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The gender equality and environment intersection: An overview of development co-operation frameworks and financing

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The gender equality and environment intersection: An overview of development co-operation frameworks and financing

Foreword

Despite the many constraints that the world faces, climate change, biodiversity loss, environmental degradation and gender inequality are among the most pressing and are making it harder to achieve sustainable development. Together they create compounding risks and threats for all, especially in developing countries. Solutions to these challenges can have a multiplier effect when considered jointly but can undermine each other when considered in isolation. International development co-operation is instrumental in ensuring these issues are handled holistically. However, as this paper will show, Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members' and other development co-operation providers' integration of gender equality and environmental issues remains piecemeal. This is all the more concerning given the sizeable and continuous investments in development co-operation activities related to this intersection. It also reveals the limits of the paradigm underpinning current policies and programmes and shows that existing frameworks and guidance tools are not adapted to reap the benefits of interventions that factor in the full set of gender equality and environment considerations simultaneously.

This paper explores how development co-operation providers conceptualise the gender-environment intersection in their development co-operation frameworks and finance. It reviews academic and other literature (data and reports on the gender equality-environment intersection and selected DAC members' documents and reports). It also draws on the OECD-DAC Creditor Reporting System to provide an overview of bilateral official development assistance (ODA) trends on this intersection. Finally, it draws upon the conclusions of three expert meetings organised in 2022 and 2023 in the framework of the joint ENVIRONET-GENDERNET Collaborative, as well as written inputs provided by experts and practitioners working on these issues. This paper's findings could encourage discussions and dialogue among current and future practitioners, academics, civil society organisations, partner country governments, and providers while filling evidence and knowledge gaps on the subject.

The paper was written by Juan Casado-Asensio, Cibele Cesca, Charlotte Goemans and Laura McDonald based on foundations developed by gender equality expert Anna Bruce, with support from Zuzana Novotná and Esme Stout of the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate. Lisa Williams, Team Lead of the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Team, and Jens Sedemund, Team Lead of the Environment and Climate Change Team, provided overall guidance. Frederik Matthys, Head of the Global Partnerships and Policies Division, and Haje Schütte, Head of the Financing for Sustainable Development Division, provided strategic support. The paper was copy edited by Jennifer Allain.

Abstract

This paper presents a preliminary overview of OECD Development Assistance Committee members' policy frameworks and financing efforts to address work at the intersection of climate change, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and gender inequality. It explores knowledge gaps designed to inform future policy work in the context of development co-operation and provides a review of the existing research and evidence on the subject. Its aim is to ensure Development Assistance Committee (DAC) member efforts tackle these issues effectively and in a holistic manner, thus driving planetary health and advancing gender equality while promoting sustainable development in both OECD and partner countries.

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Acronyms and abbreviations

CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
COP	Conference of the Parties
CRS	Creditor Reporting System (OECD)
CSO	Civil society organisation
DAC	Development Assistance Committee (OECD)
DFI	Development finance institution
ENVIRONET	Network on Environment and Development Co-operation (OECD-DAC)
EU	European Union
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GENDERNET	Network on Gender Equality (OECD-DAC)
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
KfW/DEG	German Investment Corporation <i>Deutsche Investitions – und Entwicklungsgesellschaft (Germany)</i>
LWPG	Lima Work Programme on Gender
NAP	National Action Plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
ODA	Official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UN	United Nations
UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity

UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USD	United States dollar

Executive summary

Individually, climate change, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and gender inequality are among the world's most pressing challenges. They are also inextricably linked and mutually reinforcing. Addressing the four jointly can have a positive multiplier effect, but they can undermine each other when considered in isolation. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by climate change, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss; empowering them not only helps reduce this disproportionate exposure but can help drive positive change and enhance the impact of these agendas. A growing body of evidence illustrates the interconnected nature of these four challenges and the need to address them as cross-cutting, multifaceted issues. This trend is also observed at the international level, with more and more members of the OECD DAC¹ and other development co-operation providers, such as multilateral organisations, development finance institutions and philanthropic foundations, making policy commitments to address this intersection to some extent. However, a gap remains between recognition of the importance of the issue, commitments to act, and actual programming and financing of holistic efforts to implement policy change.

This work aims to support DAC members' efforts in tackling this intersection effectively, thus driving planetary health and advancing gender equality while promoting sustainable development in OECD and partner countries. Yet a better understanding is needed of how development co-operation providers can operationalise this in concrete terms. This includes obtaining more information on the gaps, barriers and blind spots that development co-operation providers face when addressing these challenges in an interlinked manner, as well as the opportunities that emerge from current approaches. This paper presents a preliminary understanding of DAC members' strategic and policy frameworks and development financing efforts towards the gender equality and environment intersection. In doing so, it provides a review of existing research and evidence on this topic; an analysis of how DAC members' and other development co-operation providers' frameworks are working on this intersection; and an analysis of financing trends on these issues.

Key findings

Findings from the literature review

- The international community is increasingly aware of the benefits of working on climate, environment, biodiversity and gender equality in tandem, and has produced a substantial volume of literature on this intersection. Nonetheless, information gaps about how to operationalise it preclude effective, and collaborative, action – including on development co-operation.
- Failure to properly explore the four interlinked global challenges skews policy responses and, ultimately, hinders effective sustainable development co-operation efforts.

¹ For a list of DAC members see: <https://www.oecd.org/dac/development-assistance-committee>.

Findings from an analysis of development co-operation providers' frameworks

- While the uptake of this agenda has noticeably increased, most frameworks adopted by DAC members and other development co-operation providers are not currently set up to address the gender equality and environment challenges in an interconnected manner. Though many providers have demonstrated their intentions to integrate these issues, there is room to scale up these efforts and deliver a greater impact on this agenda.
- Multilateral organisations are generally more advanced in their policy efforts to address this intersection than some DAC members, pointing to an opportunity for dialogue and partnership.
- Development co-operation frameworks provide DAC countries with the architecture needed to engage in collaborative action to address this intersection. However, there is a lack of policy coherence within these frameworks. Mainstreaming these issues across programmes would help accelerate action.

Findings from an analysis of the development finance dimension

- While the overlap between ODA for 'environmental and gender equality issues has increased over time, it is unclear what is driving this trend from a strategic or policy manner, or which tools support the effective mobilisation of this financing. An effective understanding of how to approach this intersection, and how to programme it, would be key to advancing work in this area.
- There is a possible disconnect between many DAC members' strategic and policy frameworks surrounding these interconnected issues and their development finance spending. Only a few DAC members make official commitments to remedy this through their development finance. One can, therefore, expect the status quo to start evolving on this agenda in the future. By setting quantitative targets for their climate- or biodiversity-related development finance to gender equality, and vice versa, DAC members would be progressing towards a systematic, and more effective, response to this intersection. In doing so, they should ensure their approaches and programming efforts avoid gender- and green-washing.

Possible ways forward

Building upon the key messages from this work, and in line with the interests expressed by members of the DAC Networks on Gender Equality (GENDERNET) and on Environment and Development Co-operation (ENVIRONET), future work could explore:

- **Further analysis and more detailed evidence on efforts to integrate these issues.** This could help identify the key elements of this intersection in concrete terms and uncover the factors that make and sustain credible policy choices or trade-offs, to finally assess their efficacy and potential impacts. Further analysis of ODA that integrates gender equality and climate action objectives might also shed light on what is driving those allocations, given the meagre evidence of integration at strategic and policy levels. In particular, a deeper dive could be made to focus on those countries that are ahead of the curve in policy terms to see how these decisions shape development finance commitments.
- **Thematic good practices to support development co-operation providers** and other actors in effectively integrating this intersection throughout their programme cycles. These concrete examples would complement the existing [OECD Guidance on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment](#) and would offer tangible policy options in the area. DAC members can use the OECD [Development Co-operation TIPS](#), an online peer learning platform, to offer insights into

policies, systems and partnerships that effectively integrate gender equality and environment considerations.

- **Peer learning and knowledge sharing** on efforts to effectively integrate this intersection in frameworks, financing and programming. This work could leverage the GENDERNET and ENVIRONET Collaborative, a space for expert dialogue and peer learning on effective strategies among DAC members, development co-operation providers and other actors.

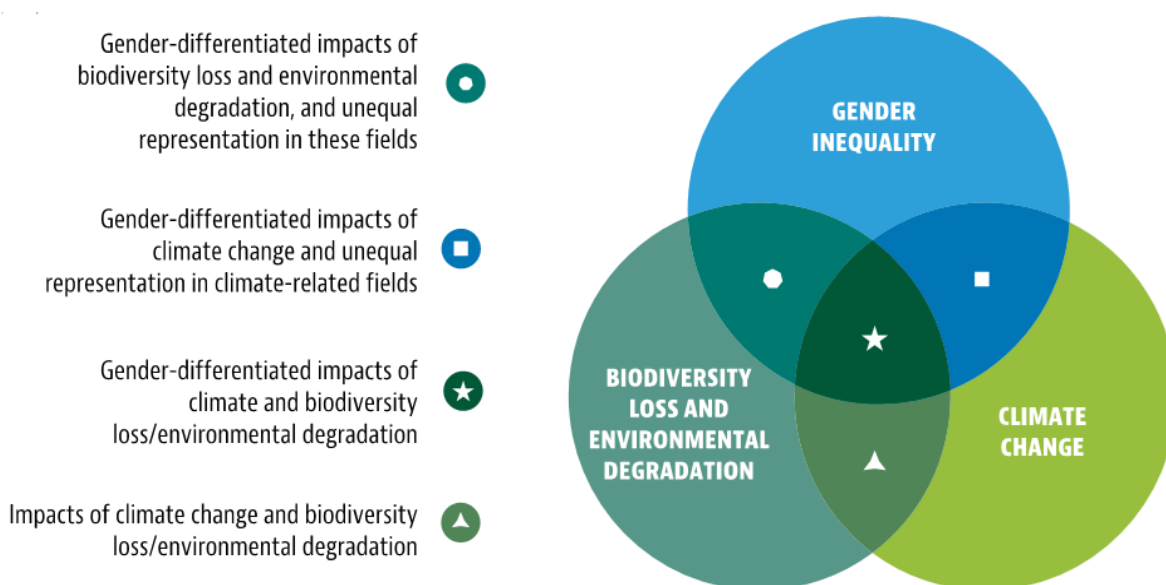
1 Overview

This paper explores global efforts to address the scale and relevance of how climate change, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and gender inequality intersect and impact sustainable development as well as the implications for development co-operation. This chapter provides the rationale and objectives of the report.

The gender equality-environment intersection: Four deeply interlinked crises that affect the future of humankind

The global climate crisis, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and gender inequality are among the world's most complex and pressing issues, each with multi-dimensional challenges and pervasive implications. These four challenges are mutually reinforcing and together create compounding risks and threats for all, especially developing countries. Climate change is a driver of biodiversity loss and environmental degradation. In parallel, the destruction of ecosystems and the environment inhibits the planet's ability to regulate greenhouse gas emissions, thus accelerating climate change (European Union, n.d.^[1]; Maurya, Ali and Ahmad, 2020^[2]). In addition, the impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss reinforce gender inequality by causing and exacerbating food insecurity, poverty, diseases and displacement – scenarios that amplify harmful power dynamics and disproportionately and negatively affect women and girls (UN Women, 2022^[3]). Figure 1.1 provides a conceptual diagram to define this intersection.

Figure 1.1. The gender-climate-biodiversity/environment intersection



It is now widely recognised that environment-related risks and threats are not gender-neutral; on the contrary, women and girls are disproportionately affected by climate change, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss (UN Women, 2022^[3]; IUCN, 2021^[4]; ActionAid et al., 2021^[5]; GGCA and UNDP, 2013^[6]; OECD, 2021^[7]; forthcoming^[8]) (Box 1.1). In addition, gender considerations often intersect with other social, physical and geographical factors, making those at those intersections most at risk (UNHCR and Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, 2020^[9]).

Box 1.1. Examples of how women and girls are disproportionately affected by environmental issues and have less power to influence decisions in these areas

- Women comprise 80% of the population displaced by climate change and extreme weather. When displaced, women and girls are exposed to an increased risk of gender-based violence.
- When climate change affects income, girls' education is often the first thing families sacrifice. Girls are pulled out of school to help with water and food security or to take care of others.
- Poverty often underlies child marriage. With climate change-related droughts, girls are forced to marry early, increasing the risk of sexual and physical abuse, early pregnancy, and maternal death.
- Women farmers have fewer rights to inherit, access and use land and other productive resources. Women make up 43% of the global agricultural labour force but represent less than 15% of landholders. Women reported owners of land are also less likely than men to have a legal document proving ownership or to have their names on the document. As a result, they are often excluded from decisions regarding the use of natural resources and are more vulnerable to food insecurity and poverty.
- Women are negatively impacted by biodiversity loss through higher domestic work burdens, loss of income, declining health, heightened exposure to gender-based violence, loss of culture and traditional knowledge, and adverse impacts on subjective well-being.
- Women are often underrepresented in environment-related decision making and in fields that are vital for the transition to low-carbon economies.

