CSOs, Evidence and Policy Influence
Learning Workshop

Workshop, Nairobi, 2nd December, 2004
Energy Policy Case Study
How can CSOs promote pro-poor policy & practice in the African Energy Sector?
Africa - Energy Sector

- Energy use in many African countries dominated by biomass (wood, charcoal, bio residues)
- Low levels of access to modern energy services
- Pressing need for low-cost, small-scale, affordable and cleaner energy solutions for the poor
Should Have More Investment in Smaller and Renewable Energy Options

- Large-scale energy e.g. large-scale hydro

- Small scale renewable energy in solar, wind, biomass, etc.
Expect Greater Use of Abundant Small-Scale Renewable Energy Resources in Africa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solar</td>
<td>5-6 kWh/m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind</td>
<td>3-5 m/s (higher in south &amp; north coastal areas)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Modern Biomass</td>
<td>Extensive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hydro (Small)</td>
<td>Extensive</td>
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Current Energy Policy Focus on Conventional Large Scale Energy Investments

- Large-scale hydro and oil & gas investments
- Primarily benefit high income households, commercial/industrial sector & for export to industrialized countries
- Focus of national energy policy of many African countries including NEPAD (New Partnership for African Development)
- Few benefits flow to the poor in Africa
Energy sector capital budget shares (%) and total budget shares (million Birr) for Ethiopia, 1990-2000
Current Energy Policy Promotes Inverse Energy Investment Pattern

- Energy Needs
  - Non-poor
  - Poor

- Energy Investment
  - Large scale technologies
  - Small-scale technologies
What Can CSOs Do To Influence Energy Policy/Investment Trends?

• How can one push for the needs of the poor in existing energy policy and investment patterns in Africa?

• Energy policy perceived as technical issue undertaken by small group of “experts” - how can the voice of the poor be raised?

• Similar pattern in:
  - Transport sector: Focus on highways but not on low cost transport options
  - Agriculture sector: Large-scale farming approaches vs small-scale agricultural solutions
  - Health sector: Large urban hospitals vs small scale rural health centres
  - Industry: Large scale industry vs SMEs/informal sector
Insights / Examples

- What advice do you have for the Energy Sector case?
- What do you do to promote pro-poor policy?
- What is your insight on how CSOs can help promote pro-poor policies?
What Did AFREPREN Do To Influence Energy Policy/Investment Trend?

- **Political context**: Flagship studies and projects in countries with strong pro-poor credentials (e.g., Mauritius experience with co-generation of electricity using sugar cane from small-holder farmers)

- **Evidence**: CBO participation/consultation, multiple country studies provide compelling evidence - policy makers averse to risk of being the first to try option *(plan to try using evidence of early experience of South-East Asian NICs)*

- **Links**: Joint government/academia/civil society studies, strengthening links with CBOs/trade union umbrella agencies and networks

- **External**: Johannesburg WSSD Conference, MDGs