

# Ways to Gender-Smart Climate Finance: Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Restoration

A gender-smart climate finance investment can be defined as Paris aligned and meeting relevant green finance and 2X criteria.

Biodiversity is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history. This decline is due to a combination of factors, including pollution, habitat loss and degradation, unsustainable consumption and production patterns, the introduction of invasive species, and overexploitation of preferred species, as well as climate change, and natural disasters. These factors have been further compounded by incoherent policy and governance frameworks, insufficient financing and harmful subsidies. Crucially, rapid climate change affects the ability of ecosystems and species to adapt, thereby accelerating biodiversity loss. Although no less than \$143 billion is spent on biodiversity every year globally, this is far below the estimated \$824 billion needed to protect and restore nature.<sup>1</sup>

Gender-smart investing is smart business that can also help catalyse biodiversity finance for enhancing resilience to climate change. We also know companies that perform well on sustainability<sup>2</sup> and gender diversity measures<sup>3</sup> return greater profit. Moreover, action on climate and action on biodiversity are two sides of the same coin. Biodiversity can help reduce negative climate change impacts, while effective and sustainable management of ecosystems can ensure the continued delivery of ecosystem services that increase resilience to climate change.

## What is a gender-smart biodiversity finance investment?

Action on climate and action on biodiversity are actually two sides of the same coin: biodiversity can help reduce negative climate change impacts, whilst effective and sustainable management of ecosystems can ensure the continued delivery of ecosystem services that increase resilience to climate change.

Put simply, a gender-smart biodiversity finance investment is an investment that delivers both significant biodiversity and conservation outcomes while promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment. Bringing these objectives together is an impact amplifier: the goals are strengthened and mutually reinforced, and stronger and more resilient business outcomes are delivered. These investments can meet the 2X criteria whilst delivering on positive outcomes for biodiversity and ecosystems. Adaptation or mitigation outcomes are often another co-benefit.

A gender-smart green finance investment can be defined as being ‘Paris aligned’, i.e. assessed as consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development in line with the objectives of the Paris Agreement. Paris aligned projects are characterised by:

- A carbon footprint or carbon intensity that is limited or declining in line with a Paris aligned trajectory
- Limited vulnerability to physical climate hazards
- Low transition risk and carbon lock-in risk,
- Not indirectly supporting non-aligned activities

Methodologies that assess Paris alignment at the transaction and institution level are emerging, for example Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) have developed a [joint Paris alignment approach](#) and [CDC has also published its own approach](#). Climate finance eligibility, either as mitigation or adaptation finance (or both), can be defined through established criteria or taxonomies, such as the joint MDB methodology for tracking climate finance or the European Union (EU) taxonomy for sustainable finance.

The choice of Paris alignment approach and green taxonomy is at the discretion of the investor, but we encourage users of this guide to use a credible approach, which can then be overlaid with the [2X criteria](#) to reveal the intersection of gender and climate finance.

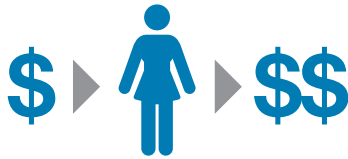
This brief is part of a series of gender and climate finance thematic and sector briefs produced by the 2X Climate Finance Taskforce. You can access the series [here](#).



## When should I use this note?

This thematic note supports development finance institutions (DFIs), MDBs, fund managers, and other financial institutions to pursue gender-responsive climate investments in line with the 2X criteria, climate eligibility frameworks, as well as specific impact frameworks (such as development impact, transition impact and environmental social and governance (ESG) considerations).

