

# BRIDGE

**BR**okering Innovation for  
Decentralised climate finance &  
**GE**nder Equality

## How can gender be integrated into local climate projects?

Training session no 4

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Local Governments  
for Sustainability

AFRICA





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# Session Agenda

- Review of Webinar 3
- Understanding of key terms related to gender mainstreaming in climate projects
- Innovative tools for financing gender-sensitive adaptation projects
- Funders' gender criteria
- Integrating gender criteria into ESG criteria and private actors



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# Session objectives

- Discuss the importance of gender mainstreaming in climate projects
- Introduce the following concepts:
  - *Gender, gender equality, gender mainstreaming*
  - *Negative/neutral/sensitive/responsive/transformational project in relation to gender*
  - *Intersectionality*
- Present the different ways of integrating gender into the various stages of the project cycle
- Present African and international case studies on mobilising funding for gender-sensitive climate projects
- Laying the foundations for a gender mainstreaming strategy for knowledge brokers

# Programme de formation BRIDGE sur le financement de l'adaptation sensible au genre

Mai-septembre 2024





# **I. Webinar 3 feedback**

## Interactive session: start typing!

To join the online session, scan the QR code or join us online at [mentimeter.com](https://www.mentimeter.com) and add the following login code:

**Mentimeter.com**

**Connection code**  
**6373 9893**



- 1. Do you have any examples of well-designed local funding instruments, programmes and models that have worked well, and what were their differentiating features?**
  - CSSY: Complementary sustainable rainwater sanitation project for the city of Yaoundé (AfDB)
  - The financing tools proposed to DLAs (Decentralised Local Authorities) by FEICOM. They include gender and the environment as essential funding criteria to ensure that the effects of the project are felt by all.
- 1. In your opinion, what are the current national and local policies and elements of the regulatory framework that influence (facilitate or hinder) access to funding and the implementation of adaptation programmes?**
  - The legal framework for local climate financing is poorly developed, making access to finance difficult.
- 1. Who are the main private players involved in financing adaptation in Cameroon?**
  - Companies like Orange with the Commune of Manoka.
- 1. Are there any awareness-raising initiatives in Cameroon to mobilise more resources for adaptation programmes at local level?**
  - NGOs such as the Fondation pour le Tri-National de la Sangha (FTNS) is an environmental trust fund with the aim of contributing to the long-term financing of conservation, eco-development and cross-border cooperation activities within the forest complex known as the Sangha Tri-National.
  - In May 2024, as part of the PADGOF programme, GIZ organised awareness-raising and training activities for municipalities in the coastal and northern regions on climate resilience.
  - For example, the NGO JVE Cameroun ran a project to prepare Cameroonian CSOs for the FVC, during which awareness-raising activities were carried out.
  - Several awareness-raising activities carried out by COM SSA, EU, ADB.



## **II. Understanding the main terms related to gender mainstreaming in climate projects**



# Key concepts

The gender

The social attributes and opportunities associated with being male or female.

Gender equality

Equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities for women and men, taking into account their different interests, needs and priorities, and by recognising the diversity of different groups of women and men.

Gender mainstreaming

A strategy to promote gender equality.  
Ensure that gender perspectives and attention devoted to the objective of gender equality are at the heart of all activities.

# Women start from further back

## Basic situation:

Limited economic power: land ownership, factors of production, information difficult to access

Social constraints: family responsibilities

Lower wages, exclusion from community decision-making processes

## Climate change:

Work overload

Food safety

Violence

Women and children **14 times more likely to die** in disasters (UN Women)

Limited capacity/resources to adapt



# Situation in Cameroon

Quiz on gender inequality



# Situation in Cameroon

In 2024, Cameroon is ranked 97 out of 146 countries in the gender gap index.

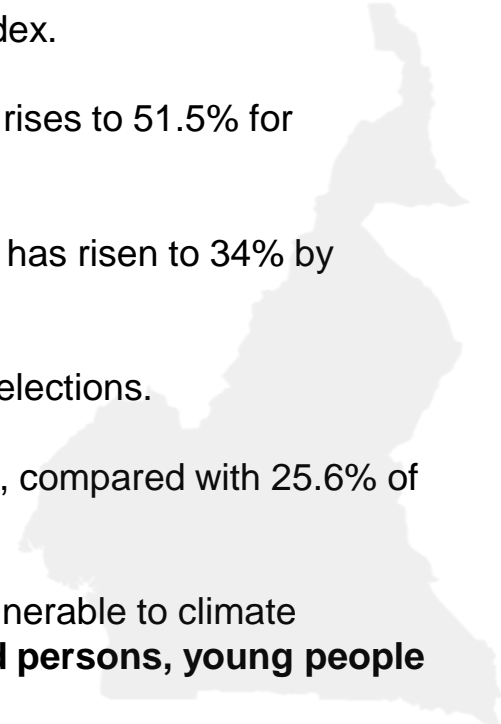
While 39% of the national population lives below the poverty line, this rate rises to 51.5% for women.

