

GENDER JUST CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

Impressum

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Award nominee and winner organizations, members of the Women and Gender Constituency
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About us

The Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) is one of the nine stakeholder groups of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Established in 2009 and granted full constituency status in 2011, the WGC consists of 29 women's and environmental civil society organizations, who are working together to ensure that women's voices are heard and their rights prioritized in the fight against climate change. The Women and Gender Constituency, consisting of a broad variety of national and regional network organizations, represents hundreds and thousands of people across the globe, with advocates from over 60 countries.



Our Background

Since the Earth Summit in 1992, the United Nations has been working with governments and civil society to tackle one of the greatest challenges the planet has faced; climate change. At the summit the Member States of the UN agreed to a new convention on climate change; a non-legally binding international treaty. The convention provided a new framework through which nations could work together to agree on limiting emissions of greenhouse gasses, those which cause climate change, principally carbon dioxide. This UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, or UNFCCC, is an evolving commitment that develops through the ongoing discussions and agreements of governments around

Our Goals

The WGC promotes human rights and gender equality and the full and effective participation of women at all levels of decision making, as well as a gender responsive approach in all policies and measures related to climate change. The WGC provides a voice to women to formalize and unify the perspectives of women and gender civil society organizations active in the UNFCCC processes. We provide a space for the Constituency members to raise their concerns and suggest priority actions, and together formulate democratically shared positions, which we strengthen and promote. The Constituency aims to further expand its outreach and engagement with various groups and unify a global movement demanding climate justice. We want to ensure that global commitments embrace gender equality and women's rights, especially with relation to climate change through UNFCCC conventions, and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

the world. There are now around 1,400 such organizations observing the annual conferences, and many have grouped themselves into constituencies. These constituencies provide focal points for easier interaction with the UNFCCC Secretariat, based in Bonn, and individual governments. There are currently nine constituencies and they are broadly grouped by the type of organizations they represent: businesses and industry organizations; environmental organizations; local and municipal governments; trade unions; research and independent organizations; and organizations that work for the rights of indigenous people; young people; agricultural workers; and women and gender equality.

Our Principles

WGC members work to promote full realization of the human rights of women and girls through specific goal-oriented, clear and measurable purposes and objectives. The Constituency embraces principles of democratic and participatory governance, ensuring respectful collaboration between members, especially of diverging positions. Providing a platform for women's leadership with broad and participatory access, procedures of the WGC are transparent, timely and flexible, further facilitating the potential for wide and inclusive membership. The WGC also emphasizes an equitable approach to representation, affiliation, age, and ability, encouraging members to build on our collective and individual history. As an official stakeholder body of the UNFCCC, the WGC also strives to mentor the younger generation and newcomers to the movement and the Constituency.



Our Gender Just Climate Solutions Award



The Women and Gender Constituency, along with other women, gender, and human rights advocates, has been actively pushing world leaders to ensure just and equitable climate policies that put respect of people's rights and the integrity of the planet first, while responding to injustice among and within countries in relation to climate impacts and resilience.

We know the solutions to a more sustainable future already exist - and it is time to showcase them far and wide, and demand change!

As the Paris Agreement enters into force, the Gender Just Climate Solutions shown in this publication are aimed at making gender equality and women's rights central to just climate action.

The Gender Just Climate Solutions Award comprises three categories:

- **Technical Climate Solutions**
- **Non-Technical Climate Solutions**
- **Transformational Climate Solutions**

We received 140 applications. The selection process was based on the following criteria with particular emphasis that the project:

Selection Criteria

- Provides equal access to benefits for women, men and youth
- Aims to alleviate and/or does not add additional burden to women's workload (such as via additional natural resource management or care responsibilities without compensation)
- Empowers women through better mobility/accessibility, enhanced livelihood security, enhanced food security, improved health, access to safe water, etc. (as many benefits as possible)
- Promotes women's democratic rights and participation by ensuring decision-making by local women, men, women's groups, cooperatives and communities
- Locally led and/or locally driven (decentralised and appropriate)
- Ensures self-sufficiency & a low input of resources (safe, affordable and sustainable)
- Contributes to climate change mitigation, emissions reduction and/or climate adaptation (the project is sustainable)
- Results can be shared, spread & scaled up (replicable elsewhere, not just benefiting one individual)
- Shows interlinkages to cross-cutting issues, such as (including, but not restricted to) peace-building, natural resources management, food security and/or health, water and sanitation

With special thanks to our jury members:

Usha Nair – AIWC
Hwei Mian Lim – ARROW
Shanar Taleb-Tabrizi – CTCN
Ayuska Motha – FAWCO

Olfa Jelassi, GenderCC
Bertha Chiroro – GenderCC Southern Africa
Coraina de la Plaza – GFC
Anne Barre and Véronique Moreira – WECF

Tara Daniel – WEDO
John Baaki – WEP

In order to implement the transformative shift needed to appropriately respond to climate change, gender-just solutions must be strengthened and scaled up in every country.

Technical Solutions

Winner Technical Solutions



Country: Guinea-Bissau, France
Organization: UNIVERS-SEL
Representative: Pauline Lançon
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Ancestral know-how and innovative technologies help women producers of salt and rice preserve the mangroves

Description of the project: The DEDURAM project aims to improve the livelihoods of women and communities in the mangroves of Guinea-Bissau, through sustainable management of space, energy and natural resources. North-South knowledge exchange and capacity-building of women producers contribute to structure and develop the salt and rice value chain in the mangroves. 2000 family farms, 75% of which are managed by women, have adopted sustainable production methods (solar energy, reduced water consumption), thanks to the sharing of ancestral know-how and innovative techniques. 1500 women and 500 men have gained in autonomy through increased revenues and their integration into the local economy, while adapting to the impacts of climate change.

Climate impact: The traditional salt production technique - by heating brine - uses 3 tons of firewood for each ton of salt. By introducing the ancestral solar method used in the salt marshes of Brittany, Universsel has enabled women in Guinea to produce 4000 t. of salt while protecting 24 ha. of mangrove forests. Efficient water management in rice-growing areas has favoured the rehabilitation of abandoned rice paddies while increasing rice yield. This innovation, combined with geo-referenced monitoring, helps to preserve the biodiversity of a fragile ecosystem, and prevents further deforestation of the mangrove.

Gender impact: Salt is exclusively produced by women in Guinea-Bissau. 1500 of them have gained skills in a new solar technique, but also in sales, financial management, microcredit and the structuring into cooperatives. They enjoy better living and working conditions and greater recognition within a patriarchal society. They have become actively involved in the protection of their ecosystem as their cultural horizons have been broadened through exchange visits to France and Senegal, and they have been empowered within organized associations of women salt producers.

Scalability / replicability: DEDURAM promotes two innovative techniques which are affordable and easy to adopt by women producers in Guinea Conakry, Guinea-Bissau and soon in Senegal. The beneficiaries cooperate with local professional organisations and Government agencies. In order to ensure the sustainability and scaling up of the adopted technologies, rice areas management committees and women producers associations have worked together to draw up a capacity-building plan including the preservation of the mangrove and climate resilience measures.



UNIVERS-SEL
www.universsel.org

Terre de Sel in Pradel, 44350 Guérande, France

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Technical Solutions

Country: Nepal
Organization: Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resource Management Association (HIMAWANTI)
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Empowered women ensure community-based forest preservation

Description of the project: Three organizations in the central districts of Nepal -Kathmandu, Makwanpur, and Sarlah- are promoting aromatic herb plantation and essential oil production, ecotourism, and handicraft development in 13 community forests over 1,375 hectares. More than 4000 households benefit from the project, contributing to surveying the trees, revising forest management plans, and establishing plant nurseries in conjunction with economic activities. Community based ecotourism policies were strengthened, and three women-led forestry enterprises were successfully registered. They now operated, producing market-recognized forest products to improve local livelihoods.

