The Dynamic Landscape of Geothermal Development in Addressing Gender Along the African Rift Valley:

Views and Observations Made From a Review of Select Policy Frameworks

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Africa has pronounced, region-specific gender characteristics that are of direct relevance to its economic and social development.

African Development Bank (2013)
Introduction

Why this paper in the first place?
• Numerous high potential geothermal manifestations along the ARV esp EARV region.
• Increase in geothermal-related activities within the ARV esp countries like Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti.
• Trend expected to continue and to expand.
Why WB and AfDB:

- Some of the main funders of geothermal activities along the ARV region.

Both:

- Consider themselves and are considered as having central roles and leadership positions in addressing development along the ARV and beyond.
- Have poverty reduction as goals and historical track record of addressing energy and mainstreaming gender attempts.
- Take pride in their early involvement in addressing issues from a gender perspective.
Why WB and AfDB (contd)

**WBG:**
Largest development assistance lending multi-lateral institution.

**AfDB:**
“Pan-African development finance institution with unique role as the voice for Africa in the development community.”
“Lead role in assisting RMCs to address the energy gap owing to its experience and comparative advantage”; has positioned itself to lead Africa’s Energy.
Definitions of Key Terms

**Gender:**
The social, behavioural and cultural attributes, expectations and norms associated with being male or female. Gender is **not** another word for women. World Bank (2015); ibid (2013).

AfDB’s definition of gender??

**Gender equality:**
*The enjoyment of human rights by women and men.*

*How factors defining gender determine the way in which women and men relate to each other and to the resulting differences in power between them” World Bank (2015).*
Premier Gender Considerations at WB and AfDB

**WB:**
First multi-lateral institution to have made gender issues an overt item of attention eg through:
1977: WID Advisor appointment
1990: OP recommended women’s issues be considered when designing poverty-reduction programmes.

**AfDB:**
1990: Introduced women issues considerations leading to adoption of a WID policy that emphasised women as a special group.
By 1995: AfDB had committed about US$ 35 million to WID activities.
Why Gender in Geothermal Development along the ARV?

- Gender is increasingly emerging as an element to play a determining role in the sustainability of geothermal initiatives.
- Especially along the EARV owing to increased geothermal-based activities, local populations (mostly pastoralists or fisherfolks) with a lifestyle established around certain distinct gender roles that create certain gender-based socio-economic needs which geothermal development can respond to.
- Some of the communities also positioning for active participation in geothermal development on their land.
Status of Gender and Geothermal Energy Policies of WB and AfDB

- Both have gender policy framework, but not the case for policy framework on geothermal.
- WB has a handbook dedicated to large scale geothermal electricity production but AfDB has nothing specific to geothermal development so geothermal activities fall under the broader RE policy framework. WB handbook on geothermal has no mention of gender.
- The gender and the energy policy frameworks of the 2 institutions have undergone various changes due to internal and external factors.
Current Policy Framework Documents for Gender and for Energy at WB and AfDB

Gender

**WB:**
- Mainstreaming Gender Issues at the bank.
- GAD Policy Framework comprising 11 OPs, BPs and Safeguard Policies.
- OP/BP 4.20: Focused specifically on GAD. Establishes a country-level, strategic approach to mainstreaming gender. Other OPs beyond OP/BP 4.20 include OP/BP 8.60 Development Policy Lending + Safeguard Policies.
- Accountability for Gender mainstreaming.
- Monitoring of Gender mainstreaming implementation and results.
- The Gender Strategy *Gender Equality, Poverty Reduction, and Inclusive Growth - 2016 – 2023*
Current Policy Framework Documents for Gender and for Energy at WB and AfDB (contd)

**Gender**

*AfDB:*


Current Policy Framework Documents for Gender and for Energy at WB and AfDB (contd)

**Energy**

*WB:*
- Geothermal Handbook: Planning and Financing Power Generation
- Towards a Sustainable Energy Future for all: Directions for the World Bank Groups Energy Sector in 2013
- Integrating Gender Considerations into Energy Operations

*AfDB:*
Historical Track Record and Funding for Energy Projects at WB and AfDB

- Founded in 1944 and 1964 respectively, energy has been a key sector for both WB and AfDB since.
- Historically focused on huge hydropower projects but RE including geothermal has progressively become a key energy sub-sector.
- Historical affiliation to mega-dams projects seems to influence their current approach to energy initiatives, including geothermal undertakings along the EARV (involuntary resettlement link).
- AfDB: 133 energy sector projects approved between 2000 and 2013. Energy portfolio funds increased by > 15 x during the period (from 40 million UA to abt 650 million UA).
- WB: By 2013 had financed more than 600 large dams in the past 60 years. Energy financing has topped US$ 49 billion since 2010. Totaled US$ 6.5 billion in FY15.
Linking Gender, Energy Access and Development (with ref to Geothermal) at WB and AfDB

