perspectives. The consideration of tenure rights and responsibilities in control, access, use and management of resources are also key to understanding local social contexts, perceptions, and concerns.

Projects should consider women's interests, opportunities, and environmental needs and understand the local social dynamics (Leach, 1994). When women feel that their environmental interests and livelihoods could be jeopardized, they develop strategies of contestations, resistance, and renegotiation to secure their access to resources.

Essentialist and ungendered perception of "community"

In most of the climate change discourse "participation" and "community" are used as buzzword with no clear definition and meaning. "Community" is considered as inherently homogeneous and equal and ungendered units within which people share common interests and needs. In forest management (e.g. from central, federal and regional levels) studies have revealed that this approach conceals power relations and masks biases in interests and needs based on, for example age, class, caste, ethnicity, religion and gender. What passes for participation frequently serves to sustain and reinforce inequitable economic, political and social structures –

to the detriment of marginalized groups. The notion of community is frequently emphasized to the neglect of other social groups and institutions.

Therefore, in the context of rethinking forest governance in Ethiopia from a local and decentralized approach it is a necessity to question gender differences, i.e. what it means to be a man or a woman in a given context in access to REDD+ and CDM decision making processes, policy and planning, and programmes implementation. f power, authority and gender (Rocheleau and Slocum, 1995; Mosse, 2001).

In REDD+ and CDM project design and implementation, attention has to be given to the unequal division of labor, power, and resources between women and men and between different groups of women within communities (class, age, race, ability, sexuality, ethnicity). Scholars stated that in many project interventions, community differences end up simplified, power relationships poorly understood, and gender conflicts avoided or ignored—this despite the deep-rooted divisions and widespread lack of cohesion among the various class, gender, ethnicity, and caste groups Understanding how power relations operate in social interactions is important in analyzing participation.

<u>Gendered decentralized forest management</u>

"Ethiopia has taken significant steps in the legal or policy arena for development, management and use of forest resources. The Ethiopian Government appreciates the fact that forest resources cannot be managed centrally by overstretched government staff. Following the federal structure, the Ethiopian constitution allows the devolution of power to Regional States for the management and use of natural resources including forests. Additionally, the forest policy and the environmental policy acknowledge participation of local communities in natural resource management. Such conditions as decentralization of power and participation of local communities are assumed to be effective in natural resource management, and are required to obtain climate related finances (Ethiopia Forest Resources, p.5).

From a policy perspective, this is a big achievement but experiences of decentralized forest management in Central (Cameroon) and West Africa (Sahel i.e. Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger) have showed that the way decentralization is practiced does not always follow the way it is theoretically defined and presented in policies and institutional settings. Generally, the transfer of power is not effective, financial resources are note transferred (only problems are transferred!!!); and there is lack of accountability mechanisms.

Natural resources represent on the one hand local populations' livelihoods, and on the other hand, because of their economic value, are sources of competition among the different stakeholders. Even though in the context of decentralization local governments have power over resources management, many institutions are involved in natural resources management as users, owners, or managers and with different stakes and interests. The power relations among these categories of actors are generally of conflict, cooperation, complementarity, or coexistence, which raises the issue of power and gender relations (Rocheleau et al., 1996).

Natural resources are at once critical for local livelihoods (subsistence and income generation), and are also the basis of significant wealth for government and national elites (Ribot and Larson, 2004). Natural resource management is shaped by social and political forces and state agencies in charge of forest management, the local elected officials, and village committees. A comprehensive examination of various institutions and their interactions—committees, elected bodies, social structures—and their combined effects on gender is needed.

With REDD+, one witnesses REDD+ there is a recentralization of power by the government due to funding believed to emerge from the carbon market. There is any clear mechanism put in place to make sure climate funding will reach the federal and community level (men and women); and how.

Facilitating successful implementation of forest development strategies requires having adequate national institutional capacity, at federal and regional levels. The question is how to mainstream gender at all these levels?

Projects aimed at increasing public participation or 'decentralizing power' may end up excluding 'target populations' and strengthening elites and local power relationships that the planners may not even know exist (Hildyard et al., 2001). Therefore it is important in addition to focusing on issues of equity, accountability, and representation in local government, to analyze how local government structures and processes might shape women's access to benefits from REDD+ and CDM projects.

In the context of natural resource management (be it forests or water), devolving greater power to village communities is now widely accepted as an institutional imperative by governments, international agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Moreover, rural community forestry groups represent one of the most widespread and rapidly expanding attempts at participatory development" (Agarwal, 2001: 1623). However, as noted by Agarwal, even though village committees for natural resource management are set up to operate on principles of cooperation benefiting all sections of the community, they can exclude significant sectors of the population, such as women.

