

Wuppertal Institute
for Climate, Environment
and Energy

The role of gender concerns in the planning of small-scale energy projects in developing countries

Innovating Energy Access for Remote Areas: discovering untapped resources
Symposium: UC Berkeley, April 10 – 12, 2014

Julia-Terrapon-Pfaff

Carmen Dienst

Willington Ortiz

Agenda

Introduction

Gender and Energy

Approach and Results

Lessons Learned

VISIONS Initiative

www.wisions.net



- **VISIONS started in 2004** promoting the introduction of **sustainable energy solutions** and resource efficiency
- Gaining **knowledge on successful implementation models** and **on barriers** that still hinder the dissemination of sustainable energy solutions

Information & Knowledge sharing Tools:

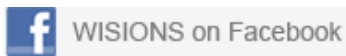
Website:
www.wisions.net



Brochures



Scientific publications



Support Tools:

Regional partnerships & networks



Promoting South-South knowledge exchange for promising technology in one region

SEPS - Sustainable Energy Project Support



Supports sustainable, innovative and feasible energy projects

Since 2004 over 75 projects have been supported by the SEPS (Sustainable Energy Project Support) scheme

PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKS

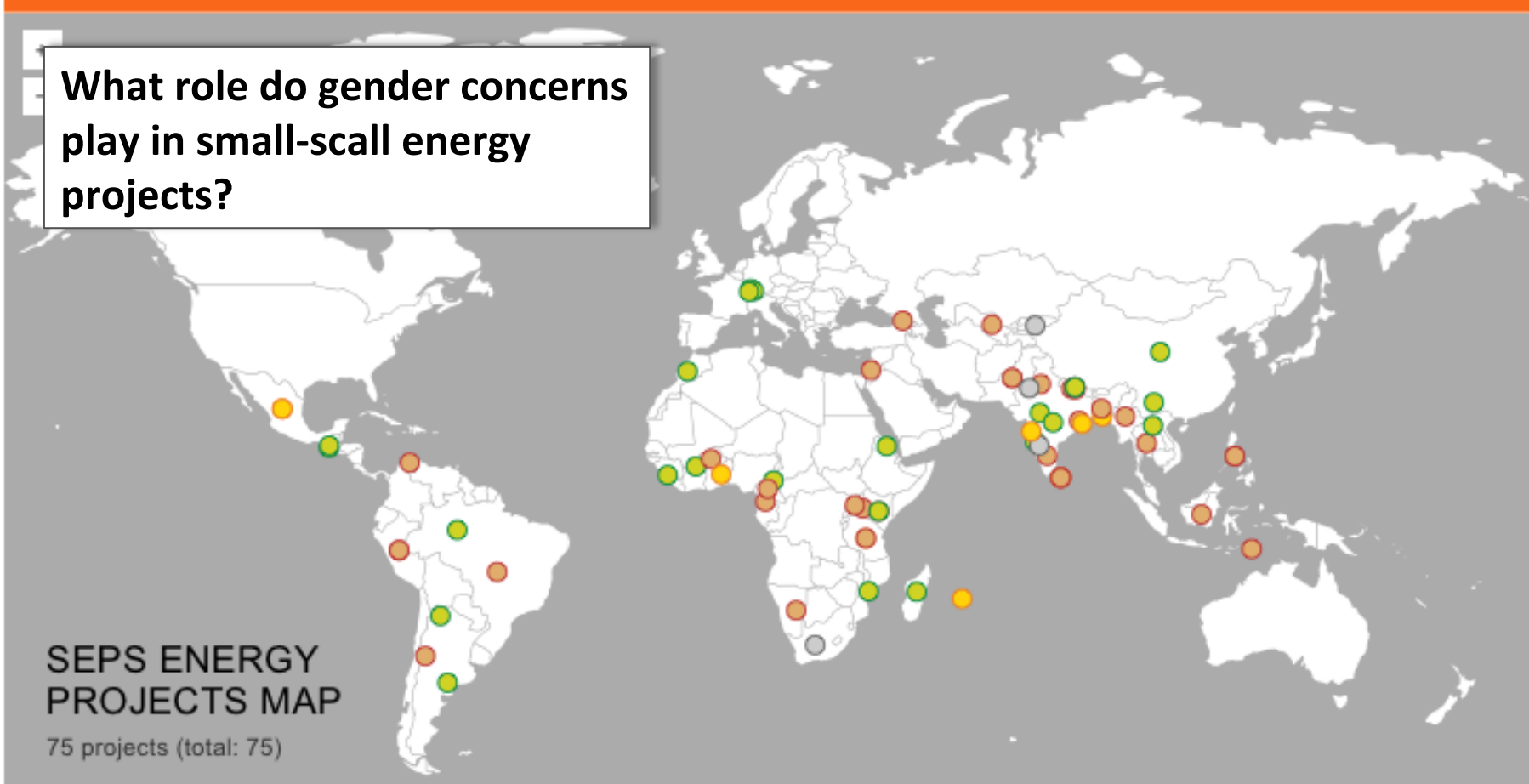
SEPS ENERGY PROJECTS

TECHNOLOGY RADAR

PREP GOOD PRACTICES

What role do gender concerns play in small-scale energy projects?