- One of the best ways to present the link between energy access, gender and development in the case of geothermal energy is through the diversified range of uses presented by the development of the resource.
- Places geothermal energy in a unique and advantageous position for development as a whole and for gender-related impact in particular.
- Geothermal can also be used to provide water; a resource that at household level in many African communities, just like energy, is increasingly becoming scarce, particularly among pastoralist populations, given that they are currently some of the hardest hit by climate change effects. The provision of water and energy at household level forms a big part of the gender roles within local African communities including the ones found along the ARV.
Linking Gender, Energy Access and Development (with ref to Geothermal) at WB and AfDB (contd)

• Disconnect between gender and energy policy formulations. A possible depiction of the siloed way in which these 2 sectors have historically related to each other. The lack of harmony is even more pronounced in the geothermal energy sub-sector.

• Gender a cross-cutting issue both at the WB and AfDB so a general gender policy that applies to all institutional operations; therefore no specific gender policy that applies specially to geothermal development or even to the wider energy sector.

• So gender-based benefits presented by geothermal potential are diluted if not missed altogether.

• Situation replicated by all other geothermal development actors within the ARV.
WB & AfDB’s Gender & Energy Policies: Main Changes With Geothermal as Reference Point

**Gender**

**WB:**

1977: Appointment of a Women in Development (WID) Advisor
1984: *OMS 2.20* - Project Appraisal issued. Recommended inclusion of women-related issues in projects analysis when women were an important group affected by the project. No benchmarking.
1986: A full WID unit created.
1990: An OP adopted recommending women’s issues be considered when designing poverty-reduction programmes.
1993: 1st gender strategy presented to the board.
1994: *OP 4.20 - The Gender Dimension of Development* issued. O.
1994: Shift to a country-level approach (address gender for poverty reduction in client countries, with focus on gender disparities and economic participation of women).
WB & AfDB’s Gender & Energy Policies: Main Changes With Geothermal as Reference Point

**Gender**

*WB (continued):*

1998: Head of Gender & Dev post raised from Manager to Director.


2006: Release of Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan *Gender Equality as Smart Economics* (expanded to include econ sector: land, labour, agriculture and finance as well as the infrastructure related to these markets introduced.)
WB & AfDB’s Gender & Energy Policies: Main Changes With Geothermal as Reference Point

**Gender**

*WB (continued):*

2013: *Integrating Gender Considerations into Energy Operations*, issued. However geothermal is not included in its content.

Gender

AfDB:

Ph 1: (1986 to 1990): Foundation for WID unit (including WID Senior Advisor appointment), initial operationalistn of WID policy in 1990.
Ph 3: (1996 onwards): Gender as cross-cutting; mainstreamed. **Energy still not included on the gender mainstreaming list by this time, despite it being a sector of historic focus for AfDB.**


WB & AfDB’s Gender & Energy Policies: Main Changes With Geothermal as Reference Point

**Gender**

*AfDB (contd):*

2008: The Gender, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Unit established to chart the Bank’s work in gender quality in Africa. *To be noted is that this move heightens possible considerations for geothermal development as it is a RE.*


**Summary:** Energy/geothermal not tackled in these gender docs so the link between geothermal development and gender not clarified.
WB & AfDB’s Gender & Energy Policies: Main Changes With Geothermal as Reference Point

Energy

WB:


2011: Strategy document *Energizing Sustainable Development: Energy Sector Strategy of the World Bank Group (ESS)* presented to WBG’s CODE for consent and delivery to Board but the process stalled at CODE.

2012: The process of consenting to the ESS discontinued.
WB & AfDB’s Gender & Energy Policies: Main Changes With Geothermal as Reference Point

Energy

WB (contd):


2013: Integrating Gender Considerations into Energy Operations released. Addresses RE but has no specific mention of geothermal energy.

