

# UPSCALING GENDER- JUST CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

Overcoming barriers to technology transfer and development from a gender-just approach



## About

**This publication is the outcome of two capacity building workshops co-organized by Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF) and the Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN)** on up-scaling gender-just climate solutions. Among the participants were organizational leaders selected from among hundreds of submissions worldwide for the Gender-Just Climate Solutions Award by the UNFCCC Women and Gender Constituency (WGC); as well as several climate technology and gender experts invited by WECF and the CTCN. The objective was to share lessons learned and best practices from climate initiatives around the world that integrate a gender-responsive, or even a gender-transformative approach, and to identify approaches to overcome barriers to up-scaling. WGC and the CTCN share the conviction that gender-responsive climate solutions ensure more effective and socially just climate policies and action.

The objective of the workshop was also to compile lessons learned and best practice experiences from the field. This resource guide intends to share those lessons widely. This resource guide entails the presentations and experience sharing of more than 10 gender-responsive climate initiatives, looking at challenges and lessons learned from different geographical, ecological and social contexts. The resource guide has been developed as a tool for our award winners and other organizations looking to upscale their gender-just climate solutions or projects.

Winners of the Gender-Just Climate Solutions Award are as follows:

2018

- Transformational solution: [CFLEDD](#), Congo DRC - Women's formal access to land rights contributes to the fight against deforestation
- Non-technical solution: [Green living Movement](#), Zambia - Community strategies for climate-resilient livelihoods
- Technical solutions: [Naireeta Services](#), India - Bhungroo: small women farmers owning and developing an innovative rainwater harvesting technology

2017

- Transformational solution: [Gender Development Association](#), Lao DPR - Gender assessment of non-timber forest production and capacity building in northern uplands Lao DPR
- Non-technical solution: [NAVDANYA & SOL](#), India & France - Women as seed conservation and agro-ecology experts helping their communities resist climate change
- Technical solution: [Better World Cameroon](#), Cameroon - Africa kitchen revolution: training women on transferable mud-building techniques

2016

- Transformational solution: [ENDA Graf Sahel](#), Senegal - Strengthening women's ancestral and artisanal fishery practices to preserve mangrove natural resources in the Saloum delta
- Non-technical solution: [YAKKUM Emergency Unit](#), Indonesia - Empowering women's groups in disaster prone areas through community based sustainable water management

- Technical solution: [Fondation Mohammed VI](#), Morocco - Women and school children install and use solar cookers to preserve the Argan forest

2015

- Transformational solution: [Tulele Peisa](#), Papua New Guinea - Community-led relocation effort by the Carteret Islanders who face extinction from climate change impacts and extreme weather events
- Non-technical solution: [GenderCC-South Africa](#) - Raising awareness on gender integration in climate change adaptation and building community resilience
- Technical solution: [IslandECO](#), Marshall Islands - Training young women in the principles and installation of solar photovoltaic DC refrigeration



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# 1. Executive Summary

Gender equality and gender mainstreaming are increasingly recognized as imperative for the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement. Women and men are disproportionately impacted by climate change due to gender inequalities and socio-cultural norms affecting access to and control over financial and physical resources, knowledge, and decision-making power. While women contribute significantly to combating climate change, their initiatives face higher barriers for up-scaling. Supporting women and men to overcome these barriers provides an opportunity for climate approaches to be more effective, sustainable and equitable, leading to broader and shared benefits. The lessons learned in this publication are the results of the experience sharing between the Gender-Just Climate Solutions award winners and participants of the WECF and CTCN upscaling workshops.

## Sustainable business models and equal access to finance

Many women-led initiatives face challenges in accessing funds, especially core funding, to ensure the long-term sustainability of their projects. Lack of financial support creates barriers to accessing technical equipment, training, awareness raising and campaigning. Understanding the market and developing viable business models provides an opportunity to attract funds and private sector engagement. Capacity building on developing business plans can, for example, be sought through organizations such as the Private Financing Advisory Network (PFAN) and the Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN) for finance readiness. Several of the award-winners in the workshop have also identified alternative financing mechanisms, such as forming cooperatives to access micro-credits.

## Technology access and knowledge

Organizations often experience difficulties in identifying technology needs and potential solutions. Due to social and cultural norms regarding women's role in society, it is sometimes a challenge to get acceptance for women targeted technical training, leading to unequal access to not only training but technologies and their benefits. Transfer of knowledge and training local men and women presents an opportunity to adapt the solutions to cultural, social and climatic conditions and facilitate up-scaling. There are many opportunities to build the capacity of organisations to conduct technical feasibility studies, receive training and seek outside technical support, for example through organizations such as the CTCN.