SEPS ENERGY PROJECTS MAP
75 projects (total: 75)



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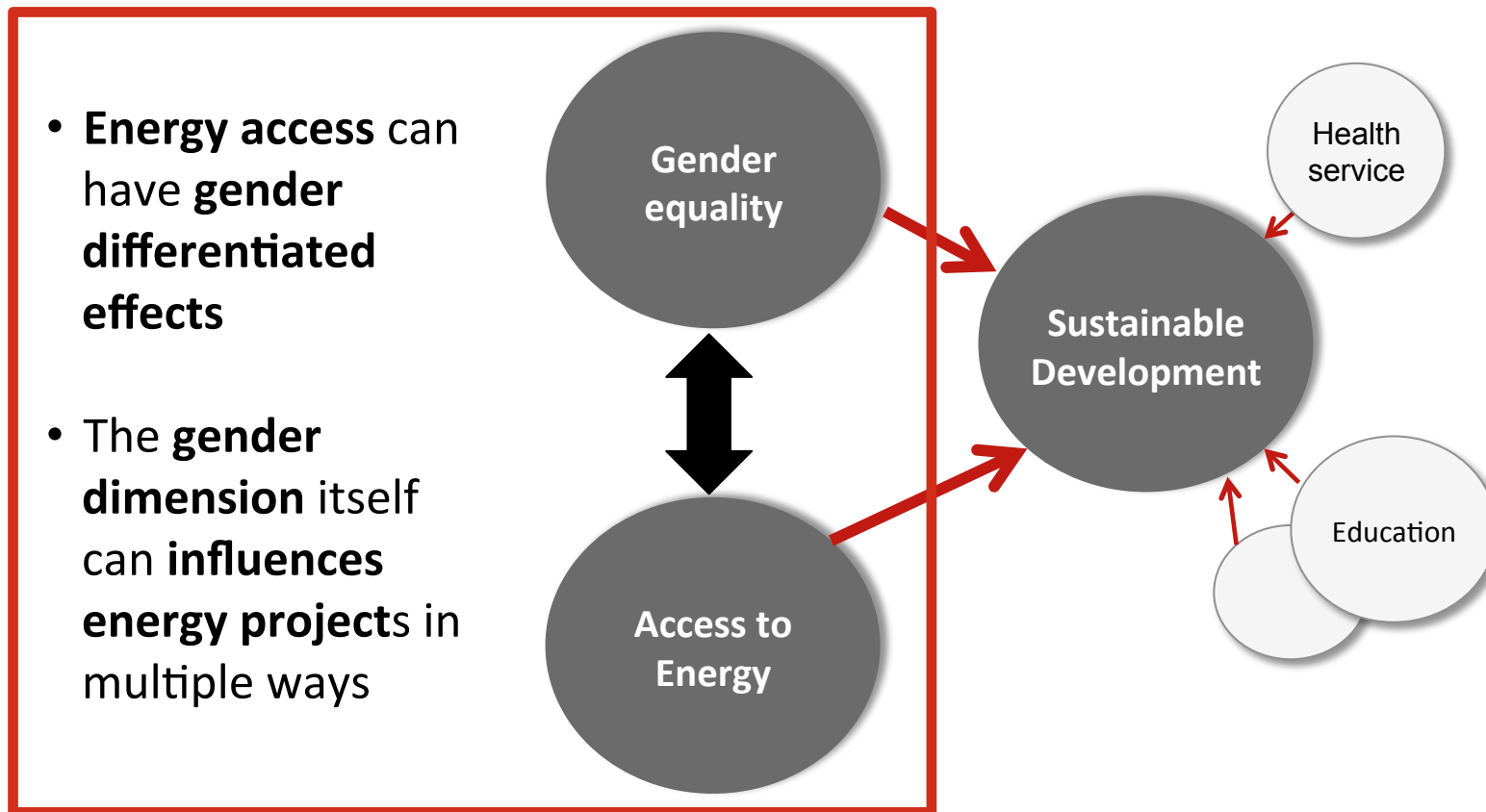
Gender and Energy