2013: Towards a sustainable energy future for all: directions for the World Bank Groups energy sector produced. Alludes to off-grid, mini-grid and mentions geothermal, even if fleetingly.
WB & AfDB’s Gender & Energy Policies: Main Changes With Geothermal as Reference Point

Energy

AfDB:

1994: 1st energy policy launched.
2012: 2nd energy policy Energy Sector Policy of the AfDB Group constituting AfDB’s response to the challenge of low access to modern energy services in Africa launched. Geothermal is mentioned as a RE option.
2012: Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) for 2011-2015 (to support AfDB’s RMCs adapt to climate change and mitigate its effects while supporting the Bank’s focus on infrastructure development and regional operations) developed.
WB & AfDB’s Gender & Energy Policies: Main Changes With Geothermal as Reference Point

Energy
AfDB (contd):

2016: The partnership-driven effort *New Deal on Energy for Africa* is launched. Africa’s high geothermal potential especially along the EARV is acknowledged and the resource listed as one of the potential green energy solutions. (African Development Bank, 2013(a); ibid, 2015).

Summary, geothermal is either treated as separate from gender or in the broader view of REs so the gender-based advantages of its development are blurred in the above energy document. There is a link between energy and environmental issues.
Triggers of Change

Have included:

• Internal issues (lessons from experience, restructuring, increased awareness over an issue, etc): WID lunch group.
• External circumstances (challenges, opportunities, given changing global landscape, increased awareness and concern over a subject): UN decade of women
• Consultations
• Documents such as papers, reviews, evaluations and reports produced.
Challenges Encountered in Implementing the Strategies

Have included:

**Gender**
- Limited resources.
- Slow systemic uptake of gender issues (lack of political will: organizational and at community level).
- Limited relevant gender-disaggregated data or analysis.
- Energy sector policy and planning that have not considered reality that decisions and implementation can differently impact the different genders.
- Insufficient steps to have an accountability framework for gender mainstreaming.
- Limited capacity of client institutions.
Challenges Encountered in Implementing the Strategies (contd).

Have included:

**Energy (With a Focus on Geothermal)**
- Slow progress in RE uptake.
- Insufficient data and information on the African energy sector.
- Geological and resource exploration risks associated with exploitation of geothermal manifestations which discourage investment.
- Involuntary resettlement
Views and Observations

- Omission of either one or more gender or the roles traditionally attributed to one gender category.
- Tendency to over-emphasise women/female issues in the policies to the disservice of men/male matters. Not clear what document was used for operationalisation of AfDB’s 2001 gender policy before 2004, then between 2007 to 2008 and finally between 2011 and 2014 before the current 2014-2018 gender strategy was launched.
- Instances where terms like gender and women are used interchangeably and of unclear definitions. Leads to ambiguity; can cause confusion during project cycle.
- Generally, more paperwork/documentation at WB than at AfDB, esp for gender policy.
Views and Observations

• Except *Geothermal handbook : planning and financing power generation* (which nonetheless has no gender perspective), we have documents generally covering the broad energy sector with some mention of gender on the one hand or documents addressing gender with very minimal to no regard for geothermal. **Silos.** Similar with the other geothermal actors.

• Lots of activity related to updating policies in 2012 – 2013.

• Numerous similarities between some of the policy framework documents esp the current energy policy documents: energy as catalyst for social/economic growth, energy and environment/climate change link, decentralised solutions, local community participation, some mention of both coal and hydropower. “Smart economics” on both gender policies.
Views and Observations (contd)

- Gender, energy access and environmental issues closely interlinked. Some changes in energy policies been directly motivated by environmental/climate change concerns leading to new gender-related perspectives in energy policies.
- Implementing gender has faced challenges: Attempts to integrate gender in energy initiatives a recent development.
- More activity across the gender landscape than in the energy sector. Incorporation of gender considerations in geothermal development in the real sense of the word however still has some distance to go.
- Global concerns & initiatives arnd environmental & climate change issues have lately resulted in more action and dynamism in the energy sector landscape. Trend expected to continue.
The scenario this combination presents for the ARV is an opportunity to implement an approach to geothermal development that enhances sustainable development for the region’s local populations by linking the resource’s development to gender considerations that take into account the specific context of this region and the local populations that live around geothermal sites.
Conclusion

- Need for a gender policy that is geothermal-specific. Currently there is none of this nature in place, esp for actors working along the ARV and particularly the EARV where there is promise for heightened geothermal activities and where at the same time, the triple combination of gender-specified roles, the current climate change impact in the region and high-potential geothermal sites could enable local populations benefit from geothermal development’s varied applications options.
- Lumping geothermal with other energy sources in policy documents that address issues from a gender perspective therefore has had the result of missing out on the added gender-based opportunities, benefits and advantages that geothermal development potentially presents.
Towns and industries: ARV’s geothermal development’s focus until now …
Géo2D says, there is this category also ...
Géo2D says … (contd)

Asante.
Merci.
Thank you.