Sources: ActionAid et al. (2021^[5]); UNCHR and Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (2020^[9]); UNCHR (n.d.^[10]); Plan International (n.d.^[11]); UNFPA (2012^[12]); EnGen Collaborative (2021^[13]); FAO (2018^[14]); Booker et al. (2022^[15]); OECD (2021^[7]); UNEP and IUCN (2018^[16]).

For these reasons, these four challenges are considered as a “nexus” or an intersection (hereafter called “the gender equality and environment intersection” or simply “intersection”). Efforts to tackle these intersecting challenges can have a multiplier effect if they approach these issues holistically or, on the contrary, may have unintended consequences in isolation. For example, programmes to support renewable energy can enable recharging lanterns and batteries, at home and in microbusiness, which can improve night-time mobility and increase the quality of women’s lives and the educational and professional opportunities available to them and their children (CEEW and IEA, 2019^[17]). It is estimated that women and children spend up to 18 hours a week collecting wood and other fuels for domestic energy use, so clean cooking energy initiatives can help empower them by allowing them to spend this time on education, income-generating activities, or rest and leisure while reducing the environmental impact of burning wood (UNDP, n.d.^[18]; Dorcas, 2023^[19]).

Women are not only victims but also powerful agents of change who can contribute with knowledge and skills for a green transition (OECD, 2021^[7]). The 2014 OECD report “Mapping women’s access to public

life in OECD countries” shows that gender diversity in decision-making bodies enhances the promotion of women’s and children’s interests and generates more public trust (OECD, 2014^[20]). Other research demonstrates that women’s involvement in climate action has resulted in interventions and policies that are more inclusive and responsive to citizen’s needs (UNFCCC, n.d.^[21]); women’s “greener” household and personal choices could help transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy (OECD, 2021^[7]); women hold expertise, traditional knowledge and key roles that support biodiversity, agriculture and sustainable practices and are pioneers in many sustainability sectors (UN Women, 2022^[22]; EnGen Collaborative, 2021^[13]; ActionAid et al., 2021^[5]); and women leading advocacy groups on climate and environment issues are driving change on these agendas (UN Women, 2022^[3]; Women’s Forum for the Economy and Society, 2021^[23]). A decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (UN CBD) mentions the importance of ensuring the meaningful and effective engagement and empowerment of women and girls from indigenous peoples and local communities, and that indigenous women and girls, and those from local communities, are integrally involved in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (UNEP, 2022^[24]). Women’s unique knowledge, experiences, ideas and voices are increasingly recognised as being critical for future green-related policy making, programme design, financing allocations and international dialogue (UNFCCC, 2021^[25]).

The world is currently not on track to meet the 2030 Agenda’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (UN Women, 2022^[26]). What is more, global challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic have not only hindered progress towards certain SDGs, notably SDG 5 on gender equality, they have also begun to reverse it (UN Women, 2022^[26]). It is worth mentioning that developing national capacities to produce and use gender and biodiversity data, including relevant data disaggregation by sex, age, ethnicity and other demographic factors, would be useful for better tracking progress towards this and other SDGs. To reclaim what has been lost and accelerate action towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and SDG 5, gender inequality must be addressed with a similar sense of urgency as the climate crisis and other environmental challenges. Although the “green recovery” has not caught up as much as it should have, many countries were quick to commit to it through stimulus packages during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic (OECD, 2021^[27]). Countries across the globe seem to have missed the opportunity to address the gender and environment issues in tandem as part of their COVID-19 recovery plans, widening pre-existing gaps. From the 2 079 COVID-19 measures from 196 countries and territories documented by the UNDP (n.d.^[28]), only 54 are both green and gender-sensitive.

The international landscape on the climate-environment-biodiversity-gender intersection and its implications for development co-operation

Internationally, there is growing recognition that addressing the multiple facets of the climate-environment-biodiversity-gender intersection is crucial for sustainable development co-operation. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognises gender equality and women’s empowerment (SDG 5), combatting climate change and its impacts (SDG 13), and protecting biodiversity and the environment (SDGs 14 and 15) both as individual goals and as prerequisites for achieving the 2030 Agenda as a whole (Arlaud et al., 2018^[29]; UN Women, 2022^[26]; United Nations, 2015^[30]). Moreover, Article 6 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda reiterates the need for gender mainstreaming, as well as for targeted actions and investments for gender equality in the formulation and implementation of environmental policies (United Nations, 2015^[31]).

A closer look at the environment-related international landscape shows a growing integration of gender-related issues. Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG) was established in 2014 to advance gender considerations into the work of the UNFCCC Parties. A three-year extension of the LWPG was decided upon in 2017, and the UNFCCC’s first Gender Action Plan was established in 2018 (UNFCCC, n.d.^[32]). Along with a review of the LWPG, Parties agreed to a five-year enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its Gender Action

Plan in 2019 (UNFCCC, n.d.^[33]). In turn, the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) regularly features a Gender Day (UNFCCC, n.d.^[34]) and the Parties to the UN CBD included a gender equality goal in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (CBD, 2022^[35]). The CBD Gender Plan of Action complements and supports the implementation of the different SDGs, in line with the biodiversity agenda and the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework. Target 23 ensures that the Global Biodiversity Framework addresses the urgency for coherent gender considerations across the Global Biodiversity Framework further.

“Women and the environment” is one of 12 areas of concern regarding the advancement of gender equality addressed in the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action (UN Women, 1995^[36]). In 2009, the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (UN Women, 1979^[37]) released a Statement of the CEDAW Committee on Gender and Climate Change (CEDAW, 2009^[38]) expressing concerns about the absence of a gender perspective in the UNFCCC and other global frameworks and national policies. In 2018, the committee released General Recommendation No. 37 on Gender-related Dimensions of Disaster Risk Reduction in the Context of Climate Change (CEDAW, 2018^[39]). Building on the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (UNFPA, 1994^[40]), the 2014 International Conference on Population and Development’s Programme of Action (UNFPA, 2014^[41]) recognises that reproductive health and rights, as well as women’s empowerment and gender equality, must underpin all population and development policies and programmes. More recently, climate change was also identified as the priority theme of the 66th UN Commission on the Status of Women in 2022 (UN Women, 2022^[42]); and an Action Coalition on Feminist Action for Climate Justice was created in the framework of the 2021 Generation Equality Forum (Generation Equality Forum, 2021^[43]).

Global frameworks are critical to the operationalisation of domestic agendas. They serve not only as mechanisms to mobilise resources and streamline efforts, but also help create norms and hold governments and organisations to account (Climate Diplomacy, n.d.^[44]). As will be seen, these frameworks have increasingly recognised the importance of the climate-environment-biodiversity-gender intersection – yet extend synergies are possible. Furthermore, while promising, it remains unclear how these frameworks translate into concrete actions at the international, regional and domestic levels, especially in development co-operation (Carbon Brief, 2020^[45]).

Rationale, approach and objectives of this paper

Against this background, more information is needed on how development co-operation providers address the climate-environment-biodiversity-gender intersection. The OECD has carried out analysis on this question. However, mainly from the perspective of OECD countries. There is scant information on how development co-operation actors address the full intersection, or even parts of it (OECD, 2016^[46]; 2021^[47]; 2021^[7]; 2021^[48]). In line with surging international momentum, this area is gaining recognition among OECD-DAC members. Towards this aim, many DAC members have increased their efforts to link climate action, environmental and conservation efforts with gender equality in their development co-operation policies, programmes and development financing (OECD, 2021^[49]; 2021^[50]). However, the extent to which their development co-operation policy documents and instruments go beyond recognising the intersection and result in tangible action is not fully known. Moreover, it is unclear whether members’ policy actions are supported by, or aligned with, their financing commitments and vice versa. Finally, the effectiveness of these approaches – whether efforts promote gender-responsive or gender-transformative change, for example, and whether they are neutral and “do no harm” – is largely undetermined (OECD, 2022^[51]).

To address some of these knowledge gaps, this paper seeks to present a preliminary understanding of development actors’ policies and programmes, as well as financing efforts, to address this intersection. In doing so, it offers detailed information and examples to help fill the gap in understanding how DAC members and other development co-operation providers can better integrate these interrelated issues. The

paper will complement and inform the implementation of the OECD Guidance on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (OECD, 2022^[51]) and illustrate other OECD processes related to this intersection (OECD, 2021^[48]; 2021^[7]; 2022^[52]). Finally, the paper will also support members in the implementation of the *OECD-DAC Declaration on a New Approach to Align Development Co-operation with the Goals of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change* (OECD, 2021^[53]). In this Declaration, DAC members recognise the urgent need to support “climate investments that are gender-responsive”, among other criteria.

This paper also complements work that the International Institute for Environment and Development recently completed on gender-just transitions that maps objectives and approaches, and their translation into action for gender equality in just transitions-related programmes and pandemic recovery programmes (Anderson and Fisher, 2022^[54]). Gender-just transitions are closely related to the climate-biodiversity-environment-gender equality intersection, and many such just transition processes essentially operate at this intersection. Indeed, this work also notes that more investigation is needed to understand how this operates.

The paper is divided into four chapters: after this overview chapter, Chapter 2 reviews the literature on the climate-environment-biodiversity-gender intersection. Chapter 3 offers an analysis and overview of frameworks on the intersection and Chapter 4 an analysis of DAC members' development finance efforts to address the intersection.

For the framework analysis (Chapter 3), development co-operation providers' approach to the intersection is considered from two angles. First, the paper analyses strategies, policy documents, programmes and instruments to deliver on this intersection. These frameworks are then classified using a specific methodology that benchmarks members, as well as other international institutions, such as affiliates of the United Nations (UN) system, development finance institutions (DFIs) and non-governmental organisations. See Annex 3.A for a description of the methodology. Annex 3.B lists the reviewed policy frameworks of DAC members and Annex 3.C the reviewed policy frameworks of other international actors. The paper also provides an overview of recent development finance commitments related to this intersection (Chapter 4). Annex 4.A includes further information on the targets and pledges assessed while Annex 4.B explains how the data analysis was carried out, relying on the OECD-DAC Creditor Reporting System. A broader analysis and discussion on the effectiveness of the intersection is beyond the scope of this paper.

2 The climate-environment-biodiversity-gender intersection: A nascent field of research and practice

There is a substantial volume of literature on how the various components of climate, environment, biodiversity and gender are intrinsically interlinked. The UN system, and other international and non-governmental organisations, think tanks and research institutes produce most of this literature. One of the main conclusions is that exploring and addressing this intersection from a practical point of view is challenging due to limited funding and political buy-in (UN Women, 2022^[3]; de Jonge Oudraat and Brown, 2022^[55]). While political agreement at the international level could help eliminate some of these barriers, further information is needed on the uptake at the domestic level. The literature on how development co-operation providers address this intersection is equally limited. This chapter analyses current thinking and gaps hindering progress on this intersection.

Countries are increasingly identifying parts of the gender equality and environment intersection as a key priority

OECD countries are beginning to address elements of this intersection in their domestic policies. An analysis across OECD countries reveals that, although parallel advances have been made in gender equality and environmental agendas, they are rarely addressed in tandem (OECD, 2021^[7]). Moreover, out of the 30 OECD countries that responded to a survey circulated to members on Integrating Gender in Environmental Policies in 2019, only 17 reported that gender equality was considered within environmental policy making either systemically or occasionally (OECD, 2021^[7]). An analysis of the aggregate data within the OECD's *Green Recovery Database* reveals that 18 out of 705 measures assessed for gender relevance and sensitivity in the database are gender-relevant – a mere 2.5% (OECD, 2021^[48]). Additionally, out of the 12 critical areas under the Beijing Platform for Action, the environment is one of the two areas with the lowest shares of gender-focused aid over time (OECD, 2020^[56]).

Developing countries have also started to integrate gender considerations into their national climate change and environmental policies (Can Bertay, Dordevic and Sever, 2020^[57]; Jayachandran, 2015^[58]). Development partners, such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature, for example, have been supporting developing countries to develop gender climate action plans that address these interlinkages (IUCN, n.d.^[59]). Research shows that government ministries, including those pertaining to the environment and development co-operation, tend to recognise gender equality only as an instrument to achieve outcomes such as productivity and conservation (Mangubhai et al., 2022^[60]). For example, while several developing countries have worked to integrate gender into their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) (UNFCCC, n.d.^[61]), of the 162 intended NDCs in 2016, only 40% mentioned women and/or gender,

compared to 78% of the 89 new and updated NDCs as of 2021 (IUCN, 2021^[62]; Gender Climate Tracker, n.d.^[63]). Notably, all 18 NDCs from countries in Latin America and the Caribbean address gender (IUCN, 2021^[62]). A recent study by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) also shows progress in integrating gender between first- and second-generation NDCs (UNDP, 2023^[64]).