The proportion of seats in Cameroon's national parliament held by women has risen to 34% by 2022.

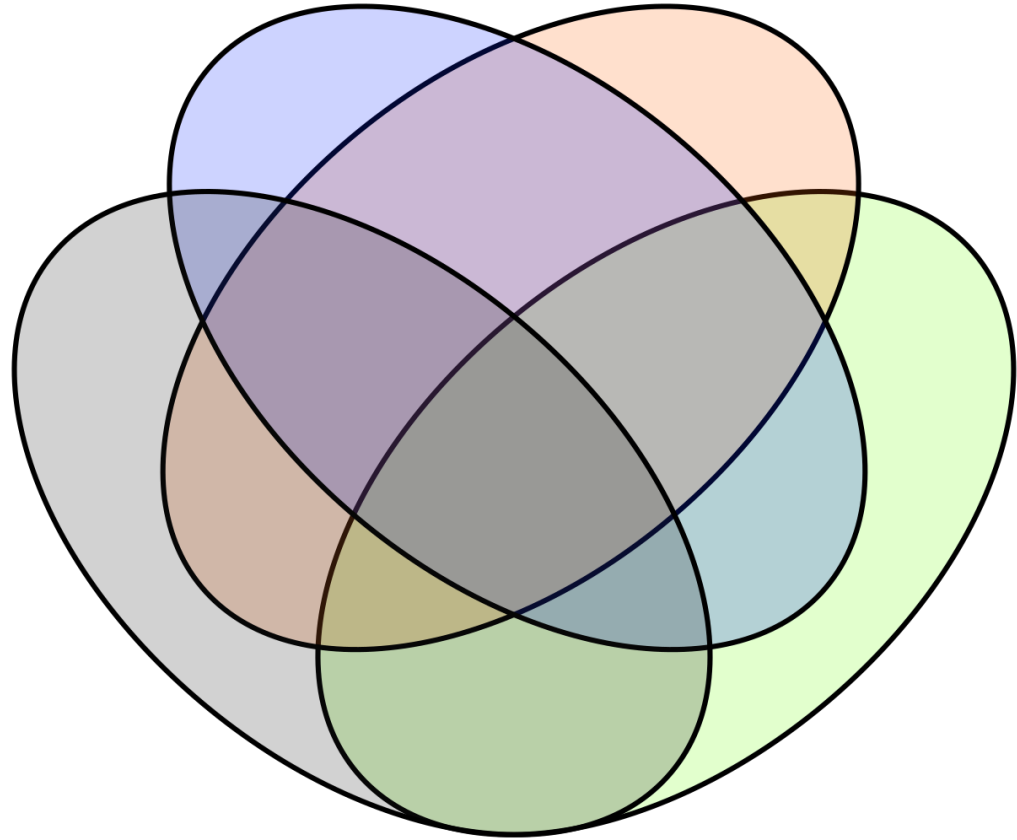
At local level, 39 out of 360 mayors are women, since the 2020 municipal elections.

Around 2.6% of women owned a house on their own in Cameroon in 2018, compared with 25.6% of men (World Bank, 2023).

In addition to and within the female population group, those particularly vulnerable to climate hazards in urban areas of Cameroon are: **Refugees, internally displaced persons, young people and people living with disabilities.**



**Intersectionality** is the recognition that everyone has their own experience of discrimination and oppression, and that we need to take into account everything that can marginalise people - gender, race, class, age, physical ability, etc.



# Gender mainstreaming in projects

<b>Négatif au genre</b>	Renforce les stéréotypes négatifs ou cause des dommages.
<b>Neutre au genre</b>	Aucune attention porte aux inégalités de genre.
<b>Sensible au genre</b>	Prend en considération le genre, les données sont variées par sexe.
<b>Répondant au genre</b>	Les besoins et capacités différenciés sont pris en comptes.
<b>Transformatif par rapport au genre</b>	Les causes des inégalités de genre sont adressées, les structures de pouvoir et normes sociales sont visées.

# FEICOM's gender strategy

**Strategic Area 1: Improving the level of institutional gender mainstreaming at FEICOM**

**Strategic Area 2: Building staff capacity in gender issues and promoting parity at FEICOM**

**Strategic Area 3: Support for gender mainstreaming in DLA interventions**



Pour un monde 50-50 en 2030  
Franchissons le pas pour l'égalité des sexes

## **STRATEGIE GENRE DU FEICOM (2021-2024)**

*« Les femmes et les hommes, effectivement pris en compte, sur un pied d'égalité, dans le fonctionnement et les interventions du FEICOM auprès des CTD »*


# Gender mainstreaming throughout the project cycle







# Questions and answers



### **III. Innovative tools for financing gender-sensitive adaptation projects**

# The economic and financial importance of integrating gender throughout the project cycle

- **Positive financial impact**
- **Workforce diversity is beneficial.**
  - According to a recent study of over 1,000 companies in 15 countries, companies with gender-diverse boards are 28% more likely to be more economically efficient than their peers, while gender diversity in management teams increases the likelihood of outperformance by 25%.
- **Gender mainstreaming reduces risk.** Failure to take the gender dimension into account can constitute a market risk, an operational risk and even a reputational risk.
- **More and more private and public investors are considering gender as a criterion for selecting projects and investments.** Taking gender into account in your activities will enable you to qualify for these funding opportunities.