Approach and Results

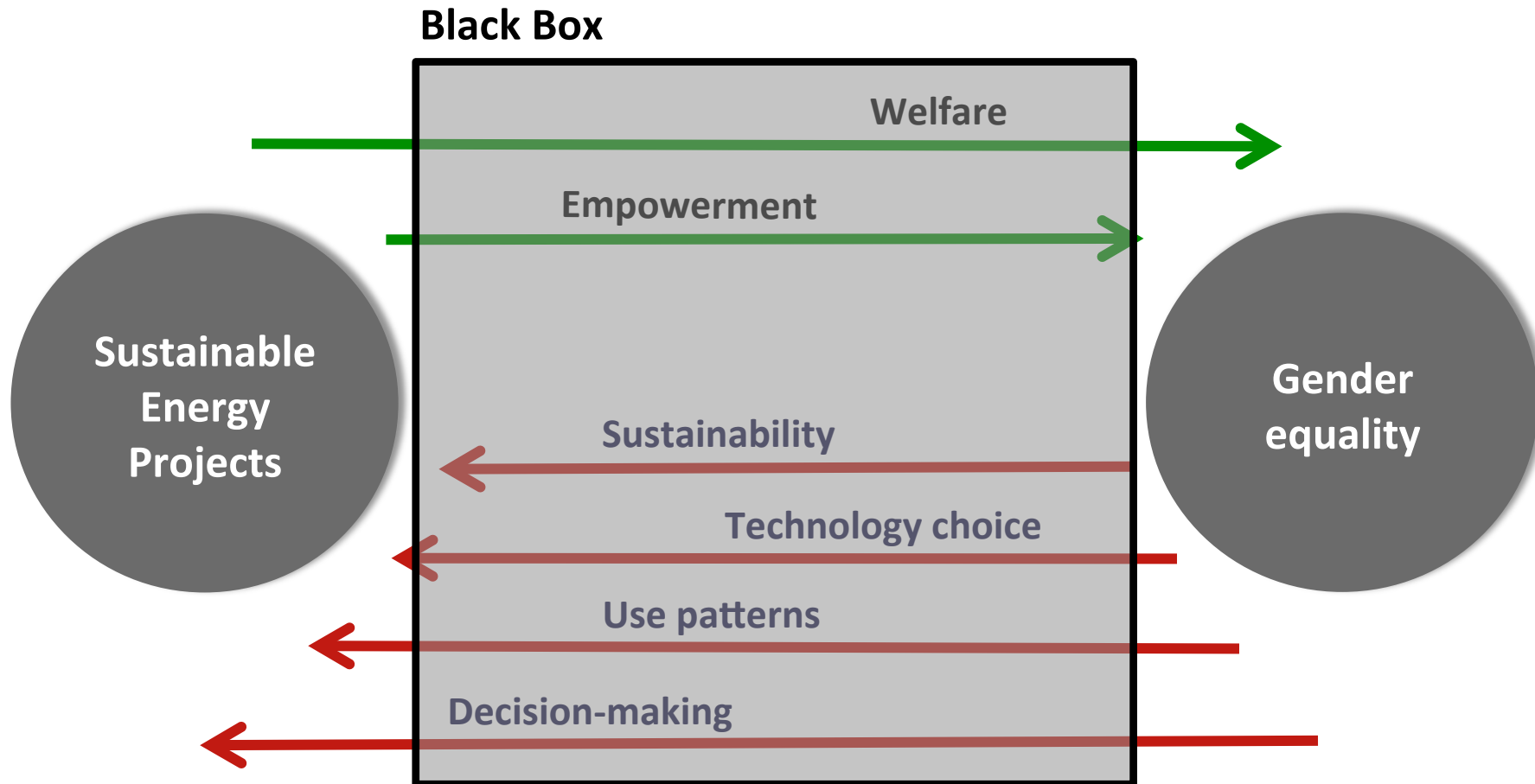
Lessons Learned

Role of the gender dimension in small-scale energy transitions towards a sustainable development