Finally, other research suggests that globally, national climate policies are insufficient to tackle the scale and complexity of this intersection. For instance, less than 2% of national climate strategies address the unique experiences or needs of girls, who are among the most deeply affected by gender inequality and vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss (WAGGGS, 2022^[65]). Work from the International Union for Conservation of Nature on new and updated NDCs, which includes five DAC members (Canada, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom), concluded that these members had gender-responsive components in their NDCs (Cooper Hall and Rojas, 2022^[66]). Another study from the Commonwealth Secretariat (which included analysis on the NDCs of, *inter alia*, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom) found that few NDCs of Commonwealth countries identified leveraging systemic behaviour change as a solution to climate-related gender inequality, or cited women as leaders and agents of change (Commonwealth Secretariat, 2021^[67]). OECD work also found evidence of empowering women through green growth approaches in Greece (OECD, 2022^[68]).

While some analyses reveal that the inclusion of gender-sensitive considerations in NDCs may have improved, critical gaps remain in substantively addressing gender inequality in them (Gender Climate Tracker, n.d.^[63]; Ejupi and Koch Alvarenga, 2021^[69]). Few UNFCCC Parties have yet to centre on women, girls and particularly indigenous women in the development of their NDCs (Gender Climate Tracker, n.d.^[63]; Ejupi and Koch Alvarenga, 2021^[69]).

Work by the NAP Global Network also shows progress over time, noting that gender-responsive National Adaptation Plan (NAP) processes are becoming mechanisms to ensure that climate action addresses gender and social inequalities (Dazé and Hunter, 2022^[70]).

Gaps hinder progress towards addressing the gender equality and environment intersection in partner countries

Many studies highlight additional issues, which cross the gender equality and environment intersection to both exacerbate the challenges and hinder progress towards inclusive sustainable development and planetary health. Issues include the need to develop a complete view of the intersection; a shortage of data; scarce support for, and acknowledgment of, the role of local women's rights organisations and feminist movements; lack of an intersectional approach;² lack of access for women to decision-making spaces; notably low participation of women in environment-related negotiations; and deficiency of policies, programmes and budgetary allocations for gender-responsive climate mitigation efforts.

A complete view of the intersection is needed

At the international level, gender equality has been recognised as an entry point for efforts towards harmonising the three Rio Conventions – the CBD, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the UNFCCC – and ultimately strengthen global environmental governance (CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC, 2012^[71]; IUCN, 2020^[72]). However, most of the literature does not refer to the

² The theory of intersectionality depicts the complexity of the effects of compounding forms of discrimination and social identifiers such as gender, race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, class, age, ability, sexual orientation, migration status and more, and the ways they come together, or intersect, to inform the lived experience of an individual (OECD, 2022^[51]; Merriam-Webster, 2023^[174]).

interlinkages between climate change, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and gender inequality – the complete intersection. Nearly all the literature analysed considers the interconnectedness of gender with one or two of these elements, especially climate change, even though they are all deeply interlinked (UNFCCC, n.d.^[73]; GEF, n.d.^[74]; IPCC, n.d.^[75]; Eriksen et al., 2021^[76]). For example, there are many resources on integrating gender into climate change adaptation efforts compared to climate change mitigation. To illustrate this point, a 2021 study analysed NDCs and found that 37% included a mention of gender in relation to adaptation while only 18% included a mention of gender in relation to mitigation (IUCN, 2021^[62]). Similarly, there are many resources to support developing countries in dealing with one element of the intersection, but not all of them combined [e.g. for adaptation see NAP Global Network and UNFCCC (2019^[77])]. A consistent theme throughout the body of evidence is acknowledgement of the need to continue examining the interconnected nature of the environment and gender equality – as it may help to alleviate existing inequalities, avoid creating new ones or avoid maladaptation (Jerneck, 2018^[78]; Roy et al., 2022^[79]; Hughes, 2022^[80]; OECD, 2021^[81]).

Data gaps on the gender equality and environment intersection and its components, especially in partner countries

As for other areas related to gender equality, there is a dearth of disaggregated data. Disaggregated data, and in particular gender-disaggregated data, provide policy makers with the information needed to develop evidence-based responses and policies and mobilise gender-responsive financing (UN Women, 2021^[82]; OECD, n.d.^[83]). Lack of gender-disaggregated data can hinder reporting on the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its targets. While OECD countries have gathered gender-disaggregated data in relation to economic and social policies, the same efforts have not been applied to environment-related policies. In 2017, the OECD disseminated a survey on gender-disaggregated data collection. Only 10% of respondents indicated that they collect such data regularly and approximately half of the respondents indicated that they do not collect gender-disaggregated data in relation to environmental policies, nor did they intend to do so (OECD, 2021^[7]). Additionally, there is a stark lack of gender data available across the environment-related SDGs. Of the 231 unique SDG indicators, 114 have an environment angle, but only 20 of these provide for gender-specific and/or sex-disaggregated data (OECD, 2021^[84]). More specifically, there are 45 indicators for the 4 SDGs related directly to planetary health (SDGs 12, 13, 14 and 15); only 1 is gender-specific (UN Women, 2021^[82]). Instead of creating a rich repository for data pertaining to the intersection, therefore, the SDG framework and its indicators do not yet help capture the connections between the gender and environmental goals (OECD, 2021^[84]).

Some organisations and initiatives are helping to fill some of these gender data gaps and make existing data more readily available. For example, the 2022 SDG Gender Index, developed by Equal Measures 2030, covers 56 key indicators across 14 SDGs (Equal Measures 2030, 2022^[85]). It revealed that SDG 13 on climate action is one of the three SDGs with the lowest global average index scores, even among otherwise high-performing countries (Equal Measures 2030, 2022^[85]). The OECD also collects data for two gender equality and environment combined indicators, namely data disaggregated by gender on mortality rates from air pollution and the development of green technologies based on patenting activity (OECD, n.d.^[86]). Additionally, tools include the Model Questionnaire on Gender and the Environment, which helps countries generate official statistics on this intersection in their national surveys (UN Women, 2022^[87]). The questionnaire generates data against 100 indicators on gender and the environment. To date, national surveys have been implemented by Bangladesh, Mongolia, Samoa and Tonga and additional surveys from other countries are scheduled for the coming years. Finally, gender equality and environment indicators have also been proposed by UNEP and IUCN (2018^[16]).

Adding to these challenges is the difficulty that many developing countries face in accessing and/or producing environmental and climate-relevant data that are comprehensive and timely, as well as limited capacities to sustain the underlying infrastructure that supports and distributes such data (Noltze et al.,

2021^[88]; UNEP and IUCN, 2018^[16]; OECD, 2021^[49]; 2021^[89]). Efforts to strengthen climate resilience, for example, depend on the availability of reliable data on weather, water and climate and the flow of information to policy makers and state and non-state actors. Sustainably engaging with partner country governments from an early stage allows development co-operation providers to support partner countries in collecting accurate, decision-relevant data and increases their understanding of the issues (OECD, 2021^[49]).

Scarce support for, and acknowledgement of, the role of local organisations

The literature addresses well the critical role of local organisations and recommendations for their engagement as key stakeholders (Generation Equality Forum, 2021^[90]; Dazé and Hunter, 2022^[70]). Local and grassroots civil society organisations (CSOs), including women’s rights organisations and feminist movements, as well as indigenous peoples and local communities (Rainforest Foundation Norway, 2021^[91]), play an essential role in addressing structural drivers of inequality and achieving meaningful change. Because they have unique contextual expertise and speak local languages, they are often well-positioned to collect data, implement programmes, challenge stigmas, and shift harmful norms and practices. They also play a pivotal role in holding governments and international bodies to account, as well as advocating for political and legislative change (OECD, 2022^[92]).

Yet most research shows that local stakeholders’ and communities’ experiences and knowledge are not always considered and generally excluded from decisions that directly impact their lives and livelihoods (IIED, n.d.^[93]). Systemic inequality and barriers prevent local CSOs from obtaining the resources needed to carry out their work. Financing that does reach this level is frequently limited or irregular (OECD, 2022^[94]).

Lack of an intersectional approach

Social identifiers such as gender, race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, class, age, ability, sexual orientation, migration status and more, come together, or intersect, to inform an individual’s lived experience. According to this, the socio-economic realities of marginalised groups intersect with gender inequality and compound to increase their vulnerabilities to climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation. However, these overlapping identifiers are often addressed in fragmented ways. In addition, the literature rarely addresses intersectional approaches (Amorim-Maia et al., 2022^[95]). The result is that knowledge related to these issues tends to be one-dimensional, hindering the ability to address the structural and systemic inequalities surrounding their intersection (Amorim-Maia et al., 2022^[95]; Yale, 2022^[96]). For example, indigenous peoples and local communities hold essential traditional knowledge about the sustainable management of the world’s key biodiversity areas – yet they are often left out of decision-making processes. They are also “the *de facto* stewards” of much of the Earth’s biodiversity (ActionAid et al., 2021^[5]). However, a study by the Rainforest Foundation Norway (2021^[91]) found that projects supporting indigenous peoples’ and local communities’ tenure and forest management received approximately USD 2.7 billion between 2011 and 2020 from bilateral and multilateral donors and private philanthropies – just USD 270 million per year, which is equivalent to less than 1% of ODA for climate change mitigation and adaptation. An inclusive approach should seek to facilitate the participation of those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change that directly affect their resilience and well-being (OECD, 2021^[49]), as well as from the impacts of environmental degradation.

Women’s low participation in international environment negotiations

A long-standing problem identified in the literature is the low representation of women in key climate-related sectors at all levels, from skilled workers to professionals and decision makers (Strumskyte, Ramos Magaña and Bendig, 2022^[97]). Although women are better represented in some associated disciplines, they are a minority in fields vital for a just transition to low-carbon economies. For example, women

represent 28% of tertiary graduates in engineering, 40% in computer sciences and 22% of professionals in the field of artificial intelligence (UNESCO, 2021^[98]). In 2020, only 12% of the top ministerial positions in environment-related sectors were held by women (IUCN, 2020^[99]). This is less than the average 22.8% of Cabinet members heading ministries that lead on a policy area (UN Women, n.d.^[100]). This imbalance is then translated into the global mechanisms and architecture addressing climate change, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss, with an underrepresentation of women in leadership and decision making. This hinders the equal and meaningful participation of women and girls in environmental negotiations (Sinha, 2019^[101]). For example, advocacy groups and senior officials drew attention to the gender imbalance at COP21 of the UNFCCC, the landmark meeting where the Paris Agreement was negotiated (UNFCCC, 2015^[102]; WEDO, 2022^[103]). Similar observations were made in future COPs; for example, at COP26 where a UNFCCC secretariat report noted that male delegates were overrepresented in terms of both presence and speaking time (even in meetings where male speakers were the minority) (UNFCCC, 2021^[25]; Dazé and Hunter, 2022^[70]). Moreover, women are often relegated to “women’s spaces”, such as gender equality committees or gender-related research. This subsequently reduces their representation in other areas (Gloor et al., 2022^[104]). Further, while women are underrepresented in climate and environmental spaces at the governmental level, they are overrepresented in environmental CSOs and non-governmental organisations.

Research regarding the involvement of climate, environment and biodiversity personnel in the international efforts to advance gender equality is nearly non-existent. This is likely due to several key reasons. Efforts to understand these interlinkages, and the progress that has been made in these spaces, have been primarily driven by gender champions (such as gender scholars, activists and politicians) (de Jonge Oudraat and Brown, 2022^[55]). This includes driving the research regarding women’s representation and leadership in environmental negotiations.

Without the key knowledge and leadership of women, efforts to address the gender equality and environment intersection will not be a priority, let alone effective or lasting. The lack of attention paid to women’s roles in international decision making will continue to reinforce this issue.

Other thematic areas also impact on how much progress is made on the intersection

Within the broad body of literature on the gender equality and environment intersection, many studies highlight additional interrelated thematic areas, such as gender-based violence, green skills and jobs, broader capacity limitations, the specific country contexts of small island developing states or least developed countries, as well as contexts of conflict and fragility (OECD, 2022^[51]; ILO, 2009^[105]; Castañeda Camey et al., 2020^[106]; UNEP et al., 2020^[107]). However, data on the links between these areas and the gender equality and environment intersection are insufficient (beyond an understanding of financial inputs) and there is no systematic method of collecting information on effective approaches of development co-operation providers in addressing them. The result is a lack of an informed and co-ordinated approach to address this intersection.

