



## CCICED 2020 Gender-Related Work September 2020

### Executive Summary

2020 marks the 25th anniversary of the UN Conference on Women and Platform for Action, held in Beijing, 1995. CCICED has identified gender equality as a priority, and for good reason: gender equality not only leads to better environmental, conservation, and sustainable development outcomes—it also improves economic outcomes.

This note highlights some of the research findings and recommendations of CCICED's 2019–2020 research work, drawing on the ongoing work of its 10 Special Policy Studies. The note provides examples from some of the September 2020 Special Policy Studies (the full version of the studies can be found [here](#)).

Three key findings of CCICED's recent work are: (a) women are the most vulnerable to environmental degradation and shocks: the impacts of pollution, climate change, loss of ecosystems, and natural resources disproportionately affects women; (b) integrating gender equity throughout policies, projects, and programs improves the safety of places, effectiveness of tools like green technologies, and efficiency of market approaches; and (c) more work is needed to continue breaking down legal, economic, institutional, and other barriers.

### Mandate

In 2018, the CCICED Executive Committee identified gender equality as a cross-cutting theme and research priority. To support focused work and recommendations, in May 2019, the CCICED Secretariat shared its [Gender Equity Toolkit](#) to provide support to the 10 teams of Chinese and international experts advancing the Special Policy Studies. The Toolkit in turn draws on recent work on gender equality: a leading example is that of the Global Environment Facility in promoting gender equality throughout its operational planning and project support, the [GEF Gender Implementation Strategy](#).

### Context

Gender issues have been central to advancing effective green policies for decades. Evidence shows that environmental protection, conservation, and sustainable

development policies that ignore gender inequity fail. Norms and principles that have established the link between environmental actions and gender equality include:

- Gender equality is a human right with clear benefits for women, but also for men.
- Using a “gender lens” to examine environmental policies makes such policies more effective.
- A gender lens can advance progress in sustainable development and environmental protection. By contrast, neither sustainable development nor environmental protection policies will be as effective as they need to be if gender equality is not protected and enhanced.
- Gender equality is a multiplier of sustainability, strengthening efforts to address poverty and food insecurity. Gender-responsive approaches to problems related to energy, water, sanitation, land, and other natural resources are key to protecting human health and the environment.
- If a gender lens is not used, environmental policies may worsen pre-existing gender inequalities: past lessons show that when new technologies for the energy and agricultural sectors ignore gender issues, results include inequality-intensifying outcomes.
- With the use of an explicit gender lens, environmental policies can contribute to increased gender equality. Conversely, the absence of a gender lens makes it impossible to develop comprehensive assessments needed to tackle pressing environmental problems. (*Sources: GEF and UNEP, Global Gender and Environment Outlook*)

### Multilateral Approaches

Following the 1995 UN Conference on Women and Platform for Action, initiatives to mainstream gender have increased throughout the UN agencies (for example United Nations Development Programme’s (UNDP’s) [recent report](#), as well as the creation in 2010 of [UN Women](#). Moreover, most multilateral environmental conventions include language related to gender equality: both the UN Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) have developed gender equality strategies and action plans to mainstream gender equality.

The [UNFCCC notes](#) that women face higher risks and burdens from climate change impacts, given that extreme weather events like flooding, forest fires, and droughts disproportionately affect the poorest—and women are the poorest and most disempowered in many countries. The UN CBD released [policy advice](#) to advance gender equity toward the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

### The Sustainable Development Goals

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, along with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), marks an important advancement in prioritizing gender equality as a cornerstone of development. [SDG Goal 5 – Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls](#) – sets out a number of specific targets, including ending all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere, eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls, and recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work. In addition to a stand-alone gender goal, the SDGs contain numerous gender targets embedded in other goals: examples include the cross-cutting priority of gender equality SDG 13 on climate change, SDG 3 on health and environment, SDG 7 on energy, SDG 11 on Disaster Risk Reduction, and SDG 15 on ecosystems and forests.

### **Economic Evidence, Legal Reforms**

Recent economic analysis unambiguously shows that closing the gender gap in labour markets and across senior decision-making positions improves economic outcomes. Analysis by the [International Monetary Fund](#) suggests that for those countries where gaps in the participation of women in the workforce are widest, closing them would add an estimated 35% to GDP, including through higher productivity associated with greater gender diversity.