## Sociocultural norms and legal impediments

Up-scaling gender-just climate solutions requires overcoming social, cultural and even legal barriers such as customary laws. A workshop participant from Morocco described how women, who are producing argan oil, faced challenges as the land was legally inherited by men. This in turn limited women's access and right to the land they were working on and hindered productivity and up-scaling. Business discussions were often held at cafés where women were not allowed, even though women were behind majority of the work. Participants from Laos, India and Indonesia shared how in certain regions it was difficult to get women to participate in community farmer meetings. Implementing truly gender-transformative climate action requires patience as it oftentimes means redistribution of power and resources. Lessons learned was that looking for funds which specifically target gender-responsive programmes can help overcome some of these challenges. Other successes were using participatory tools and methods, and work on gender awareness campaigns for example through women and youth but also including men as gender champions.

## 2. Accessing climate finance

Many women-led projects experience challenges in finding sustainable funding or sustainable business models to ensure that their solutions can be maintained or replicated over time. Short term or conditional funding cannot be bridged by the beneficiaries, due to their very low revenues. In rural communities, women cannot afford the necessary investment in equipment for replication, maintenance or replacement of adopted technologies or other resources they may need. Trained beneficiaries lack financial support for the creation of micro-enterprises, and there is a need for increased awareness and capacities among a wider group of beneficiaries. For the same reasons, it is sometimes difficult to involve the private sector in rural/ poor areas.

In Morocco, the programme Min Ajliki<sup>1</sup> run by the government with the support of the Belgian Development Cooperation has supported over 5,000 women with entrepreneurship skills through incubators since 2013, but there is no dedicated government scheme aimed at providing women entrepreneurs or associations with grants or loans. In 2018, Senegal launched a government line of credit for women and youth, but it is run by the presidential administration (DER/FJ) and seems difficult to access for rural women who are not connected to political structures.

In many countries, women unite to create self-help groups and cooperative structures, pulling together their individual savings and in-kind contributions. This can help them access micro-credits, which are often vital for their small businesses or associations but cannot enable them to scale up and invest in bigger technical equipment. The challenges are structurally inherited from patriarchal social norms, thus very difficult to overcome. In many developing countries, financial institutions charge high unregulated rates for poor people. These rates are often higher for women, as men can offer collateral guarantees, such as land or property. But women don't have the same access to land or capital, thus they are less able to leverage finance and suffer a double discrimination.

### 2.1. Overcoming financial barriers - challenges and success factors

#### **Bunghroo, India: Leveraging economies of scale and government support**

Bunghroo is an affordable and simple rainwater-collecting technology developed by a social enterprise, Naireeta Services, that enables small-holder farmers in coastal areas of India to save crops from waterlogging during monsoon and ensure enough irrigation in dry seasons. Although initial investment in the technology is high, a co-ownership model has enabled women farmers to access the Bunghroo technology. Naireeta Services is leveraging the financial support received from provincial authorities to disseminate the technology for a standardization of the Bunghroo unit's production leading to economies of scale and lower unit price for the farmers. The standardization also applies to the costing model where the design principles for construction of the technology as well as identification of location is provided to the farmers at a no-profit rate, while the farmers purchase drilling and materials directly from the market and construct the Bunghroo at their convenient time. This spreads the costs and allows farmers more time to install the

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<sup>1</sup> <http://minajliki.ma/>

Bhungroo. Additionally, the CTCN and WGC capacity building workshop inspired a new cost model for access to their technology. They are now charging rich farmers, industries and corporations as per their capacity to pay. The profits from these sales are shared to allow for sales at lower prices to smallholder farmers, enabling them to overcome financial barriers and scale up the dissemination of the technology.

