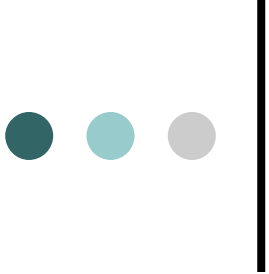




# Taking a gender-conscious approach to climate change and adaptation

*NWP workshop on advancing the integration of approaches to adaptation planning*

14 October 2009



# A gender-conscious approach:

- Women, particularly the poor and oppressed, are disproportionately vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change
- Women as powerful leaders and decision makers in adaptation strategizing
- Gender-consciousness is about achieving equity between men and women



# Why take a gender-conscious approach to adaptation?

- Women are disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change
  - Social structures
  - 70% of the 1.3 billion most poor are women/girls
  - 75% of the world's illiterate are women
  - 17% of parliamentary seats
  - Own 1% of property worldwide
  - 33% of the world's women live in slums
  - More than 3/4 of fatalities due to disasters are women

*Figures from: Oxfam International (2007), GGCA (2009), Social Watch (2008)*



# The powerful role of women in adaptation

- Women as
  - agents of change
  - decision makers
  - adaptation planners and implementers
  - Community leaders



# Capacity building

- Gender-consciousness is about “equity”, and not necessarily about “women”.
  - In cases where women are less equal in terms of vulnerability, we need to focus on creating equity.
- Building the capacity of women
  - Heightened responsibilities
  - Care-givers and leaders



# Concluding comments

- Understanding the different vulnerabilities
- Due to underlying socio-economic disadvantages, women in poor communities are particularly vulnerable and deserve special attention
- Sharing knowledge through women
- Uplifting women in the adaptation process
- Working together, through a gender-conscious approach, toward better adaptation