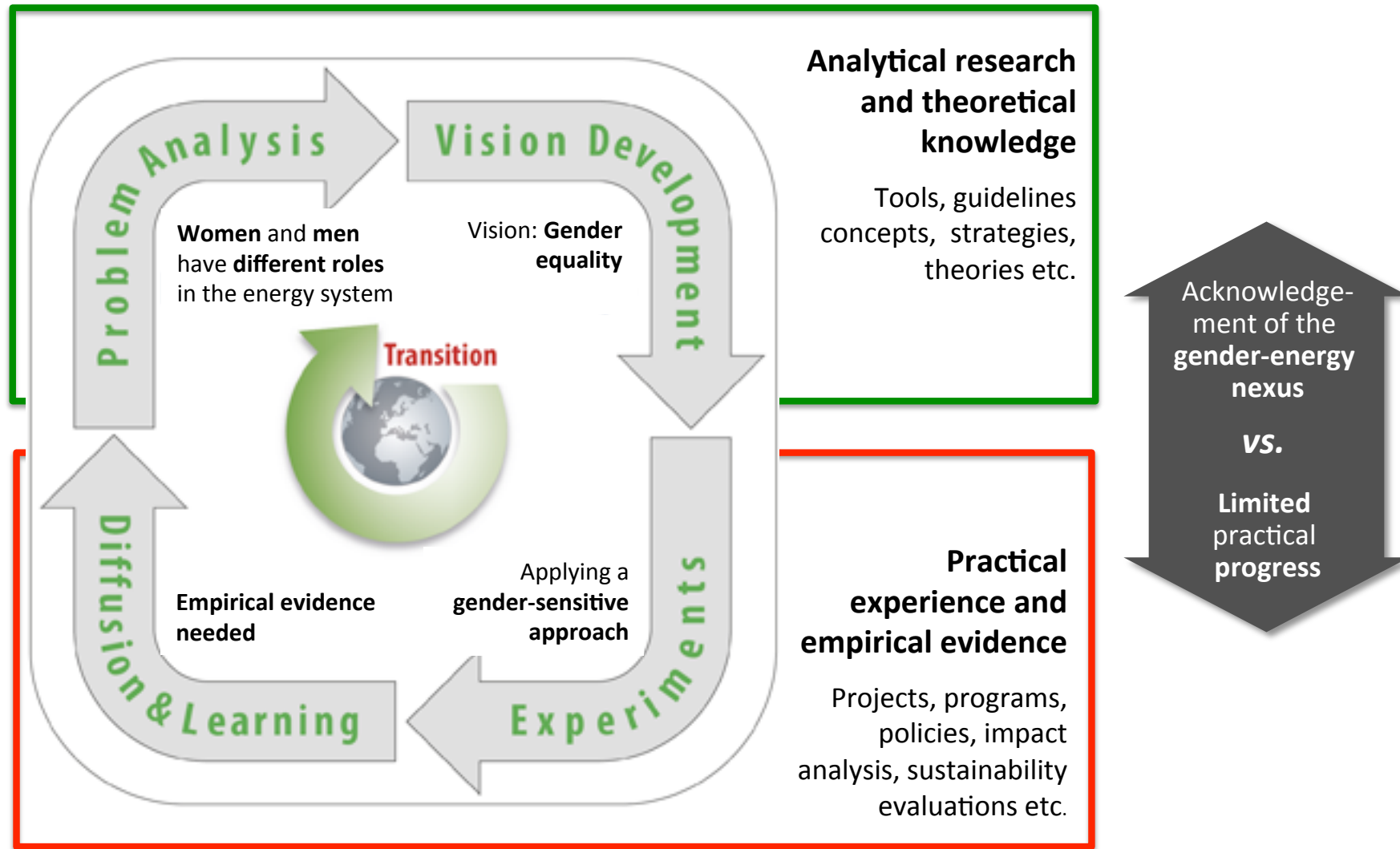
MDG 3: *Promote gender equality and empower women*



Role of the gender dimension in small-scale energy transitions towards a sustainable development



Gap between gender mainstreaming rhetoric, potential and practice



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Reasons for the discrepancy between the perception of gender in theory and practice not clear

„Gender inequality persists at every level of the energy sector... **gender-sensitive energy projects and research are still the exception rather than the rule**“. (Cecelski 2004)



How can the theoretical and analytical knowledge be better transferred into practical results in order to unlock the potential for sustainable energy transitions to contribute to gender equality?

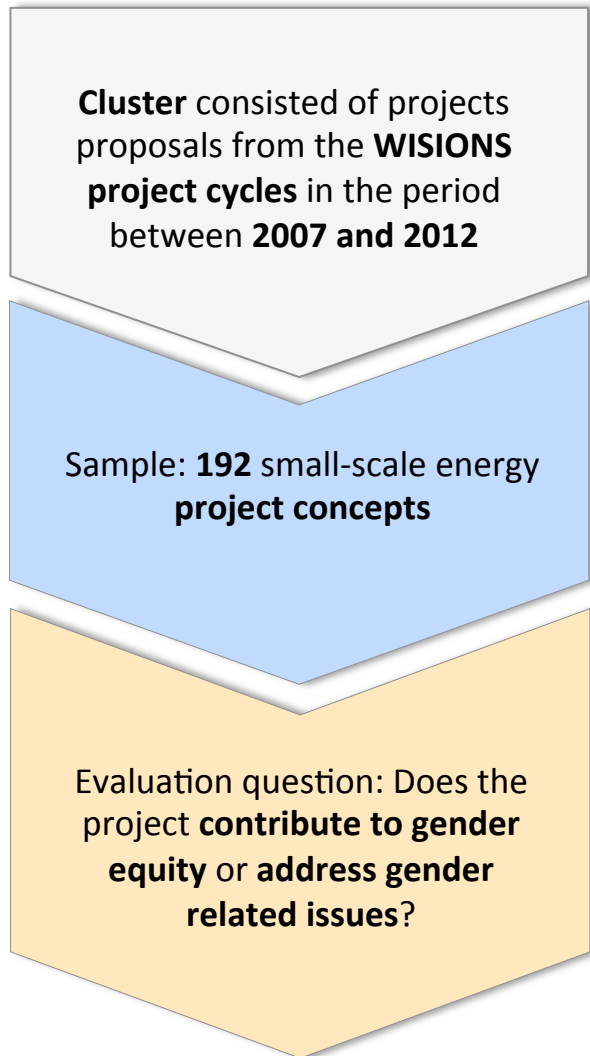
Project Cycle of Sustainable Energy Projects:



1 *First Step*

- *How are gender related issues perceived on in the planning of **small-scale projects**?*
- *Has the role of gender in planning small scale projects **changed in the last years**?*
- *Do differences exist regarding **geographical region** or **technologies** applied?*

Research Question: How are gender concerns perceived in the design of small-scale energy projects in developing countries ?



Pre-validation of all proposals:

- Eligibility
- Fulfillment basic sustainability requirements

Detailed evaluation by at least **2 experts** against a set of well-established sustainability criteria

(Including technical viability, economic feasibility, local and global environmental benefits, replicability and marketability, potential for poverty reduction, social equity and gender issues, local involvement, employment potential, sound implementation strategy and dissemination concept)

The experts provide marks on a **four-point scale**:

0	1	2	3	4
Proposal fails to address the issue	poor	fair	good	Very good

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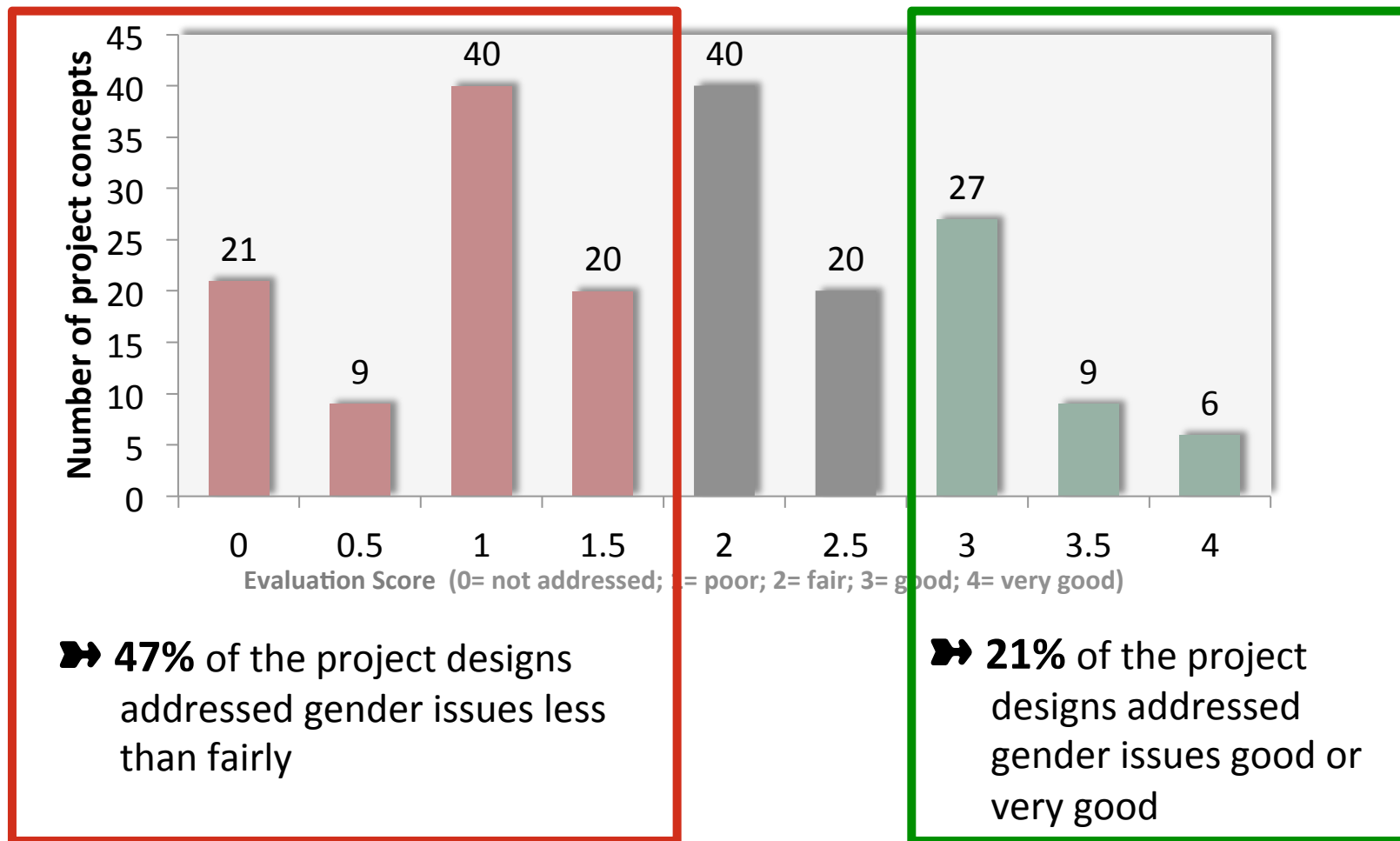
Results