**Eco-Island, Marshall Islands: Exploring innovative business models for women in a male-dominated sector**

Eco-Island is building on the specific skills of women and applying them to the field of solar PV and electric appliances by supporting women's motivation to learn and acquire new skills for a professional activity, and ultimately employing them for Solar PV installations on the island. The company is finding it challenging to sustain employment for the girls. The national electric utility could employ the girls once they have been trained but recruiters are not motivated as it is a male-dominated sector. In the Pacific, the electricity market is dominated by donor-funded large-scale projects (offering free installation services) that prevent smaller businesses to develop as they can't compete financially. The challenge for Eco-Island is investment capital to scale up but also understanding the demand and distribution models. Several options and models have been considered by Eco-Island, like developing an Energy Service Company (ESCO). ESCO's sometime employ innovative financing methods such as reducing energy costs through energy efficiency measures and energy savings, where the savings costs are used to pay back the capital investment of the project over a given time period. Eco-Island also considered challenging the national utility company, which produces electricity with diesel units, by providing a more sustainable and overall better technology such as smart grids. So far, the utility company is using diesel. A next option would be to evaluate how the project can be aligned with the country's new NDC strategy aiming at having at least 20% of women electricians in the next decade.

**Navdanya & SOL, India: Community-supported agricultural networks as a business-model**

Navdanya has successfully organized participatory meetings in villages in India to discuss the issue of seeds conservation and biodiversity protection. Women were at the centre of these discussions because they are responsible for food provision and processing. This participatory process led them to become seed conservation experts. They have developed the concept of "soksha": drying vegetables and fruits during summer (with solar dryers), for better conservation in winter. As a result, they developed a network of trained energy ambassadors to visit households and inform/train them on sustainable energy and energy efficiency solutions. They are also considering community-supported agriculture networks, like the Teikei in Japan, or AMAP (Association pour le Maintien d'une Agriculture Paysanne) in France. These activities can lead to developing autonomous business models, by selling high value agricultural products, energy solutions and services. However, challenges remain in accessing initial finance to support these initiatives and accessing higher income markets/households that can afford the products.

## Key lessons

- **Identify national priorities:** By identifying national goals and plans which are aligned with the service or solution you are seeking support for; you can make a better case for receiving domestic funding. For example, the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Technology Needs Assessments (TNAs) and Technology Action Plans (TAPs) are examples of national climate plans which you could have a look at. Read more about these on p.19.
- **Understand your market and beneficiaries:** Regardless if you are a for- or non-profit, it is important to understand the market in order to identify new opportunities for accessing climate finance. Find your key clients and beneficiaries. Like the Eco-Island example above: identify what market shares can be taken. Are they rural or urban? Public or private? Conduct a stakeholder analysis to get an overview of the players and potential clients involved.
- **Define your goals:** Evaluate your value and goals and make it clear in your mind which approach suits you, whether it's about continually increasing profit, benefitting a wider community, serving a niche market etc. Hard work begins with putting preliminary documents and information in place, and mapping out your organisation's rationale, value and goals.
- **Develop your business model:** Make a business case for your organisation, regardless if it's centred around climate mitigation or adaptation. What do you need to put in place to attract financing? A common tool is the Business Model Canvas, which can be a useful framework for mapping out the main components of your idea. It allows you to lay the groundwork for your business and changes with every iteration you go through. It describes how you create, deliver and capture value. Although it has a corporate ring to it, social entrepreneurs and organisations also use it to develop viable models for financing and long-term financial sustainability.
- **Build relationships:** If you are applying for funding with an institution, don't forget that you as a person are applying to another person sitting in an institution. You need to know your market, project and every single aspect of it. Don't be fearful of the other person but build a relationship with them. Be confident and convince them why they should provide you with funds.
- **Understanding access to finance:** Women are generally less aware of the sources of funds available to them. Even when they understand how finance is structured and the different value chains, they are less trained in how to frame the proposal or develop the business plan. A challenge is often that there is no strong financial team in the organisation to manage the budget and develop funding proposals. There could also be language barriers that limit access to international funding. A good start would be to hire someone with financial expertise to assist and build relationships with various institutions. Another option is to apply for technical support from organisations to build the capacity of existing staff and bridge knowledge gaps. This is not like applying for grants but more like seeking hands-on support which can be provided for free either nationally or internationally. These "investor readiness programmes" can be applied for with e.g. USAID, CTCN and other international institutions. It is also important to note that the political landscape can make it difficult to access funding in certain countries where funds tend to go towards large projects and organisations pushing for industrialisation rather than low-scale bottom-up gender-just initiatives. For a brief overview of the climate

financing structures and mechanisms, and organizations that can provide capacity building, see chapters 2.2 and 2.3.