Research by Professor Litian Zhang and others confirms that increasing the number of women in senior corporate positions leads to more innovative thinking and stronger bottom-line outcomes. <sup>1</sup>The most recent World Bank annual report on domestic and legal reforms to advance gender equality in labour markets notes that “great progress” has been made in the past decade, whereby 130 countries have introduced 274 reforms to laws and regulations to support gender equality. However, too many laws, norms, and practices continue to stifle women’s workplace equality<sup>2</sup>. Women and girls still face barriers to education, public health, pay equity, finance, the Internet and trade, while rates of gender-based violence remain unacceptably high.

### **International Public Finance**

One means of advancing gender equality is through international public finance and investment. For years, multilateral development banks have developed gender-based policies and tool kits, including country assessments and project-level environmental impact assessments. The [2016 World Bank Environmental and Social Framework](#) references gender equity at the country-level assessment phase, as well as within some project-level planning and evaluations.

---

<sup>1</sup> Zhang, Litian, et al. “Research: When Gender Diversity Makes Firms More Productive.” *Harvard Business Review*, 12 Feb. 2019.

<sup>2</sup> *WOMEN, BUSINESS AND THE LAW 2019*. The World Bank Group, 2019.

Differences exist across international donors in supporting gender equality: [Swedish International Development Agency](#) (SIDA), Norway's [NORAD](#), Germany's [GIZ](#), and other bilateral donor agencies—including those supporting South–South cooperation and financing—have tools, programs, and means to measure gender equality outcomes and impacts. The Global Climate Fund (GCF) is among the first international agencies to mainstream gender throughout its project planning and project assessment and delivery: the [GCF Gender Assessment and Action Plan](#) provides a strong example for domestic governments in project planning.

## Part Two: CCICED's 2020 Gender-Related Work through Special Policy Studies

### Climate Change Special Policy Study 2020

*Implement systematic information sharing and consultation with local communities and improve the involvement of women to unlock life quality-improving choices for clean energy access*

Women are often more involved in household decision making and have the knowledge of what is needed to adapt to changing environmental circumstances in order to determine practical solutions for all, notably children and the elderly. But they remain a largely untapped knowledge resource and have limited access to decision making at the local or political level.

When preparing investments in host countries, investors should implement systematic consultations with local communities, including civil society, with a conscientious effort toward gender equality. In regions where women are heads of households, they are key decision-makers and drivers of behaviour regarding particular aspects of pollution and the health conditions of the household. Their concern for a more integrated consideration of negative externalities of pollution should be relayed to the regional and national levels.

In recent years, leading women have often appeared as bringers of change in Asia. One such pioneer is Wandee Khunchornyakon, founder and chief executive of Solar Power Company Group, which is the first company to develop a solar farm for commercial purposes in Thailand. Despite heavy difficulties in accessing traditional credit, her company now operates 19 solar farms in Thailand with a total generation capacity of 96.98 megawatts (MW), reducing an equivalent of 200,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> and generating 20,000 new permanent and local jobs.

*Create innovative financing schemes that involve local communities and women in particular from assessment, planning, revenues benefits and management of distributed renewable energy and energy storage, creating complementary income*

Distributed renewable energies are better for the planet but seem more difficult to deploy in part due to the lack of training of local populations on how to operate and maintain equipment, whereas higher-polluting concentrated fossil fuel-based energies appear easier to deploy, notably on isolated islands. However, distributed renewables could bring more energy and financial independence for vulnerable local communities.

Engaging women as active participants in the clean energy sector (combined with improved energy access) can improve efficiency by rooting implementation in local communities as well as contributing to their economic independence. A gender lens should be applied to the inclusion of local communities in the planning, economic assessment, financial revenue sharing, maintenance, and management of distributed renewable energies such as small- to medium-scale photovoltaic (PV) and energy storage units.

With financing mechanisms that could be supported by foreign aid and micro-credits, such locally planned and managed projects will bring complementary revenue to the community, creating self-reinforcing practical and financial incentives that will deepen its implementation, ensuring the sustainable deployment of renewables. At the same time, by involving women and the local communities, these projects would provide better livelihood prospects through improved access to electricity, improving educational opportunities, shielding communities from the harmful health effects of indoor pollution (through the burning of biomass) while making them active vocal ambassadors of climate change mitigation.

Successful examples of such projects include the Grameen technology centre's actions in Bangladesh, the Barefoot College in Rajasthan in India, and the Solar Sisters in Africa conducting trainings for women as technicians and engineers, teaching them to build, install, and maintain solar energy sources. These projects have had multiple impacts on women's health, role in the community, education, and overall well-being.