**Gender-responsive design can improve return on investment, given women's roles as stewards for the environment and their community**



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# 1. Why? Applying a gender-smart lens to biodiversity investments

Loss of biodiversity is a systemic risk for businesses and society alike.<sup>4</sup> Up to one million plant and animal species face extinction, many within this decade.<sup>5</sup> More than half of the world's gross domestic product (\$44 trillion) is moderately or highly dependent on nature and its services – such as the provision of food, fibre and fuel – and is placed at unprecedented risk due to the alarming and continuous biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation.<sup>6</sup>

In some cases, business activities can complement and even strengthen conservation efforts and increase the resilience of ecosystems and their services. Taking action to halt the loss of biodiversity also presents great opportunities for investment in nature-based solutions such as the management and production of rare plants and animal species, sustainable agroforestry, fisheries and aquaculture. Actions can also promote ecotourism and overall natural resource use which can halt biodiversity loss, increase resilience to climate change, mitigate emissions and increase carbon storage.

Climate change, biodiversity and gender equality are increasingly taken into account by investors as desired business outcomes and are integrated in business activities. A growing number of investors are screening companies not just on their financial performance, but also on their gender equality efforts, environmental and biodiversity commitments, performance and impacts.<sup>7</sup> Like climate and gender equality investments, nature-positive investments<sup>8</sup> (enhancing biodiversity, storing carbon and purifying water) aimed at boosting the resilience of our planet and our societies should be seen as an opportunity for greater impact and financial returns by tapping into often new profitable market segments. As investors pursue climate action, biodiversity conservation and gender equality, effective responses should jointly address those three interdependent

challenges. Still, the collection of sex-disaggregated data relevant for biodiversity is generally limited. This, compounded by the lack of clarity of measurable gender-related objectives, impedes effective action.<sup>9</sup>

## Benefits to women through biodiversity investments

Biodiversity investments can give rise to numerous economic opportunities for women. Specifically, women can act as agents of change, accelerating the transition to sustainability by playing a key role in setting up businesses that preserve biological diversity, lead action in ecosystem restoration and enhance livelihood opportunities. These are long-term investments when it comes to direct asset value, and sectors such as ecotourism, sustainable agriculture and forestry can yield a return on investment. By applying a gender lens to investments that contribute to biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration, women's role as contributors to climate action and sustainable environmental outcomes can be recognised and rewarded.

One such example where gender equality and biodiversity benefits go hand-in-hand comes from the organisation CottonConnect, which helps create more sustainable cotton supply chains. Through its programme in India, CottonConnect trained women in agronomic and business skills as well as in health, education and labour rights. This was a win-win, as the programme helped women improve their livelihoods while ensuring greater sustainability of cotton and ecosystem preservation. Cotton yields increased by 16 per cent and profit by 41 per cent for participating women.



At the same time, water consumption by women was reduced by 15 per cent, their use of chemical fertiliser by 20 per cent and chemical pesticides by 43 per cent.<sup>10</sup> Most importantly, given degradation of biodiversity often ends up further narrowing women and girls' access to livelihoods that depend on forest, river, lake and ocean products, investments in biodiversity can reverse this negative trend and empower women and girls – and, as a result, entire communities.

In many rural communities, it is primarily women who are involved in the management of natural resources, such as drinking water, land management, fuelwood or agroforestry. Women are also the primary holders of knowledge concerning species diversity, management and different uses of such resources.<sup>11</sup> As research indicates, while women's traditional knowledge is readily integrated in the development of natural and agricultural products, it is rarely formally recognised and remunerated.<sup>12</sup> Women also tend to be successful biodiversity entrepreneurs. Therefore, investing in women-led businesses that conserve biodiversity or prevent further environmental degradation can be a smart approach to preserve biodiversity, lead action in ecosystem restoration, and enhance livelihoods by targeting financial investment instruments accordingly.<sup>13</sup>

**BOX 1: Gender considerations mainstreamed in the UN Convention on Biological Diversity**

Biological diversity, conservation and ecosystem restoration is increasingly taken into account by investors. Adopted in 1992, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)<sup>14</sup> was the first international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. Progressively, gender considerations formed a key part of its processes, culminating in the adoption of its *2015-2020 Gender Plan of Action*.<sup>15</sup> Similarly, the CBD's draft outline of a Post-2020 Gender Plan of Action puts forward a set of expected gender outcomes, objectives and actions mapped against proposed indicators of the updated zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.<sup>16</sup> Moreover, the *Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity*<sup>17</sup> aims at sharing the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way. Still, critical efforts need to be made to address the severe lack of sex-disaggregated data relevant for biodiversity and ensure effective action.<sup>18</sup>

