



# Low carbon development and poverty alleviation

- options for development cooperation in energy, agriculture and forestry in LDCs



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# The challenges

## The multiple challenges for LDCs:

### Progress on the MDGs is slow in many LDCs

- and the positive trend in hunger eradication since 90s turned in 2008

### Where economic development is taking place, it is frequently uneven

- Agriculture and public services neglected in many rural areas
- The poorest are often the last to benefit

### The impacts of climate change

- The poorest countries are among the hardest hit
- Undermines productive sectors
- Multiplies risk and unpredictability





# The opportunity

Faced with these challenges, is it fair to propose low carbon development in LDCs?

**Low carbon development does not necessarily imply a reduction from *current* LDC emission levels**

- Eg LDC share of global energy emissions = 6% of 63%
- Exceptions incl. land use change/forestry = 74% of 18%

**But low carbon development could in fact benefit economic development**

- Support poverty alleviation
- Benefit sustainable and long-term economic development
- Minimize emissions





# The opportunity

For LDCs, a low carbon development path may provide:

## 1. Efficiency savings

- Eg efficient energy use, less pollution, improved health, more efficient land use management

## 2. Reduced economic dependency

- Eg reduced fuel imports, replaced foreign technology imports

## 3. New economic opportunities

- E.g. new business opportunities; benefits from carbon markets, employment and income creation

## 4. Adaptation benefits

- E.g. mitigation that also supports adaptation strategies among the poor





# The opportunity

## Potential benefits for the poor:

### 1. Improved or sustained income/livelihood opportunities

Eg improved energy access, employment etc (productive/financial assets)

### 2. Improved or sustained ecosystem services

From e.g. forest resources, etc (natural assets)

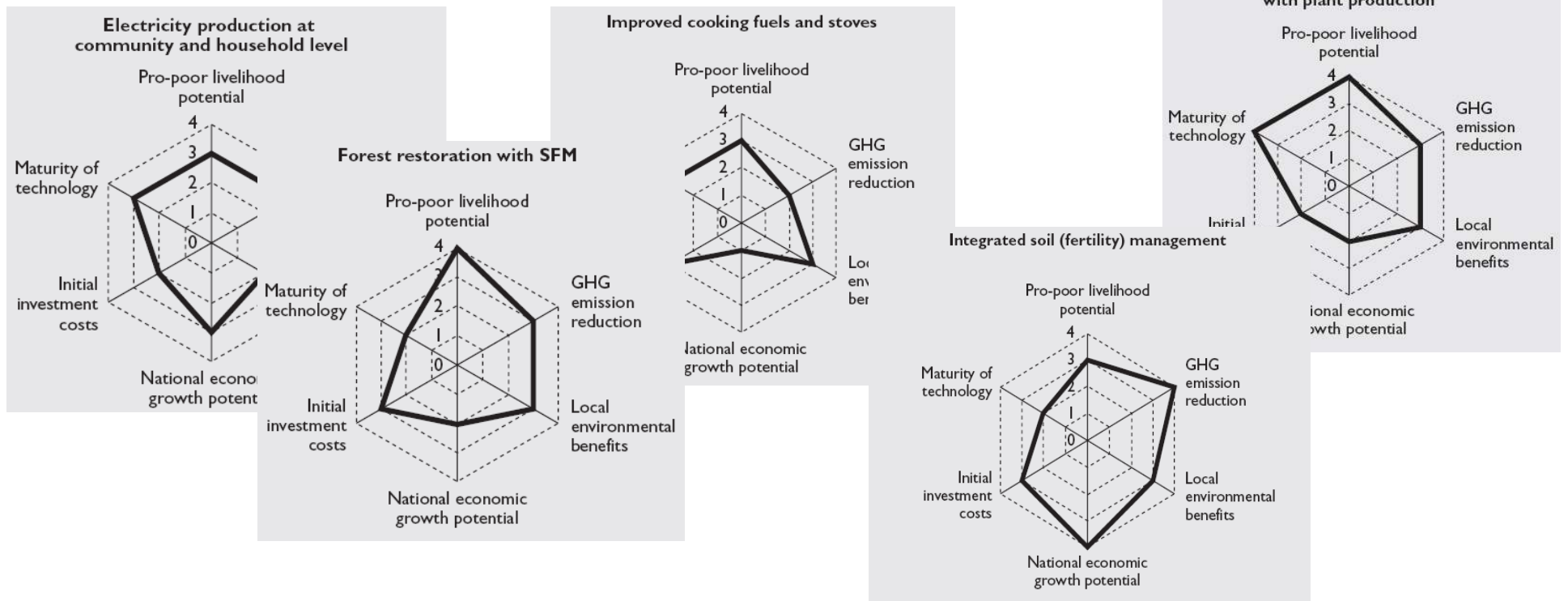
### 3. Improved health

Eg cleaner natural- and working environments (human assets)



# Assessment of options

- The study discusses pro-poor low carbon options in energy, agriculture and forestry
- See report for assessment of specific low carbon options





# Energy

•Global share of emissions:	approx. 63%
•LDC share:	approx. 6%

- **LDC energy consumption set to increase (see eg Vietnam, Thailand)**
- **Options for synergies between low carbon energy and reduced dependency on fossil fuels (which is becoming increasing burden)**

**1** Support development of alternative low carbon energies that enhance local livelihoods

**2** Integrate local energy development with broader poverty alleviation efforts *to ensure that the poor benefit*

**3** Support planning for short/medium term off-grid energy dev. in rural areas

**4** Ensure social and environmental integrity of large scale low carbon energy projects



# Agriculture

•Global share of emissions: approx. 13%  
•LDC share: approx. 17%

- **Much small holder agric. production is already “low carbon” – but often also limited productivity**
- **The challenge is to enhance production while also minimizing emissions**

**1** Provide better options and capacity for soil management to enhance carbon storage

**2** Improve frameworks for biological pest control

**3** Support supply and certification of organic production

**4** Develop institutional frameworks for pro-poor multifunctional agriculture *(env. policy instruments, taxation etc)*

**5**

Combine practical solutions with a macro-focus and a cross-sectoral approach



# Forestry

•Global share of emissions: approx. 18%  
•LDC share: approx. 74%

- **Currently the only major source of emissions from LDCs in global terms**
- **REDD-scheme negotiations controversial issue at COP15**  
*(see DIIS overview report on poverty issues in REDD)*

**1** Expand scope of REDD “preparation” and policy to address fundamental issues

**2** Build pro-poor needs and rights into national forest-related policies and governance

**3** Promote and reward community-led forest use in REDD  
*(ie under REDD “Plus”)*

**4** Support pro-LDC and pro-poor approaches in international REDD negotiations

# Overall recommendations

1. Ensure full LDC ownership and incentives in pro-poor low carbon development
2. Ensure that poverty-concerns “outside” climate change are not undermined
3. Support options that will have an impact regardless of international climate financing
4. Exploit options for synergies between adaptation and mitigation
5. Strengthen local levels and institutions