Climate impact: These nepalese districts suffer from deforestation due to rapid population growth, overuse of fuelwood, and clear felling under electric lines. Participatory development of new plans demonstrating sustainable forest management (SFM) practices, alongside capacity-building through SFM training, effectively counters the deforestation. Nurseries have supported the planting of 175,000 trees. The distribution of improved cookstoves, including biogas units, reduces future fuelwood demand. Ecotourism policy-strengthening has also provided a foundation for SFM to continue.

Gender impact: 551 women have directly benefited from trainings, economic opportunities, and received appliances. Basic and advanced handicraft training led to two profitable enterprises. Along with an aromatic herb plantation, these enterprises are generating income and giving women greater autonomy over their daily spending. SFM training has supported the equal involvement of women in community forest monitoring and management. The additional distribution of solar panels for lighting and improved cookstoves has enabled more time flexibility, reduced fuel-gathering labor, and improved health.

Scalability / replicability: This work is able to be replicated to support women's economic upliftment in Nepal. The plantation of aromatic herbs is particularly identified as a model for replication. The Government of Nepal's emphasis on ecotourism promotion, forest based enterprises and SFM will contribute to the sustainability and scalability of this approach. To reach policy makers and other audiences in Nepal, a wide range of communication tools were employed, including local media coverage, brochures and documentary filmmaking.



HIMAWANTI

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Financially supported by:
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Technical Solutions

Country: United States, global
Organization: We Care Solar
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Light Every Birth: solar suitcases for maternal health care

Description of the project: We Care Solar addresses global maternal-newborn health by providing reliable and renewable electricity to power the lighting, communication, and medical devices essential for obstetric care. Around the world, clinicians struggle in near-darkness to provide lifesaving care in facilities lacking electricity. The “Light Every Birth” initiative has brought solar suitcases to public health facilities throughout African, Asian and Latin-American countries, equipping over 4,000 maternal health centers. The 12-volt DC solar electric system includes medical lights, headlamps, a fetal heart-rate monitor and installation hardware. This initiative facilitates timely, quality care for women and newborns in last-mile health centers; it is a model for gender-sensitive energy transition.

Climate impact: We Care Solar suitcases replace fossil fuel sources of lighting, such as candles, kerosene lanterns, oil wick lamps, and diesel fuel generators, reducing carbon dioxide formation, improving air quality, and removing the risk of fire. After deploying more than 4,000 solar suitcases in partnership with NGOs and UN agencies, about 40,000 tons of CO2 emissions could be reduced. By providing solar energy, the initiative is making rural health centers a model of renewable energy for communities.

Gender impact: Foremost, the initiative improves life chances for women and newborns in regions with persistently high maternal and neonatal mortality rates and low rates of energy access. Due to the lack of female solar installers, a “Women Solar Ambassador” program was launched to develop training materials showcasing women as installers and to promote women trainers for capacity-building on solar installation and maintenance. An educational program encourages more girls to enter STEM fields.

Scalability / replicability: The solar suitcases as well as educational and capacity-building programs can be rolled-out in more areas. A best practice guide for scale-up has been developed in this regard. A replicable model includes sharing decision-making with local agencies, creating steering committees with key stakeholders, training local technicians and healthcare workers in solar maintenance, providing ongoing technical support, and ensuring eventual handover of the programs into local and national governments.



We Care Solar
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Financially supported by: UBS Optimus Foundation; Wells Fargo Foundation; Starr International Foundation; Segal Family Foundation; Music for Relief Foundation; Gilead Foundation; Global Health Foundation; Every Mother Counts



Technical Solutions

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Game changing rice culture empowers rural women to ensure food security in South Odisha

Description of the project: Pragati Koraput works with over 8,000 ethnic women farmers in Koraput District, India, to ensure climate resilient nutritional food security. Activities include training on water saving System of Rice Intensification (SRI) for rice and millets, organic crop diversification with access to indigenous stress tolerant seeds, farm mechanization, and organized collectives for market access. The project has enhanced women’s position as change agents in the family and community. It has also increased the communities’ understanding of climate impacts on agriculture and the importance of proper conservation and use of resources for climate resilience.

Climate impact: System of Rice Intensification (SRI) creates aerobic soil conditions through shallow and intermittent irrigation, which contributes to better crop yield and food security, drop in production costs, and reduced freshwater consumption (-40%). This remarkable water management system in rice paddies, as well as reduced use of chemical fertilizer have resulted in substantial methane reduction, with significant mitigation and adaptation impact.

Gender impact: Thanks to the training and mentoring activities, confidence and self-esteem have risen in the mind of 8,200 women beneficiaries from 315 villages. The initiative has created space for the women to participate in local, state and national forums. They take leadership roles in communities to discuss and act on climate issues impacting their lives. They motivate peers to adopt innovative technologies for resilient agriculture. Men in the villages acknowledge their significant contribution, which is transforming the gendered power relations.

Scalability / replicability: SRI has the potential to involve many more farmers across the region as it is a methodology with proven results. Replicating SRI organic practices can have far-reaching positive impacts on a large scale, such as increase in food production, releasing the financial burden on farmers and promoting a more sustainable economy, with improved nutritional food security. Applying the principles of SRI in other crops and crop diversification will revive biodiversity and protect soil and water quality.



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Financially supported by: EdelGive Foundation; Tata Trusts



Technical Solutions

Country: Mali
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Women cooperatives of Ireli fight desertification in Mali

Description of the project: This project, initiated in Mali by ADESAF and co-constructed with the local population, contributes to the fight against the silting up of arable land in an area threatened by desertification. This initiative guarantees access to land for 276 women farmers who have received arable land plots, and been trained in agro-ecological techniques. It has contributed to the creation of cooperatives that generate new income, while ensuring greater food security and climate resilience for the 4,280 inhabitants of Ireli village. The cooperatives and all project activities improve women's participation in local, resilient development through capacity building and empowerment.

Climate impact: Ireli is located more than 100 km from the Niger River, in an arid area. The Village Development Committee succeeded in setting 10 hectares of dunes by forming 4 dedicated teams of women and men. 80 people were trained in planting and conserving local plants fixing the dune, and 276 in agroecology, preserving water and the ecosystem, to maximize nature's regenerative capacities. 2 hectares of vegetable plots are cultivated according to these methods, ensuring the population's resilience to climate impacts.

Gender impact: The 276 women farmers have formed 8 groups that benefit from arable plots and training in arboriculture and agro-ecological gardening, as well as marketing, accounting skills and cooperative management. A part of the sales of the cooperative's production is reinvested, while the rest improves the farmers' incomes. Training courses strengthen women's participation and role in decision-making instances. They elect their own presidents and managers independently. Their legitimacy is recognized by all villagers.

Scalability / replicability: The collaboration with a local association and the support of the Sangha Town Hall ensure a good territorial anchoring. An appropriate economic model and good governance strengthens the autonomy of the inhabitants in managing the actions. Capitalization work was carried out through interviews and studies. The women also benefited from the experience of Tireli's women farmers, who conducted a similar program. The community intends to scale-up by involving unemployed youth in Sangha and improving the incomes of cooperatives.