To illustrate this point, the connection between conflict and fragility and the climate-environmental-biodiversity crises is garnering increased attention (OECD, 2022^[108]; Boyer, Meijer and Gilligan, 2020^[109]; UNEP et al., 2020^[107]). Yet, as policy work in these areas is typically siloed, failing to properly explore these linkages, policy responses can be considered inadequate (de Jonge Oudraat and Brown, 2022^[55]). Furthermore, research highlights the limited attention paid to the role of gender norms and power dynamics in the perpetuation of, and response to, climate and security crises (UNEP et al., 2020^[107]). Seeking to develop a comprehensive understanding of these interlinkages and a pathway to address them, the OECD’s Fragility Framework measures fragility across six dimensions, including an environmental one (OECD, 2022^[108]). A human dimension was added recently to measure, and provide insight into, the experiences of women and girls in fragile and conflict-affected contexts (OECD, 2022^[110]). The indicators of the different dimensions were also revised to include a gender indicator in the environmental dimension,

which recognises the important linkages between both aspects (OECD, 2022^[108]). Other international development actors have also provided resources to help development co-operation providers strengthen the linkages between conflict and fragility and the gender equality and environment intersection (Ahmadnia et al., 2022^[111]; Boyer, Meijer and Gilligan, 2020^[109]; UNEP et al., 2020^[107]; Holdaway, Marquette and Simpson, 2021^[112]).

A growing body of resources to help operationalise the gender equality and environment intersection

Despite the many knowledge gaps surrounding this intersection, development co-operation providers and partner countries can rely on a growing body of practical tools and capacity development resources to guide their work on this topic. Examples of these tools include guidance documents, toolkits, technical support instruments and capacity development initiatives (IUCN, 2021^[113]; OSCE, 2009^[114]; UNDP, 2009^[115]; Sasvari et al., n.d.^[116]; Rico, 1998^[117]; NDC Partnership, n.d.^[118]). Some of these aspects have also been developed by DAC members (Bonnin Roncerel et al., 2020^[119]), including:

- **Resources that provide evidence** for gender equality and social inclusion considerations to be integrated across climate-related initiatives (Bonnin Roncerel et al., 2020^[119]); and concrete measures to leverage the linkages between areas and offer guidance regarding the integration of cross-cutting issues into policies and programmes (UNEP et al., 2020^[107]; Holdaway, Marquette and Simpson, 2021^[112]; Deininger et al., 2023^[120]; NAP Global Network and UNFCCC, 2019^[77]; Siles et al., 2019^[121]). Box 2.1 presents the example of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Box 2.1. The Commonwealth Secretariat's studies and tools to support member countries in integrating gender equality and climate

The Commonwealth Secretariat conducted a study “Gender Integration for Climate Action: A Review of Commonwealth Member Country Nationally Determined Contributions” to better understand how and to what extent Commonwealth member countries are integrating gender and social inclusion concerns into their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to identify prevailing gaps, entry points and opportunities for integrating gender into the NDCs. The report provides good practice examples and recommendations for strengthening gender responsiveness in the implementation of NDCs along the following topics: prioritising gender in context; policy integration of gender; institutional co-ordination across gender and climate change; capacity development in technology; monitoring, review and verification systems; sex-disaggregated data and information; and financial resources for gender inclusion. Building on this, the Commonwealth Secretariat developed a *Best Practice Guide on Gender Integration in NDCs* to support Commonwealth member countries in their journey towards gender equality in climate action. The guide maps out a timeline of tangible action points that Commonwealth countries can undertake to enhance gender integration in the run up to the 2025 NDC update cycle. It tracks Commonwealth progress across five good practice areas, providing an opportunity to analyse where Commonwealth countries are doing well and where there is room for further support, especially through the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub. Furthermore, in relation to other available bodies of work in this area, the guide provides a unique Commonwealth perspective and signposts to useful reference materials and work developed by other organisations all in one guide rather than duplicating efforts.

Source: (Commonwealth Secretariat, 2021^[67]; Commonwealth Secretariat, 2022^[122]).

- **Resources that can be used in efforts to acquire or mobilise funding** (Bonnin Roncerel et al., 2020^[119]) (2X Global, n.d.^[123]). 2XCollaborative, for example, provides investors with a Gender-Smart Climate Finance Guide, a toolkit to integrate gender equality in climate finance across different sectors and themes. The toolkit includes case studies of gender-smart climate finance, impact measurement and other resources on gender-smart climate finance.
- **Direct technical support on gender-responsive climate action** to expand access to capacity on gender by pairing developing country requests with technical support from development co-operation providers (NDC Partnership, n.d.^[118]).
- **Tools to address and fast-track strategic partnerships** towards meaningful progress on this intersection in the context of development co-operation [see Chapter 22 in Enarson and Dhar Chakrabarti (n.d.^[124])], for example, through the UNFCCC gender work streams.
- **Methodologies to mobilise multi-stakeholder participation and gender analyses** to identify gender-specific issues within priority sectors, such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Climate Change Gender Action Plan methodology, which can help inform NDCs; interventions and programmes; channels and modalities of aid allocations and investments; capacity development agendas; and governance and leadership reform (IUCN, n.d.^[59]).

These elements, however, do not provide insight into how development co-operation providers or partner countries could holistically address these interrelated challenges. Beyond their uptake, there is limited information on the complementarity and effectiveness of these resources.

3 Overview of development co-operation providers' frameworks

Development co-operation providers are instrumental actors in the global pursuit to address the gender equality and environment intersection. As signatories of international agreements, funders of development co-operation and partners can switch the dial towards progress on this agenda. Development co-operation providers can work with partner countries to jointly address these global crises as interlinked issues and identify approaches to tackling the root causes of climate change, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and gender inequality (World Bank, 2022^[125]). Additionally, research points to the benefits of working with international development organisations that have the inherent motivation, intention, capacity and context to support the integration of gender into climate, environmental and biodiversity-related action, and ultimately include them in development co-operation frameworks (World Bank, 2022^[125]). However, knowledge is limited regarding the extent to which development co-operation providers address this intersection in their own frameworks, approaches and delivery, and on the implementation status. A better understanding of this landscape could help identify gaps, barriers and approaches that work; facilitate further alignment between DAC members and international development actors; and ultimately strengthen global efforts to tackle these challenges holistically. This chapter examines the integration of this intersection in DAC and other development co-operation providers' frameworks and tools.

Intersection of gender equality and environment across development co-operation providers' frameworks

In addressing this intersection, many DAC members have taken a siloed approach. This also applies to their development co-operation frameworks. Among those who address these challenges as interconnected, there are few commonalities in the extent to which they do so. Ultimately, DAC members do not use any methods or designs supported by holistic diagnostics to integrate these issues. While some DAC members incorporate this intersection into their overarching or thematic development co-operation policies and programmes, many integrate it at the level of their thematic or specific gender equality or "green" development policies. Others go a step further and have devised policy instruments to strengthen their development efforts on this intersection.

Furthermore, some member countries treat gender and climate (or the environment) as cross-cutting issues and so mainstream them across their portfolios. Others establish priorities or areas of focus that provide an in-depth understanding of the intersection and identify actions to address it. Others mention the existence or significance of the intersection or focus on it through specific thematic areas. Beyond the DAC, other development co-operation providers (such as multilateral providers, international institutions, development finance institutions, civil society and philanthropic foundations) have also addressed the intersection. These actors often address it in a more robust way than DAC members.

Despite structural differences between bilateral DAC and other providers,³ a comparative analysis can provide a helpful overview of the extent to which the gender equality and environment intersection is integrated into policy frameworks across a range of development partners. Table 3.1 classifies DAC members and other development co-operation providers according to the way they address this intersection in their frameworks (strategies, thematic policies), ranging from “not addressing the intersection” (Category 0) to “full integration” (Category 4).

Table 3.1. Overview of development co-operation providers’ frameworks

	DAC members			Other providers
	Development co-operation strategies	Gender policies	Climate/environment policies	Strategic frameworks and policies
Category 0: The intersection is not addressed within the actors’ policy documents	Australia, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, United States	Australia, Finland, Iceland, Slovak Republic	Finland, New Zealand, Portugal, Switzerland	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Business for Social Responsibility
Category 1: The intersection is mentioned and/or addressed in the policy document without additional evidence, information or associated actions	European Union, Iceland, Korea	Belgium, Italy, Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland	European Union, Greece, Sweden, United Kingdom	International Labour Organization, World Bank
Category 2: The importance of including the intersection is addressed and/or actions to address it are identified in the policy document	Austria, Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, United Kingdom	Denmark, United Kingdom, United States	Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Slovak Republic	Green Growth Knowledge Partnership, International Organization for Migration, Oxfam, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
Category 3: The intersection is important to the essence, structure and objectives of the policy document	Canada, Germany, Ireland, Sweden	Austria, European Union, France, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Portugal, Spain, Sweden	Austria, Ireland, Italy	Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Investment Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization, Inter-American Development Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development, Commonwealth Secretariat, World Food Programme
Category 4: The intersection fundamentally underscores the policy document and/or the policy document is dedicated to the intersection	n/a	Canada, Luxembourg	Australia, Canada, Luxembourg, United States	Adaptation Fund, Climate & Development Knowledge Network, Climate Investment Funds, Global Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility, Global Green Growth Institute, Global Fund for Women, International Union for Conservation of Nature, United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,

³ One difference relates, for example, to governance, while DAC members are typically national governments with priorities defined through national processes, the other providers assessed here are often sector-specific with mandates defined by a broader set of members and boards. Exploring these differences and how they may contribute to policy making could shed additional light on the analysis, but is beyond the scope of this paper.

				United Nations Climate Technology Centre and Network, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UN Women, Women Deliver, Women's Environment & Development Organization, 2XCollaborative
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Source: See Annex 3.A for the methodology; Annex 3.B for the DAC members' reviewed policy frameworks; and Annex 3.C for international actors' reviewed policy frameworks.

DAC members' approach to integrating gender equality and the environment

Of 30 DAC members,⁴ 29 have an overarching development co-operation strategy. None of these strategies fundamentally reflect the interlinkages between gender equality objectives and climate and environmental goals. Notwithstanding, this intersection is important to the policy's essence, structure and development co-operation objectives of four members (Canada, Germany, Ireland and Sweden; Box 3.1). The remaining members do not acknowledge the intersection, despite its components being increasingly seen as central.

Box 3.1. DAC members' development co-operation strategies that focus on the gender equality and environment intersection

Canada

Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy includes a specific action area, "Environment and climate action". Recognising the disproportionate and negative effects of climate change on women and the importance of their participation in all climate adaptation and mitigation efforts, the action area lays out commitments to gender-responsive climate action in the context of development co-operation: support women's leadership and decision making in climate change mitigation and adaptation, resilience-building and sustainable natural resource management; ensures that the government's climate-related planning, policy making and financing acknowledge the particular challenges women and girls face; and supports employment and business opportunities for women in the renewable energy sector. In addition, it identifies steps to carry out these commitments. For example, to support the creation of economic opportunities for women in renewable energy, Canada will support programmes that promote the use of renewable energy, increase access to related services and information for women entrepreneurs, and ensure that climate financing is accessible to women-led initiatives and enterprises.

Germany

Germany's Feminist Development Policy recognises that climate change and the loss of biological diversity pose a particular threat to women, girls and marginalised groups in all their diversity. Moreover, it underlines their importance as knowledge bearers and decision makers and argues that women, girls and marginalised groups such as indigenous peoples should play an important role in decision-making

⁴ This paper was written before Estonia and Lithuania joined the DAC, so they were not included in the analysis.

processes. In aligning its portfolio with feminist development policy, German development co-operation wants to harness the major potential in sectors such as climate and biodiversity. The just transition will also be a priority theme in Germany's forthcoming third Gender Action Plan.

Ireland

Within Ireland's Policy for International Development, "prioritising gender equality" and "climate action" are two of four focus areas. Throughout the policy, recognition of the interlinkages between gender and climate action is comprehensive. Under the section dedicated to the focus on gender equality, the need for a deeper understanding of the gendered impacts of climate change, and to include those the furthest behind (women and girls) first are discussed as critical to Ireland's development efforts. Additionally, under the section dedicated to the focus on climate action, the importance of supporting gender equality and social movements is noted as being instrumental to driving and informing people-centred action. Gender equality is discussed as underpinning Ireland's international policies and climate action and is prioritised in specific climate-related commitments, such as creating greater economic opportunities for women in fish value chains. A new financial incentive – the First Movers Fund – is now available to Irish development programmes for climate action in some developing countries. The climate action investments will have a principal climate-related objective and significant gender equality co-objectives.