#### *Raise awareness on impacts of climate change on women*

We are already seeing some of the devastating effects of climate change, with increasing floods, hurricanes and other natural disasters. Women are the most vulnerable in these situations, facing the maximum risk due to their socio-economic status. With 70% living in poverty, women are disproportionately affected by extreme weather events, loss of agricultural productivity, destruction of life and property and so on, all of which stem from the climate crisis<sup>3</sup>. In its efforts to support the development of countries in South-East Asia, China should raise awareness of the impacts of climate change, notably on vulnerable populations and women.

---

<sup>3</sup> Sinha Vaishali Sinha, Vaishali. "We Can Solve Climate Change – If We Involve Women." *World Economic Forum*, 2019.

## **Biodiversity Special Policy Study 2020**

The UN Secretary-General has laid out the need for action in the year 2020, including action at the highest level. On February 12, 2020, he recognized in a speech that “biodiversity offers solutions for many global challenges. From climate change to food and water security, from decent jobs to gender equity, healthy ecosystems are critical. The time has come to put nature at the heart of sustainable development and to invest in restoring the earth’s nature support ecosystems. This year brings many opportunities: the biodiversity summit in New York, the biodiversity conference in Kunming, as well as the COP26 on climate change in Glasgow.” He calls on “all leaders to show ambition and urgency as we strive to reverse biodiversity loss, conserve and sustainable use natural resources, and share the benefits fairly”

### ***Linking Culture Diversity and Nature Diversity***

A holistic approach to biodiversity conservation will embrace the indivisible linkages between nature, people, and culture. Recognize and enhance the critical role of wide range of stakeholders such as Indigenous people and local community and women in protecting nature, culture, identity and integrating traditional knowledge and good practices into decision making (

While addressing the COVID-19 pandemic emergency—along with national and global economic recovery—ensure that adequate attention and financial support are given to addressing the eco-environmental emergencies affecting biodiversity and climate change.

## **Oceans Special Policy Study 2020**

In exploring and developing ongoing and potential future ocean-based industries, issues such as the environment and sustainability, the use and development of new technologies and social sustainability, and gender aspects are key factors to be considered.

The inclusion of women has been shown to increase the effectiveness of the Green Economy. According to IMO, women today represent only 2% of the world’s 1.2 million seafarers, and 94% of these female seafarers work in the cruise industry.

The number of female captains, officers and general seafarers in China accounts for over 15% of the country’s total maritime staff. Women account for 50% of the workforce in fisheries and aquaculture worldwide when accounting for the secondary industry. Women account for 20% of the total professional fishery-related workforce in China. As a society, China has a long and strong commitment to gender equality.

China was one of the early countries to ratify the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1980. Through this Convention, China, along with other nations, has agreed to take appropriate measures in all fields, including economic sectors, to ensure the full development and advancement of women on a basis of equality with men. UN SDG #5 calls for achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls.

China has committed itself to contribute to this goal through eradication of all forms of discrimination and prejudice against women and girls and through strengthening women's employment and entrepreneurship capabilities (China's National Plan on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 2016). CEDAW calls for effective special measures in the fields of women's employment and participation aimed at accelerating de facto equality between men and women in line with the Convention. With its strong historical commitment, and with its desire to move toward fulfilling UN SDG #5, China stands in a unique position to be a leader in contributing to changing the skewed gender balance in maritime operations by committing to and implementing gender-equalizing efforts in the further development of the country's ocean industries.

#### *Management: Balancing environment and economy*

The recent COVID-19 pandemic has also shown how vulnerable societies are and should serve to highlight the need to manage our ocean sustainably. The ocean and its ecosystem services are important for people far beyond the coastal and marine regions themselves. Changes to the ocean itself, as well as changes to society that depend on the services of the ocean, may have detrimental effects, in particular in cases of unforeseen and sudden changes. In such a context, the resilience of the coastal and marine environment will be important. Societal resilience against climate-related, anomalous, and unprecedented events that disturb the ocean system can be strengthened by protecting resources, as well as other innovative approaches, such as gender-based analysis.

Achieving sustainable and integrated marine and coastal ecosystem management requires the involvement of women. Confronting gender inequality is essential to achieving the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is important that women have an equal role in participating in and managing ocean-related activities to enable this. Studies show that the participation of women in activities and their management often have a positive impact on issues related to environment and sustainability.

Women and men use and manage marine and coastal ecosystems differently, have specific knowledge, capabilities, and needs related to this and are differently affected by

changes in their environment due to climate change, pollution, and globalization<sup>4</sup>. Gender mainstreaming is a critical and integral component as it is important to know how different groups of women and men use, manage, and conserve the marine and coastal environment, so that policy and projects can engage them equitably and effectively in sustainable management practices. Research has shown that when women are involved in decision making, there are positive impacts on social and environmental programs<sup>5</sup>.