Women Cooperatives of Ireli

Financially supported by:
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Bandiagara, Mopti region, Mali

Technical Solutions

Country: Mexico
Organization: Instituto Internacional de Recursos Renovables A.C.
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Rural woman in Yucatan committed to healthy harvests and smoke-free cooking

Description of the project: In rural areas of Yucatán, the main economic activity is agriculture, a sector where women account for 70% of the workforce. They perform their daily work without any basic training, technology, financing and without rights over the land they cultivate. Climate change has made this problem even worse, making it more difficult to break the cycle of poverty. The goal of this project is to empower women by giving them access to natural resources in their homes through biodigesters, developing skills that improve their farming practices and reduce the risks of respiratory diseases and the time needed for gathering firewood, protecting the forests and stopping the use of chemical fertilizers. For this, 599 biodigesters have been installed in Yucatán's indigenous communities.

Climate impact: In 5 years, 432,897 m³ of biogas have been produced, reducing the use of firewood by 88%. Experience showed that manure transformed into energy eliminates a significant amount of CO₂. The biodigesters have reduced 7,892 tons of animal waste that would have ended up in the aquifer. They produce 37 million litres of biofertiliser a year, for a fertilization potential of approximately 567 ha/year, the equivalent of replacing 170,000 kg of synthetic fertilizers a year. This figure implies that the use of biofertilizer replaces the use of chemical fertilizers, as well as pesticides.

Gender impact: Biodigesters, mainly managed by women, provide home-made inputs that improve harvests and nutrition, breaking the cycle of extreme poverty and malnutrition in a period of climate change. Women participated in trainings and their voices were integrated into the generation of knowledge on climate change, rights and the use of clean energy. The adopted systems reduce women's health risks and their financial stress. They ensure energy and food safety, as well as the diversification of productive farming activities.

Scalability / replicability: The biodigesters can be replicated and are designed for small producers. They are mainly supplied with animal waste and require very little maintenance, helping the women and girls to save time to engage in other activities. The first storage and treatment centre, called U'Ka Muuk' Lu'um, has been established in 2017 and aims to enable knowledge replication. The consolidation of the centre will help small farmers find the tools and knowledge to disseminate sustainable cultural practices.



Instituto Internacional de Recursos Renovables A.C www.irrimexico.org

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Technical Solutions

Country: Tajikistan
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Women promoting clean energy on the roof of the world

Description of the project: This project in upper Bartang valley, Pamir, Tajikistan improves the life of women and local communities through efficient use of natural resources with affordable sustainable energy technologies. The project supports 55 women and their vulnerable families in 5 communities. Women and men participated in awareness raising and technical trainings, including exhibitions on sustainable energy solutions, workshops on the construction of solar water heaters and food dryers, trainings on women's empowerment and a study tour in other villages. In all, 55 efficient cooking stoves, 75 parabolic solar cookers, 40 solar lanterns, 55 pressure cookers and 2 solar water heaters were distributed in the target villages. Additionally, 300 tree seedlings will be planted to regenerate the forest.

Climate impact: Renewables and resource efficient technologies such as solar ovens and water heaters, pressure cookers, or improved stoves significantly reduce firewood consumption (at least by 3 tons/year/family), mitigating CO2 emissions and indoor pollution, and improving comfort and sanitation. The reforestation component will help to reverse climate change impacts in an area that has suffered from an acceleration of desertification due to deforestation.

Gender impact: Little Earth focuses on empowering women as problem solvers and new technology experts and leaders. With extra hours gained during the day, on chores like gathering wood, and in the evenings, thanks to solar lanterns, women can pursue new sources of income such as embroidery or knitting. Children can study and stay in school. With additional income, beneficiaries can diversify and improve family diets, ensuring food security and better nutrition. Women are seen as valuable contributors in the communities, changing social dynamics for the better.

Scalability / replicability: Promoting affordable, low-tech and adapted renewable energy technologies to isolated, off-grid communities that are severely impacted by climate change is a model that can be replicated in many similar regions. Little Earth partners with another NGO and with local authorities. They would like to extend this initiative throughout the Bartang Valley and in other mountainous areas of Tajikistan, where patriarchal structures prevent change. Empowering women as problem solvers and leaders in their communities transforms the social dynamics and paves the way for stronger resilience.



Little Earth
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Financially supported by:
 US Forest Service



Constituency Member Contributions Technical Solutions

Country: India
Organization: AIWC – All India Women's Conference
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Inclusive, sustainable waste management in Delhi

Description of the project: The inhabitants and enterprises of Delhi are generating excessive waste and civic authorities have no systematic sustainable waste management in place. A survey conducted in BudhVihar, a colony located in southwest Delhi, reflected that the locality has improper waste and drainage system, water logging, health issues. Each household generates in average 1 kg of kitchen waste everyday. To address this challenge, AIWC is training women from the locality in waste separation and home based compost system. They produce compost in a cycle of 45 days with 'Khamba', with a set of 3 earthen pots kept on top of each other. Layer of waste and cocopeat are filled in the pots on rotation and, after decay, the waste turns into organic matter.

Climate impact: Dumping of waste in landfill or burning it releases carbon dioxide and pollutes the environment. According to the Press Information Bureau, India generates 62 million tonnes of mixed waste containing both recyclable and non-recyclable every year, with an average annual growth rate of 4% (PIB 2016). This project aims to mitigate GHG emissions at micro level, sensitize the targeted households and support a sustainable waste management system at source.

Gender impact: The women from the Delhi suburb community were informed on various issues relating to waste, including health hazards. They were also trained to package and sell the compost to other households and local markets, either as organic matter or with sapling planted in a small pot. The project raises women's technical skills and knowledge, and their capacities in income generating activities, as well as implementing preventive health measures.

Scalability / replicability: The project is cost effective and replicable at household level, as well as in other similar communities. It can also be scaled up to a community based waste management system, using the business model of compost pits and leading to a proper waste management system within the area.



AIWC – All India Women's Conference
 (Constituent Branch: Sthree Sakthi Mahila Samajam)
www.aiwc.org.in

Edassery, Chellamcode, Nedumangad, Trivandrum District, Kerala, India

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Constituency Member Contributions Technical Solutions

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Building an efficient solar drying technology for women farmer's economic empowerment

Description of the project: WEP has built a pilot solar dryer tent in Adogo village, Nigeria. The main objective of this innovative equipment is to improve the drying process of agricultural and sea products such as pepper, tomatoes, fish etc. through a healthier and controlled method. The pilot dryer responds to the specific needs of poor farmers - mostly women. The initiative promotes entrepreneurship and women's economic empowerment, increases access to food and resources, and boosts commercial activities. It also improves hygiene and health, since the produce are dried in a controlled environment preventing contaminations by pests. It avoids spoilage of farm produce and has reduced labour burden for women.

Climate impact: The use of the solar tent helps rural farmers adapt to climate impacts and increases their resilience through a more regular provision of food in the year. Protected by the tent, agricultural products can be dried even under unpredictable weather conditions occasioned by climate change. This equipment enables farmers to preserve vegetables, fruits and plants even under damp conditions. At least 4 tonnes of perishable agricultural products can be dried and stored at a time. The solar technology reduces the use of firewood to smoke fish, thus cutting CO2 emissions.

Gender impact: The solar dryer tent is a closed, secured equipment that saves a significant amount of time for women when drying farm produce, as they no longer need to guard the products and chase animals away. This created new economic opportunities, improved livelihoods, health, and safety. WEP has trained 30 women farmers on solar installation and entrepreneurship. Dried produce are sold with a good value added, generating additional income for families. The women have taken the responsibility of managing the project.

Scalability / replicability: WEP intends to replicate this pilot initiative in many rural communities in Nigeria and other African countries, based on performance tests and a construction model using locally sourced materials. Trainings will be organized on solar tent construction and the packaging of dried products as well as sales strategies. In line with the objectives of the national Economic Recovery and Growth Plan, WEP will collaborate with the government to develop the solar drying technology and reduce post-harvest wastage in several regions.