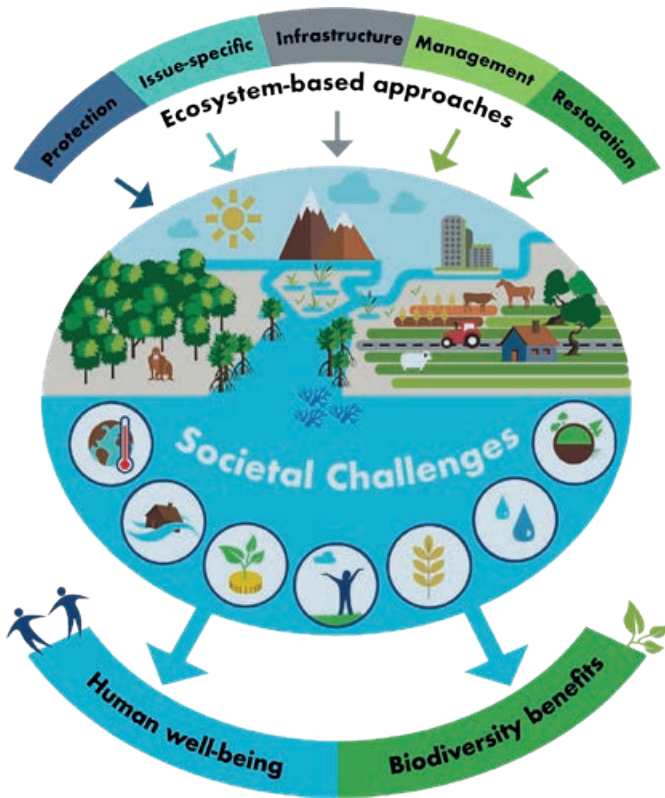
Recognising gender-differentiated roles is key. Women often maintain a close relationship with biological resources as users, managers and stewards of biological diversity. However, they typically have limited tenure rights and their role as part of decision-making processes within their communities is often limited. Globally, less than 15 per cent of landholders are women<sup>19</sup>, and, while 164 countries recognise women's rights to own, use, make decisions and use land as collateral on equal terms with men, due to discriminatory social norms and values, only 52 countries guarantee these rights both in law and practice.<sup>20</sup> Women also play a key role in protecting and managing ecosystems, and often harvest and pick the different plants that will be used (including medicinal plants), protect the land and contribute to communal natural resources. However, women community members typically enjoy little benefit-sharing, which calls for stronger emphasis on promoting women's roles in ecosystems conservation.

**Increase financial returns and enhance biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration through gender-smart investments**

Biological conservation and ecosystem restoration investments are needed in locations and economic sectors that are both critical for women's livelihoods and can also improve resilience to climate change.

The IUCN defines nature-based solutions (NBS) as “actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits”. NBS offer a promising solution to the climate crisis, and have been estimated to deliver up to \$170 billion of global benefits in ecosystem services.<sup>21</sup> One such example of implementing a nature-based solution is the mangrove restoration at CDC's investment in Zephyr Power, which is estimated to have yielded 20 times the value in the protection of physical assets to combat coastal erosion, and saved the project \$7 million over 25 years of project implementation.<sup>22</sup>

Until now, about 3 per cent of climate finance has been invested in NBS. However, nature offers more than 30 per cent of the climate mitigation opportunity through ecosystem restoration, protecting old growth forests and increasing their resilience to pests and fires, as well as through reforming agriculture and fisheries.<sup>23</sup> Gender-responsive design can improve return on investment, provided women's roles as stewards for the environment and their community<sup>24</sup> are taken into consideration. Recognition must also be given to women's increased vulnerability to physical climate risks given their livelihoods often depend on natural resources that are threatened by biodiversity loss.<sup>25</sup>



