

AN ESTIMATED 195 MILLION PEOPLE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA RELY ON CHARCOAL AS THEIR PRIMARY FUEL

Policy recognised the importance of charcoal but prioritizes transition AWAY from it

LONGSTANDING BIASES ON CHARCOAL

CHARCOAL PRODUCTION IS DESTROYING THE ENVIRONMENT!

LPG & OTHER CLEAN FUELS ARE BETTER FOR YOUR HEALTH

BURNING BIOMASS FUELS RELEASES Pollutants

PEOPLE ARE EXPOSED TO POLLUTANTS

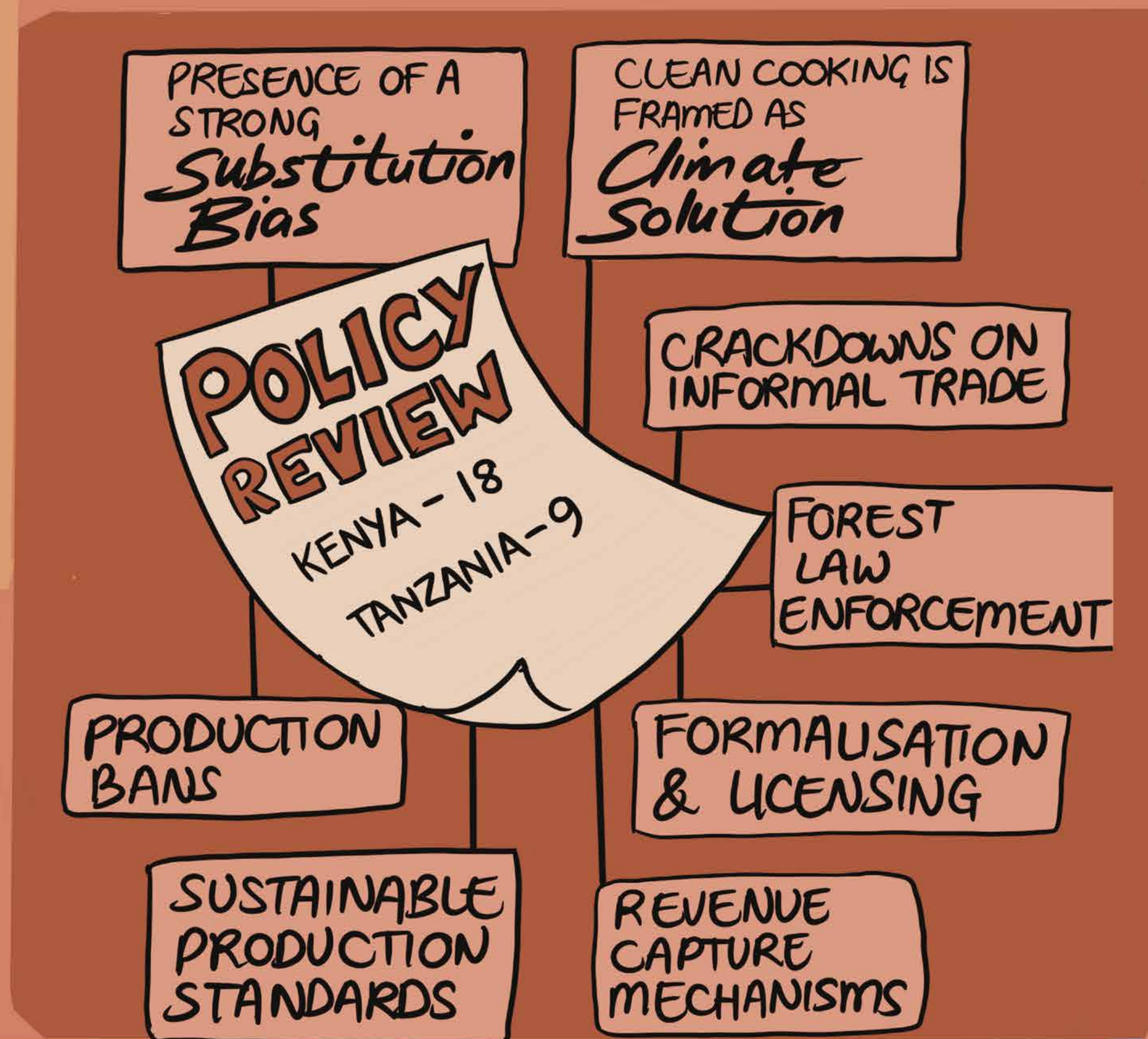
INHALATION OF POLLUTANTS CAUSES Disease

BIOMASS FUEL USE = DEFORESTATION & CLIMATE CHANGE

CO-CREATING A POLICY & ACTION AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE CHARCOAL TRANSITIONS

17TH FEBRUARY 2026

CHARCOAL POLICIES IN:



KENYA OVERLAPPING LICENSING PROCESSES BETWEEN NATIONAL & COUNTY GOVERNMENTS

TANZANIA NGOs ADVOCATE FOR SUSTAINABLE CHARCOAL SOLUTIONS, EMPHASIZING ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CLEAN COOKING

ETHIOPIA CLEAN COOKING PROGRAMS WITH 10% ACCESS TO CLEAN COOKING, PROMOTING IMPROVED COOKING STOVES

CHARCOAL IS ALSO CROWDED OUT THROUGH USE OF INCENTIVES FOR CLEANER ENERGY FORMS

"EVIDENCE IS USED IN POLICY TO JUSTIFY EXISTING BIASES."

EMERGING EVIDENCE

- HEALTH ISSUES SURFACE YEARS LATER AFTER CONTINUED EXPOSURE SO EVIDENCE IS LIMITED
- PEOPLE DO NOT SPEND THE WHOLE DAY IN THE KITCHEN
- STUDIES ARE METHODOLOGICALLY-MIXED STUDIES

GENDER, ENVIRONMENT & LIVELIHOODS

WOMEN ARE MORE EXPOSED TO & IMPACTED BY EFFECTS OF COOKING WITH UNCLEAN FUELS

CHARCOAL CAN PROVIDE JOBS BUT ITS COST BENEFITS & DESIRABILITY ARE IN QUESTION

FEW STUDIES AVAILABLE ON REGENERATION & REFORESTATION RATES

AGRICULTURAL EXPANSION ALSO CONTRIBUTES TO DEFORESTATION

HIGH URBANISATION RATE & POPULATION GROWTH MAY IMPACT COOKING ENERGY SECURITY IN THE FUTURE

Choicelessness
OF CONSUMERS FORCES SOME TO USE CHARCOAL

POLICY FORMULATION SHOULD:

- BE INCLUSIVE OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS INCLUDING END USERS & THE GRASSROOTS
- MAKE CHARCOAL:
 - ACCESSIBLE
 - AFFORDABLE
 - SUSTAINABLE
- BALANCE INTERESTS OF ALL GROUPS
- CONSIDER GLOBAL VS NATIONAL INTERESTS
- EMPLOY INTERMINISTERIAL COORDINATION