Women Environmental Programme
www.wepnigeria.net

Financially supported by:
Own resources

Non-Technical Solutions

Winner Non-Technical Solutions



Country: Colombia
Organization: ENDA COLOMBIA
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Women waste pickers and community organisations of Bogota building a sustainable and inclusive city

Description of the project: Started in 2012, this initiative shows the way for a sustainable and gender-responsive city, based on formalizing the activities of 26 women waste pickers as recyclers in Suba, in the south suburbs of Bogota. On this basis, ENDA involved 9 community organisations -3,520 citizens- to elaborate a holistic urban concept, including participatory territorial planning, urban gardening, cultural and artistic activities and the creation of 'Bankomunal' - a community savings and credit initiative for women who do not have access to formal banking. Training in environmental management, gender inequalities and masculinities, local public policies and citizen's initiatives, allows beneficiaries to exercise their democratic rights to protect their environment and cultural heritage, contributing to the Peace Process in Colombia.

Climate impact: Thanks to the project 30 tons of paper and 12 tons of plastic are recycled annually, saving 120,000kwh of electricity, avoiding the deforestation of 600 trees and the accumulation of 4,000 kilos of garbage in the sanitary landfill. Paper and plastic are reused in the production of handicrafts for economic empowerment. Through the strengthening of community relations, productive organic terraces have been built, established as training centers for composting, seed banks, waste management and urban agriculture for self-consumption leading to significant climate mitigation results.

Gender impact: Women recyclers have become environmental agents and providers of a public service with equal pay compared to men. Community women are recognized in their role as leaders for the transformation of urban practices having social, cultural and climate benefits. Participation empowers women and youth, as they are elected in the Community Action Board and in inter-institutional working groups. In this way, they contribute to citizen's monitored municipal budgeting and the implementation of public policies for the improvement of their neighbourhoods.

Scalability / replicability: The project indirectly benefits 9,000 citizens and will be scaled up through partnerships with women and organisations from other suburbs. The urban gardening terraces are being multiplied via trainings of women leaders with the aim of creating a market to sell the vegetables and handicrafts. Establishing citizen's monitoring of public policies has led to the nomination of a female community leader in the district council. This is key to reducing violence against women and to contribute to the peace building process in Colombia.



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Non-Technical Solutions

Country: Mexico
Organization: Espacio de Encuentro de las Culturas Originarias, A.C. (EECO)
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Indigenous women designing climate policies in Oaxaca, Mexico

Description of the project: The Ikoos, Mixe, Mixteca and Zapoteca indigenous communities of Oaxaca State suffer from marginalization. Since 2011, EECO has been working with women in 28 communities to improve their climate resilience, strengthening their participation in local and State policy processes and their leadership on adaptation and mitigation actions. Community centers for refugees and committees involving 3,330 indigenous women have developed self-built eco-technologies for energy, water and sanitation based on ancestral know-how. They provide input in territorial public policies designed by communities, with a gender responsive, intercultural and rights-based approach. This project, already replicated in other states, contributes to tackling climate challenges with an exemplary governance scheme of co-responsibility between government and civil society.

Climate impact: Women participate in public policy design in Oaxaca, defining specific actions for the State Law and State Climate Change Program initiative. With 1,850 self constructed eco-techniques, i.e. fog condensers, water canals and tanks, they rehabilitate ancestral know-how, capture 54 M liters of rainwater per semester, efficiently responding to droughts and frosts that threaten cultures and saving 85% of the crops. 667 dry toilets, 143 biodigesters and 511 efficient stoves have saved 5,903 tons of CO2 and reduced deforestation.

Gender impact: EECO uses a gender-based approach with risk and vulnerabilities evaluation. They help transforming marginalized indigenous women in grassroots leaders within the spaces of decision-making and local development. The technologies have been adapted to women's needs and resolve most problems of health, excessive workloads and economic constraints. More than 3,000 women have been trained directly, creating 3 committees for community management and 9 for risk management; today 357 women have endorsed a leading role in their community.

Scalability / replicability: This holistic project started in 8 communities, rapidly expanding to 28, indirectly benefiting 2,000 villages in Oaxaca State. Training women leaders gives the knowledge a greater outreach at municipal and state levels. A monitoring and evaluation process ensures steady improvements, leading to references in international forums and attracting the academic world. Pedagogical materials and games have been translated into several languages and creative communication campaigns on social media and radio allow for wide, international knowledge dissemination.



Espacio de Encuentro de las Culturas Originarias, A.C. (EECO) www.eeco.org.mx

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Financially supported by:
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Non-Technical Solutions

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Muong women act for biodiversity conservation and better lives through organic farming

Description of the project: CECAD empowers over 300 ethnic Muong women of the Hoa Binh province in Northern Vietnam to switch to organic agriculture and improve their climate resilience. Trainings focus on identifying and protecting native plant species, reducing chemical inputs and setting up a Participatory Guarantee System (PGS-certification) via an organic farmer support group, in order to ensure customer trust. Start-up Clubs were set up to train 30 women on entrepreneurship skills and build up small organic food businesses with a web portal to access new retail and markets. Muong women worked with local authorities on local policy development, raising their democratic rights. In total 10,000 people in 20 communities benefit from improved rights, resilience and livelihoods.

Climate impact: Shifting to organic farming practices has greatly reduced GHG emissions and pesticide use (4,800 liters since 2013). This reduced the pollution of underground water and soil as well as living organisms in the environment. Protecting these ecosystems contribute to increased climate resilience for land and people. Organic and traditional farming practices have been an important part of agriculture in Vietnam for centuries. Rehabilitating ancestral knowledge combined with agricultural innovation with worldwide recognition (PGS) is appropriate, especially for isolated ethnic minorities who have to rely on local adapted means.

Gender impact: Participatory needs assessment and adapted training programmes have increased the agency of over 300 Muong women. The Start-up Clubs enabled them to create and lead their own enterprises, using modern internet technologies to reach out to more customers. Working with Women's Union and local authorities, they are actively contributing to local decision making processes. This has promoted their status at home and in their communities, improving their democratic and socio-economic rights.

Scalability / replicability: CECAD has worked to establish a quality assurance system for organic products applying participatory monitoring throughout the value chain and involving farmers, customers and local authorities. While national policies on gender equality and sustainable agriculture support scalability throughout the province and other regions, local expertise and resources are also required. By involving women farmers, along with Women's Union and District People's Committees as major stakeholders, the project demonstrates decentralized, feasible and sustainable practices.



Center for Environment and Community Assets Development (CECAD)
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Financially supported by:
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Non-Technical Solutions

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Mayombe's mamas produce banana chips to fight deforestation and protect great apes

Description of the project: ESI Congo works on improving women's livelihoods in the villages of Loaka and Magne in south-western Congo while preserving the Mayombe forest. An agroforestry platform was created and is managed by a women's group; the processing of plantains into banana chips and their sales provide new income to the wives of former hunters, offering a sustainable alternative to poaching. Plantains are provided by former hunters converted to agroforestry in order to curb traditional slash-and-burn farming practices in the forest. The responsible and ethical banana chips' manufacturing provides a new value chain for plantains that are cultivated by 90% of the households of this area.

Climate impact: The project is promoting products from local agroforestry in order to avoid felling trees over large areas (25 ha since 2017) for other agricultural purposes. Preserving the forest ensures a reduction in CO2 emissions and protects vital ecological niches, natural home of the great apes. The chip's manufacturing process follows a comprehensive and environmentally friendly approach including low water consumption (50 l. of water for 15 kg of chips) and efficient firewood use of bamboo, an invasive species in this area.