Nature based solutions, taken from the IUCN

Ensuring NBS investments are gender-smart is critical to catalysing efforts to empower women in biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration. Women habitually possess the necessary knowledge and skills to spearhead efforts in those sectors, given their central role in transmission, preservation and elaboration of community knowledge related to biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, climate change, and ecosystem restoration. For example, the sustainable harvest of mangrove products for market sales can create valuable business for local communities and small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers.<sup>26</sup>

Nature-positive investments<sup>27</sup> are often made in sectors where the gender equality link is apparent (such as agriculture and agroforestry, ecotourism, as well as fisheries and aquaculture), and where opportunities for women do play a key role in biological conservation and ecosystem restoration (as employees, entrepreneurs or consumers) building on their role as environmental stewards. As well as giving rise to further opportunities to address persistent gender inequalities and ensure biological conservation strategies, such investments can help to recognise and reward work performed by women, ensure benefits are equally shared between women and men. For example, women account for more than 50 per cent of the agricultural labour force in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, with agriculture considered the most important source of employment for women in these geographies.<sup>28</sup>

## Business Case



- Increase ethical sourcing and meet market demand:** In many developing countries, women play a critical but often unseen and unpaid role in the agricultural sector at different stages of the value chain. Increasingly, companies sourcing raw materials from developing countries adopt gender-responsive and nature-positive approaches to sourcing ingredients. For example, in June 2021, more than 50 leading cosmetics companies, coordinated by the Union for Ethical BioTrade (UEBT), committed to cultivating, collecting and procuring ingredients sustainably, to address biodiversity loss.<sup>29</sup> Several front-runner companies have shifted their investment strategy from a focus on no deforestation to a forest-positive approach. This means sourcing from suppliers that are actively conserving and restoring forests while promoting sustainable livelihoods and respecting human rights.<sup>30</sup> Simultaneously, these strategies have seen companies focused on enhancing the gender balance in the workforce and empowering women across the entire value chain, changing the economic outlook for women through initiatives that help women in agricultural communities diversify their incomes.<sup>31</sup>
- Women's entrepreneurship can further grow the market of successful conservation businesses:** The gender inequalities in the ownership of biological resources result in greater exclusion in accessing support services for women entrepreneurs. Lack of access to credit and financial services, information pertaining to sustainable use and conservation, new technologies and other incentives further limits women's potential to contribute towards sustainable solutions.<sup>32</sup> Studies have shown that supporting women in the value chain can result in stronger and larger supplier networks that contribute to higher input quality and more competitive prices over time. Women entrepreneurs and women-led start-ups can not only help diversify value chains, they also can help reduce risk and enable climate-responsive innovation.<sup>33</sup> Evidence suggests women entrepreneurs are more likely to start businesses with a sustainability focus, but lack credit to scale-up their businesses and take advantage of further growth opportunities.<sup>34</sup>
- Improve financial performance and attract investors:** Integrate environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations to be eligible for loans from investors and businesses. Investors increasingly take gender, sustainability and biodiversity into account in relation to their investments.<sup>35</sup> This increases the pressure on businesses to adhere to strict gender, biodiversity and ecosystems preservation standards to continue to conduct their business practice. Global ESG assets will most likely exceed \$53 trillion by 2025, resulting in more than \$140.5 trillion in projected total assets under management.<sup>36</sup>