Lessons Learned

Role of gender concerns in the design of sustainable energy projects

Overall results

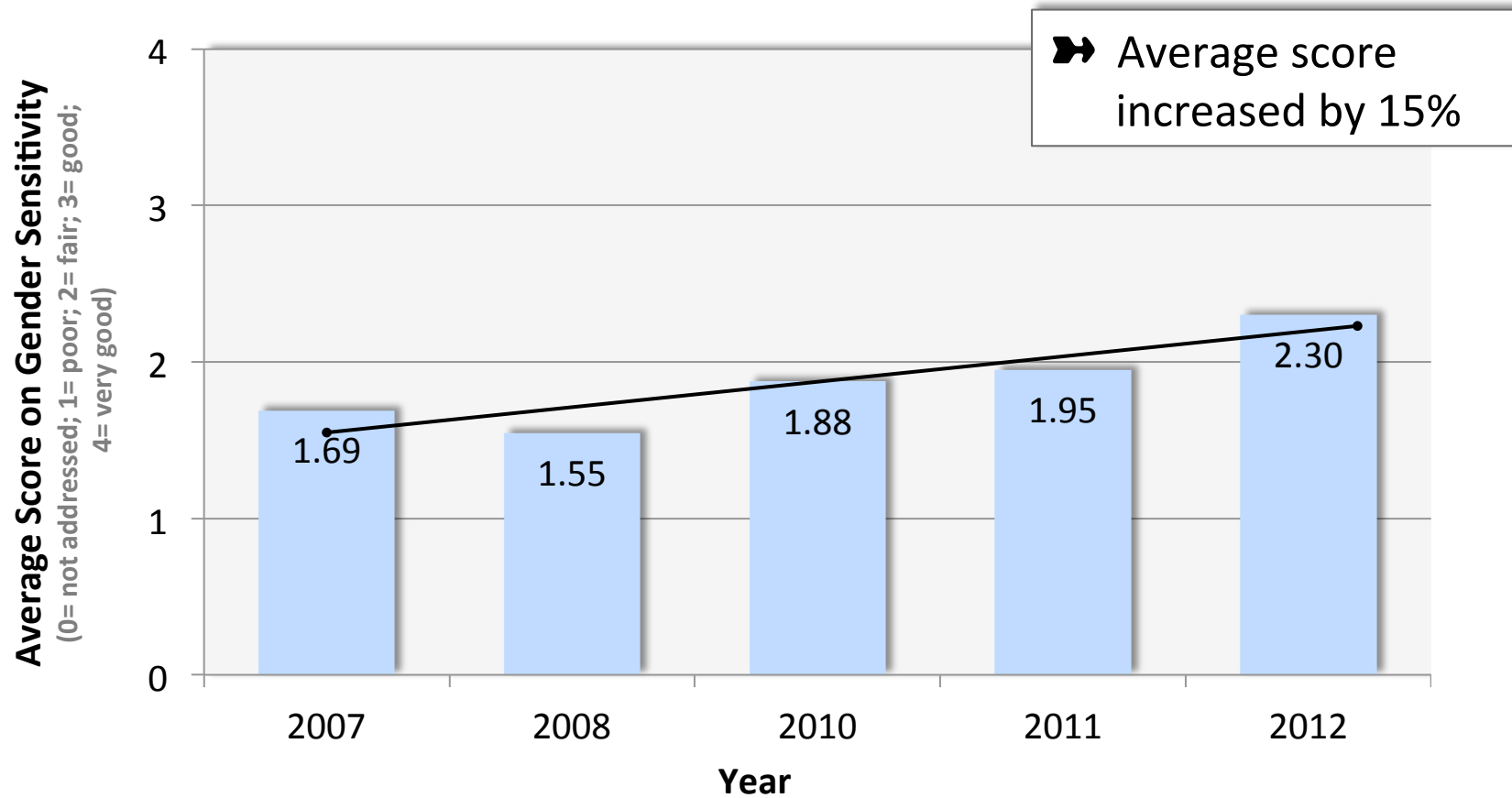
Distribution of scores corresponding to question of whether the project concepts **contributed to gender equity** or **addressed gender-related issues**



