



# Helping developing countries build resilience and adapt to climate change

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## Advancing Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls



PHOTO BY MARK SUGG

In Rwanda, 4000 women are participating in adaptation planning and project activities of the rural development project funded by the AF.

The Gender Policy and Action Plan of the Adaptation Fund adopted in 2016 aims at mainstreaming equal access to all Fund projects and programmes among women and men, while building their resilience and capability to adapt to climate change impacts.

The Gender Policy ensures that equal rights, responsibilities, and opportunities for women and men, equal consideration of their respective interests, vulnerabilities, needs and priorities are considered during the project cycle. It also promotes women's leadership roles in the decision-making process in planning how to adapt to climate change. The Gender Policy complements and mainstreams the gender principles contained in the Fund's previously adopted Environmental and Social Policy (ESP). They are mutually reinforcing and strengthen the Fund's overall approach to managing environmental and social risks.

The Fund's Gender Policy is in line with the Paris Agreement, which strives to ensure all climate projects promote gender equality and protect human rights, particularly vulnerable and marginalized groups.



**1,184,070**

**WOMEN DIRECTLY BENEFITING FROM AF PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES**

**40%**



**OF THE PEOPLE TRAINED UNDER AF PROJECTS ARE WOMEN**

**42,166**



**WOMEN TRAINED IN CLIMATE RESILIENT MEASURES**

**WATCH A VIDEO about AF Gender Policy in action: [bit.ly/afgender](http://bit.ly/afgender)**



### GENDER POLICY:

#### Human Rights-Based & Congruent with Relevant International Instruments

- Applied to all AF adaptation activities irrespective of project/programme size
- Supports the equal right of women and men to access and benefit from AF resources
- All activities are designed to be gender-responsive and benefit the most vulnerable
- Advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is a key element of AF's 5-year strategy
- Gender-responsive indicators and gender-responsive implementation and monitoring arrangements are part of project design

### OBJECTIVES:

- Provides women and men with an equal opportunity to build climate resilience, address their differentiated vulnerability, and increase their capability to adapt to climate change impacts
- Addresses and mitigates against assessed potential project/programme risks for women and men
- Accelerates learning about effective gender-equal adaptation measures and strategies

➔ Leads to more effective, sustainable and equitable adaptation outcomes and impacts

### GENDER POLICY IN ADAPTATION FUND PROJECTS

#### Peru: Reducing Gender Gaps in Natural Resource Management

In Peru an AF project is providing sustainable fishing measures and preserving coastal ecosystems. It is also creating women's associations for ecotourism, trade and fishery products, so that women are more empowered and can develop alternative livelihoods. The project is promoting the participation of women in a wide range of ecotourism-related roles like business management, tourist guides, production and selling of handicraft souvenirs.

#### Morocco: Promoting Alternative Livelihoods Through Farming Cooperatives and Women's Associations

AF project in Morocco is improving water management and resilience against drought for vulnerable populations. The project also promotes alternative livelihoods by providing farming cooperatives and women's associations with support for the diversification of their means of production. About 400 women have been trained in conservation techniques, innovative adaptation measures, and in the designing and financing of projects.



PHOTO BY MARK SUGG

In Morocco, the AF project supports women's cooperatives and farming associations to strengthen alternative livelihoods.



ADAPTATION FUND

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# Protecting the Environment and Engaging the Most Vulnerable Communities and Social Groups



PHOTO BY MARK SLUGG

In Djibouti, drought-afflicted rural communities gain sustainable access to water resources through wells. The development of shade gardens supports a climate-resilient agricultural and pastoral economy.

The Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) of the Adaptation Fund ensures that projects and programs supported by the Fund promote positive environmental and social benefits and mitigate or avoid adverse environmental and social risks and impacts.

The ESP has 15 principles to manage unnecessary risks that are put into practice during the process of accrediting implementing entities and the development of projects. Among them are promoting human rights and gender equality, protecting natural habitats, preserving biodiversity, empowering vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities, and preventing pollution.

This forward-thinking and strong ESP was adopted by the Fund in 2013 and has since been praised by the UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights and the Environment as a potential model for a sustainable development mechanism called for in the Paris Agreement.

**183,085**  
HECTARES NATURAL HABITAT RESTORED/PRESERVED

**121,025**  
METERS COASTLINE PROTECTED

**US\$ 72.9 Million**  
ALLOCATED TO INCREASING ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCE IN RESPONSE TO CLIMATE-INDUCED STRESS

**US\$ 52.5 Million**  
ALLOCATED TO DIVERSIFYING AND STRENGTHENING LIVELIHOODS & SOURCES OF INCOME FOR VULNERABLE PEOPLE

### ESP Principles

All projects and programmes supported by the AF are designed and implemented to meet these principles (where relevant for the project / programme):

- Compliance with Law
- Access and Equity
- Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups
- Human Rights
- Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
- Core Labour Rights
- Indigenous Peoples
- Involuntary Resettlement
- Protection of Natural Habitats
- Conservation of Biological Diversity
- Climate Change
- Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency
- Public Health
- Physical and Cultural Heritage
- Lands and Soil Conservation

### ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL POLICY IN ADAPTATION FUND PROJECTS

#### Antigua & Barbuda: Integrated Approach to Physical Adaptation and Community Resilience

The multisector adaptation project includes building climate-proofed shelters and water storage facilities with a special focus on community participation and incorporating local knowledge. The Direct Access project is benefitting many poor, marginalized single women, their children and disabled persons in heavily flooded areas of Antigua's northwest coast that have been devastated by recent storms.

#### Cambodia: Enhancing Climate Resilience of Rural Communities

Rural communities in Cambodia are experiencing falling agricultural productivity as a changing climate leads to more erratic rainfall. The AF project aims to increase food supply and reduce soil erosion by implementing on-the-ground forest restoration and conservation agriculture interventions. The project also entails enrichment planting of rice paddy boundaries and other cultivated areas with multi-use tree species that will enhance crop productivity.



PHOTO BY ADAPTATION FUND

By restoring a variety of plant species to approximately 1,900 hectares of degraded forests, the AF project in Cambodia helps to reduce soil erosion.