## Impact Case



- Recognise and reward women as environmental stewards:** Due to gendered roles, women in many societies act as environmental stewards. Women tend to make the decisions at the household level<sup>37</sup> on the daily consumption of resources, playing a key role in agricultural production and land conservation, as well as procuring and consuming water and other household resources. Gender-smart investments can recognise and reward women for their environmental stewardship: these investments can yield returns by opening up economic opportunities for women.
  - Enhance decision-making:** Countries with higher female representation in parliament are more prone to ratify environmental treaties and adopt policies that address climate change impacts when compared to those with lower female representation.<sup>38,39</sup> However, only 37 per cent of representatives at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are women<sup>40</sup>, while men comprise 70 per cent of the members of the International Union for Conservation of Nature Species Survival Commission (SSC).<sup>41</sup>
- As of 2020, only 15 per cent of national environmental ministries were led by women and less than 35 per cent of environmental sector ministries have a gender focal point.<sup>42</sup>
- Enhance ecosystem restoration:** At least half of the 1.5 billion people who depend on forests for employment, forest products and livelihood support are women. Even so, women's economic activities related to forests are not documented or captured in national datasets as no market exists for credit products adapted to the type of forestry work women carry out.<sup>43</sup> Enhancing the capacity of stakeholders to collect, analyse and apply biodiversity data disaggregated by sex could be key in further advancing gender-smart investments. Moreover, investments in forest product industries can give rise to opportunities for women's improved tenure security and livelihoods impacts, enhanced participation in local resource governance (forest committees) and new income-generating activities.

## 2. How to invest with a gender-smart lens: biodiversity

A gender-smart climate finance investment can be defined as Paris aligned and meeting climate finance and 2X criteria. This section maps potential investments in the Biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration sector and explains how to interpret the 2X criteria.

### 2X eligibility

To qualify as a 2X investment, investments must meet or commit to targets under at least ONE of the 2X's criteria – women's entrepreneurship, leadership, employment, consumption, or financial intermediaries. More details on how to invest and apply the 2X framework can be found in the [2X Challenge Working Group's '2X Criteria'](#).

### Examples of gender-smart biodiversity investments

Gender-smart investments in biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration are in sectors that are key for women's livelihoods (for instance, investments in bioeconomy -forestry and agriculture; coastal management, fisheries and aquaculture; water management; ecotourism; land use management) and can spearhead multiple adaptation and mitigation co-benefits.

Until now, about 3% of climate finance has been invested in NBS



However, nature offers more than 30% of the climate mitigation opportunity





Interventions helping to conserve biological diversity and restore ecosystems should consider women as entrepreneurs, workers and leaders (as consumers, too) to drive behaviour change and adoption of more sustainable practices. Efforts to promote women's economic opportunities can be catalysed through gender and investments promoting biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration in:

- Agriculture and agroforestry:** Investments in gender-responsive agriculture and agroforestry solutions that actively promote biodiversity and ecosystem restoration can enable women to select, improve and adapt plant varieties and breed small animals that are adapted to the local conditions such as available feeds and resistance to disease. This has the potential to prove transformative for women farmers and entrepreneurs by increasing their income and enhancing food security while protecting ecosystems. As farmers, rural women are often responsible for growing and collecting food for integrated agricultural management, as well as for the use of diverse natural resources to fulfil daily household needs (crops and wild plants, tree products, wild and domesticated animals). Women's involvement with livelihood sources is often through horticultural work, mixed-garden growing, off-farm growing, palm sugar production, fruit-based practices, poultry raising and handicrafts. Investing in women-led agroforestry activities (through bio-carbon projects, for example) would help women to scale-up the production levels of their produce and bring them to market, thereby enhancing economic opportunities. Agroforestry is recognised as a key mitigation strategy and climate-smart agriculture response under the UNFCCC, and provides multifunctional benefits to smallholder farmers.
- Forestry:** Targeted international investments of \$30 billion per year into reduced deforestation and degradation of forests could sustain up to 8 million additional full-time workers in developing countries.<sup>44</sup> Women, who often perform unpaid community work in the forestry sector, can participate in higher value-added activities in forestry value chains and small-scale forestry, as well as ecotourism, and thereby access more decent green jobs. Investments in biodiversity conservation in forests can help meet the needs of men and women dependent on their environment for food, productive activities, medicines and other resources. Men and women often have distinct realms of knowledge and application for natural resource management, both of which are necessary for sustainable use and conservation. Conservation initiatives that are not gender-responsive may not only overlook women's needs and miss on leveraging their in-depth ecological knowledge, but also increase women's workload. Reforestation activities have often tasked women with tree planting, in addition to their household responsibilities, without any compensation.<sup>45</sup>