- **Use expertise help:** Look towards organizations like the Private Financing Advisory Network (PFAN)<sup>2</sup> to answer questions on for example what type of funding you should be seeking. Are you looking at seed capital? Equity finance? Mezzanine finance? Loans? Can the business absorb the loan? You may need expertise help to put it together. PFAN identifies promising clean energy projects at an early stage and provides mentoring for attracting finance (p.15).
- **Find complementary service areas:** In the Eco-Islands example above, the organization was considering taking on the national utility company for a share in the renewable energy market. It does not always have to be a David and Goliath situation, but sometimes you can find opportunities where your work complements the work of another institution. An example is in Zambia where two utility companies entered a partnership; one state-owned called ZESCO, the other being CEC (Copperbelt Energy Production). Because the national power company was unable to provide stable and sustainable power to the mines, the entrepreneurs at CEC saw an opportunity to build the infrastructure and partner with ZESCO. They then took this share of the market from the utility. ZESCO didn't mind as they didn't have this capacity anyway. Following this example, Eco-Island could help the utility in Marshall Islands phase out diesel and find a segment of the market where they are not competing with the government but rather complementing it.



*“The biggest challenge is for women’s self-help groups to find an appropriate financial mechanism, enabling them to invest in the Bhungroo technology when the investment amount is considered too small for big national banks, but excessively high for the local women, compared to their monthly revenues.”*

*Trupti Jain, Naireeta Services, Bhungroo, India*

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<sup>2</sup> <http://pfan.net/>

- **Identify one or two anchor clients** or key beneficiaries. These are businesses or individuals with whom you will have an on-going relationship and a steady flow of projects and income. This would contrast with clients or target groups for whom you perform an occasional task. In the case of Eco-Island on the Marshall Islands, a good example of an anchor client for their island renewable energy business would be for example the fishing industry. Telecom would be the largest client, but they are government owned. Supermarkets would also be a good anchor client (and they have parking lots that could solve the land problem as you could put solar on the roof).
- **Use alternative finance models** such as cooperatives. Such democratic (1 person = 1 voice) and collective ownership structures can create opportunities for women to climb the socio-economic ladder in poor rural areas, where traditionally men are dominating the economy.
- **Raise ambition:** Women have capacity and ability, but in many cases tend to be more cautious or less ambitious. Women do not only look at the profit aspect of the business but also at social impacts, while keeping the interest of families in mind. A common mistake made by women's organizations is not asking for the realistically needed financing amount because they fear not receiving any support if asking for a too high amount. The problem then is that you then encounter difficulties in accessing the needed co-funding, which endangers the feasibility of the entire project.



### **Best practice example: alternative finance models**

#### **UCFA, Union of Argan Oil Women Cooperatives, Agadir, South Morocco**

The UCFA is the first and biggest Union of Argan Oil Women Cooperatives which aims to guarantee a top-quality product and a fair income to the 1,200 Berber women in 22 cooperatives in South West Morocco that help to produce it. The cooperatives provide an independent income for women as they control the entire value chain, from the collection and transformation of the nut up to the sale of the high value finished cosmetic or food product. In this way, women have a recognized place in the economy and can then participate in other decisions like argan forest protection, or the introduction of climate-friendly technologies. In Morocco, they started with the women's own savings but then formed them into cooperatives and have now been able to create business models and build the business up to a certain level. The women also formed a consortium, with the intention of looking for international markets for their products. Even with the 8% interest rate, women still felt confident to take the loan, as they were sure they would get a harvest. All the work was done by local workers, but they got international labs to verify that their product met international standards.



*“It’s important that women be present in the field of energy. They can make sure knowledge is passed on to their children.”*

Jamila Idbourrous, FMVIRSA, Morocco

## **2.2. Examples of climate finance sources**

Climate finance is not gender neutral. Women are often disproportionately affected by climate change due to persisting gender-specific norms and gender-based discrimination, which also limit their access to finance, information, property rights etc. Women are also disproportionately represented in the informal sector, do more reproductive and unpaid care work and suffer under income gaps. There is a need for more private sector investments in micro- and small project and not just medium and large-scale, in order to access and support the women who are usually found in these sectors. Gender-just climate finance looks at projects which consider long-term gender impacts and promote equal opportunities for men and women to provide input and participate throughout the project cycle. It also looks at equitable access to the benefits of the project and plans project outcomes and outputs that respond to differential gender needs.