Sweden

The Policy Framework for Swedish Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance addresses gender inequality and climate change as interconnected issues. Additionally, the intersection is addressed within the respective thematic directions of the strategy, which are to be carried out using an analytical and integrated approach, namely "global gender equality" and "environmentally and climate-related sustainable development and sustainable use of natural resources". Notably, Sweden identifies strengthening women's participation in decision-making processes related to the environment, climate change and sustainable use of natural resources as a pathway to the successful implementation of the policy.

Source: (Government of Canada, 2017^[126]; BMZ, 2023^[127]; Government of Ireland, 2019^[128]; Government Offices of Sweden, 2016^[129]).

At the thematic policy level, 24 DAC members have gender equality policies and 22 have environment-related policies. Contrary to the overarching development policies (and the cross-cutting logic of the SDGs that underlines these strategic documents), gender and environment-related thematic policies have more of a holistic focus. This is likely due to the fact that in thematic policies, gender equality or environmental considerations are already the central issue or areas of focus. It is, therefore, easier to integrate the intersection. In fact, out of the 24 gender policies, 20 address the intersection. Of the 22 environment-related policies, 17 address it. However, the approaches taken and degrees to which they recognise, frame or incorporate this intersection vary. A few place it at the centre of the policy's intended outcomes (only Australia, Canada, Luxembourg and the United States do so).

Furthermore, there is little to no coherence between the approaches taken to address the intersection across the two sets of thematic policies, even when they are adopted by the same DAC member (except in the cases of Canada and Luxembourg; Box 3.2). For example, the intersection is important to the essence, structure and objectives (Category 3) of nine DAC members' gender policies. However, only three DAC members' climate and environment-related policies recognise it to the same extent (Category 3), meaning that the policies of only one DAC member (Austria) scored as Category 3 in both cases. Additionally, five DAC members' gender and climate and environment-related policies addressed the intersection to the same extent as reflected in their categorisations (Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland and Luxembourg).

Box 3.2. Full mainstreaming of the gender equality and environment intersection: The case of Luxembourg

Luxembourg's approach to addressing the intersection in its development co-operation efforts stands out as the only Development Assistance Committee member to have fully reverse-mainstreamed both its specific gender equality and climate change/environmental policy documents. Luxembourg's environment and climate change strategies and Gender Strategy were jointly presented to parliament as the new guiding principles for Luxembourg's development co-operation efforts. The two strategies were developed in parallel to ensure the transversal character of the themes in each of the documents and are systematically integrated into political dialogues, as well as in a reinforced manner in each of the new co-operation programmes and projects.

Source: (Government of Luxembourg, 2021^[130]; Government of Luxembourg, 2021^[131]; OECD, 2021^[50]).

Such a scarcity of policies that comprehensively recognise and address the intersection also translates into a deficiency of mechanisms in place to carry out effective programming that tackles the joint gender and environmental crises. In turn, this also hinders the existence of, and adherence to, accountability mechanisms that could incentivise DAC members to follow through on any intersection commitments expressed in their development co-operation strategies and policies. There is a similar trend across DAC members' development finance institutions (see Box 3.3).

Notwithstanding, several DAC members address the intersection in their programming:

- With the adoption of the EU Gender Action Plan III (GAP III), the European Union has also become more active in the intersection. According to the GAP III, EU interventions should contribute to: promoting girls' and women's participation and leadership to ensure gender-responsive strategies to climate mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and the inclusive and sustainable management of natural resources; supporting women's networks in green transition sectors such as sustainable forest management, agriculture and energy; capacity development, financing and support for investment in gender-responsive national climate, environment and disaster risk reduction strategies and action plans; supporting women's entrepreneurship and employment in the green, blue and circular economy; and improving data collection on the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change and environmental degradation to inform gender-responsive policies and action (European Commission, 2020^[132]).
- Various programmes are being implemented at USAID to address the intersection. These include an initiative to support national governments in developing climate change gender action plans and a fund in partnership with Amazon to increase access to climate finance for women-led organisations, among several others (Climatelinks, n.d.^[133]; IUCN, n.d.^[134]).
- Germany supports partner countries in implementing the UNFCCC and CBD, among others, which can be understood as relevant development policy requirements, and provides guidance on the topic. The intersection has also been explicitly addressed in gender-related BMZ strategies in the past (BMZ, 2016^[135]). As a cross-cutting issue/quality feature, gender references are systematically examined and, where possible, addressed by all projects. Gender has thus already played an important role in the design of the German portfolio in the intersection prior to the adoption of the feminist development policy of 2023 and will be further strengthened in the future (BMZ, 2023^[127]).
- The United Kingdom addresses the climate, environment and biodiversity crisis in its development co-operation in and through girl's education (UK FCDO, 2022^[136]). By focusing on a framework of

priority actions to deliver climate-smart education systems, the United Kingdom aims to build more resilient and inclusive education systems to mitigate the impact of climate and environmental change on education and build knowledge, skills and agency for climate adaptation and mitigation to maximise the potential of educated populations for addressing the climate and environment crisis.

- Sweden’s international development co-operation agency (Sida) has a Gender Toolbox that includes aspects of gender and environment.

Box 3.3. The gender equality and environment intersection in selected development finance institutions

The policy frameworks of four Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members’ development finance institutions (DFIs) were included in the analysis: British International Investment, FinDev Canada, Germany’s KfW/DEG and France’s Proparco (part of AFD). FinDev Canada significantly addresses the interlinkages between climate change, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and gender inequality within its policy frameworks; this intersection is important to the essence, structure and objectives of its documents. Germany’s KfW/DEG and France’s Proparco, however, do not address it within their policy documents. This analysis reveals that the policy approaches of reviewed DAC members’ DFIs tend to align to some extent with the member’s corresponding development co-operation policy framework with regards to the extent to which they address the intersection. For instance, Canada provides a positive example of recognising this within its policy frameworks, which is reflected in FinDev Canada’s documents; the opposite can be seen in Germany and KfW/DEG’s policies.

Beyond individual policy frameworks, OECD-UNDP Impact Standards for Financing Sustainable Development, approved by the OECD DAC in March 2021, call on development co-operation providers, their DFIs and private sector partners to “articulate quantitative and qualitative development impact objectives that contribute positively to the Sustainable Development Goals and cross-sectoral donor priorities”. While the standards help integrate gender equality and environment considerations into DFI and private sector strategies, elsewhere, gender and climate are becoming key reporting areas for development finance actors. This is evidenced by the focus areas of the Joint Impact Indicators, a subset of the Harmonized Indicators for Private Sector Operations and Impact Reporting and Investment Standards catalogue of metrics.

Source: (FinDev Canada, 2019^[137]; 2021^[138]) (KfW, n.d.^[139]; KfW DEG, n.d.^[140]; Proparco, 2017^[141]; OECD and UNDP, 2021^[142]; GIIN and HPSO, 2021^[143]).

More practical tools would help DAC members implement the intersection

To help build their development co-operation frameworks to address this intersection, some DAC members use supporting policy instruments. These instruments vary in the depth in which they acknowledge and address the intersection and can take many forms, ranging from policy briefs to manuals, reference guides, and more. They employ a range of approaches to support and strengthen members’ development co-operation frameworks and efforts to tackle this, namely:

- **Providing further information:** At a minimum, many of the supporting policy instruments provide insights on a component of the intersection. For example, Spain’s development co-operation agency (AECID) explores the importance of mainstreaming gender; highlights gender equality as

key for the effectiveness and sustainability of results; and provides examples of tools to facilitate the development of gender-responsive strategies (DGPOLDES, 2018^[144]). Italy considers climate change and the sustainable management of water, forests and other natural resources, and provides details on women's equal access to information, decision-making roles and abilities to take action regarding climate change (Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2010^[145]).

- **Presenting the “cross-cutting” approach as a mechanism to counter siloed efforts:** Some DAC members' policy instruments address gender inequality and climate change or the environment as cross-cutting issues and aim to address these in tandem. For example, the Slovak Republic establishes gender equality and climate change as cross-cutting issues to be integrated into development co-operation efforts (Slovak Aid, 2021^[146]). Finland identifies four interlinked cross-cutting objectives to inform its development policy, three of which are related to the intersection: gender equality, non-discrimination, climate resilience and low emissions development (Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2015^[147]). Finland also applies a twin-track approach of using both mainstreaming these cross-cutting objectives and targeted actions dedicated to addressing them in its development co-operation policies and interventions (Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2015^[147]).
- **Informing and supporting the implementation of policies:** Other instruments establish that their purpose is, or will be, to inform and support the execution of DAC members' wider development co-operation frameworks. For instance, Ireland explicitly lays out the interconnected dimensions of gender equality and climate change as a rationale for addressing the two areas and informing Ireland's development co-operation interventions (Irish Aid, 2018^[148]). In turn, Switzerland outlines key gender issues in the context of climate change and environmental degradation and sets out recommendations to inform the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Switzerland's development co-operation strategies and interventions (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, 2019^[149]).

While these tools provide access to information and resources that can help strengthen DAC members' policy frameworks to address the intersection, the uptake and effectiveness of the approach are not tracked or reported upon and are beyond the scope of this paper.

Priorities across DAC members' frameworks: The example of conflict and fragility

Some DAC members found that establishing thematic priorities and identifying synergies with other global issues is helpful in addressing key barriers to tackling climate change, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and gender inequality (OECD, 2022^[51]). This does not imply that other thematic areas are less important, but rather that some are more pertinent to a DAC member or is an area where progress is slow or reversing. A range of thematic areas cross the gender equality-environment intersection. To illustrate how this plays out across various themes, this section looks at conflict and fragility and whether, or to what extent, DAC members are taking steps to incorporate it into their development frameworks.

Of the DAC members that integrate gender equality and the environment holistically into their development co-operation frameworks (overarching development co-operation policy or thematic policy), seven (Canada, European Union, France, Iceland, Luxembourg, Sweden and the United States) also identify synergies and leverage the linkages between conflict and fragility and the intersection to strengthen their development co-operation efforts. However, how DAC members incorporate conflict and fragility varies. To illustrate, Canada highlights the rights of those whose realities are affected by conflict over climate change-related shortages of natural resources for effective climate action (Government of Canada, n.d.^[150]). Sweden underscores the systematic integration of environmental and climate, gender equality, and conflict perspectives. This is because “violence and armed conflict are among the largest obstacles to

economic and social development, and development co-operation is an important part of conflict prevention” (Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, 2018^[151]). The European Union notes that human-made crises, such as armed conflicts, are not only escalating in terms of impact and duration but also in complexity, and are increasingly linked to other development issues, such as climate change and environmental degradation. The European Union draws upon these linkages to centre the Women Peace and Security Agenda as an effective instrument to address increased gender inequality and threats to women in these contexts (European Commission, 2020^[132]). Finally, the United States recognises that more attention must be paid to understanding and addressing the interlinkages between gender inequality, state fragility and climate vulnerability (Boyer, Meijer and Gilligan, 2020^[109]).

Other DAC members link environmental fragility with the gender equality and environment intersection in their investments. Australia, for example, works with UN Women to support Pacific women and girls in Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to lead on disaster prevention, preparedness and recovery as part of a Women’s Resilience to Disasters programme (UN Women, n.d.^[152]).

Beyond the DAC: Addressing the gender equality and environment intersection across other development actors

As with many DAC members, most international development actors (such as multilateral organisations, civil society and philanthropic foundations) have incorporated climate change, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and/or gender inequality into their frameworks. Unlike the DAC, however, most of these actors’ frameworks take a holistic approach. It is unclear why these institutions have been at the forefront of the intersection, yet of the 35 international development actors analysed, only 2 did not recognise the intersection to any extent (Table 3.1). Moreover, nine actors considered the intersection as important to the essence, structure and objectives of the policy document (Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Investment Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization, Inter-American Development Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development, Commonwealth Secretariat, World Food Programme). Further, 18 actors’ policy documents are fundamentally underscored by addressing the intersection (Adaptation Fund, Climate & Development Knowledge Network, Climate Investment Funds, Global Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility, Global Green Growth Institute, Global Fund for Women, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, United Nations Climate Technology Centre & Network, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, UNFCCC, UN Women, Women Deliver, Women’s Environment & Development Organization, 2xCollaborative). This suggests that DAC members could consider exploring further dialogue and partnerships with these actors when programming around the intersection, as well as promoting dialogue among them.