Gender issues are overlooked in existing forest policies, laws and regulations (maybe I am exaggerating; but please, confirm)

Establishing a strong forestry institution and identifying conflicts in policy statements and taking measures should thus receive priority by the government (EFR, p.6).
Policy discussions about REDD+ and CDM and REDD+ and CDM pilot activities are occurring on two tracks without any meaningful awareness by women's groups at the community level or inputs from women's leaders and gender experts.

Way forward: Mainstreaming gender in REDD+ and CDM

- <u>Provide gendered political , regulatory, and legal clarity regarding women's tenure rights and carbon rights</u>
    o Design a gender political framework/strategy on REDD+ and CDM in Ethiopia.
    o Policies that address drivers of deforestation from a gender perspective
    o Gendered monitoring, reporting, verification structure and capabilities
    o Equal and equitable benefit sharing for men and women
    o Legal recognition of women's tenure rights (like in Kenya's Constitution)
    o Gendered participation and representation in decision making processes and in REDD+ and CDM programs
    o Make sure gender is included in the Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE)
    o Legislative and regulatory recognition of women's forest and land tenure for women to have the rights to carbon;
    o Put in place gender safeguards
    o Develop gendered equitable benefit sharing mechanisms through Payment for Environment Services
    o Go beyond funding and need for equitable forest governance and socially oriented REDD+ and CDM that consider gender equity and equality as part of the core principles

- <u>Promoting good gendered forest governance and protecting women's rights through development of knowledge products</u>:
    o Guidelines
    o Training manual
    o Document best practices of women's roles in sustainable forest management and their use of renewable energy
    o Commission studies (with publications):
    o Conduct a national scoping study to examine the problems that lead to the marginalization and exclusion of women in the decision making process about forest resources and land ownership in Ethiopia. This research would examine policy and legal gaps and barriers on gender rights and land and resources management, as well as find solutions to overcome them. In addition to identifying legal and regulatory gaps and barriers, the study should also aim to bring to light the voices of women in decision making on land and resources management. Key activities include examining gaps (situational analysis) within the laws and policies regarding forest resources and land tenure in Ethiopia, also REDD+ and CDM policies.

- o Research/ surveys in areas where pilot projects/activities are implemented to investigate the gender impacts in order to inform policy making
- o Additional studies could be on:
    - ▪ women and renewable in the CDM context;
    - ▪ women and agriculture: challenges and opportunities from REDD+
    - ▪ women/ gender and energy in Ethiopia: access, role in the commodity chain, benefits, challenges, opportunities; and develop informed alternative renewable bio-energy based on the national and local contexts
    - ▪ Gender analysis of Ethiopia REDD+ and CDM policies in relation to carbon market: what are the gender issues analyzed or not at the policy level and their gendered implications; develop alternative gendered carbon market policies for economic development and poverty reduction

    - ▪ Document the role of women in afforestation and reforestation activities: showcase the best practices that can inform REDD+ projects
- o Convene a national level stakeholders' workshop to present issues from the field and the studies to facilitate planning of actions and steps in regards to gender at the policy and practical level

- <u>Gendered capacity development at the institutional level</u>
    - o It is recognize that in order to fully utilize such financial opportunities while addressing global climate change, capacity building of the government institutions and the private sector dealing with forestry (for example in the preparation of PDD) should receive high priority (EFR, P.23). from a gender perspective, it is important to think of:
    - o How to build government institutions and the private sector's capacities in understanding and taking into account gender issues?
    - o The capacity building should not be a top-level approach; need to build capacities at the local level for rural men and women to understand the different mechanisms
    - o Put in place gender implementation capacities i.e. get gender experts involved in the climate governance debate;
    - o Cross-sectoral practices and policies should involved the Ministry of women's affairs and gender focal points in each Ministry;
    - o Put in place accountable mechanisms for integrating gender in REDD and CDM
    - o Gendered policies and programs: from design to practice;
    - o Are there NGOS working on gender issues in relation to REDD and CDM? If not need for awareness raising within the civil society platform on the on gender and climate governance issues to provide data and information that can better inform the design of climate change policy in Ethiopia

- o Develop national gender expertise for informed decision making and more space and increased participation in forest governance to leadership and women involvement in broader community governance processes.
- o Support the direct participation of key members or leaders from the different ecological zones of Ethiopia to participate in critical forest and climate governance meetings at the local and national levels.