### *Difficult to get a full picture of climate finance flows*

It can be tricky to get an overview of how much climate finance is pledged, approved and available globally as not all sources provide public data and there is a lack of a central database tracking the status in real time. Most transparency is available from Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and multilateral climate funds such as UNFCCC funds. However, this is a small sub-segment of all money flowing around. As private climate finance and domestic flows are not transparent, nor recorded, there is no comprehensive understanding of what size of funding is available. Developed countries have jointly pledged to mobilize 100 billion per year until 2020 (variety of public, bilateral, multilateral and alternative sources) as part of their climate debt. It is officially a “debt”, as it is the consequence of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions accumulated mainly by developed countries. The challenge is that voluntary contributions are unpredictable and make it hard to plan projects.

Climate finance can be accessed from several funding sources, including:

- Private finance and foundations
- Multilateral institutions (such as World Bank, Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, etc.)
- Bilateral institutions- largely as part of Official Development Assistance (ODA)
- Regional and national funds

### **2.2.1. Funds available to member states**

Below you will find examples of funds available to member states, in order to get an understanding of the high-level climate finance landscape. In section 2.3. you will find guidance on how to identify funds which may be available directly to your organisation. While the examples below are available to member states, at times CSOs are invited to participate in the programs for example as part of consultations or trainings. CSOs would benefit from actively following these funds and programs and identifying opportunities for engagement.

**French Development Agency (AFD) Adapt' Action:** AFD has launched Adapt'Action, a EUR 30 million facility which supports some of the most vulnerable countries along low-carbon and climate-resilient development pathways. Through technical assistance and capacity building activities, the Facility will act as a driving force in speeding up investments that have co-benefits for adaptation to climate change in the most vulnerable geographical areas (Africa, least developed countries and Small Island Developing States). Countries which receive support are for example Niger, Tunisia, Mauritius, Madagascar, the Comoros, and the Dominican Republic. The type of support is centred around activities such as preparation of structural adaptation programs, better integration of NDC commitments into sectoral public policies, and capacity building for the implementation of the NDCs.

**The Nama Facility:** The NAMA Facility supports developing countries and emerging economies that show an ambition to play a leading role in the field of climate protection. The Facility make the necessary funding available for these countries to begin implementing their NAMAs (Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions). Through NAMA Support Projects, qualified delivery organisations (with strong government endorsement) can apply for funding opportunities in the range of 10-20 million Euros. The NAMA Facility was jointly established by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) of the United Kingdom (UK).

**GIZ Climate Finance Readiness Program:** The Climate Finance Readiness Program (CF Ready) is a program supporting developing countries in accessing international funds - especially the Green Climate Fund (GCF)- as well as identifying the best use for financial resources in twelve selected countries - Morocco, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam, Cambodia, Tajikistan and in the Caribbean region. Based on countries' needs, the CF Ready Program helps supporting national and regional climate finance institutions, providing strategic and conceptual advice (NAMAs, NDCs, NAPs), and supporting project and pipeline development. The program has been commissioned by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development and is co-financed by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Czech Ministry of Environment. It is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the German Development Bank (KfW). Please note the program ends in 2019 and it needs to be verified if a renewal is planned.

### **2.2.2. UNFCCC Financial Mechanism**

The main existing climate funds have been created within the context of the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) to support developing countries and economies in transition implement their mitigation and adaptation climate policies. The multilateral climate funds are allocating grants for specific programs meeting their climate objectives and showing compliance to their standards. Every Fund has its own focal point, such as the National Designated Authority (NDA) or National Implementing Entity (NIE) that is the liaison between the country and the Fund. As a civil society organisation, you can apply to the main multilateral climate funds through the Fund's focal point in your country, or via a call for direct contributions/projects published on a rolling basis by the Fund.

Civil society organisations (CSOs) that aim to receive financial support from large climate funds are encouraged to contact the national focal points for the fund directly to learn more about financing opportunities and existing funded programs. To find out who the national focal points are for your country, please refer to the websites of the funds or the links in the resource box below. Be advised that applying to larger climate funds is a difficult process for small CSO's and organisations. It is often helpful to apply under the umbrella of larger organisations to access these types of climate funds. Networking and strengthening partnerships are an important and sometimes overlooked aspect of accessing climate finance.