### *Recommendations*

Acknowledge the role of gender in sustainability in integrated ocean management and systematically work toward gender mainstreaming as an integral component in further developing integrated ocean management systems in China. Additional efforts are needed to understand the gender gap and improve women's education, social, and economic opportunities and responsibilities in China's ocean economy. To support this, China could develop and implement a clear, directed, and strategic gender program to enhance women's participation in all aspects of the ocean economy, including industry, management, and governance.

### **Green Urbanization Special Policy Study 2020**

Gender equality is a prominent problem facing the world today. How to improve women's social status and give full play to their unique role in all aspects are important issues in both China and around the world.

### *The Importance of Gender Perspectives in Urban Green Development*

In the UN's "Rio Declaration on Environment and Development," special emphasis is placed on women's significant role in environmental management and sustainable development. Women are most often in charge of the housework, which makes them important users and participants in the sustainable consumption of natural resources. Women also value green lifestyle choices, safety, and health more than men—studies show that the penetration of green consumption among women is higher than men. In education, women exert a vital influence on forging and raising green awareness with children. Besides, women play a part in improving community adhesiveness, thus strengthening the capacity of communities in natural disaster prevention and management.

---

<sup>4</sup> *Gender Mainstreaming in the Management of the Marine and Coastal Ecosystems*. United Nations Environment Programmes and Gender and Water Alliance, 2019.

<sup>5</sup> Peris-Ortiz, Marta, and Carlos Rueda-Armengot. *Woman and Woman Entrepreneurship: Management Practices*. Sciedu Press: Business and Management Research, 2014.



That being said, in achieving urban green development, the gender perspective is not always accounted for. Many women feel unsafe in cities due to challenges such as: public transport systems that are designed primarily to facilitate commuting rather than meeting gender-responsive needs; lack of proper lighting in public places; challenges in sanitary infrastructure; etc. These all come down to the absence of a gender perspective in urban planning.

Different development paradigms have differing relations with gender issues. The role of gender in society changes with the content and mode of development. The transformation from a matrilineal society to a patriarchy one—and the strengthening of the latter—could be attributed to the changes in the content and mode of economic development.

Before large-scale industrialization, women played a leading social role in many respects, such as agricultural production, family education, and household management.

After the Industrial Revolution, human beings established an industrialized society based on the creation of large-scale material wealth, and productivity increased greatly, resulting in the unprecedented progress of human civilization. In the process, the fact that industrial “violence” (by means of tools) conquered nature improved men’s status. On this basis, the whole social division of labour and organizational structure would inevitably bring about gender inequality.

Traditional industrialization has damaged the environment and caused social problems. It has failed to bring women’s advantages into play, but made them—especially in rural areas—bear more consequences. In the process of rapid industrialization and urbanization, a large number of young and middle-aged labourers migrated to urban factories to work, leading to hollowed-out villages and left-behind women and children, which is a severe social problem. The environmental pollution caused by chemical agriculture also puts women in a relatively disadvantaged position. Therefore, if the mode of development behind gender inequality is not changed, it will be very difficult to solve gender problems.

The Chinese government takes ecological civilization and green development as its national strategy, which brings new opportunities to better address gender equality. The important content of the new development concept of ecological civilization is to transform the beautiful natural ecological environment and rich local culture into wealth and realize Green is Gold. At the same time, the 19<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the Communist Party of China put forward the strategy of rural revitalization. Because of the natural connection between women and nature and local culture, they can play a unique role in the green revitalization of rural areas, thus greatly contributing to gender equality, green development, and rural revitalization at the same time.

## Yangtze River Economic Basin Special Policy Study 2020

### ***Gender Being Factored Into Ecosystem Services: Nepal and Kenya***

Nepal: Ecosystem protections for women and vulnerable groups need to be carefully designed so as not to create additional burdens. Chaudhary et al. (2018) examine provisions that are intended to ensure social equity but find that high-income groups are still able to disproportionately access the benefits of ecosystem services. In particular, the authors note that these provisions place additional burdens on the groups they sought to help. The policy of imposing fines on those who do not participate in community forestry meetings is intended to encourage the participation of marginalized groups. However, these groups have both the lowest capacity to attend meetings and the greatest difficulty paying fines.