For the purposes of this paper, these institutions were divided based on their area of focus (see Annex 3.A): climate change, the environment and/or biodiversity loss; gender equality; and global sustainable development. Among the institutions with a climate-environment-biodiversity-related mandate, 12 out of 13 have a policy document dedicated to, or fundamentally underscored by, the intersection. Many of these actors link their policy documents to specific commitments and actions to address it, often through concrete action plans. Moreover, some refer to mainstreaming, transformative change pathways and intersectionality when addressing the intersection (Box 3.4). For example, to align and increase the effectiveness of their investments, policies and programmes, the Global Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) include gender mainstreaming in their long-term vision on collaboration (GEF, 2021^[153]). The GEF also has a Gender Partnership, where international organisations’ focal points work collaboratively with the GEF gender focal point.

In turn, the number of institutions primarily focusing on gender equality is less than those focusing on the environment, but these institutions still address the intersection in their frameworks. All four institutions have a policy document dedicated to, or that is fundamentally underscored by, the intersection (Box 3.4). Like the climate, environment and biodiversity-focused actors, gender equality actors frequently highlight the importance of applying an intersectional lens in this work. This group of actors commonly identifies the need to engage and support local CSOs (particularly women’s rights organisations and feminist movements) as a critical approach to addressing the intersection.

Actors that focus on global sustainable development issues address environment-related and gender equality issues, and their intersection, to varying degrees. Two of the 12 actors in this category do not address it at all, and only one has a policy document dedicated to, or fundamentally underscored by, the intersection. This may have to do with the fact that they do not have expertise in any of the four areas pertaining to the intersection and instead are dedicated to another relevant area of development co-operation or cover sustainable development broadly. Several multilateral organisations’ policy documents call for gender-responsive approaches to addressing climate change, environmental degradation and/or biodiversity loss (Commonwealth Secretariat, International Fund for Agricultural Development, International Organization for Migration, Food and Agriculture Organization, the UNDP and Wood Food Programme).

Finally, development banks were also analysed. They tend to emphasise gender-smart climate finance and investments in a green economy and consider the intersection central to their operations. For example, the Asian Development Bank recognises that investing in women pays off. It also mentions, along with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the importance of taking a gender-responsive approach (ADB, 2017^[154]; EBRD, 2021^[155]).

Box 3.4. International providers with policies underscored by the gender equality and environment intersection

Adaptation Fund

The Adaptation Fund’s Gender Policy and Gender Action Plan acknowledges the significance of addressing gender inequality to achieve the fund’s commitments. Moreover, the policy “builds on existing gender policies and gender action plans of other climate funds” and integrates the application of an intersectional analysis in addressing gender inequality. The concrete actions in the Gender Action Plan include indicators, timelines and the creation of a responsible body within the organisation.

Climate Investment Funds

The Climate Investment Funds’ Gender Policy and Gender Action Plan acknowledge the interlinkages and their intersection with other socio-economic inequalities. The Gender Policy serves as a general overarching framework, whereas the time-bound Gender Action Plan helps with programming and reflecting on lessons learnt. Moreover, the Climate Investment Funds’ policy documents recognise transformative change as critical to addressing the intersection.

International Fund for Agricultural Development

The International Fund for Agricultural Development’s (IFAD) Action Plan <https://www.ifad.org/en/-/mainstreaming-gender-transformative-approaches-at-ifad-action-plan-2019-2025> recognises the need for transformative change to address the intersection. The plan commits to ensuring that 25% of IFAD projects are gender-transformative. According to IFAD, the root causes of environmental challenges and gender inequalities must be addressed to achieve transformative change. Moreover, the Action Plan argues for both gender and climate mainstreaming. All stages of a project cycle should integrate gender mainstreaming, including a focus on the interlinkages with the environment, climate,

youth and nutrition. Furthermore, “natural resources” and “climate change adaptation and mitigation” are considered among the key thematic areas of the action plan.

UN Women

Addressing the intersection is a central component of UN Women’s work, evidenced within many of the organisation’s policy documents. In addition to several policy briefs providing detailed information on this, UN Women recognises the complete intersection and climate change is mainstreamed across all thematic areas. With a focus on supporting the involvement of women and considering the gender dimension in all climate, environmental and biodiversity policies and programming, UN Women puts its commitments into action through its intergovernmental support on climate change and the environment. The organisation prepares research and technical papers to inform deliberations of Parties under the three UN conventions on climate change, desertification and biodiversity, as well as other multilateral environmental instruments, “convenes meetings with governments and other stakeholders, and supports the participation of gender advocates in key gatherings”.

Source: (Adaptation Fund, 2021^[156]) (CIF, 2018^[157]) (CIF, 2020^[158]) (IFAD, 2019^[159]) (UN Women, 2022^[160]) (UN Women, n.d.^[161])

Annex 3.A. Methodology

Methodology to organise DAC members against a continuum

The continuum used in this paper was designed to determine the extent to which development co-operation providers' policy documents (policies, strategies, action plans, etc.) address the gender equality and environment intersection and to present a deeper understanding of their policy commitments and actions towards this agenda. Development co-operation providers' policy frameworks were analysed against the continuum and categorised accordingly. It was also designed to apply to the following types of policy documents included in the analysis: overarching development co-operation policy documents; thematic or specific climate change/environment/biodiversity policy documents; and thematic or specific gender policy documents. Each of these "types" was analysed separately. While this paper recognises that four separate global crises make up this intersection, the climate-environment-biodiversity-related thematic or specific policy documents were analysed together, as development co-operation providers tend to structurally group them. For the development co-operation providers with multiple policy documents that apply to each "type", all relevant policy documents were analysed against the continuum and these were categorised based on their strongest, or highest scoring, policy document (Table 3A.1). The list of documents analysed (Annex 3.B) is not exhaustive and some documents may have been updated or replaced since the study was conducted.

Table 3A.1. Typology used for the continuum on the gender equality and environment intersection

Category	Definition
Category 0	The gender equality and environment intersection is not addressed within the actor's policy documents.
Category 1	The gender equality and environment intersection is mentioned and/or addressed in the policy document without additional evidence, information or associated actions.
Category 2	The importance of including the gender equality and environment intersection is addressed, and/or actions to address this intersection are identified in the policy document.
Category 3	The gender equality and environment intersection is important to the policy document's essence, structure and objectives.
Category 4	The gender equality and environment intersection fundamentally underscores the policy document and/or the policy document is dedicated to this intersection.

Actors beyond the DAC

While several international actors (multilateral organisations, development finance institutions, civil society and philanthropic foundations) are engaged to varying capacities in the global architecture supporting climate change, the environment, and biodiversity and gender equality as well as other intersecting areas of sustainable development, 35 key actors were selected for this analysis. They were selected based on their relevance to the climate change, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss or gender inequality agendas, and/or their influential role as providers of development co-operation. These actors were divided into four groups based on their area of focus, namely:

- international actors focused on climate change, the environment and/or biodiversity loss:** Green Growth Knowledge Platform, Adaptation Fund, Climate & Development Knowledge Network, Climate Investment Funds, Global Environment Facility, Global Green Growth Institute, Green Climate Fund, International Union for Conservation of Nature, United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, United Nations

Climate Technology Centre and Network, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

- **international actors focused on gender equality:** Global Fund for Women, UN Women, Women Deliver, Women's Environment & Development Organization
- **international actors that contribute to global sustainable development:** Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Business for Social Responsibility, International Labour Organization, World Bank, International Organization for Migration, Oxfam, Commonwealth Secretariat, International Fund for Agricultural Development, Food and Agriculture Organization, World Food Programme, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
- **development banks:** Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Investment Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, 2XCollaborative.

The method of policy development, dissemination and implementation used by international actors in their efforts and commitments towards climate change, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and gender inequality, and their intersection, is not directly comparable to that of DAC members. For this reason, and for the purpose of this analysis, all related policy documents (overarching or thematic strategic plans, policies, action plans, etc.) of these actors were analysed and scored separately, but using the same continuum described above. Like the DAC members, the international actors were categorised based on their strongest, or highest scoring, policy document.

Annex 3.B. DAC members' policy frameworks reviewed for this study

Table 3.B.1. List of DAC members' policy documents reviewed for this study

DAC member	Reviewed policy documents
Australia	Australia's development program Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Strategy Climate Change Action Strategy Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (FRDP) (2017-2030)
Austria	Three-year Programme on Austrian Development Policy 2019-2021 Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls: Implementing the EU Gender Action Plan II 2016-2020 Interministerial Strategic Guideline on Environment & Development in Austrian Development Co-operation Richtlinien für die internationale Klimafinanzierung Environmental, Gender and Social Impact Management Manual
Belgium	Development cooperation 2019-2023 Gender Strategy Paper Strategy note: Environment in the Belgian Development Cooperation (2014)
Canada	Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy Policy on Gender Equality Action Area Policy: Environment and Climate Action Corporate Plan Summary 2021-2025 Our portfolio FinDev Canada's Gender Equality Policy Gender Equality Strategy Climate Change Strategy Climate Investor One
Czech Republic	Development Cooperation Strategy of the Czech Republic 2018-2030 Czech Republic 2030 Strategic Framework
Denmark	The World We Share – Denmark's Strategy for Development Cooperation Strategic Framework for Gender Equality, Rights and Diversity in Danish Development Cooperation Global Climate Action Strategy: A Green and Sustainable World
European Union	European Consensus on Development "Our World, Our Dignity, Our Future" EU Gender Action Plan III: An Ambitious Agenda for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in EU External Action A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030
Finland	Goals and principles of Finland's development policy The Rights of Women and Girls: At the Core of Finland's Development Policy Finland's Action Plan for Climate Smart Foreign Policy Guideline for the Cross-Cutting Objectives in the Finnish Development Policy and Cooperation
France	Development policy: France's strategy Feminist diplomacy France's International Strategy on Gender Equality (2018-2022) Climate & Development – 2017-2022 Strategy France's International Strategic Guidelines for Combating Land Degradation and Desertification (2020-2030) Stratégie Internationale de la France pour l'Eau et l'Assainissement (2020-2030) AFD Group 2018-2022 Strategy
Germany	Development policy 2030 BMZ 2030 reform strategy German Sustainable Development Strategy Development Policy Action Plan on Gender Equality 2016-2020

	Feminist Development Policy: For Just and Strong Societies Worldwide BMZ Water Strategy BMZ Action Plan on Marine Conservation and Sustainable Fisheries (2016) A Feminist Approach to Climate Policy DEG Climate change Impact & climate focus Promoting Private Sector Development in Emerging Markets: DEG's Pathway to Higher SDG Contributions and a GHG Neutral Portfolio Sustainability in action
Greece	National Biodiversity Strategy for 2014-2029
Hungary	International Development Cooperation Strategy and Strategic Concept for International Humanitarian Aid of Hungary 2014-2020 Hungary's International Development Cooperation Strategy: For the Period 2020-2025
Iceland	Iceland's Policy for International Development Co-operation for 2019-2023 Gender Equality in Iceland's International Development Co-Operation
Ireland	A Better World: Ireland's Policy for International Development Irish Aid Gender Equality Policy Climate Action Plan 2019 to Tackle Climate Breakdown Women as Agents of Change: Towards a Climate and Gender Justice Approach
Italy	International Development Cooperation: Three-year Programming and Policy Planning Document 2016-2018 Italy's Third National Action Plan, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000), 2016-2019 Policy and Programming Act for International Environmental Co-operation 2020-2022 Linee Guida per Uguaglianza di Genere e Empowerment delle Donne
Japan	Japan's Official Development Assistance Charter Medium-term Plan of Japan International Cooperation Agency Development Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (2016) Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: JICA Strategies and Actions
Korea	KOICA's Mid-Term Strategy 2021-2025 KOICA's Gender Equality Mid-Term Strategy 2021-2025
Luxembourg	Luxembourg's General Development Cooperation Strategy: The Road to 2030 Lux Dev: Our activities Stratégie Genre de la Coopération luxembourgeoise Stratégie Environnement et changement climatique de la Coopération luxembourgeoise Grand Duchy of Luxembourg: International Climate Finance Strategy 2021-2025
Netherlands	Policy Document for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation: Do What We Do Best Policy Framework Strengthening Civil Society The Netherlands' Global Climate Strategy Equal rights and opportunities for women and girls Letter to the Parliament on Feminist Foreign Policy Development cooperation in themes
New Zealand	New Zealand's International Development Cooperation 2020-21 Aotearoa New Zealand's Human Rights Strategic Action Plan for International Development Cooperation 2021-2025 New Zealand's International Cooperation for Effective Sustainable Development New Zealand's International Development Principles Gender Action Plan 2021-25 New Zealand's Pacific and Development Climate Action Plan 2019-2022 Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific: An Integrated Approach to Address Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (FRDP) (2017-2030)
Norway	Norad's Strategy Towards 2030 Freedom, Empowerment and Opportunities: Action Plan for Women's Rights and Gender Equality in Foreign and Development Policy 2016-2020 Klima, sult og sårbarhet: Strategi for klimatilpassing, forebygging av klimarelaterte Food, People and the Environment: The Government's Action Plan on Sustainable Food Systems in the Context of Norwegian Foreign and Development Policy
Poland	Multiannual Development Cooperation Programme for 2021-2030 – Solidarity for Development 2021 Development Cooperation Plan