# Obstacles to gender mainstreaming in climate projects

The obstacles to gender-sensitive climate financing are generally as follows:

- A **business case** that is insufficient to assess the profitability of investments at the intersection of gender and climate.
- Gender considerations have not been integrated from the outset into the design and implementation of most climate finance mechanisms.
- **Perceived complexity of pursuing multiple objectives at the same time**
- Difficulties in **defining long-term results in terms of gender impact**
- **Lack of gender expertise** in many organisations.
- **Difficulties in collecting gender-disaggregated data.**
- **Insufficient legal and regulatory framework**
- **Lack of examples of financing combining gender and climate**
- **The difficulty of measuring the impact of climate projects/actions on gender** (monitoring & evaluation difficulties)
- Difficulty in consulting all groups of beneficiaries when setting up a project or designing a financial instrument.

Only 0.01% of all global funding supports projects that address both climate change and gender.





# QUIZZ

**Rank in order of importance the obstacles to financing gender-sensitive climate projects in Cameroon**

# Financial mechanisms to increase funding for gender-sensitive projects

## OBJECTIVES OF GENDER-SENSITIVE FINANCING INSTRUMENTS

### - Facilitating access to finance for women

entrepreneurs or SMEs run by women in the climate sector.

- Promoting **diverse leadership** and inclusive working conditions in the fields of climate change mitigation and/or adaptation.

- **Adapting goods and services to the needs and disproportionate climate risks** faced by women (e.g. insurance).

- Targeting women as **end-users and consumers** (e.g. investment in climate-resilient infrastructure for women).

- **Identifying gender-sensitive project pipelines** and integrating the gender issue into all stages of the investment process.

## THE MULTIPLICATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS DEDICATED TO CLIMATE AND GENDER

Actors wishing to integrate gender into their project cycles can:

- Grant **specific subsidies** to women (small grants)
- Offer **green credit lines dedicated to women**
- **Direct green investment towards sectors in which** women play a fundamental role (health, education, etc.)
- Facilitating access to international climate financing for women and women's NGOs - the role of intermediaries
- Increase the number of **mechanisms giving women direct access to climate financing.**

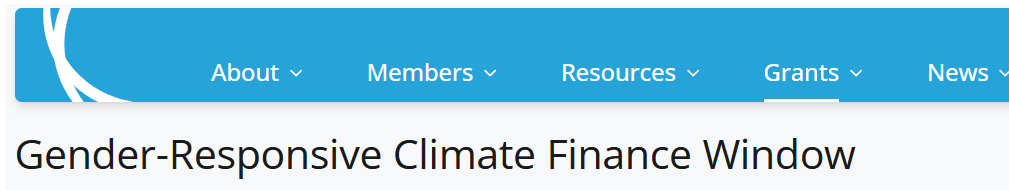
# 1. Small grants

**The Climate Gender Equity Fund (CGEF):** a public-private partnership launched by USAID and Amazon aims to improve access to climate finance for gender-responsive, women-led and women-benefiting organisations tackling climate change.



<https://www.2xglobal.org/cgef>

**Gender-Responsive Climate Finance Window,** made possible with the support of the Government of Canada, will provide start-up grants for the design and launch of innovative blended finance vehicles focused on the intersection of climate change and gender equality in emerging markets globally.



## 2. Green credit lines and bond issues dedicated to women (green & gender bonds)

### AFD

#### An example of how a green bond can integrate gender targets

AGENCE FRANÇAISE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT – SDG BOND	
<b>Issuer</b>	Agence Française de Développement
<b>Type of Issuer</b>	Government
<b>Country</b>	France
<b>Issuance date</b>	2020
<b>Issue size</b>	EUR 2 billion
<b>Maturity date</b>	2027
<b>Type of bond framework</b>	SDG aligned bond <sup>25</sup>
<b>Use of proceeds</b>	Access to essential services, affordable basic infrastructure, affordable housing, energy efficiency, renewable energy, socio-economic advancement, and empowerment.
<b>Gender component</b>	Eligible projects need to receive a neutral or positive grade on gender equality.