Kenya: A randomized trial demonstrates that for payment for ecosystem services (PES) schemes to be equitable, they must consider the relative status of women in a given context and overcome cultural and economic barriers. Examining a randomized trial that utilized auction-based contracts, Andeltová et al. (2019) find that women tended to be relatively more risk averse than men and theorized this was likely due to women's significantly lower income in this context. The authors argue that targeting women in PES schemes can improve gender equity by granting them greater access to decision making, trainings, and cash. Andeltová et al. (2019) also argue that the participation of women in these schemes can significantly improve the schemes' effectiveness.

PES can economically empower women if deployed in a context-sensitive approach. In an examination of agroforestry schemes with payment for ES in sub-Saharan Africa, Benjamin et al. (2018) find that female participation "reduced profit inefficiency," which contributes to economic empowerment. The authors suggest that agroforestry schemes with payment for ES have the potential to empower women in sub-Saharan Africa if they target poor female smallholders.

Access to education is gendered and plays a central role in determining who benefits from ES. In a study of landowners in Brazil, Lima & Bastos (2019) find that the number of years of formal education has a significant impact on whether an individual perceived ecosystem services that are considered to be more difficult to observe (e.g., pollination and pest regulation).

Accounting for gender in ES is likely to result in the prioritization of different services, which in turn could lead to different outcomes for livelihoods. In a study of nine Indigenous communities in the Colombian Amazon, Cruz-Garcia et al. (2019) compare the ways in which men and women valued ES. Services such as land for agricultural fields and the provision of fish and medicinal plants were equally important to men and women. However, while women tended to consider wild fruit and resources to make handicrafts as important, men more frequently mentioned timber, materials for making tools, and

coca leaves. In their examination of the Fijian men's and women's perspectives on the use, benefit, and value of mangrove ecosystems, Pearson et al. (2019) find that women and men in Fiji value the ecosystem services provided by mangroves differently, based largely on the traditional gender-specific tasks to which they are assigned. The authors call for a gender-sensitive valuation framework of ecosystem services to ensure that the decision-making process is inclusive.

### *Recommendations*

Establish a lab-initiative for NECA and policy planning to provide tools for accurate policy-making: Develop a decision-making consultation platform based on NECA. Clarify simulation model, methods, and data requirements of eco-financing policy plans such as bonds, funds, eco-product trading, PES, spatial planning, effects, and post-evaluation analysis, etc., and develop policy and planning decision-making methods. Each of these methods needs to factor in gender and vulnerable populations. Propose technical guidelines for cost-effectiveness analysis at the policy, planning, and project level, clarify ecological services, ecological service accounting methods, applicable parameters, and economic benefit accounting methods for different types of projects, and develop corresponding cost-effectiveness analysis tools, to form a comprehensive platform for policy & planning simulations and ecological capital institutional innovation.

Establish a mechanism of NECA and its policy application to guarantee transformation "From Green to Gold" that includes gender implications. Draft and issue "Guiding Opinions on Accelerating the NECA and its Policy Application."

Coordinate the economic development and eco-environmental protection of the Yellow River Basin and secured ecological barrier: Formulate and implement control measures according to local conditions that incorporate gender and vulnerable population impacts.

Promote successful experiences in the YREB for coordinating the development of the upper-, middle-, and down-streams of the Yellow River; Explore the ecological capital value formation mechanism. Establish an evaluation method for ecological asset value accounting, and scientifically evaluate the potential value of various types of ecological assets. Strengthen the eco-environment protection payment transfer to the areas or river basins that are in poverty but with rich ecological function, taking into account how those may payments have differential impacts based on gender.

### **Green Consumption Special Policy Study 2020**

Gender parity in commissions is an increasingly important topic in Germany. The German Council for Sustainable Development, an advisory body to the German government, has

a predominance of female members in 2020 (nine women, five men). Sustainable consumption and resource management fall within its mandate. Gender is not explicitly addressed in the National Programme on Sustainable Consumption but is an implicit part. To make it more explicit, there are currently research projects to identify gender aspects of sustainable consumption meant to enhance people's participation in the program.

Gender equality is central to the Swedish Government's priorities in decision making. Women and men must have the same power to shape society and their own lives. The government's most important tool for achieving this—and as a strategy to reach the goals declared for Swedish gender equality policy dating back to 1994—is gender mainstreaming. According to the strategy, gender equality work must be integrated into regular operations and not merely be dealt with as a separate, parallel track. The Swedish Government has commissioned the Swedish Gender Equality Agency to support 58 government agencies, among others the Consumer Agency, with the work of integrating a gender perspective in all their operations. The government ordinance which governs the work of the Consumer Agency instructs that the agency should integrate issues of sustainable development and work to achieve Swedish environmental objectives; the agency should also integrate a gender perspective.