Gender impact: Women are given the opportunity to access jobs, which are rare for them in this region. They gain financial independence and a place in the local economy. This brings social, economic and environmental benefits for the whole community. Eleven women have received technical and entrepreneurship training; they are consulted in all strategic orientations thanks to horizontal decision-making processes. Their self confidence is being raised and they are encouraged to make active proposals so they can eventually manage the production unit independently.

Scalability / replicability: Local authorities provided political support for this new economic activity, as well as logistical assistance through the donation of land for the chips production unit. The villagers want to increase the production rate in order to integrate more women. This local economic development model, based on ecosystem protection, is replicable in all countries where banana trees are grown and where the socio-cultural context allows to upgrade plantains products.



ESI Congo
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Financially supported by: Revenues from product sales; Conkouati Dimonika Protected Areas Project (PCCD); Global Greengrants Fund; European Agency for Microprojects Raid Guild



Non-Technical Solutions

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Women lead community actions to restore endangered coastal ecosystems on the pacific island Palau

Description of the project: On small islands like Palau ecosystems are connected from ridge to reef, and inland degradation can become a significant threat to freshwater and coastal waters, diminishing the ability of mangroves and coral reefs to protect coasts. The project targets the states of Ngaremlengui and Ngial in the Babeldaob watershed. Afforestation activities contribute since 2014 to climate change adaptation. This is restoring bare land, ensuring water and food security, and guaranteeing mitigation measures for new housing through enhanced services from forest and mangrove ecosystems. This community led project has involved local women's groups, youth groups, schools and households -over 550 people- for planting 1,117 native trees, 1,084 vegetative strips (e.g. lemongrass strip) and ethnobotany trainings.

Climate impact: Ebiil Society's project creates multiple benefits, increasing ecosystems' and communities' resilience to climate change impacts. These benefits include regulation of soil erosion and fertility loss, carbon sequestration, improved local climate, provision of freshwater resources, and restored habitat for various species. Over 2,600 trees and lemongrass were planted to resist floods and sediment runoff. Plants are grown in Ebiil's plant nursery and distributed to households or bare soil areas at no cost to the community.

Gender impact: 12 women from the community were identified to lead the implementation of watershed restoration plans, promoting the decision making role of women on land and the matrilineal tradition of Palauan society. Access to trainings was guaranteed to women, men, boys and girls, while elderly women were encouraged to participate as carriers and trainers of traditional knowledge. The women's groups benefited from capacity development programs in ethnobotany, plant collection and propagation, endangered species, sustainable home gardening, soil treatment and tree planting, and erosion control.

Scalability / replicability: Tree growth monitoring conducted in collaboration with Oregon State University informs best practices for planting, depending on species, soil and other environmental variables at restoration sites. This helps in scaling up efforts across the watershed. Methods have been refined over time to ensure resilience in poor soil conditions, bird propagation, social and economic value, as well as minimum maintenance. Afforestation and restoration of degraded land can be replicated in other States, as best practices and collected data can inform housing and construction management policies.



Ebiil Society
www.ebiilsociety.org

Financially supported by:
The Nature Conservancy; U.S.
Department of Agriculture



Non-Technical Solutions

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Miticash – Citizen science

Description of the project: Miticash is a participatory science project which helps women smallholder farmers become citizen agronomists and contribute to climate resilience in drought prone Kenya, using conservation agriculture techniques. 630 women farmers from the arid lands of northeastern Kenya and Boni forest were trained on selecting and growing drought resistant crops, ensuring food security throughout the year for their communities. The project involves men, women, persons with disabilities and children equally in policy planning and implementation. Women assume leadership roles thanks to a train of trainers model, and take part in decision making processes to address the hunger challenges they face due to climate change. Miticash has provided green scholarship to 23 young girls.

Climate impact: With climate adapted crops and sustainable farming, vegetables and fruits grown in their gardens, women farmers reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Farmers also have stopped unsustainable practices like bush clearance or charcoal burning, which contributes to deforestation and environmental degradation. Over 300,000 trees seedlings have been planted in social institutions to encourage children to be nature enthusiasts. 40,000 tree species in the project's seed bed will be planted to rehabilitate degraded ecosystems.

Gender impact: This initiative has empowered women smallholders, living in patriarchal communities, to be part of climate negotiations at the local or national level. The women are able to grow drought tolerant crops and have food security throughout the year for their family as well as manage all their farm affairs. This project has also given them a chance to own land and understand their rights. Miticash supports the goal of equal access to education by financing tuition fees to 23 vulnerable girls with a green scholarship.

Scalability / replicability: Women in the project area take part in 90% of the agricultural production activity but they practice unsustainable agriculture such as shifting cultivation and bush clearing, which contributes to deforestation. Using an approach called train the trainer, women smallholders are divided into groups and choose their group leaders. The group leaders undergo training and after that go back to their own group to train their members. This approach has ensured wider coverage and the same approach could be used to scale up and replicate this project.



Global Nature Conservation
www.gpinitiative.org

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Non-Technical Solutions

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Seed balls bombing connect urban with rural women to restore biodiversity in Tamil Nadu

Description of the project: The Seed Ball Project, launched by a women's welfare association in Chennai, India, is a creative nature-based and social approach to stop deforestation. Trained rural women earn an income in producing seed balls out of gathered seeds and organic compost. Then "seed bombing" actions are carried out in 8 districts by 100 urban girls and women, in carefully selected areas with ideal growing conditions, so the seeds can flourish. Pupils join in throwing seed balls near their school and home during awareness campaigns. The broad public responds very positively to the project and helps to nurture the growing plants.

Climate impact: With a good growth rate the bombed seeds can curtail the effects of deforestation, reducing the carbon footprint, improving the water table and preserving biodiversity. The plant and tree seeds and the types of land and soil are carefully chosen to optimize results in different ecosystems. A tree is estimated to absorb about 22 kg of CO2 in one year. With 1,500 seed balls dispersed since 2017, the association calculates that up to 33 tons of CO2 could be absorbed in one year by the grown trees. One variety of selected plants, Tulsi, are fully grown and release oxygen for 20 hours per day. They also have medicinal properties.

Gender impact: This pilot project generated sustainable income sources for 10 rural and 50 urban women. In rural areas, women gain skills in manufacturing and selling organic compost, and in urban settlements, women have learned how to produce wide varieties of seed balls, according to season and soil type, as well as to select adapted ecosystems for seed ball bombing. The beneficiaries have access to jobs and have become economic contributors to their families. These socially active and responsible women have inspired many others to reconstruct a livable space in their community.

Scalability / replicability: This project is easy to replicate and upscale, since it is based on a very simple technique with local natural materials, and with minimum human intervention for the seed balls to grow. Sanju Women's Welfare Association has mobilized school institutions and the general public. The project is currently running at state-level in Tamil Nadu and could be extended in other states, with proper planning and mobilization. A team has been established to follow up on the growing seeds, monitor and report on the impact.



Sanju Women's Welfare Association

Financially supported by:
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Contributions WGC Non-Technical Solutions

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Rural Tajik women implementing the Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda2030

Description of the project: WECF and Youth Ecological Center (YEC) empower Tajik rural women groups to boost the energy transition and agro-ecology in their villages. 155 women and 11 men from 4 rural organizations participated in technical trainings on sustainable water and sanitation, organic agriculture, homemade efficient stoves and solar technologies. Greenhouses allow farmers to grow vegetables and fruit seedlings and protect crops from climate impacts. Thanks to WECF's Women2030 training tools used by YEC, the women gained knowledge on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and contributed to writing a shadow report on SDG implementation in Tajikistan, making gender focused policy recommendations in national consultation meetings. YEC and WECF encourage the rural women to create their own enterprise for a sustainable local economy.