CO-CREATING A POLICY & ACTION AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE CHARCOAL TRANSITIONS

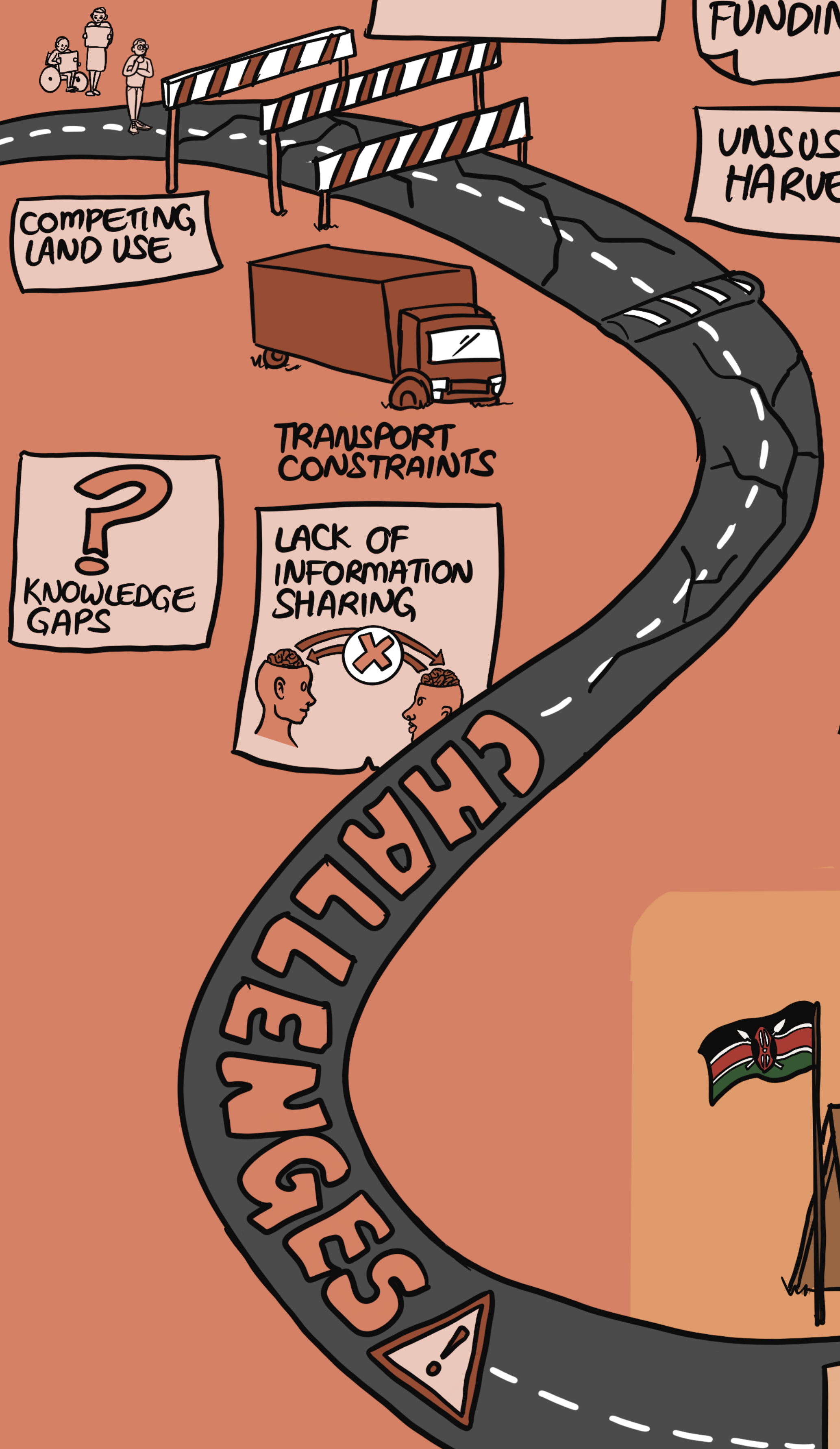
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CHARCOAL HAS A PREDOMINANT ROLE IN THE FUTURE

CONTEXT OF WHERE THE POLICY OPERATES COUNTS

CHARCOAL TASKFORCE

FINANCING



DEMAND

- PRICE FLUCTUATIONS
- CONSUMER AWARENESS
- DONOR PROGRAMME IMPACT ON MARKETS
- ATTITUDE BARRIERS

Kenya

- ADVOCACY, REPRESENTATION, VALUE CHAIN NETWORKING, SECTOR DATA & INFORMATION REPOSITORY
- BIOENERGY COMMUNITY

INNOVATIONS

- Uganda**
- IMPLEMENTATION MODELS:
 - SMALLHOLDER FARMER
 - FOREST & WOODLAND RESTORATION
 - ON-FIELD BIOCHAR PRODUCTION & USE

- Tanzania**
- INVESTING IN THE WOODLANDS, INCREASING INCENTIVES FOR COMMUNITIES



POLICY

- WAVING TAXES
- CAPACITY BUILDING / TRAININGS
- BANNING CHARCOAL WON'T WORK
- TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS & TASKFORCE
- HARVESTING & REGENERATION PLANS

- POLICY**
- LEGAL & REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS
 - ENFORCEMENT

- SCIENCE**
- BOUNDARY SETTING
 - IMPACT EVALUATION
 - CONDUCTING CASE STUDIES
 - EVIDENCE TO CHALLENGE NARRATIVES

- NGOs/CSOs**
- MOBILISING FUNDS
 - SECURING INVESTMENT
 - DISSEMINATING INFORMATION
 - ADVOCACY & AWARENESS

- PRIVATE SECTOR**
- GRANTS
 - SHARING DATA WITH ACADEMIA
 - SUCCESS STORIES
 - TECH DEVELOPMENT

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

- LACK OF TAX INCENTIVES
- GENDER INCLUSION
- INFORMAL NATURE OF CHARCOAL SECTOR
- CAPACITY BUILDING GAPS
- LACK OF POLICY ENFORCEMENT

- POSITIVE REFRAMING OF CHARCOAL
- STRENGTHENING INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION
- IMPACT EVALUATION
- CLEAR CALL TO ACTION

NEXT STEPS

ACTORS