For its work on gender integration, the Consumer Agency has set itself the goal of acquiring knowledge showing different possibilities for women and men as consumers, and for the agency's activities to be based on this knowledge. The agency has, for example, organized workshops on “women, men and environment—why a gender perspective is relevant for sustainable consumption.” In 2017 the agency assigned researchers to compile a report providing an overview of consumer behaviour and gender aspects. The report began with the question: “How do conditions differ for men and women as consumers to make active choices in the marketplace and in everyday consumer life?”

The report systematically identifies the latest research in relation to several market contexts or focus areas identified through discussions between the Consumer Agency and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. The report shows, for instance, that in decisions concerning financial services, men and women exhibit different behaviours. Women tend to focus on minimizing potential losses from investments, whereas men express a conviction to maximize profit, both socially and financially.

### **Green Technology Special Policy Study 2020**

Gender policies for green technology: Women should be provided with more opportunities for professional training and research on green technology. More jobs are to be created for women in the sector of green technology. In the production of green solutions and products, gender-sensitive policy must be applied. Make sure that women are duly represented in green policy formulation and decision making. More women should be encouraged to take part in urban green development and governance. Surveys

on the demand data of women should be included in green product R&D. Women are also encouraged to participate in the promotion and scale-up of green solutions and green products.

### *Experience on Adopting a Gender Perspective in Urban Development From the International Experience*

*Transport:* Studies by the World Bank suggest that public transport systems are usually designed to meet the needs of working men while ignoring women's need to travel in non-commuting hours. Similarly, most automobiles are designed with male users in mind. For instance, the dummy used in a crash test is modelled after adult men: that is at least part of reason that the likelihood for women to get injured in a car crash is 73% higher than men.

*Land use and planning:* Mixed land use can reduce travel distances, therefore benefitting citizens who use public transport less frequently (e.g., women). Mixed use can also help women better balance home caring tasks and their job. In addition, better design and management of public spaces will give women a greater sense of safety. To that end, a new tool for urban environment assessment called "women safety audit" has already emerged.

*Architecture:* Indoor temperature should be adjusted to make women feel comfortable. Stairs are often designed too wide or too high so that they don't fit the gait of women. A UN report suggests that including a gender perspective in architecture design would increase building costs by less than 1%.

Other topics that attract attention from the international community include: mobility – facilitating safe, convenient, and affordable mobility in and around cities; safety and protection from violence – protecting women from actual or perceived dangers in both public and private domains; health and sanitary – leading a positive life in environments free of health risks.

### *Gender Perspective in Urban Green Development*

Creating a gender-responsive environment and realizing the potential of women are two of the paramount goals for urban green development in China. The key principles in this respect are: know and account for women's role in green development; understand that women and men have equal rights in getting their different needs met; take a gender-sensitive approach in planning activities involving women, etc. Therefore, we define the following three dimensions as the priorities in this regard:

**Formulation and governance of green policy:** Make sure that women are duly represented in the formulation of and decision making around green policy. More women

should be encouraged to take part in urban green development and governance. The performance evaluation of green policy should be more gender responsive.

**Education and employment on green technology:** Women should be provided with more opportunities for professional training and research on green technology. More jobs are to be created for women in the sector of green technology. In the production of green solutions and products, gender-sensitive policy must be applied.

**Consumption and use of green products:** A survey on the demand data of women should be included in green product R&D. In addition, women are to be encouraged to participate in the promotion and scaling-up of green solutions and green products.

#### *Gender Perspective in the Six Key Sectors*

*Water:* Technologies are developed to ensure good quality and smart management of recycled water, and to reduce the technical instability in water treatment. Budget for gender-responsive measures will be embedded in local water resource management. These will help address the issue that women may not be able to use and manage water resources in the same way men do due to their physiological differences.

*Energy:* Mainstream the gender perspective in energy policy-making. Not only do women have a significant role to play in managing household primary energy use, but they also function as facilitators for the technical revolution toward sustainable energy. Women should be better trained in the acquisition, installation, operation, and maintenance of sustainable energy solutions. Moreover, taking advantage of their gender strength, women can promote green technology and clean energy to other women and educate others in the community on how to use them.

*Transport:* The different mobility demands of women and men should be regarded as the baseline for transport policy research and the preconditions for transport planning. Women must be better represented in transport decision making and management. In all key processes in the transport sector, including standards formulation, research, decision making, and management, transport service operation, etc., women should be ensured an important part to play.