Climate impact: Tajikistan's forest cover has been halved in 50 years, due to heavy use of fuel wood. Coal production is planned to increase tenfold by 2030. 90 % of the soil surface is degraded. Transition to safe renewable energy and food production lacks institutional and financial support. This project develops accessible and affordable renewable energy technologies and organic farming skills for rural populations. Improved stoves, ecological insulation and solar water heaters help reduce CO2 emissions by 1 ton per household per year, while solar greenhouses contribute to energy transition.

Gender impact: Gender stereotypes and traditional gender roles still prevail in Tajikistan. Discrimination in the labor market is strong, with most women being informally employed in agriculture. The project empowers women via technical trainings in innovative energy and agricultural technologies. With the acquired skills they gain a greater social status and become role models for others. Furthermore, their new revenues improve their financial independence and allow them to participate in local and national governance.

Scalability / replicability: Linking practical trainings with policy processes and boosting the emergence of a sustainable local economy is a good basis for up-scaling. YEC and WECF enable women groups from different villages to exchange their experience and learn from each other, as well as to actively contribute to transition policies. Tutorial videos have been produced to disseminate the technologies further. The technical equipment is designed on site and materials are locally sourced, so that the women can easily pass on their skills and competences to others.



WECF – Women Engage for a Common Future

www.wecf.org

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Contributions WGC Non-Technical Solutions

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Women smallholders mango farming enterprises as resilience strategy

Description of the project: This project strengthens the resilience of 6,000 smallholder farmers and rural communities through the sustainable production and transformation of high quality, drought resistant green mango varieties into mango achar. Hebron Mango Tree Owner Primary and Vhembe Agro-Processing Cooperatives are building the capacity of women smallholder farmers to create their own enterprise and diversify their income sources outside the mango season. These enterprises will be developed with participatory methodologies to ensure a gender-responsive implementation of viable, culturally appropriate and marketable diversified activities.

Climate impact: The project improves the climate resilience of grassroots communities as they breed drought adapted fruit trees and develop local sustainable product transformation based on an inclusive business model. Furthermore, the creation of diversified enterprises ensures the use of a wide variety of crops, thus contributing to preserving the local biodiversity. Farmers are trained to use rainwater-harvesting techniques and to manage accurate weather monitoring systems, to adapt to severe climate impacts.

Gender impact: In order to close the gender gap in the communities, women are empowered to possess undisputed knowledge in organic farming methods, irrigation technologies and mango processing. They also gain strong leadership and entrepreneurship skills via trainings on basic financial management, governance and marketing strategy. They benefit from the cooperative model that facilitates access to markets and the value chain. The project brings women to the forefront in the fight against climate change, poverty and inequality.

Scalability / replicability: Provincial and local authorities are actively involved and the private sector as off-takers of the mango products plays a key role in ensuring scalability of this initiative. It can contribute to South Africa's National Adaptation Strategy and Green Economy Strategy, especially in terms of innovation and job creation. The objective is to extend to other regions of the country and further strengthen the domestic mango value chain with a social and gender-responsive philosophy.



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Financially supported by:
The Government of Flanders



Contributions WGC Non-Technical Solutions

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Community Conservation Resilience Initiative (CCRI) in India

Description of the project: The CCRI carries out a participatory assessment and documentation of community conservation initiatives in the light of threats to their customary practices such as grazing and small scale agriculture, that secure their livelihoods. Communities in 3 ecologically diverse Indian states: Bengal, Maharashtra and Gujarat, identified external and internal threats and participated in capacity building and training workshops, as well as resource mapping and focus group discussions. The project also contributes to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity's 2011-2020 Strategic Plan and Aichi Targets by providing bottom-up policy advice on effective and appropriate forms of community conservation.

Climate impact: Local communities' and indigenous people's customary knowledge and practices regarding sustainable management of forests and grasslands is essential for climate adaptation and mitigation. Indeed, they have proven to provide human groups with enough resources for their livelihoods without over-exploiting nature. This project supports communities in defending their rights and sustainable practices against the multifaceted effects of deforestation.

Gender impact: The CCRI fostered dialogue between women and other marginalised groups of Tadoba Tiger Reserve, Gond communities, Banni grasslands and pastoralists groups in Gujarat, or eastern Himalayas in Bengal and Rabha communities from Nepal. This assessment revealed that gender differences form the basis of roles' and responsibilities' distribution for the use and conservation of biodiversity and natural resources. Amplifying women's voices in decision-making processes and allowing them to access, promotes gender equality and is key to protect and recover traditional knowledge.

Scalability / replicability: This project is part of the global CCRI programme, with 68 communities conducting similar assessments in 22 countries, proving its scalability and replicability. It can easily generate effective support for community conservation initiatives by highlighting the benefits of biodiversity conservation as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation. If policy and decision-makers integrate the CCRI recommendations made by local communities, especially women, this powerful initiative will be further expanded.



Global Forest Coalition
www.globalforestcoalition.org

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based on a decision of the German Bundestag



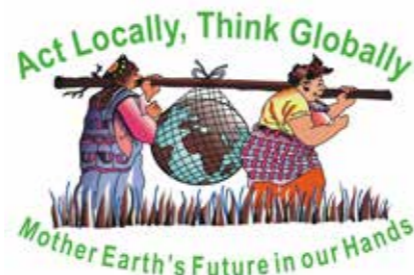
Transformational Solutions



Winner Transformational Solutions



Country: Cameroon
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Transforming gender relations and turning to sustainable resource use in the Kilum-Ijim Forests of Cameroon

Description of the project: CAMGEW engages local and ethnic women in sustainable forest management, while enhancing their human and socio-economic rights and transforming patriarchal gender relations in the forest communities. Cooperating with Oku local authorities and the government of Cameroon, CAMGEW gives women the opportunity to assume leadership positions of forest institutions and stakeholder platforms. They provide a broad range of trainings to over 2000 people: environmental education for schools and adults, bee farming, agroforestry and organic farming, small livestock breeding and biogas production, entrepreneurship skills with financial assistance. This initiative helps 800 young women fight domestic violence through counseling on their rights, business opportunities and community sensitization to counter early marriages.

Climate impact: Training in agroforestry for 772 community members, two-thirds women, prevents soil erosion and deforestation, while responding to domestic food and firewood needs. Three plant nurseries provided farms at the forest periphery with 150,000 saplings. Forest education was imparted in schools, through social media, radio, social gatherings, men's clubs. 240 Mbororo women gained skills on organic farming to improve fodder for their cattle and sheep, reducing farmer-grazer conflicts. 900 bee hives donated to farmers guard health of the forest.

Gender impact: CAMGEW has applied gender mainstreaming across all its activities: agroforestry and organic farming with cattle breeding, plant nurseries, beekeeping, business skills trainings for 1580 women, incl. dressmaking & hairdressing for 20 girls; giving loans to 1325 of them. Counseling 800 victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse -including teenage mothers and HIV/AIDS infected- on their social rights, and empowering them with business skills and advice on nutrition and health, working on legalization of marriages, CAMGEW transforms the gender relations in patriarchal Mbororo communities.

Scalability / replicability: The project is a model of constructive cooperation and knowledge sharing with local and national public authorities and a broad range of stakeholders -research institutes, foundations, NGOs- making it replicable and scalable. Train the trainer scheme with use of local experts, enhances continuous learning and sustainability of this model. There are, for example, exchange visits between honey cooperatives, bee farmers and bee farmer groups. The Honeyshop is a demonstration centre for research, learning and marketing.



Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch
www.camgew.com

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Mention of Honour Transformational Solutions



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Sexual and reproductive health and rights as a basis for conservation action

Description of the project: FUNDAECO breaks traditional cultural barriers to ensure the SRH rights of adolescent girls in more than 100 Mayan and Q'eqchi communities of Guatemala, as a fundament for their involvement in forest conservation. 22 health clinics, established in Protected Areas of Izabal, have provided regular care and counseling to 50,000 patients (2/3 women), significantly reducing teenage pregnancies, and strengthening women's leadership. Support provided in maternal and infant feeding, and hygiene are linked to environmental protection activities, i.e good eating habits using natural resources, or sustainable waste management. Strategies were also implemented to prevent forced migration. A scholarship and youth leadership program contributes to end discrimination of women with formal and informal education.

Climate impact: FUNDAECO integrated SRHR in its approach to sustainable community development and conservation efforts of the Caribbean Guatemala Protected Areas. Trainings in managing and processing non-timber forest products are offered within a programme supporting more than 500 families of indigenous communities for the creation of 4,000 hectares of agroforestry systems. It includes planting rubber and fruit trees, black pepper, shade trees, and creating live wind barriers to increase the forest cover in agricultural and livestock systems, regenerating the forest's biodiversity.

Gender impact: The 22 clinics have become a vehicle for women's empowerment, and mobilised the communities around family planning issues, violence against women and sexually transmitted diseases. 10 communitarian first aid kits were developed. FUNDAECO worked with the Movement for Equity in Guatemala Association (AME), to develop training processes about human rights, SRHR and gender based violence. Scholarship support for 48 teenage girls enabled 15 of them to graduate and access new study opportunities. Women's groups initiated new income generating activities contributing to improved livelihoods and enhanced status in their communities.

Scalability / replicability: From a pilot started in 2014 with 3 clinics, the project expanded to a network of 22 community-based clinics and 3 mobile ones. The success for up-scaling lies in the ability to integrate health care services, human rights and SRHR education into environmental protection activities and policies, taking into account cultural relevance for the Mayan groups - Q'eqchi, Mam, Chuj, Q'anjobal people. The scholarship program in particular has progressively become a multiplier among communities, with empowered young girls actively promoting new models of development.



FUNDAECO
www.fundaeco.org.gt

Departments of Izabal, Huehuetenango and Peten, Guatemala

Financially supported by:
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Transformational Solutions

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Safeguarding Endorois people's knowledge and ecosystems via an inclusive and autonomous governance protocol

Description of the project: This project helps the discriminated Endorois people around Lake Bogoria articulate their own priorities and procedures for the conservation of their natural resources by developing a Biocultural Community Protocol (BCP). It documents the ancestral knowledge of Endorois women and men on their ecosystems and provides proactive responses to climate impacts, among other threats. It guides the community on collective engagement with external stakeholders on access, use and management of their endogenous resources, based on the legal framework of the Nagoya Protocol. The elected Endorois Welfare Council, representing 17 communities (up to 60,000 people), and respecting gender balance, contributes to the protection of genetic and biological resources, including the neighboring ecosystems.

Climate impact: The BCP ensures the use of Indigenous knowledge to launch initiatives for climate adaptation to droughts - and unlock multiple socio-economic benefits. The community has documented their traditional beliefs and indigenous knowledge and thus, the BCP is an intergenerational negotiation tool to address collaboration with external actors and provide solutions that safeguard and complement traditional knowledge for climate resilience and other key environmental issues.

Gender impact: The BCP adopts an inclusive strategy where women were included in leading positions in the governance structures and have become active agents in environmental conservation. Women participated in the negotiations and articulation of their rights, culture and traditions for natural resource management. The BCP clearly maps out women's age-set, with separate representation of female youth and elderly, and recognizes their roles and rights with regards to conservation. Capacity-building also enhanced their understanding of policy, legal and institutional frameworks.

Scalability / replicability: The BCP strengthens the community's capacity to use traditional knowledge to achieve sustainable natural resource management, and it aims to influence other Indigenous communities in similar circumstances, having positive impacts on neighboring territories. Such methodology can be replicated in many endangered ecosystems. The Endorois people are able to protect their rights and knowledge via collective engagement with external stakeholders. As a result, with a more cohesive society, they can avert possible conflict situations among members of the community arising from declining natural resources.



Natural Justice
naturaljustice.org

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Financially supported by:
The ABS Capacity Development Initiative



Transformational Solutions

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Spotless Dame - combating menstrual hygienic poverty while reducing plastic waste

Description of the project: This project addresses the interconnected challenges of plastic waste, extreme poverty, unhygienic practices during menstruation, and sustainable livelihoods. It enables adolescent girls and community women to lead healthy lives by breaking myths and taboos surrounding menstruation and creating awareness about healthy practices. More than 6,500 Mera Pads -reusable cloth pads made from bamboo- have been distributed. Their production and sales have created new jobs for 25 women, improving the livelihoods of their families. Over 7,500 women and girls have been trained in menstrual hygiene through 92 Workshops in 30 villages across 8 districts of Rajasthan. Awareness raising programs were also organised for boys and men to break the cycle of menstrual discrimination.

Climate impact: Disposable sanitary pads result in the unsustainable discharge of millions of tonnes of plastic waste all over the world, which are nearly non biodegradable. One woman using disposable pads and tampons for menstrual hygiene will generate around 150 kg of plastic waste during her entire life, with an estimated carbon footprint of 900 kg CO2. This project has thus far supported 1,626 women with 6,504 reusable cloth pads, saving 31,219 kg of plastic waste and substantially reducing carbon emissions.

Gender impact: Access to safe menstrual hygiene can be a matter of life and death. Patriarchal discrimination of menstruating women still prevails in India. With affordable, sustainable alternative pads, this project has created jobs, improved the life of 1,626 women and raised the capacity of 7,500 girls and women on menstrual hygiene management. Programs to sensitise boys and men break gender taboos. Pragati Sakhis -environmental ambassadors- are selected to educate and empower women in their communities on environment and health.

Scalability / replicability: Started in one village in 2015, Spotless Dame has already been replicated in 30 locations from 8 districts. Pragati Sakhis -environmental ambassadors- endorse the role of multipliers and ensure up-scaling. The business model based on a sustainable production with local materials and local people is easy to replicate. By 2030, the non-profit organisation aims to provide 1 million women with Mera Pads, creating sustainable jobs for at least 1,000 women.



PraveenLata Sansthan
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Financially supported by:
Stone Shippers Ltd.; Hansol



Transformational Solutions

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Women farmers transforming livelihoods in the drought-prone Marathwada region of India

Description of the project: The project promotes the recognition of 60,000 rural women as farmers and decision makers, with improved participation in agriculture and within households. It builds resilience in small, marginalised farming households through capacity building in resilient farming practices. Women's agency is enhanced through land tenure rights, leadership development workshops and participatory governance. The beneficiaries take decisions and shift from cash crops to diversified mixed food crops and vegetables. They can give up chemical inputs for bio-inputs, use local seeds, follow water and soil conservation methods, and diversify food sources, to enhance nutrition and income security.

Climate impact: In the last three years, 60,000 women from small and marginalised farmer households have shifted from water-guzzling cash crops such as soya, sugarcane and cotton, to cultivating and consuming local food crops through the year. Instead of monocultures, they grow 7 to 8 crops and plant fruit trees. The initiative has reduced input costs by 25%; the savings makes farming economically viable. The conversion of 50,000 acres of dry land into bio-farms through water and soil conservation practices is leading to improved biodiversity.

Gender impact: Change expected from this initiative is women's leadership, enhanced with technical knowledge and skills, in new social identities as climate champions and decision makers in farms, families and communities. At the heart of this approach is women's complete autonomy around what to grow, what to consume and how much to sell. From the identity as farm workers, women have gained new economic and social statute as entrepreneurs, grassroots advocates and climate leaders.

