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Fit for Purpose and Transformative?: A case study of gender integration into international environmental modelling projects

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Abstract: A marriage of social and environmental science requires compromise and adaptation. Within the context of gender integration into international environmental modelling projects, the challenge is how to bring about lasting organisational and personal cultural change within the project teams, at the same time embedding principles of gender justice and equality within project activities. At the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), we are implementing an Australian Government funded program, Sustainable Development Investment Portfolio (SDIP), in South Asia. SDIP aims to improve water, food and energy security in the region, with improved livelihoods, women's empowerment and gender equality among its key outcomes. CSIRO's role in SDIP is primarily river basin planning and water modeling. However, gender integration goes beyond a 'technical fix', and requires meaningful reflections and adaptations to ensure good practices, policies and values. In this paper, we will outline the processes undertaken (including trials and errors) of CSIRO SDIP journey of gender integration.

Keywords: *gender mainstreaming; environmental modelling; South Asia; transdisciplinary research*