



The Global Environment Facility, which received \$233 million from Canada between 2014 and 2018, is a key multilateral fund. It finances activities in developing countries related to climate change, biodiversity, land degradation, and chemicals and waste. The facility supports environmental governance through projects like the Improve Access and Benefit Sharing initiative in Mexico. This initiative preserves biodiversity while building sustainable livelihoods. It is bringing together multiple stakeholders to establish a legal framework for ensuring rights to protect biodiversity. The project also helps women in urban and rural communities to secure sustainable income through better management of natural resources.

Canada has been supporting African countries' efforts to move to energy systems that are more efficient, less expensive and cleaner. For example, in 2017-2018, Canada signed a funding arrangement for \$150 million with the World Bank Group's International Finance Corporation (IFC) as part of its commitment to support the G7 Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI). AREI is an African-led effort to achieve at least 10 gigawatts of new and additional renewable energy generation capacity by 2020. Canada's investment would contribute to AREI's goals by financing the construction and operation of renewable energy infrastructure projects such as solar, wind, biomass and smaller-scale hydropower. Ultimately, Canada's partnership with IFC aims to:

- leverage US\$350 million in additional public and private sector investments;
- reduce/avoid 340,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year; and

- support roughly 930,000 people who will benefit from clean, modern and affordable energy through a gender-sensitive approach (which recognizes that energy deficits disproportionately affect women and girls).

Canada has also assisted IFC with a complementary project that will provide advisory services to help reach underserved populations. It will work to close gender gaps in the renewable energy sector. This project's tasks include identifying bankable off-grid projects in rural areas, where there is greater potential for poverty reduction.



INNOVATION

Canada's support to AREI is Global Affairs Canada's first unconditionally repayable contribution to the IFC. Its innovation is in blending concessional and commercial funds as a means to catalyze private sector investment in Africa. (Concessional loans have terms that are much more generous than market loans. Interest rates may be lower than market rates and/or the loan may have a long grace period.) The IFC is lending Canadian funds on a concessional basis to eligible renewable energy projects, alongside IFC's own commercial resources. Concessional funds should leverage additional public and private sector investments. That unlocks private capital that would normally not be available to these projects as they are often seen as too risky. Borrowers are typically private sector companies seeking funding to support the construction and operation of renewable energy infrastructure projects. By providing financial support, Canada can also work to ensure that gender equality is built into this blended finance project. Another innovative element, this will help close gender gaps in the renewable energy sector.

In Ecuador, the Canadian International Resources and Development Institute is studying, with Canada's support, gender dynamics in the artisanal and small-scale mining sector in Portovelo / Zaruma and Camilo Ponce Enriquez. Its project, Education for Transformation of Artisanal to Small-Scale Mining, completed an extensive socio-economic stakeholder analysis in 2017-2018. It identified scavenger miners (almost all of whom are women) as a vulnerable group. This is because these scavenger miners have little education, are exposed to high levels of mercury, and are not recognized by Ecuador mining law. The findings from the stakeholder analysis are being discussed with government counterparts. Upcoming course curricula will reduce identified gender gaps.

Canada is collaborating with the Léger Foundation on the \$17.25-million IMSA project to promote the nexus of sustainable agriculture, renewable energy and economic growth in Burkina Faso, Bolivia and Peru. To this end, the project builds the capacity and participation of women in six local organizations to more effectively carry out their interventions. For example, in Bolivia, the project supports the implementation of agroecological production units with drip irrigation systems. In Peru, the project has promoted the use of native seeds and organic fertilizers, and increased potato, quinoa and cañahua yields from 23% to 100%.