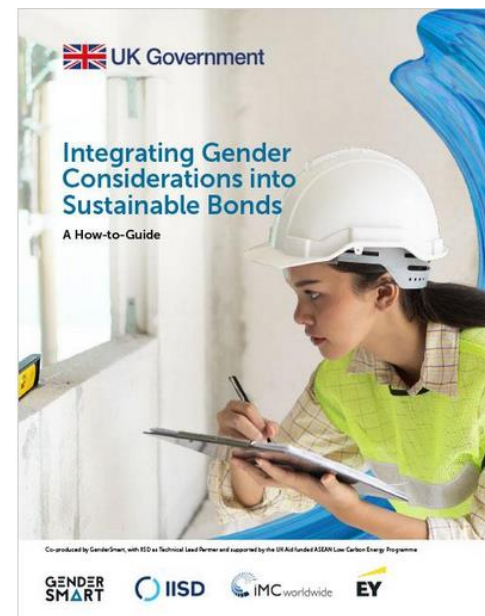
Agence Française de Développement (AFD) developed an SDG Bond Framework for green, social, and sustainability bond issues in October 2020 and provides an example of how other bond frameworks, particularly green bond frameworks could integrate gender considerations into eligibility criteria.

Among other eligibility criteria, the bond framework requires new projects and loans to receive a neutral or positive grade in six sustainable development dimensions, which include gender equality alongside climate objectives.<sup>26</sup> Projects are assessed based on the following criteria for gender equality:

- ▶ Access to services
- ▶ Control over resources and income
- ▶ Access to justice
- ▶ Combating gender-based violence
- ▶ Participation in economic, social, and political decision-making bodies
- ▶ Project governance considered with regards to gender.

Each sustainable development dimension receives a score ranging from -2 to +3. This assessment is conducted by the AFD's project team during the appraisal phase. In addition, Proparco, an AFD subsidiary, conducts socio-economic, environmental, and climate impact analyses to determine project eligibility. This includes four dimensions, one of which is "Gender: contributing to the fight against discrimination against women and creating economic opportunities." The output of the assessment is a "DEV" score that ranges from 1 to 6, with 1 being the best score. Projects need to have a rating of DEV 1 or 2 to be eligible.

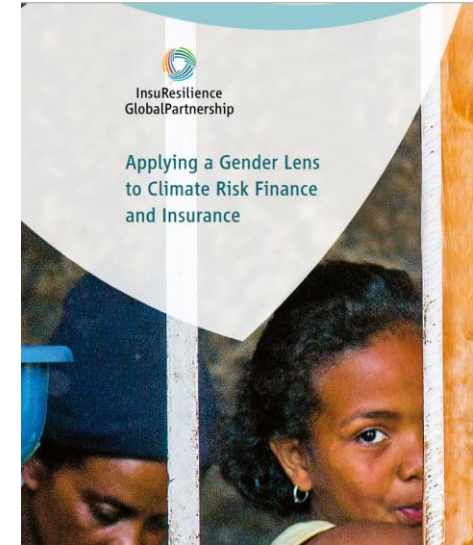
This example demonstrates how green bond frameworks can consider different sustainability objectives at the same time. It also highlights how a scoring system can be used to develop criteria to determine project





### 3. Gender-sensitive climate insurance systems

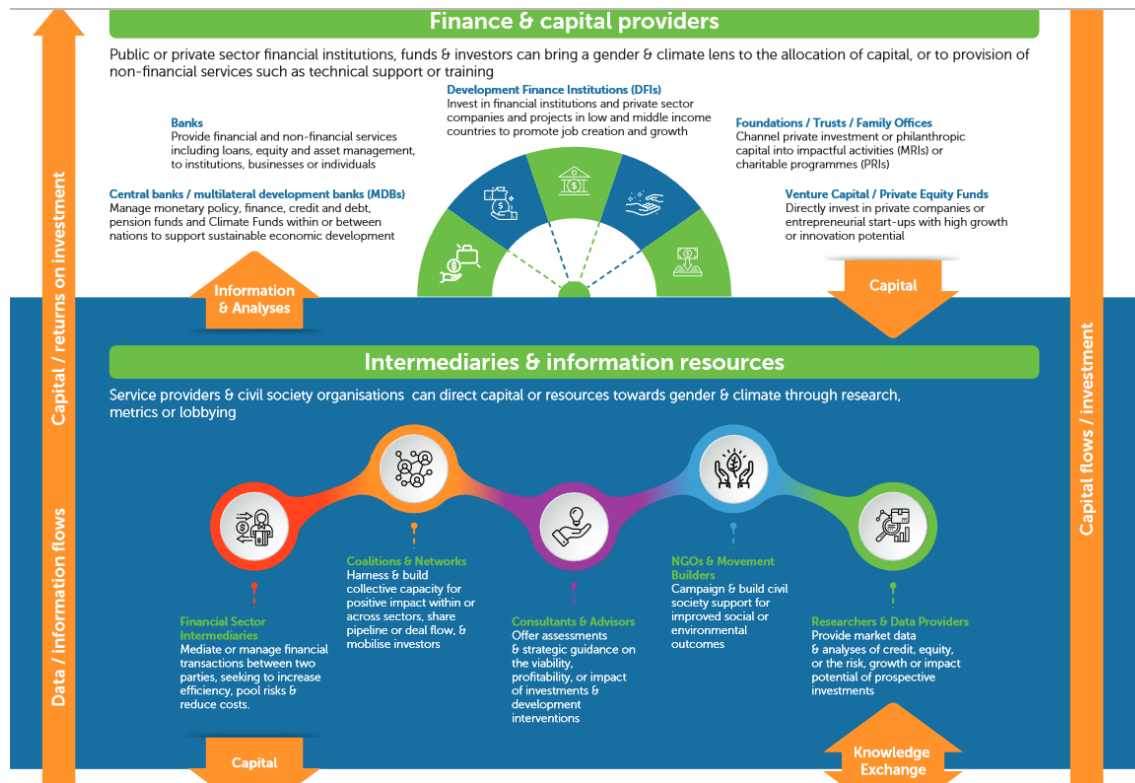
Example: the InsuResilience Investment Fund (IIF) is a public-private partnership set up by the German Development Bank (KfW) on behalf of the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). It provides **private debt and private equity investments** to support the overall objective of the fund: to contribute to adaptation to climate change **by improving access to and use of insurance in Southern countries.**