Role of gender concerns in the design of sustainable energy projects

Evolution over time

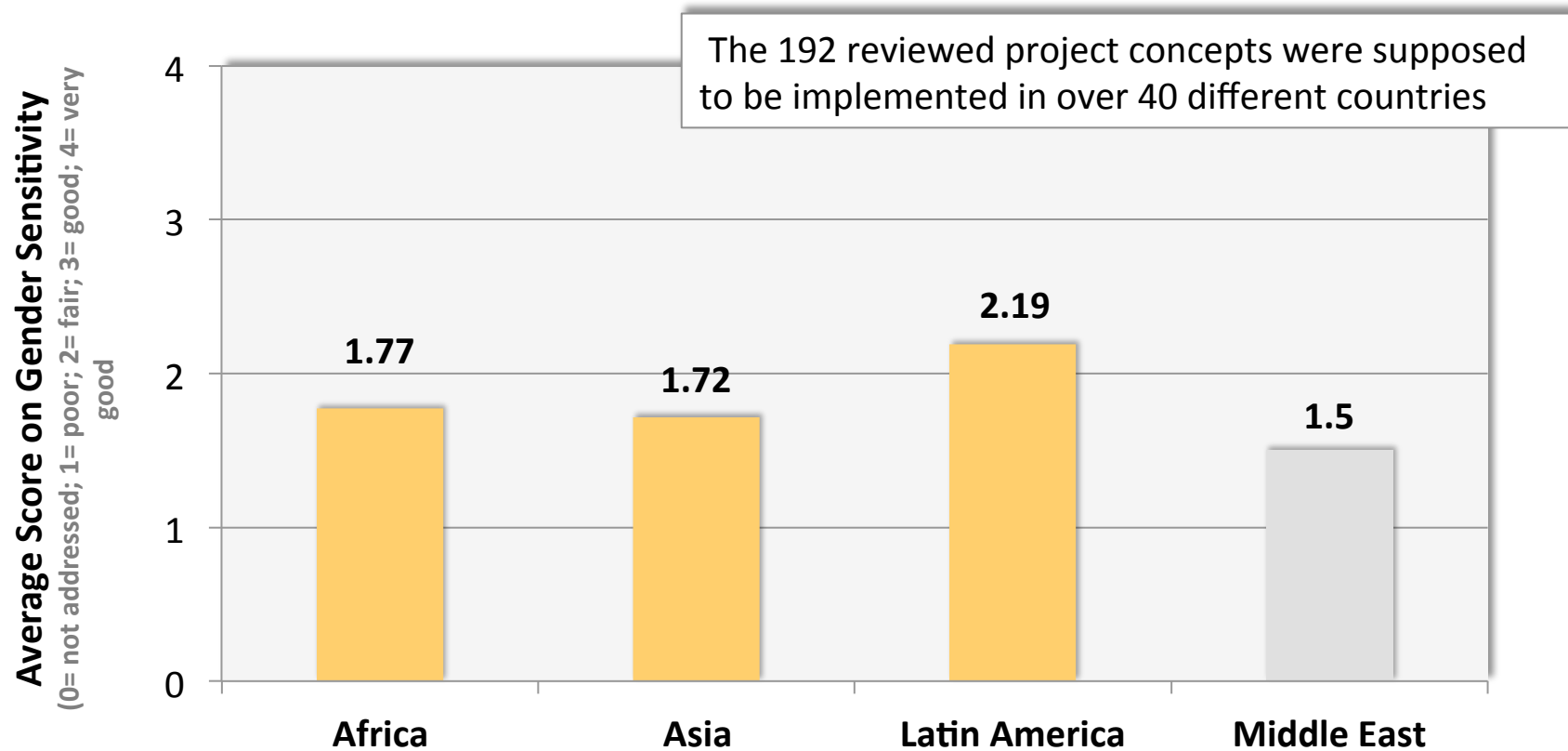
Average score per project concept for the project cycles 2007-2012