- Sustainable fisheries, aquaculture and coastal management:** Men's fishing activities are typically heavily supported by women, who play essential roles in not only processing and sales but also in financial and logistical support of fishing expeditions. Women are often active in harvesting activities, industrial to small-scale process and trade<sup>46</sup> and corporate and community leadership. At the same time, women are heavily under-represented in leadership roles in the fishing and aquaculture industry. In 2019, only four out of 100 largest seafood companies had a woman chief executive officer (CEO), while over one-third of all seafood companies analysed (28 out of 80) had exclusive male corporate bodies and no more than 5 per cent of the companies (4 out of 80) had more than 40 per cent women.<sup>47</sup> According to IUCN data, only 13 per cent of fisheries-related ministries were headed by women in 2015.<sup>48</sup> Investments in sustainable fisheries management, conservation of natural resources and ecosystems in marine and coastal areas (such as cold chain infrastructure, near-shore harvesting and processing sustainable aquaculture, managing plastic and waste) help reduce degradation of marine ecosystems and loss of marine biodiversity. Investments aimed at improving effective leadership, marketing and sales skills that at the same time meet women's needs can contribute to addressing both the climate and biodiversity crisis and promoting women's economic opportunities.
- Ecotourism and conservation tourism:** Conservation tourism, a key economic activity that supports biological conservation, can create numerous economic opportunities that can be accessed by women. In Tanzania, women receive training to become mountain guides to guide climbers up Mount Kilimanjaro.<sup>49</sup> In this role, women can increase their income and break gender stereotypes, by accessing this highly regarded, well paid and male-dominated role. Moreover, the conservation agency Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) aims to address women's under-representation in management committees and ensure women beneficiaries enjoy equal benefit-sharing from ecotourism revenues. The management of the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in the Kanungu District has committed to equal benefit-sharing of revenues – taking into consideration that 98 per cent of project procurement members are men – and increasing the number of women on Project Procurement Committees in revenue-sharing guidelines.<sup>50</sup>

**More than half of the world's gross domestic product (\$44 trillion) is moderately or highly dependent on nature and its services**





**Examples of biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration investments that are considered to align with the 2X criteria:**

**Women Entrepreneurs**

Investment in women-founded or women-owned (51 per cent) companies active in conservation and ecosystem restoration.

**Example:** An investee company that is women-owned, engaged in conservation and restoration of mangrove forests.

**Women Leaders**

Investment in companies active in biological conservation and ecosystem restoration in which the share of women in senior management stands at 30 per cent or the share of women on the board or investment committee is at least 30 per cent.

**Example:** A women-led company that applies sustainable forest and land management practices.

**Women Employees**

Investment in companies active in biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration in which the share of women in the workforce stands at 30-50 per cent (depending on the sector) and there is one 'quality' indicator beyond compliance.

**Example:** An investment in a company that shifts to ecotourism, whose female share of employment is 70 per cent and has put a programme in place to promote women's career progression.

**Women Consumers**

Investment in companies active in biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration that specifically or disproportionately benefit women. Financial intermediaries that provide capital to individual women (for example, MFIs or personal loans) are also qualified.

**Example:** A company that produces and packages drought-resistance seeds in small bags to enable women buyers to lift and carry them. The investee is considered 2X and climate aligned.