Portugal	Strategic Concept for Portuguese Development Cooperation Estratégia da Cooperação Portuguesa para a Igualdade de Género Estratégia Nacional de Adaptação às Alterações Climáticas Estratégia Nacional de Conservação da Natureza e Biodiversidade 2030
Slovak Republic	Medium-Term Strategy for Development Cooperation of the Slovak Republic for 2019-2023 National Strategy for Gender Equality in the Slovak Republic 2014-2019 Methodological guideline for development cooperation and humanitarian aid projects for the cross-cutting themes for 2021 (in Slovak)
Slovenia	Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Strategy of the Republic of Slovenia Until 2030
Spain	Spain's Feminist Foreign Policy: Promoting Gender Equality in Spain's External Action V Plan Director de la Cooperación Española 2018/2021 Estrategia de "Género en Desarrollo" de la Cooperación Española Guía de la AECID para la Transversalización del Medio Ambiente y el Cambio Climático Construcción de Resiliencia para el Bienestar: Directrices para la Cooperación Española
Sweden	Handbook: Sweden's Feminist Foreign Policy Policy framework for Swedish development cooperation and humanitarian assistance Strategy for Sweden's global development cooperation in sustainable social development 2018-2022 Feminist Trade Policy Promoting Gender Equality in Development Cooperation Sidas miljömål 2017-2020 Sida's Environment Policy Gender Equality, Environment & Climate Change
Switzerland	Swiss International Co-operation Strategy 2021-2024 FDFA Strategy on Gender Equality and Women's Rights Climate change adaptation – responding proactively to the effects of climate change Gender, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction CEDRIG: Climate, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction Integration Guidance, Part I CEDRIG: Climate, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction Integration Guidance, Part II
United Kingdom	Global Britain in a Competitive Age: The Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy DFID Strategic Vision for Gender Equality Green Finance Strategy: Transforming Finance for a Greener Future A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment 2022-2026 Strategy Our approach to gender equality Investing for Clean and Inclusive Growth The UK Government's Strategy for International Development International Women and Girls Strategy 2023-2030 Addressing the Climate, Environment, and Biodiversity Crises In and Through Girls' Education
United States	Joint Strategic Plan FY 2018-2022 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment 2020 Policy USAID Climate Strategy 2022-2030 USAID publications on the nexus

Annex 3.C. International actors' policy frameworks reviewed for this study

Table 3.C.2. List of international actors' policy frameworks reviewed for this study

International actor	Reviewed policy documents
Adaptation Fund (AF)	Medium-Term Strategy 2018-2022 Gender Policy and Gender Action Plan Environmental and Social Policy
African Development Bank (AfDB)	At the Center of Africa's Transformation: Strategy for 2013-2022 Mission & strategy The Gender Policy The African Development Bank Group Gender Strategy 2021-2025 The African Development Bank Group's Second Climate Change Action Plan (2016-2020)
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Strategy 2030 ADB's Work in Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Gender and Development Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Operational Plan, 2013-2020 Gender Equality: Bridging the Gap Climate Change Operational Framework 2017-2030
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	Development policy and finance Gender equality
Business for Social Responsibility (BSR)	Women's empowerment Climate change Transform to net zero
Climate & Development Knowledge Network (CDKN)	Who we are What has CDKN been up to? Three years of weaving knowledge and action on climate change Guide to strengthening gender integration in climate finance projects
Climate Investment Funds (CIF)	Strategic Directions for CIF CIF Gender Policy CIF Gender Action Plan – Phase 3 (FY21-24)
Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN)	CTCN Gender Policy and Action Plan 2019-2022
Commonwealth Secretariat	Commonwealth Secretariat Strategic Plan 2021/22-2024/25 Commonwealth Secretariat Gender Equality Policy Commonwealth Priorities for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
Convention on Biological Diversity (UN CBD)	Convention on Biological Diversity Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets 2015-2020 Gender Plan of Action Enabling a Gender-Responsive Process for the Development of the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework: Supplementary Background and Tools Advice to Enable a Gender-Responsive Process for the Development of the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework Decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)	Strategic and Capital Framework 2021-2025 EBRD's Strategy for the Promotion of Gender Equality (SPGE) 2021-2025 The Green Economy Transition (GET) 2021-25
European Investment Bank (EIB)	The EIB Group Operational Plan 2022-2024 Protect, Impact, Invest: The EIB Group Strategy on Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment EIB Climate Strategy The EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Strategic Framework 2022-31 FAO Policy on Gender Equality 2020-2030 FAO Strategy on Climate Change
Global Environment Facility (GEF)	GEF 2020: Strategy for the GEF GEF Policy on Gender Equality Gender Equality Action Plan
Global Fund for Women	2020-2023 Strategic Plan Summary Feminist action for climate justice in the Pacific and the Caribbean
Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)	GGGI Strategy 2030 GGGI Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Strategy 2021-2025
Green Climate Fund (GCF)	Updated Strategic Plan for the Green Climate Fund: 2020-2023 Updated Gender Policy and Action Plan 2018-2020
Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP)	Strategy and Work Programme 2018-2021 Gender
Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)	Update to the Institutional Strategy Operational Policy on Gender Equality in Development Gender and Diversity Sector Framework Document Environment and Biodiversity Sector Framework Document Climate Change Sector Framework Document
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	IFAD Strategic Framework 2016-2025 Mainstreaming Gender-transformative Approaches at IFAD – Action Plan 2019-2025 IFAD Strategy and Action Plan on Environment and Climate Change 2019-2025
International Labour Organization (ILO)	The ILO's Strategic Plan for 2022-25 ILO Action Plan for Gender Equality 2018-21 Guidelines for a Just Transition Towards Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies for All
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Strategic Vision: Setting a Course for IOM IOM Gender Equality Policy 2015-2019 Institutional Strategy on Migration, Environment and Climate Change 2021-2030
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	IUCN Nature 2030 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy Climate Change Gender Action Plans
Oxfam	Gender Justice & Women's Rights Fight Inequality: Together, We Can End Poverty and Injustice Climate justice Climate change Finding Ways Together to Build Resilience: The Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Methodology Caring In a Changing Climate: Centering Care Work in Climate Action
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	The future strategic framework of the Convention Gender Action Plan UNCCD Advocacy Policy Framework on Gender
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025 UNDP Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2021 UNDP Climate Promise UNDP Climate Promise: Inclusion UNDP Climate Promise: Advancing Gender Equality in National Climate Plans: Progress and Higher Ambitions A Framework for Enhancing Gender and Poverty Integration in Climate Finance
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	For People and Planet: The United Nations Environment Programme Strategy for Tackling Climate Change, Biodiversity and Nature Loss, and Pollution and Waste from 2022-2025 Gender Equality and the Environment: Policy and Strategy
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Paris Agreement Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan
United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)	UNISDR Strategic Framework 2016-2021 UNISDR Policy on Gender Mainstreaming in Disaster Risk Reduction
UN Women	Strategic Plan 2022-2025 In Focus: Climate action by, and for, women Sustainable development and climate change

	Climate change and the environment
Women Deliver	Our 2021-2025 Strategic Framework The Link between Climate Change and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Invest in Girls and Women to Tackle Climate Change and Conserve the Environment
Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO)	What we do WEDO's Vision and Purpose: Strategic Plan: 2021-2024 Global Climate Policy Gender Climate Tracker
World Bank (WB)	World Bank Group Strategy World Bank Group Gender Strategy (FY16-23): Gender Equality, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth World Bank Group Climate Change Action Plan 2021-2025: Supporting Green, Resilient, and Inclusive Development Action Plan on Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience The World Bank Environmental and Social Framework
World Food Programme (WFP)	WFP Strategic Plan (2022-2025) WFP Gender Policy 2015-2020 WFP Gender Policy 2022 WFP's Climate Change Policy
2XCollaborative	2XCollaborative The Gender-Smart Climate Finance Guide Investing in women, tackling climate change

4 Financing the gender equality and environment intersection

To fully understand the extent to which DAC members⁵ are committed to work on this intersection, this chapter examines their most recent development finance commitments and targets that contribute to the different elements of this and how these correspond to members' policy commitments. It also analyses ODA trends at this intersection, building upon the OECD Creditor Reporting System (CRS). Annex 4.A provides more details on the targets and pledges assessed and Annex 4.B provides further information on the statistical data used to perform this analysis.

DAC members are increasing their financing commitments on the gender equality and environment intersection

While not an end goal, financial resources are a necessary foundation and essential means for addressing gender inequalities in relation to climate change, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss and advancing gender-responsive climate action (OECD, 2022^[51]). Climate-related development finance can not only catalyse the transition to net zero economies and development that fosters environmental health, biodiversity, and climate change adaptation and mitigation, it can also be maximised to achieve structural gender equality and empower women and girls (UNDP, 2017^[162]). DAC members recognised the urgent need to support “climate investments that are gender-responsive” as part of their recent Declaration on Climate Change (OECD, 2021^[53]). Some members have come forward with ambitious climate-related development finance commitments and specific targets to support the realisation of identified goals and actions and advance gender equality in their climate action. Similarly, discussions in other environment-related fora in 2022, such as Stockholm+50, the CBD COP15 process, the UN Ocean Conference or the UNCCD COP15 – have all underlined the importance of resource mobilisation, including for joined-up gender equality and environment-related work. DAC and other development co-operation providers often use these political and negotiation gatherings to make financing pledges.

Twenty-four DAC members have recognised the need to scale up their efforts to address the climate crisis; 14 identify climate adaptation as a priority and 7 identify biodiversity in their climate action financing commitments. However, only 11 ensured that these climate-related financing commitments are gender-responsive and only 6 included specific financing targets for gender equality (Table 4.1). For example, Canada announced that it is doubling its international climate finance commitments to USD 4.2 billion (CAD 5.3 billion) over the next five years, including a share of that for nature; 80% of this will target gender equality outcomes (OECD, 2021^[50]). The United Kingdom committed to doubling its international climate finance to USD 16 billion (GBP 11.6 billion) from 2021-22 to 2025-26, also including a pledge for nature and USD 223 million to address the interconnected issues of gender inequality and climate change (UN Women, 2021^[163]). The European Union has an overall objective in its international co-operation instrument that at least 85% of new actions, including environmental-related ones, should

⁵ This paper was written before Estonia and Lithuania joined the DAC, so they were not included in the analysis.

have gender equality as a principal or a significant objective (European Commission, 2020^[132]; European Union, 2021^[164]).

Table 4.1. DAC members' commitments to the gender equality and environment intersection

Climate action financing commitments/targets	DAC members
DAC members with climate action financing commitments/targets	Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States
DAC members with climate action financing commitments/targets that address gender equality or the intersection	Belgium, Canada, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States
DAC members with climate action financing commitments/targets that identify an amount or percentage dedicated to gender equality identified	Canada, Finland, France, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States
DAC members with no climate financing commitments/targets	Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, the Slovak Republic

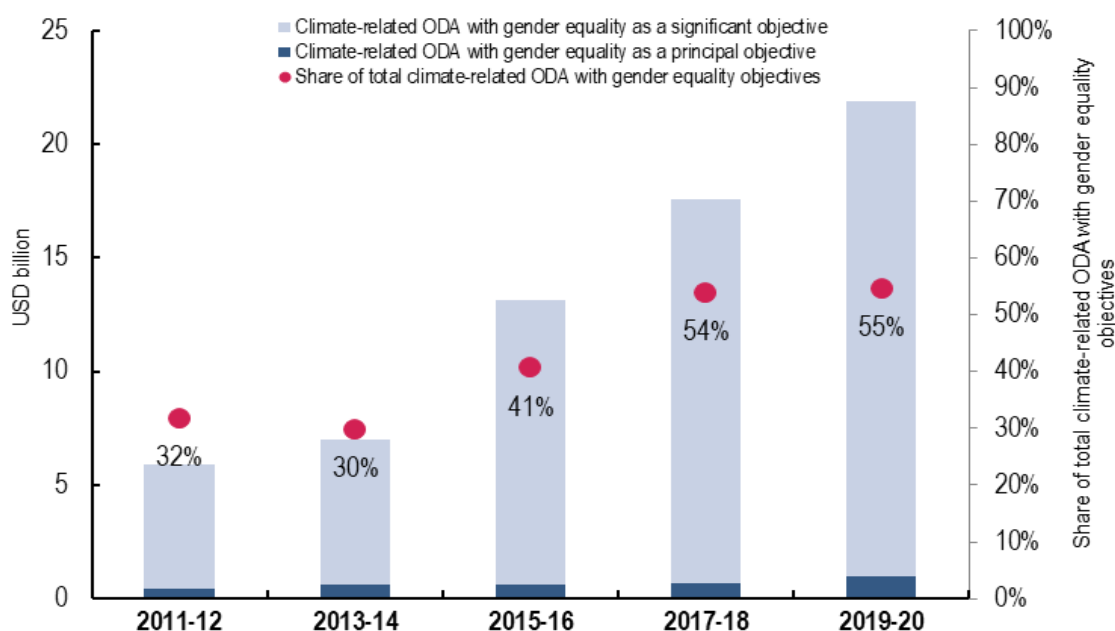
These commitments indicate that some DAC members are starting to address the intersection in practical terms, but that most still have scope to further advance in this direction. Indeed, by setting quantitative targets for their climate-related development finance to nature and gender equality, DAC members would be progressing towards providing a systematic, and more effective, response. It is important to note, however, that some of the DAC members who may not be specifying gender equality in their climate action financing commitments are nonetheless integrating these issues in a number of investments. For instance, Australia has several investments in small and medium-sized enterprise-focused blended finance mechanisms aimed at strengthening gender equality and supporting climate mitigation and adaptation (DFAT, n.d.^[165]; DFAT, n.d.^[166]).

