

SCALING GENDER AND CLIMATE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DISCUSSION PAPER

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HIGHLIGHTS

Prevailing approaches to climate change mitigation investments and financing mechanisms have prioritized scientific and technological measures, often at the expense of social and behavioural considerations.

Yet a large body of research shows the value of investing in women. The three main arguments of which are:

01

Financial value of climate and development investments can best be protected through gender-responsive interventions.

02

Climate-related projects and policies that involve women have proven to be more effective and deliver better environmental outcomes.

03

Investing in women creates a ripple effect that yields multiple benefits, not only for individuals but for their families, communities, and countries.

Integrating Gender and Climate Finance: Examining the Potential

New financial mechanisms, markets, and innovative funds have promising potential to shift climate action and bring about a global transformation that enables countries to address the needs of their people, reduce risk, preserve natural resources, boost economic growth, and advance climate goals.

To achieve the most significant impact, findings point to two approaches: women-focused programmes and financial mechanisms.

01 SUPPORT WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS THROUGH WOMEN- FOCUSED PROGRAMMES IN:



Green jobs and supply chains

Women's strong presence in the agriculture sector, as small-scale farmers who provide inputs to supply chains, agro-input retailers and dealers, rural agro-agents and extension workers, offers significant potential to upgrade value chain performance and build input markets while benefiting women.



Climate mitigation

Sustainable forest efforts (e.g. REDD+) provide opportunities for women's improved tenure security and livelihoods impacts, enhanced participation in local resource governance (forest committees), and new income-generating activities.



Climate-smart management practices

There are new opportunities for companies that deliver agricultural products or services with a gender lens to deliver value to women farmers, enabling them to better plan for and achieve climate and productivity goals.

02 LEVERAGING A BROAD RANGE OF FINANCIAL MECHANISMS

Mechanism	Activity / Project
Catalytic Grants	<p>To fund pilot projects developed to meet the needs of various types of funders and investors, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Buyers of 'high-quality' carbon credits that have gender co-benefits• ESG investors seeking social and environmental returns• Private companies aiming to de-risk supply chains and support CSR objectives• Philanthropists interested in funding women's groups to build adaptive capacities
Catalytic Grants	<p>For technical assistance for designing climate projects and measuring impacts by applying carbon and gender standards, such as the W+ Standard.</p>
Results-based Payment System	<p>Use of bonds and impact investments to encourage private investors seeking ESG results, and to ensure women are compensated for their roles in delivering climate solutions, using payment for results systems, such as W+ credits.</p>
Financial Instruments	<p>Bonds, funds and similar instruments to provide prefinancing to projects — especially those implemented by women's organizations and enterprises — that can generate carbon and gender credits.</p>

FURTHER READING

The discussion paper, *Scaling Gender and Climate Investment Opportunities*, authored by WOCAN, was commissioned by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and published by PROGREEN, for the World Bank.

It contains fourteen recommendations for action.

The full version and references can be found [HERE](#).