*Architecture:* Understand women's differentiated demands for building space; develop technical codes and standards for building design that meets the needs of women.

*Land use and planning:* Women have dual roles both as workers and as home caregivers, so they need more urban and community functions integrated within a limited time frame. In addition, women's opinions should be consulted in public engagement for urban planning and community governance decision making so that their needs can be duly addressed.

*Food:* Women usually have more say in deciding what food to buy and how it is processed. So in the promotion of food safety technology, consideration must be given to the different roles, needs, and opinions of women and men; and a women-friendly approach should be adopted in technology design.

### Green Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and 2030 SDGs Special Policy Study 2020

Regardless of the venue used, international Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) have learned the importance of ensuring that accountability mechanisms are accessible for women. In many poor rural settings, women’s property rights are limited, such that ownership is recorded through their fathers, husbands, or sons. In these contexts, national justice systems may not recognize their standing to bring a complaint through local courts, as they may not be able to demonstrate a loss to the value of their property. However, if their concerns are not heard, gender-based biodiversity risks may be unheeded and worsen. Both the Asia Development Bank and World Bank have recommended that their projects ensure accessibility for women to their accountability mechanisms, regardless of property (ADB, 2016; World Bank 2009). This stage completes the upstream-to-downstream inclusion of gender considerations in biodiversity finance, to ensure that women are not disproportionately impacted in ways that can limit their ability to act as biodiversity stewards at the local level.

Table 4-2 collects best practices from international DFIs on incorporating gender throughout the entire project cycle. It is not intended to be a comprehensive list but rather a collection of common best practices as recorded by research and evaluation staff at DFIs worldwide.

Table 4-2. Best Practices in Incorporating Gender into Biodiversity Finance

Project stage	Best practices
Upstream: planning	<p>In planning for expected local biodiversity losses and changes to community access to local ecosystems, disaggregate the expected impact on local livelihoods by gender. Ensure that women are not disproportionately hurt by greater difficulty in carrying out traditional gathering roles. This practice is particularly effective in contexts where women and men have different traditional work roles.</p> <p>In arranging stakeholder engagement processes, ensure that women can participate fully. This practice helps planners understand the potentially different ways that a project may impact men and women differently. In contexts where women do not traditionally participate in mixed-gender public discussions, consider designing women-only engagement spaces.</p>
Midstream: implementation	<p>In projects where communities receive monetary compensation for a loss of access to local ecosystems, ensure that the financial compensation is distributed in such a way that it does not worsen women’s well-being. This practice is particularly relevant in contexts where women traditionally control</p>

	resources they gather from local ecosystems, but men control financial resources.
Downstream: monitoring and accountability	<p>Account for changes in men’s and women’s use of time as well as financial resources. In contexts where women serve as local stewards of crop biodiversity through the cultivation of heirloom crop varieties in household or village gardens, this practice can ensure that biodiversity does not suffer. Garden crop biodiversity can be key to the resilience of local food systems during extreme weather events or economic turmoil.</p> <p>Ensure that accountability and grievance mechanisms are fully accessible to women. This practice is particularly important in contexts where women lack equal property rights, have limited access to local judicial systems, or do not traditionally participate in mixed-gender public discussions. Women’s participation in accountability mechanisms can allow project overseers and sponsors to monitor impacts on women’s traditional role of crop biodiversity caretaker.</p> <p>As part of post-project evaluation, develop a “tip sheet” for incorporating gender into future project planning in this particular context. This running collection of wisdom will help ensure that future development projects in this cultural context will be able to fully incorporate lessons learned through this project.</p>

### Green Supply Chains Special Policy Study 2020

There are multiple challenges in continuing “business-as-usual” sourcing of soft commodities, including undermining the Sustainable Development Goals. For example, illegal deforestation undermines national laws and applicable international law, as well as Sustainable Development Goals including Goal 5 (gender equality), Goal 8 (decent work and economic growth), Goal 10 (reduced inequalities), Goal 12 (responsible consumption and production), Goal 13 (climate action), Goal 15 (life on land), and Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions). Moreover, continued tropical deforestation by these commodities will make it impossible to achieve the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the globally agreed goals and targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

#### *Build on Existing Chinese Policy Levers and Initiatives*

Increase Chinese South–South development assistance to support green soft commodity value chains; China could develop specific lines of bilateral development assistance that support sustainable soft commodity production in countries that supply China. This assistance would include grants, interest-free loans, concessional loans, and technical assistance for practices and technologies that boost commodity yields on existing agricultural land (linked to avoided deforestation), improve traceability, and improve policy design. These assistance programs could also incorporate a gender policy to



address issues regarding gender equity and access to resources. In the spirit of Chinese-led South–South cooperation, this increased development assistance could be combined with the other measures described earlier to make those measures more politically acceptable and to facilitate their implementation.