InsuResilience Investment Fund (IIF)



# The importance of knowledge brokers/intermediaries to facilitate connections between vulnerable groups and international sources of climate funding



Intermediaries and knowledge brokers have a key role to play in redirecting international/national climate financing towards projects with a strong gender dimension, mainly through :

1. **Research and data collection** to inform technical and financial partners
2. **The creation/development of indicators**, adapted to the local context, for taking gender into account in climate projects and investments
3. **Lobbying and advocacy** to ensure that financial players take climate and gender into account
4. **Build the capacity of vulnerable groups** to express their needs in the relevant forums.
5. **Identify funding opportunities** for vulnerable groups.



## **IV. Funders' gender criteria**

# Gender criteria for international climate funds



GREEN  
CLIMATE  
FUND



ADAPTATION FUND



CLIMATE  
INVESTMENT  
FUNDS

- Gender strategy of implementing bodies
- Gender expertise within the project team
- Gender analysis
- Gender action plan
- Gender budget
- Gender-sensitive M&E system
- Maximum number of female beneficiaries

# Figure 1 : La sensibilité au genre du financement climatique

CCNUCC

De nombreuses décisions prises par la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur le changement climatique ont souligné l'importance d'adopter une **approche sensible au genre** pour élaborer une **action climatique efficace**.

**L'Accord de Cancún** reconnaît que l'égalité du genre et que la participation effective des femmes sont critiques aux actions pour le climat.

Le Programme de Travail de Lima sur le genre met l'accent sur la façon dont la CCNUCC incorpore les enjeux de genre dans ses procédures.

Les fonds multilatéraux sur le climat régis par la CCNUCC doivent expliquer annuellement comment les considérations de genre sont intégrées dans tous les aspects de leur travail.

Dans la CCNUCC, un Plan d'Action sur le genre a été approuvé avec des objectifs de finance sensibles au genre.

Une version développée du Programme de Travail de Lima sur le genre et le Plan d'Action sur le genre visent une amélioration de la prise en compte du genre dans la CCNUCC et dans l'implémentation de L'Accord de Paris et de son suivi.



2010

Le **Fonds pour l'environnement mondial (FEM)** met en place une politique d'égalité du genre.

2011

L'évaluation initiale des **Fonds d'Investissement Climatiques (CIF)** rapporte des défis importants dans l'intégration du genre.

2013

Intégration d'un nouveau point focal sur le genre dans l'Unité administrative des **CIFs** pour superviser l'implémentation initiale du Plan d'Action sur le genre des CIFs.

2014

Le **Fonds vert pour le climat (FVC)** commence à financer des opérations avec une politique spécifique au genre et met en place un plan d'action initial sur le genre; Le **FEM** approuve un Plan d'Action sur l'égalité de genre.

2015

La politique et le plan d'action sur le genre du **Fonds d'adaptation** sont mis en place; Les **CIFs** approuvent la 2ème phase de son Plan d'Action sur le genre.

2016

2017

Le **FEM** approuve une Stratégie d'Implémentation de la dimension de genre; la nouvelle politique des **CIFs** en matière de genre introduit un cadre de gouvernance pour l'intégration du genre dans les CIFs.

2018

Le **FVC** approuve une révision de sa politique de genre et un nouveau plan d'action sur le genre; les **CIFs** approuvent la 3ème phase du Plan d'Action sur le genre des CIFs.

2019

Le **Fonds d'adaptation** approuve la mise à jour de sa politique sur le genre et son nouveau plan d'action sur le genre.

2020

Le **Fonds d'adaptation** fournit des recommandations additionnelles pour accréditer les entités sur l'inclusion du genre dans leurs projets; le **FEM** révisé sa politique sur l'égalité du genre selon laquelle toutes les agences d'exécution sont évaluées sur la conformité et l'intégration de la dimension du genre.