**Impact via Financial Intermediaries**

Investments in on-lending facilities 30 per cent of the investor or financial institution (FI) loan proceeds, or 30 per cent of the FI's portfolio, or percentage of companies supported by the fund are climate adaptation or climate mitigation businesses that meet direct criteria. Financial institutions lending to businesses (including microfinance for business purposes) must meet (or make a commitment to meet) both the direct AND indirect criteria to count the full transaction amount towards the 2X target. Funds must meet (or make a commitment to meet) both the direct AND indirect criteria to count the full transaction amount towards the 2X target.

**Example:** A fund investee meets the indirect criteria by investing 30 per cent of their portfolio in climate risk insurance that meet one of the direct 2X criteria. Per best practice, for the leadership and employment criteria, the investor or FI monitors adherence to the percentage thresholds over time, and develops a Gender Action Plan to promote women's career advancement to managerial roles.

# 3. What? Gender-smart biodiversity investments

The following investments by 2X members provide an overview of what a gender-smart biodiversity investment can look like.



- LEADERSHIP, FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
- BIODIVERSITY

## Supporting biodiversity-based women-led and owned small and medium-sized enterprises in Latin America<sup>51</sup>

**Setting the scene:** Ecoenterprises Partners III (Ecoenterprises) is a women-owned and led fund that invests in women-owned and led afforestation, reforestation, aquaculture, ecotourism and sustainable agriculture and forest management businesses in Latin America. These investments actively contribute to the creation of sustainable livelihoods, sustainable use of natural resources, ecosystem preservation and climate risk mitigation.

**Approach and impact:** Ecoenterprises engages with its portfolio companies to hire women at all levels and invest in their wellbeing, enhancing access to quality jobs while promoting sustainable forest and land management practices. The fund has committed to use at least 15 per cent of its capital, or four individual investments, to fund SMEs that are owned or led by women entrepreneurs. At the same time, the management team is confident that women employees can constitute 50 per cent of all jobs created and supported by the SMEs financed, as well as jobs along the supply chain. So far, Ecoenterprises has completed the UN's Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) Gap Analysis Tool, and will continue focusing on building its capacity to promote equal opportunities policies and practices through its portfolio companies. With EIB, FinDev Canada, and Dutch development bank FMO support, the fund manager is set to undertake a qualitative assessment of employment opportunities offered with a focus on women employees, tracking women in management roles across its portfolio of companies. About 83 per cent of senior investment professionals are women (well above the 2X criteria threshold of 25 per cent in the financial sector), and where the two owner-principals are women.



- FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
- BIODIVERSITY

## How investments in community conservancies in coastal Kenya support women's entrepreneurial ventures

**Setting the scene:** The Northern Rangeland Trust (NRT) is a membership organisation owned and led by the 39 community conservancies it serves in northern and coastal Kenya. NRT was established as a shared resource to help build and develop community conservancies, which are best positioned to enhance people's lives, build peace and conserve the natural environment.

**Approach and impact:** In Kenya, conservation has for many years been male dominated. NRT and its partners<sup>52</sup> are keen on mainstreaming gender in environmental conservation and livelihood development by integrating a gender equality perspective at all stages and levels of policies, programmes and projects, both internally and in member conservancies.

The EIB, through its Clean Oceans Initiative Project Identification and Preparation Programme (COPIP) targeting sub-Saharan Africa has been working with the women leading the clean-up of plastic waste from beaches to identify and prepare an investment project in the Kiunga Community Conservancy. Discussion are ongoing between NRT and Okavango Capital Partners (an impact fund aimed at generating commercial returns, nature conservation and rural livelihood improvements in innovative businesses in East and Southern Africa) to invest in promoting sustainable farming practices and alternative livelihood strategies in important ecosystems, with a strong dedicated gender programme supporting women in their entrepreneurial ventures.






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- 52 NRT's development partners include: The Nature Conservancy, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the Embassy of Denmark, the Embassy of Sweden, USAID, EU, the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the French Development Agency (Agence française de développement)



**SDGs IMPACT**  Investing with a gender and climate lens in this sector can help enhance your contribution to the following SDGs:



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

**2X Climate Finance Taskforce Sector Notes: Investing in Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Restoration, 2021**

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