ODA trends for the gender equality and environment intersection

DAC members have increasingly integrated gender equality and climate action objectives into their ODA, and a similar conclusion can be drawn for biodiversity as well (OECD, 2021^[47]; 2023^[167]). To illustrate, the biggest overlap happens between gender and climate change objectives, where total amounts of bilateral climate-related ODA that integrates gender equality objectives increased from USD 5.9 billion in 2011-12 to USD 22 billion in 2019-20 on average per year, almost quadrupling over that period (Figure 4.1). Since 2017-18, moreover, over half of total climate-related ODA integrates gender equality considerations. Moreover, most of this finance takes a significant objective – meaning that gender considerations were not driving climate-related ODA but were integrated to seek co-benefits, especially in climate change adaptation (60%).

Figure 4.1. Climate-related bilateral allocable official development assistance with gender equality objectives

2-year averages, 2011-20, commitments, USD billion, 2020 prices



Source: OECD (n.d.^[168]).

These numbers suggest a possible disconnect between the strategic and policy frameworks surrounding the gender equality and environment intersection and those pertaining to development finance spending. In other words, while the overlap between ODA for climate change and gender equality grows over time, it is unclear what is driving these trends from a strategic and policy standpoint, and what tools support members to be effective on this intersection. Further analysis would be needed to unpack OECD CRS data to understand underlying volumes and trends, as well as the main gaps related to this.

It is important to note that some DAC members, typically smaller countries, channel a large part of their development co-operation through multilateral organisations as core support.⁶ While members can certainly encourage these organisations, such as climate funds and development banks, to integrate these issues into their strategies and programmes, they cannot ensure that the activities funded with their contributions include objectives related to this intersection. As board members of multilateral organisations, DAC members could collectively advocate to enhance such considerations in their strategies and programmes.

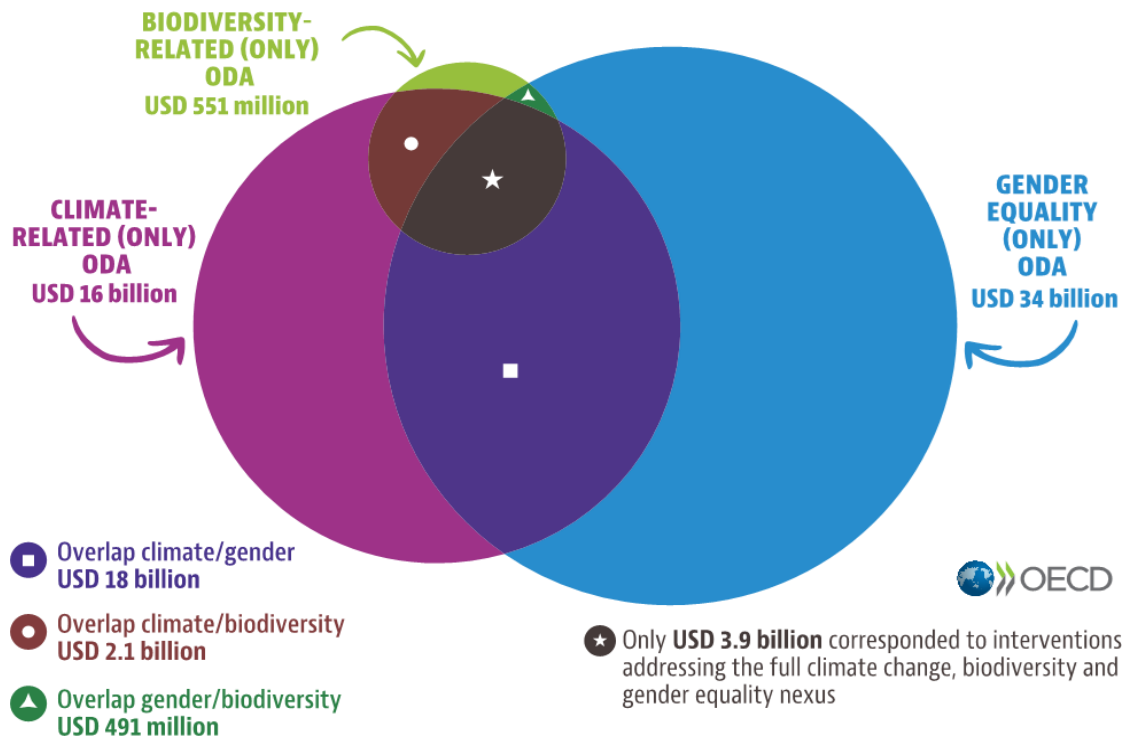
Although climate action ODA increasingly integrates gender equality objectives, finance for the full intersection is still a minor part of the total (starred section of Figure 4.2). In 2019-20, the overlap between climate change and gender equality considerations amounted to USD 18 billion, and that between biodiversity and gender equality to USD 491 million. Yet only USD 3.9 billion corresponded to interventions addressing the full climate change, biodiversity and gender equality intersection. This may explain why DAC members have concentrated their efforts on the climate-gender side, although recent developments

⁶ Core support to multilateral organisations cannot be reported against the DAC policy markers (see Annex 3.A), as DAC members do not decide the policy focus of this funding.

in the area of biodiversity and nature (not least the agreement in December 2022 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which includes a gender goal) imply that members will need to increasingly consider integrating biodiversity issues into their approaches for the interrelated issues.

Figure 4.2. Overlap between gender equality, climate- and biodiversity-related bilateral DAC member official development assistance

2019-20 average, deflated prices



Note: This graph includes data from the Creditor Reporting System using the gender and Rio markers (biodiversity, climate change).
Source: OECD (2022^[169]).

Annex 4.A. Further information on targets and pledges

Table 4.A.1. DAC member gender- and climate-related development finance commitments

DAC member	Commitments to gender-equal climate financing	Specific targets for gender equality
Belgium	Belgium plans to contribute f at least USD 538 million of multilateral and bilateral climate finance in 2021-24.	Belgium committing to a Sahel Climate Programme focused on the needs of women and girls, with a five-year investment of USD 58 million.
Canada	Canada is doubling its international climate finance commitment to USD 4.2 billion over five years (as of 2021), including increased support for adaptation, as well as nature and nature-based solutions. It will also increase its provision of grants to 40%, up from 30% previously.	Canada is continuing to support women's leadership and decision making in climate action and ensuring that 80% of its USD 4.3 billion climate investments over the next five years target gender equality outcomes.
Finland	Finland has increased its international climate finance during the current government term by 80%, almost doubling it from the previous four-year period. During the period 2020-25, Finland will support developing countries' climate action with approximately USD 1.1 billion, with the aim of scaling up finance for adaptation.	(In relation to Finland's climate ODA): Finland aims to strengthen the gender perspective in its development co-operation to gradually reach the European Union's target of gender-targeted and mainstreamed actions across 85% of its new programmes.
France	France has committed to providing USD 7.1 billion climate finance per year between 2021 and 2025, with one-third dedicated to adaptation. France has also announced that 30% of its bilateral climate finance will also benefit biodiversity.	France has made a social commitment that 69%, or USD 1.2 billion, of energy commitments have a main or significant gender objective (OECD markers 1 and 2).
Germany	Germany plans to increase its climate finance by USD 2.4 billion to USD 7.1 billion per year by 2025 at the latest. Germany also announced a new Gender Strategy under its International Climate Initiative, which will promote gender-transformative approaches in international climate and biodiversity co-operation.	By 2025, Germany aims to allocate 93% of newly committed project funding to projects and programmes which promote gender equality (8% as a principal objective and 85% as a significant objective).
New Zealand	New Zealand has committed to increase its climate finance to slightly less than USD 740 million for 2022-25. This includes spending focused on women's leadership in climate change adaptation and governance, ensuring opportunities for women's economic empowerment across climate finance initiatives, and programmes that respond to the gendered impacts of climate change.	Of the slightly less than USD 750 million in climate finance New Zealand committed for 2022-25, 4% will target gender as the principal objective.
Norway	Norwegian climate finance is at approximately 0.2% of gross domestic product. Norway has decided to double its annual climate financing by 2026, from USD 815 million in 2020 to USD 1.6 billion by 2026, and at least triple its support for adaptation by 2026. Norway is working to increase and strengthen the role and impact of women and girls in both international and national climate decision making.	
Sweden	Sweden intends to double its annual public climate finance to developing countries to USD 1.7 billion by 2025. It will continue to provide around 50% of its bilateral climate finance to adaptation, in line with partner countries' requests. Sweden intends to strengthen efforts to mobilise private finance from other sources, including through their development finance institutions. Sweden announced new measures to firmly embed gender equality within all its climate action, including a workplan to integrate a gender perspective in all the core operations of the Swedish Environment Protection Agency.	
United Kingdom	The United Kingdom has committed to doubling its international	The United Kingdom has set out its plan for how

	climate finance (ICF) to USD 16 billion over five years from 2021/22 to 2025/26 (ICF3). Within this, at least USD 4.1 billion will be invested in climate change solutions that protect, restore and sustainably manage nature, delivering strong outcomes for poverty reduction, biodiversity and climate (mitigation and adaptation), creating jobs and sustainable economic growth for those communities acutely at risk.	USD 223 million in funding will address the dual challenges of gender inequality and climate change. The COP26 Presidency also funded six female negotiators representing less developed countries to participate and attend COP26 through the Women Delegates Fund.
United States	The United States intends to further double its annual public climate finance to developing countries to around USD 11.4 billion by 2024, including around USD 3 billion to support adaptation efforts.	The United States has announced the promotion of gender equity and equality in mitigating and responding to climate change as a strategic priority of the US government's National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality, investing at least USD 14 million of the Gender Equity and Equality Action Fund toward gender-responsive climate programming.

Note: Data were converted to USD using the OECD annual (2021) average exchange rate.

Annex 4.B. Data analysis

Figure 4.1 uses data from the OECD-DAC Creditor Reporting System. The analysis uses commitments, rather than disbursements, to capture intentions for the activity at the design stage and the political vision for the finance provided. Two-year averages were used to reduce volatility since commitments are recorded in full in the year they are made, even if they are multi-year, and irrespective of when they are disbursed.

The analysis relies on the Rio Marker and the Gender Equality Policy Marker. Since 1998, the DAC has been monitoring development finance targeting the objectives of the Rio Conventions, including the UNFCCC and CBD, through four “Rio markers” [biodiversity, desertification, climate change mitigation and adaptation (introduced in 2009); for more information on the markers, see OECD (2016_[170])]. The Rio Markers were designed to track the degree to which members integrate environmental considerations into their development co-operation activities and to support members in preparing their national reports to the Conventions. For countries using the Rio Markers, activities ought to be screened and marked as either targeting the objectives of the Conventions, with a “principal objective” or a “significant objective”; or not targeting the objective (the activity has been checked to have no relation with the marker). Activities marked as “principal” would not have been funded but for that objective; activities marked “significant” have other primary objectives but have been formulated or adjusted to help meet the objectives of that Convention. A similar system is used in the Gender Equality Policy Marker, which tracks the integration of gender equality objectives in development finance (OECD, 2016_[171]). This qualitative statistical tool allows examining development finance and identifying gender equality as: the principal policy objective; a significant objective, which refers to funding that integrates/mainstreams gender equality; not an objective.

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