2021

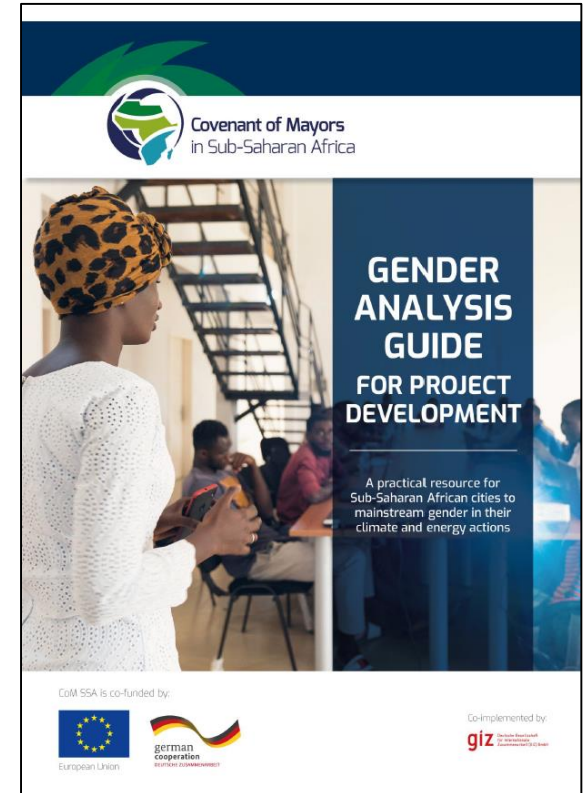
Les fonds climatiques **multilatéraux intègrent de plus en plus le genre** dans la gouvernance et les opérations.

Cependant, encore **peu de bonnes pratiques** existent dans la budgétisation sensible au genre dans les actions pour le climat.

FONDS MULTILATÉRAUX POUR LE CLIMAT

# Focus on gender analysis

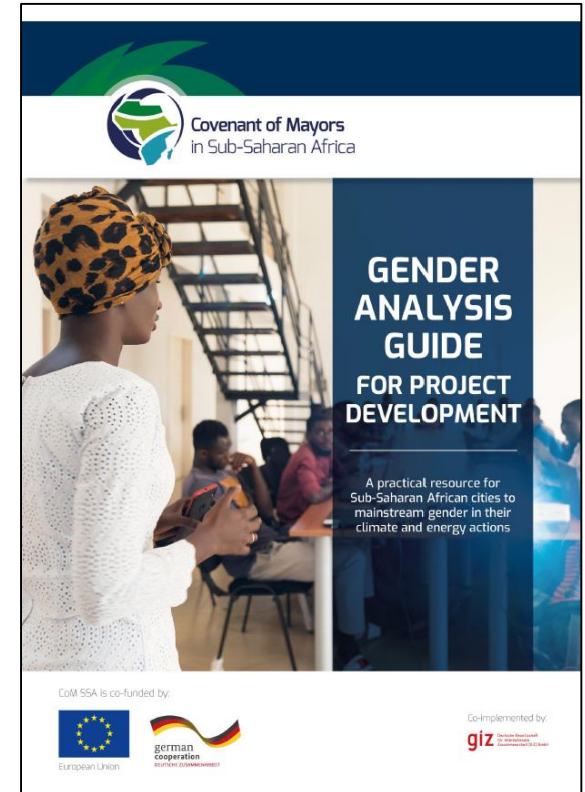
- At the start of project design to ensure that the project 1) **understands** the existing gender inequalities in the project context, and 2) **responds** to these differentiated needs to help reduce these inequalities
- Determine whether there are any **forms of** legal, political, economic, social, cultural or other **discrimination** in the sector targeted by the project
- **Recommend** the most important measures that the project should implement in order to prevent or combat the worsening of the gender inequalities identified
- Calling on **gender expertise**
- Ensure that a gender-sensitive **participatory approach** is adopted



# Focus on gender analysis

- **Step 1:** Determine who will carry out the gender analysis
- **Step 2:** Gather information on gender dynamics in the country or region (desktop)
- **Stage 3:** Collect data on gender dynamics at local level and in the specific project sector (survey/interviews)
- **Step 4:** Analyse gender sensitivity and expertise within the project team
- **Step 5:** Formulate recommendations for gender-sensitive project design

CoM SSA guides: [How to develop a gender analysis in 5 steps](#) and [How to adopt a participatory and inclusive approach](#)



# Resources

## Websites relevant to gender data :

OECD: [SIGI - Social Institutions and Gender Index](#)

World Economic Forum: [Global Gender Gap Index](#)

World Bank: [Gender Data Portal](#)

UN Women: [Global database on violence against women](#)

World Bank: [Women, business and the law](#)