Role of gender concerns in the design of sustainable energy projects

Regional Assessment

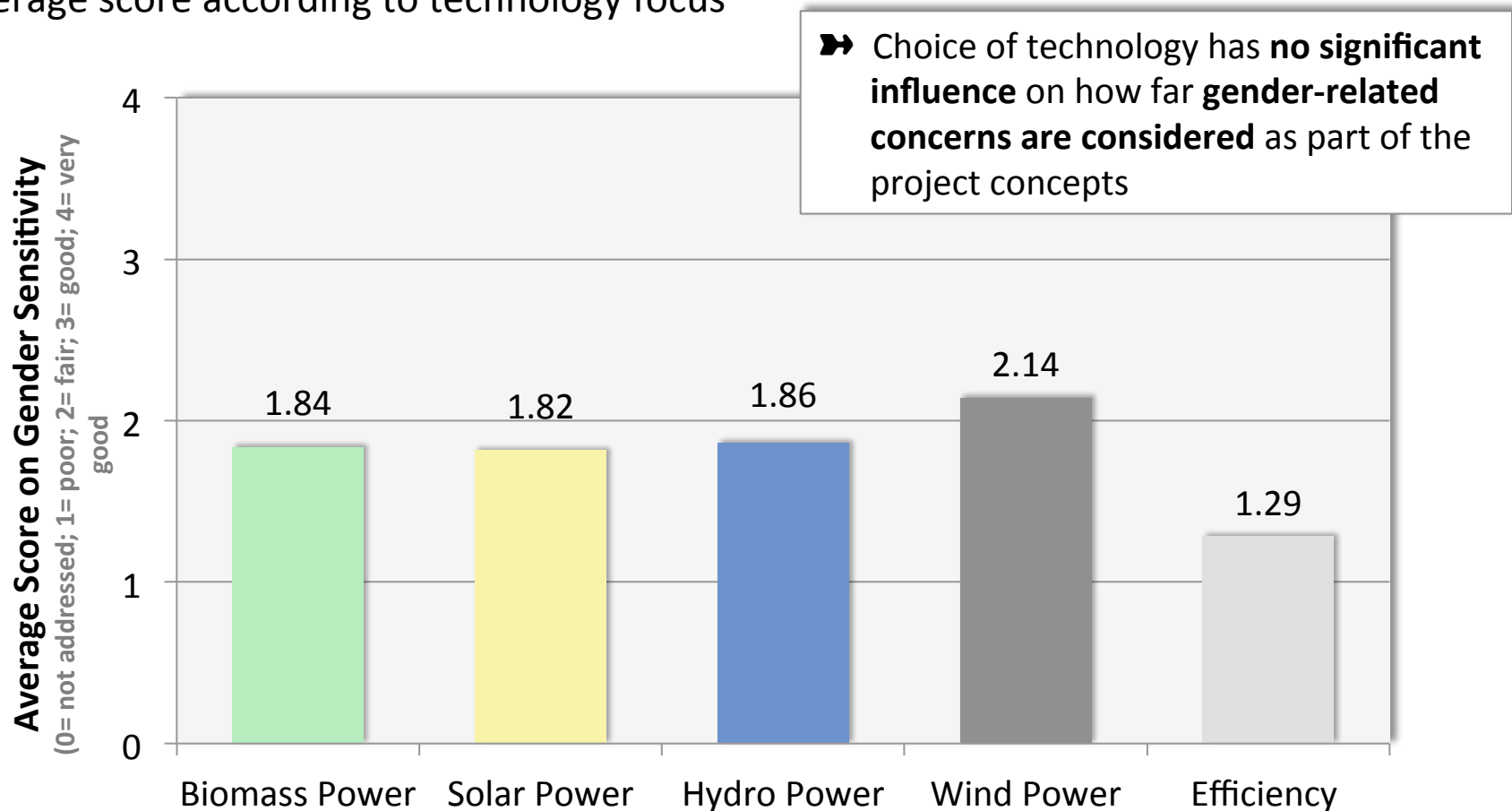
Average score according to geographic region



Role of gender concerns in the design of sustainable energy projects

Technology Assessment

Average score according to technology focus



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Summary of results and next steps to analyse the role of gender and of women along the project cycle of local sustainable energy projects

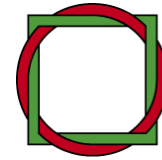
Summary

- ➔ In the evaluation sample **gender-related concerns** are still **only incorporated to a limited extent**
- ➔ First signs that this situation is **slowly changing**
- ➔ **No significant difference** between **technologies** and **regional focus**

- ★ **Evaluation** of the **project concepts** that have been **implemented** applying categories based on the **Gender Empowerment Framework**
- ★ **Comparison** of the planned activities/**expected gender related impacts** with the conducted activities/**actual impacts**
- ★ Analyse the influences of the gender dimension on the sustainability

Empirical evidence

- ★ How access to energy affect women and men differently (time/ savings/ quality of live etc.)
- ★ Whether the role of women can really be changed in long-term



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Thank you very much for your attention !



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