Through Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Canada is a long-time major contributor to international organizations working on strengthening environmental governance. In 2017-2018, ECCC provided $20.67 million in ODA, mainly through support for multilateral environmental organizations. These organizations provide technical cooperation and capacity building to developing countries. This includes efforts to improve environmental conditions and support climate change adaptation and mitigation. These steps improve the livelihoods of vulnerable populations in developing countries.

ECCC also helps multilateral organizations to advance environmental research with developing country partners. One way this occurs is via Canada's annual contribution to the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research to fund research and training in the Americas. Canada also enabled developing country engagement in climate discussions. For example, Canada's contribution to the Trust Fund of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change provided travel support so that developing countries could take part in Panel meetings. By enabling their participation in meetings, Canada has helped to build capacity within developing countries. This way, they can make informed decisions about climate change mitigation and adaptation.

In 2017-2018, Canada provided $3 million for the World Bank's Transformative Carbon Asset Facility. This facility works with developing countries to create and purchase new classes of carbon assets associated with greenhouse gas emission reductions. Canada directed another $2 million to the International Institute for Sustainable Development's National Adaptation Plan Global Network. These funds helped developing countries boost their capacity to plan, develop and implement climate change adaptation actions. Canada also sought to strengthen climate measurement, reporting and verification through its contributions to the International Emissions Trading Association. As well, Canada worked to advance gender-responsive climate action through its contribution to the Women's Environment & Development Organization.

Canada also backed climate change mitigation consistent with the needs of developing countries, as identified in their Nationally Determined Contributions (part of the Paris Agreement). Such mitigation measures would reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and help developing countries move to low-carbon economies. For example, Canada is providing $7 million over four years to help Mexico put its contributions in place by addressing emissions from Mexico's oil and gas sector. The Canada-Mexico bilateral initiative aims to advance opportunities to reduce emissions, including short-lived climate pollutants methane and black carbon, and deliver environmental, economic and health co-benefits.

INVESTING IN LOW-CARBON AND CLIMATE-RESILIENT ECONOMIES

Given the scope and scale of global climate change challenges, it is essential to engage private sector players through innovative approaches to climate finance. One way to do this is by leveraging private investment in mitigation and adaptation activities.

To this end, Canada has been working with a full range of financial partners as well as think tanks, universities and civil society. The goal is to increase investment and business opportunities and to enhance livelihoods, including for women and vulnerable people, in low-carbon, clean-growth sectors.

Canada has worked to improve access to, and the availability of, gender-responsive financing for climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives. For instance, Canada's funding is focused on enhancing women's skills and job opportunities in clean growth, science and environment-related fields, which can help ensure that social and economic benefits of development are equally shared. This can be achieved through better access to climate finance for women-led initiatives and enterprises, and greater awareness among partners of the need for gender-responsive initiatives such as training programs that address the specific needs and interests of women. Canada has also worked to make innovative environmentally sustainable technologies more widely available, prioritizing technologies that respond to the needs and priorities of women.

Canada has taken an innovative approach to mobilizing private sector financing and partnering with multilateral development banks to help remove barriers to private investment. This includes using concessional finance (with more flexible terms than commercial counterparts) to demonstrate the commercial viability of projects and unlock future private investments in similar initiatives.

For example, in 2017, Canada announced that it would provide $200 million for the second phase of the Canadian Climate Fund for the Private Sector in Asia, managed by the Asian Development Bank. The fund is building on the success of its first phase. It will now spur private investments in climate change in low and lower-middle income countries