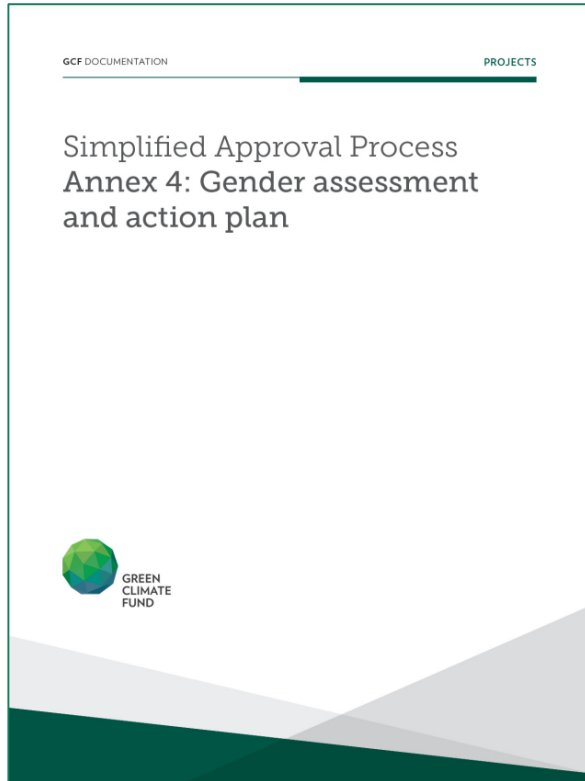
UNICEF: [FGM database](#)

UN Women: [Global Constitutional Database on Gender Equality](#)

FAO: [Gender and land rights database](#)



# Case study: The Green Fund

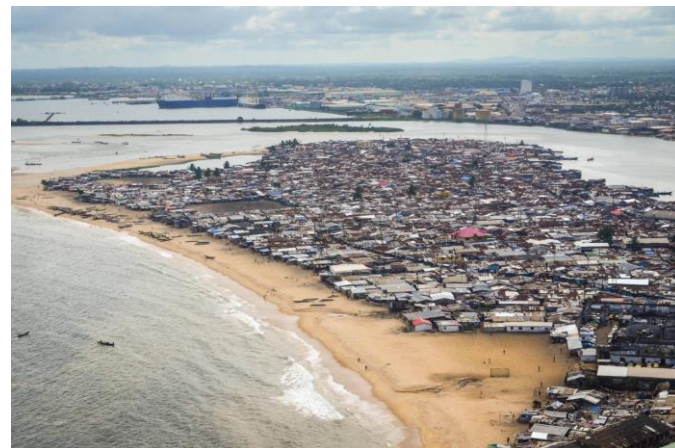


The Green Fund is the first climate finance mechanism to integrate gender perspectives from the outset of its operations as an essential decision-making element for the deployment of its resources. The Green Fund has made gender a key element of its programming architecture, and its commitment to gender equality focuses on gender-responsive climate action programmes and projects that benefit women and men.

# Case study: Green Fund project

## Strengthening the resilience of coastal communities in Liberia

<b>Project name</b>	Monrovia metropolitan climate resilience project
<b>Objective</b>	The project aims to improve the climate resilience of vulnerable communities in Monrovia through coastal protection and management and the diversification of livelihoods.
<b>Implementers</b>	Implemented by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of the Government of Liberia (partner: UNDP)
<b>Financing</b>	Green Climate Fund
<b>Location</b>	Monrovia, Liberia
<b>Sectors</b>	Coastal protection, conservation, energy and food safety
<b>Start date</b>	2021
<b>End date</b>	2027
<b>Budget</b>	USD25.6 million in grants and co-financing from the GCF, including a dedicated gender budget



# Case study: Green Fund project

## Strengthening the resilience of coastal communities in Liberia

Rising sea levels in Monrovia threaten local communities and their livelihoods. As most fishmongers are women, the loss of mangroves and boat landings due to coastal storms and rising sea levels disproportionately affects women, exacerbating existing gender inequalities in the country.

The gender analysis carried out has shown that women and men are not all affected in the same way. The gender analysis brings together information from available data from studies carried out by the Government of Liberia, UN bodies and civil society organisations, donor agencies and multilateral development banks to show why it is important not only to target and intentionally benefit women, but also to consider intersectional vulnerability. Certain groups face additional forms of marginalisation and stigmatisation due to poverty, health and disability, including women, young people and children, the elderly, people with disabilities and marginalised groups such as people living with HIV/AIDS in target areas.