Scalability / replicability: Locally-owned action by women's groups led to design this holistic and integrated model to address the intersectional challenges of climate change, land degradation, food, water and livelihood insecurity. The project strengthens the leadership of women grassroots advocates to forge partnerships with government, agricultural universities and training institutions. As per a directive of the Government of India, 30% of State funds for agriculture must be allocated to women farmers. This can aid replication and upscaling.



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Transformational Solutions

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P3 - Women's entrepreneurship and traditional know-how help recycle plastic and stop pollution in Ouahigouya

Description of the project: The P3 project -Plastic, Project, Pochette- fights against plastic pollution in the city of Ouahigouya by training young women in creative recycling of water bags, and promoting local know-how from Burkina Faso. Plastic bags, which pollute the soil and water sources, are collected and reprocessed in a creative range of fashionable accessories. Their sales on local and international markets provide a decent income to 22 women beneficiaries. Movement France creates stable jobs, improves living conditions, and stimulates a green and local economy. Thanks to a wide network of partners and a responsible ethical vision, conveyed through awareness-raising actions, this association promotes a sustainable and inclusive development approach.

Climate impact: The proliferation of plastic in the city and surrounding areas has significant health impacts on livestock and people, causing ecological damage, including GHG emissions. Citizens mobilization actions make it possible to collect about 300 kg of plastic per month. The recycling process chosen by Movement France, as well as all its activities, are part of a resilient approach, including the choice of sustainable construction materials, a photovoltaic installation, and the use of natural and biodegradable detergents for the treatment of plastics.

Gender impact: P3 currently ensures better living conditions to 22 employed women, providing their children with access to schooling and care. Freed from poverty, women are trained at all stages of the manufacturing process and involved in the orientation and implementation of the project through monthly participatory meetings. The structure gives young mothers the opportunity to organize their daily working time according to their availability, guaranteeing them great autonomy and flexibility in their work.

Scalability / replicability: Thanks to a virtuous business model and sustainable production methods, this project can be replicated in Burkina Faso and in countries facing plastic pollution. Technical training based on local knowledge is accessible; enhanced living standards ensure the commitment of beneficiaries. Movement France is creating with local builders an Artisanal Plastic Recycling Centre in Ouahigouya -CARPO- based on an ancient Egyptian vault technique using natural materials such as earth and stones. This center aims to create 40 jobs by 2020.



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Constituency Member Contributions Transformational Solutions

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Getting to work on climate – CHANGE

Description of the project: CHANGE trains women with degrees from non-German universities to become climate advocates. The project enables highly qualified women with a migration background to be integrated into future-oriented careers and strengthens their influence in dealing with the impacts of climate change. They get to know the affected sectors, become aware of their professional and personal resources, and learn how to use them in their future professional field. Integrated technical and language learning improves their communication at work. Workshops on self-presentation, conflict management, and reconciling family and career prepare them for their roles as force multipliers in companies and communities.

Climate impact: Women from diverse cultural backgrounds are qualified to take responsibility for the future, to comprehend social, economic, and ecological developments, and to shape their professional activities accordingly. They are empowered to develop visions to face the changes caused by climate change. They bring with them indispensable experiences and perspectives from their countries of origin, which serve as important contributions to interdisciplinary solutions for climate adaptation and protection.

Gender impact: For LIFE, gender equality and equal opportunity mean the empowerment of women and girls as outlined in the SDG 5. We support women from all cultures in their professional development and offer customized information relevant to the labor market, career counseling, and integrated language support. In the CHANGE project, these principles are placed in the context of climate change in order to qualify women as mentors for climate change adaptation and to promote gender equality.

Scalability / replicability: The project represents a synergy of the local requirements for climate adaptation in the city of Berlin with the resources and experiences from the participants' countries of origin, where climate change sometimes presents completely different challenges. This model is promising for the future due to its global approach, by countering climate change impacts through local measures that have grown out of experiences in diverse cultural contexts. In this way, learning outcomes from the global South and the global North intertwine.



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Gender Climate Tracker

Description of the project: The Gender Climate Tracker (GCT) platform is an online app and website designed to provide policy-makers and advocates with data and information related to both the process and outcomes of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations. With a rich, country-level dataset on women's participation as delegates and heads of delegations, a catalog of each gender mandate decided within the UNFCCC negotiations, and gender analyses of the initial Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), this resource provides a landing site for understanding, tracking, and analyzing the effective implementation of gender-responsive climate policy.

Climate impact: The GCT enables climate negotiators and observers to seek and identify information for their advocacy. Women's participation and leadership contribute to better environmental outcomes. Previous decisions are critical to shaping new negotiation text: having mandates searchable at the click of a button can strengthen gender-responsive measures within the UNFCCC. Country-level planning and practice is a key feature of the effectiveness of these negotiations, monitoring gender and inclusivity within the NDCs can only contribute to the effectiveness of their implementation.

Gender impact: The GCT provides data and information to track and analyze gender-responsive policymaking; foster accountability to principles of gender justice, women's rights, and inclusivity; and enable accurate and targeted advocacy. The platform brings visibility to gender and climate issues, collates complex information with clarity and interactive features, and offers a space for policymakers and civil society to contribute relevant country-level resources, thereby catalyzing additional attention and effort toward gender-responsive climate policy and practice.

Scalability / replicability: The platform is expanding in terms of features and followers, creating and housing additional resources for civil society and policymakers to understand, track, and analyze gender within related environmental spaces. More contributions will ensure these community-sourced catalogs to cultivate advocacy and accountability. Showcasing gender mandates across multilateral environmental agreements promotes cross-cutting approaches to gender-responsive policy, while continued analysis of gender within new NDCs will facilitate monitoring and accountability.



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Anglophone African women's voices are heard by the Green Climate Fund

Description of the project: The effort mobilizes the active participation of grassroots women for gender-responsive climate finance and access to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) through a country driven approach. The African GCF gender monitors participate in the GCF board meetings and ensure local women's voices and concerns are reflected in GCF policy issues as well as funding proposals. The regional Anglophone Africa monitor also mobilizes local women's voices through country gender monitors who facilitate engagement and access to GCF. Coordinated by Center for 21st Century Issues and supported by WEDO and Both ENDS, as a member of the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA), this regional project emerged from the collaborative work on "Participation is Power: Women Demand Gender Just Climate Finance."

Climate impact: The GCF is a designated multilateral financing channel under the UNFCCC to implement the Paris Agreement and the Nationally Determined Contributions of developing countries. With an initial resource mobilization of \$10.3 billion and another \$9.7 billion already pledged for 2020-2023, the GCF has an undeniable ability to shape climate action and climate resilient development. The fund's simplified approval process and Enhanced Direct Access approach strategically position it as a vehicle for transformative projects on climate change that engage women's groups and local actors.

Gender impact: The Anglophone African GCF Gender Monitor participates in GCF board meetings to represent African voices, reviewing projects and seeking feedback from the African network, which currently has 95 members. Country monitors in 6 Anglophone African countries engage in the GCF at local levels. Webinars attract attendees across Africa as well as later viewings. This project was recognized as one of the best practices in empowering local women to drive climate finance during the workshop 'Access to Climate Finance Coalition and Good Practices' of the Climate Chance African Summit in October 2019.

Scalability / replicability: This effort can scale-up by recruiting more country monitors, working for better support for country level engagement, and building the capacity of local women's groups. With Africa having the largest share of proposals in the pipeline, readiness projects, and approved projects, there are many opportunities for local women's groups to effectively monitor existing or upcoming projects. Organizing more African wide webinars to share climate finance information and feedback from GCF board meetings will increase awareness about engagement in gender-responsive climate finance.



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Our Members



Our Members

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