- Practical/ programmatic level
    - o Promotion of community based forest enterprises for women

    - o Make sure gender is included in the Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE)

    - o Democratic Gendered forest governance: decentralized forest management through community involvement from a gender perspective: gender equity i.e. give men and women equal opportunity in policy and practice in access to, control over, and ownership of forest resources; gendered accountability mechanisms (cf. dissertation to explain)

    - o Develop gendered equitable alternative community forest management through Payment for Environment Services considering men's and women's differences in forest resources management for local economic development and sustainable forest management. This will involve looking at the possibilities and opportunities for rural men and women to be paid for their contribution to environment services.

    - o If Ethiopia is to bring significant change in forest resources degradation, alternative sources of energy should be a top priority at least in the medium term. Additionally, expansion of energy plantations which are eligible under CDM could also be taken as a strategy (EFR, p.30).
        - ▪ The alternative energy for women needs to be clearly defined and analyzed
        - ▪ Need to understand the relationship between gender issues, renewable energy and agriculture for informed decision making;
        - ▪ Develop fuel efficient technology for women
    - o Requirements for large scale plantations, REDD+ and CDM projects to establish Social Contracts with communities that gender-based and rights-based.the carbon market should not be about making profit in the detriment of communities but enable communities, men and women, to clearly define their priority needs and safeguard their rights in the Social Agreements.

- Advocacy level
    - o Promote local civil society organizations and "communities" engagement in Ethiopia climate debate and REDD+ and CDM programs to advocate for the recognition of gender issues and the importance of recognizing women as key players and equal partners in decision making, access to climate funding and benefit sharing.
    - o Establish and strengthen and platform for women's forest user groups, women's rights advocates, and gender experts in Ethiopia intervention and participation in the REDD+ and CDM climate debate.
    - o Simplify forest related information in a user-friendly manner that will facilitate the participation of local communities mainly women (who are generally illiterate) in the management of the forest sector.
    - o Improve collaboration between the women's groups by bringing key representatives of their groups together to discuss forest governance and other issues related to land and forests.
    - o Strengthen women's organizations and groups to advocate for their rights and needs, be relevant negotiators, and access to benefit sharing in forest and climate governance mechanisms and bodies.

Statements

- The basic and first principle is to recognize women as a specific stakeholder group that will be affected by REDD+ differently than men.

- Without considering women's tenure rights, rural men and women economic dependence on agriculture and domestic fuel wood market, REDD+ and DM projects could contribute to the enrichment of elites and the private sector, while eroding women's role in sustainable forest management, missing opportunities for sustainable development, and violating the rights of forest-dependent communities mainly women's forest and land tenure rights.

- Although a REDD+ and CDM programs/ projects should ensure the provision of community benefits, such as funding for development initiatives, there are gender concerns that the promise of these funds could attract powerful male elites, and exclude women, indigenous or rural people. Without the development and implementation REDD+ and CDM programs that are transparent, gendered accountable (i.e. be able to hold federal and regional administrators and leaders accountable when they fail to consider women's interests, constraints, roles, and responsibilities in

decision making processes, projects design and implementation), pro-poor, rights and tenure based, funds channeled through the central government could be misdirected.

- Institutional arrangements and structures: need to go beyond funding and need for equitable forest governance and socially oriented REDD+ that consider gender equity and equality as part of the core principles ;

- No fair compensation can be made, no sustainable participation guaranteed, no efficient and equitable markets developed, no livelihoods strengthened, no appropriate opportunity cost determined if the populations' rights on forests are not clarified and secured. One of the key prerequisites for REDD+ effectiveness and success will therefore be to support initiatives aiming at recognizing, protecting and strengthening the rights of indigenous peoples and forests communities, **[and women]** (Rights and Resources Initiative).

- Setting up more socially orientated standards and right-based MRVs. REDD+ readiness funds should be allocated to the countries on the condition that they will use it to strengthen local rights **[women's rights]** and **[gendered]** forest governance (Rights and Resources Initiative).

- If women's rights are ignored, REDD could result in women's restricted access to forests and NTFPs, increasing time and distance to collect fuel wood, food, other products and further marginalizing them (WOCAN).

- Agreement that women's empowerment is a key driver towards achieving sustainable development globally; In order to achieve real emissions reductions over time and a safe climate, the global community will have to adequately invest in the drivers of sustainable growth, women included. REDD+ is just one of the many areas where these issues need to be addressed now and in the future (OXFAM).

- If REDD+ brings about compliance with international conventions on women's rights (i.e. CEDAW), could positively affect women through payments and co-benefits, including land rights (WOCAN)".