China’s development assistance already includes multiple forms of aid to help other countries raise their agricultural productivity. China could increase and/or deliberately target this assistance to countries where improving the productivity of existing farms, ranches, and/or plantations is critical for preventing further deforestation, improving smallholder incomes, improving gender equality, and strengthening sustainability.

**Box 1. Promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment in global green value chains and international trade**

Gender equality plays an important role in the transition to green soft commodity production and trade. China’s development assistance to support sustainable soft commodity production should also take into account gender-related issues.

Most major donors, especially those funding development work, have instituted a gender-equality policy or gender action plan, and the mechanisms for its implementation. Irish Aid’s Gender Equality Policy 2004 lays out two strategic pathways of implementation: (1) mainstreaming and (2) direct support to women’s empowerment programs. In its gender strategy, the UK’s Department for International Development (DfID) calls for not only looking at gender equality as achieving SDG 5 but also focusing on gender equality throughout the 17 goals.

These donor policies extend across sectors and can be key to ensuring gender equality in green soft commodity value chains. For instance, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) developed a handbook (USAID, n.d.) for promoting gender-equitable opportunities in agricultural value chains, providing a five-step methodology and illustrative case studies from various agricultural industries. Similarly, to promote gender equality in participation and decision making within Paraguay’s soy and beef sectors, the UNDP’s Green Commodities Programme facilitated a national dialogue between key actors. Its long-term aim is to include women in all economic activities and build their capacities to that end (UNDP, 2020).

All such policies call for a focus on women’s economic empowerment, as well as on women’s health, education, and social well-being. The Gender Practitioner Collaborative—a consortium of gender experts representing development and aid organizations—created the Minimum Standards for Mainstreaming Gender Equality. These standards outline benchmarks and foundational steps for development agencies, including developing an organizational culture that promotes gender equality and building staff capacity and budget to support partners in gender mainstreaming.

These policies also institute reporting and tracking mechanisms to ensure their adherence. Global Affairs Canada's and the SIDA gender equality policy state that conducting a gender analysis is required for all policies, programs, and projects. The European Union's gender action plan mandates that all EU actors (European External Action Service, Delegations, Commission services, and Member States) submit reports annually on the progress of mainstreaming gender into their planned activities, including shifting institutional cultures (Connell, 2015).

### **Green Finance Special Policy Study 2020**

#### *How to incorporate gender perspectives into the development of conservation finance and let women play a role*

In view of the extensive knowledge and practice of climate finance, a wealth of ideas and suggestions for examining climate finance from a gender perspective have emerged, which are worth learning from, but also reflect significant gaps and problems:

*First*, the international community has paid long-term attention to climate finance and developed a series of mature financial mechanisms, tools, and methods to address the mitigation and adaptation needs of climate change. Based on specific detailed data and practical cases regarding climate finance sources and channels, as well as corresponding projects and participants, the integrating of gender perspectives is more smooth and systematic in climate finance. However, conservation finance is still in the initial stage of research and practice, and there is still no broad consensus on its basic definitions, standards, concrete mechanisms, tools, and methods. At present, we can only affirm the importance of gender perspectives in principle. Further demonstration and implementation are still needed to include gender perspectives in the long-term research scope.

*Second*, the current focus on gender equality in climate finance starts with ensuring women have a voice and priority in accessing climate finance support and ensuring that available climate funding is used and allocated fully to the needs of female groups (which is also in line with the requirements of most funders). At present, conservation finance is in urgent need of solving the problem of leveraging more funding, especially establishing a close cooperation mechanism with all sectors of society. Therefore, we believe that the gender perspective in conservation finance should focus on how to promote the use of gender-equality concepts and principles in investment and financing decision making in financial sectors, and make full use of women's attention and cognitive advantage on ESG issues so as to achieve two objectives: 1) to make ecological conservation a priority issue for the entire financial system; 2) based on the existing experience and practice of climate finance, the needs of different vulnerable groups (including women) should be fully

considered in the use and allocation of financial resources, and the principle of gender equality should be incorporated into the whole process of planning, implementation, monitoring and assessment of conservation specific projects.