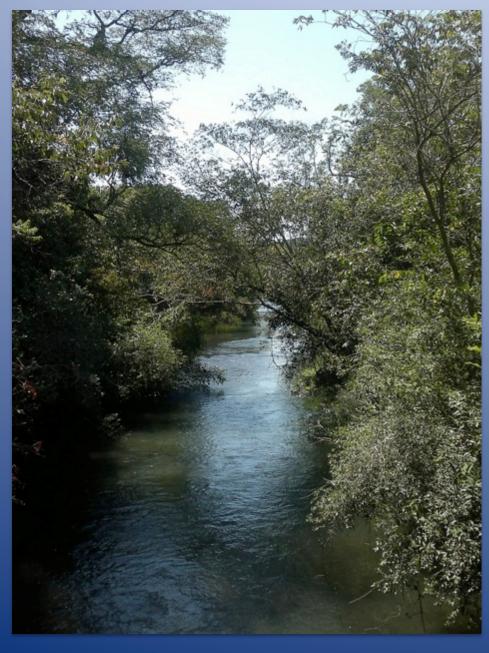


INCREASING THE GENDER GAP: THE IMPACTS
OF THE BIOECONOMY AND MARKETS IN
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ON WOMEN



Rejecting False Corporate-driven solutions

- Crises of capitalism = "Green" capitalism
- ODA reduced, governments in crisis thus public-private partnerships and the sell out of UN policies to corporations give them influence over public policy
- Fossil fuel replaced with living biomass Scale of demand?
- Result: False, destructive solutions benefit elites, women worse off...



There cannot be unlimited growth on a limited planet: the 'carrying capacity' or 'ecological space' of Mother Earth is limited

'Bioeconomy + Green Economy'

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity report proposes to value water, forests, biodiversity etc. in monetary terms – environmental services

The 'green economy' promotes markets in products based on biomass (the 'bioeconomy')
Replacing fossil fuels with biomass requires biotechnologies and massive production of biomass



Rural and Indigenous women's reliance on natural resources: role as water & food producers, traditional caretakers of nature, related knowledge, cultural identity



Privatization and Land Grabbing

Women, with weaker land tenure rights will lose their land and their access to natural resources for livelihoods e.g. Ethiopia "Degraded and marginal land" is a fairy tale



False solutions to climate change create real problems for women, in addition women more affected from CC

Large-scale biofuel production & wood-based biomass for heat and power (e.g.bioenergy production requires 400 times more land than advanced solar energy).

Green Economy proposals Bioeconomy proposals

- Women do not count as 'environmental service' providers (e.g. Payment for Environmental Services, REDD+ - example from Congo Basin)
- Emerging Risky Technologies:

Genetically Engineered Trees

Synthetic biology

Nanotechnology

Geo-engineering

There are no international rules for most of these technologies, except for non-binding moratoria

Markets in 'environmental services' By far the largest market are forest carbon offsets – promoted through REDD+



Risks of REDD+

- Weak land tenure rights and negotiation power of women: Powerful elites will capture the benefits by grabbing forest land and closing false and unfair deals with forest peoples
- Counting how much carbon is stored is expensive – most funds will go to (male) consultants
- REDD+ is a neo-liberal, market-driven approach that leads to commodification of life and undermining community values
- Focus on carbon promotes monoculture tree plantations and ignores social and cultural values
- The real causes of forest loss and forest land grabbing will not be addressed
- REDD+ will undermine the climate regime by allowing polluters to continue



The bioeconomy agenda is especially attractive to fossil fuel companies who want to be seen pursuing an exit-from-oil strategy, and biotechnology companies desperately in need of a Trojan horse to provide safe passage for risky and unpopular new technologies

- Companies promoting it include:
- Big Energy (Exxon, BP, Chevron, Shell, Total)
- Big Pharma (Roche, Merck)
- Big Food & Agriculture (Unilever, Cargill, DuPont, Monsanto, Bunge, Procter & Gamble)
- Big Chemical (Dow, BASF)
- Actively supported by UN (e.g. Sustainable Energy for All Initiative)



Financialization of nature is financialization of human life

How to adapt (bio) economies to women

- Quick steps: Stop subsidizing destruction!!
 Redirect subsidies away from bioenergy, carbon offsets, meat consumption, financialization of life
- Respect and promote what works: Indigenous territories and community conserved areas, food, wood and energy sovereignty, buen vivir
- Social protection floor and rights-based public policies (education, health, transport)
- Long-term: Change to buen vivir: Change consumption and production and lifestyles, localization

Thank you