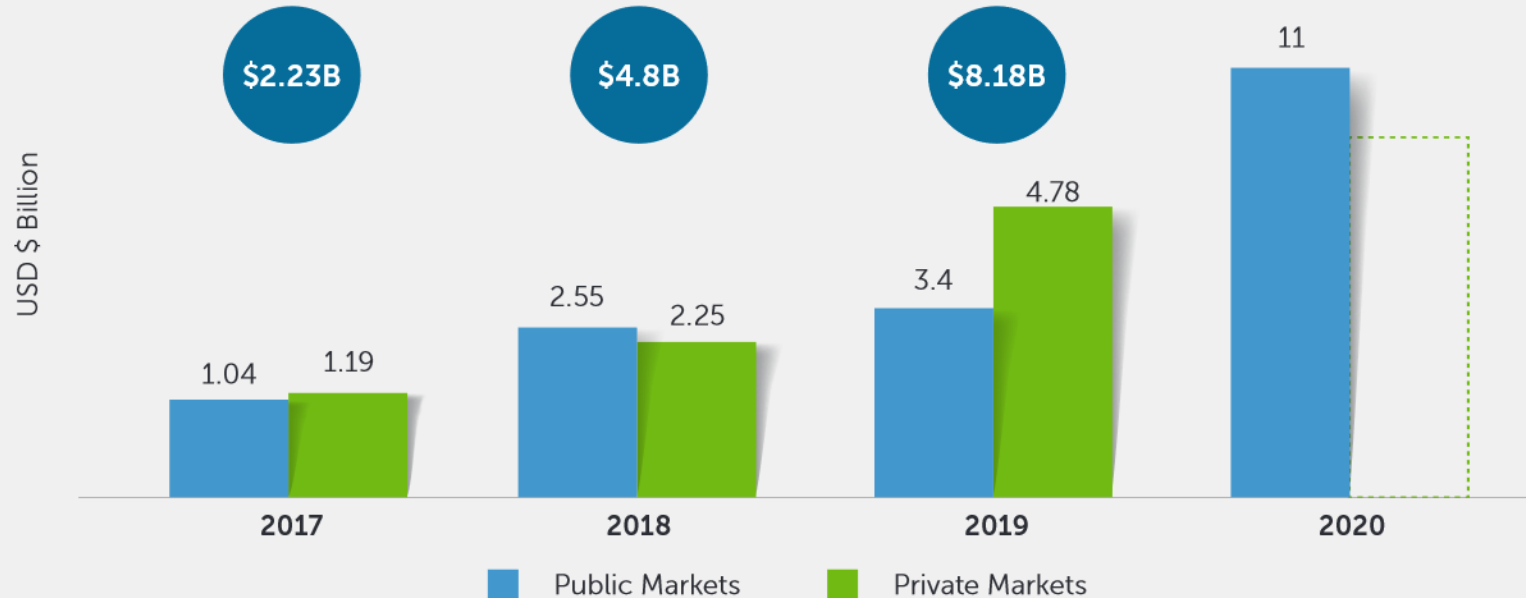


# Questions and answers



## **V. Integrating gender criteria into the activities of private actors**

## A step-change in the amount of capital being deployed to gender lens finance



Data sourced from: Catalyst at Large, Parallele Finance, Sagana, and Veris Wealth Partners

\*Private markets data for 2020 forthcoming

**Figure 1.2:** Bar chart to show the progressive increase in assets under management of tracked gender-lens finance over 4 years (2017-2020), showing public and private markets separately.

Source: Gender Smart, Gender and Climate investments : a strategy for unlocking a sustainable future

# Gender mainstreaming in private sector processes through the development of CSR and ESG criteria

## Définition et différence entre **ESG** et **RSE**

### Responsabilité Sociétale des Entreprises (RSE)



**Démarche d'intégration des enjeux environnementaux et sociétaux** dans le fonctionnement d'une entreprise, et la production de ses services et produits.

**Les entreprises initient la mise en place de ces enjeux** extra financiers au sein de leurs activités.

### Environnement, Social et Gouvernance (ESG)



**Critères environnementaux, sociaux et de gouvernance** qui permettent d'établir une analyse de la performance de RSE des entreprises.

**Les acteurs financiers évaluent les pratiques de RSE des entreprises** en se basant sur ces critères.



# 2X Challenge

Invest in women. Invest in the world.

Governance & Accountability		Gender strategic action(s), management system(s) and data <sup>1</sup>	Yes/No
1	Entrepreneurship & Ownership	1A. Share of women ownership	51%
		OR	
		1B. Business founded by a woman	50%
2	Leadership	2A. Share of women in senior management	Varies <sup>2</sup>
		OR	
		2B. Share of women on the Board or Investment Committee	Varies <sup>2</sup>
3	Employment <sup>3</sup>	Share of women in the workforce <b>AND</b> One "quality" Employment indicator <sup>4</sup> beyond compliance	Varies <sup>2</sup> Yes/No
4	Supply Chain	Commitment to women in supply chain <b>AND</b>	Yes/No
		One "quality" Supply Chain indicator <sup>4</sup> beyond compliance	Yes/No
5	Products & Services	Product(s) or service(s) enhance(s) well-being of women/girls and/or drives gender equity	Yes/No
			6
			6B. Funds: Percent of portfolio companies that are 2X aligned <sup>6</sup>
			30-50%





# Interactive discussion

Do you have any examples of collaboration between knowledge brokers and private sector actors in Cameroon in relation to gender or climate change initiatives/projects?



# Thank you for your time!

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