## Adaptation Fund (AF)

The Adaptation Fund finances projects and programmes that help vulnerable communities in developing countries adapt to climate change. Initiatives are based on country needs, views and priorities. To apply for project and programme funding, countries must submit proposals through an accredited institution (National Implementing Entities, Regional Implementing Entities or Multilateral Implementing Entities). The Adaptation Fund pioneered a direct access modality in which accredited National Implementing Entities (NIEs) can directly access financing, which provides developing countries with the opportunity to strengthen local capacity and build on local expertise. NIEs are supported through the Fund's Readiness Programme.

Climate Objective	Adaptation	
Sector	Agriculture, Ecosystem adaptation, Energy efficiency, Forestry and Land-Use, Industry and Infrastructure, Renewable Energy, Rural, Transportation, Urban, Waste management, Oceans and Coastal Resources, Disaster risk reduction, Gender, Water	
Recipient	Public entity at the national level, Public entity at the sub-national level, Public entity at the regional level, Private sector, Non-profit or civil society organization, Community-level organization, International organization, Other	
Grant	Up to US \$250,000 (small grants projects through Program on Adaptation Innovation)	Co-financing not required
For more information	<a href="http://www.adaptation-fund.org/">www.adaptation-fund.org/</a> <a href="http://www.adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/implementing-entities/">www.adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/implementing-entities/</a> <a href="http://www.adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/innovation-grants/">www.adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/innovation-grants/</a>	

## Green Climate Fund (GCF)

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) promotes the paradigm shift towards low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways by providing support to developing countries to limit or reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Within the GCF, funding is also available for project preparation activities and climate finance “readiness”. Project funding is channelled through Accredited Entities (AEs) and intermediaries. AEs are either Direct Access Entities – sub-national, national or regional organizations – or International Access Entities including United Nations agencies, multilateral development banks, international financial institutions and regional institutions. Direct Access Entities are nominated by their National Designated Authorities (NDAs) who ensure that projects and programmes benefit the country and are consistent with national plans and strategies. AEs need not act as the direct implementer of funding proposals. Executing Entities (EEs), which are responsible for project implementation, might do this on behalf of AEs. EE responsibilities are defined in the Funding Proposal, and they are accountable to their respective AE. **EEs can be anything from international multilateral institutions to small NGOs – depending on the set-up of the project and planned activities.** Only Accredited Entities can receive GCF funding. If your organization is not an AE but wants to engage with GCF, you may – instead of seeking accreditation – partner with an AE on implementing a GCF project. See a link to the list of AEs below.

- The Simplified Approval Process Pilot Scheme (SAP) is a new application process for smaller-scale projects or programmes. See templates for application below.
- National Designated Authorities (NDA) in each country propose projects based upon their national planning documents (NAPA, NAPs, NAMAs, NDC implementation; national development or energy planning)
- GCF is working on developing smaller funds to support micro-to-small size project and micro-, small- and medium sized enterprises

Climate Objective	Adaptation, Mitigation, Cross-cutting	
Sector	Agriculture, Ecosystem adaptation, Energy efficiency, Forestry and Land-Use, Industry and Infrastructure, Renewable Energy, Rural, Transportation, Urban, Waste management, Oceans and Coastal Resources, Disaster risk reduction, Health, Gender, Jobs and Livelihoods, Poverty, Water	
Recipient	Public entity at the national level, Public entity at the sub-national level, Public entity at the regional level, Private sector, Non-profit or civil society organization, Community-level organization, International organization, Other	
Grant	Simplified Approval Process: up to 10 million USD	Co-financing required for GCF funding. For projects/programmes that may not leverage a significant level of up-front co-financing, the

		accredited entity may instead demonstrate a significant level of indirect or long-term investment mobilized as a result of the proposed activities
For more information	<a href="http://www.greenclimate.fund/countries">www.greenclimate.fund/countries</a> <a href="http://www.greenclimate.fund/how-we-work/tools/entity-directory">www.greenclimate.fund/how-we-work/tools/entity-directory</a> <a href="http://www.greenclimate.fund/how-we-work/sap/templates">www.greenclimate.fund/how-we-work/sap/templates</a> <a href="mailto:info@gcfund.org">info@gcfund.org</a> <a href="mailto:accreditation@gcfund.org">accreditation@gcfund.org</a>	

Global Environment Facility (GEF)		
<p>GEF funds are available to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement, among the broad diversity of potential partners, projects and programs in recipient countries that contribute to the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC). Its small-grant program supports community-based innovation, capacity development, and empowerment of local communities and civil society organizations in climate mitigation and adaptation.</p>		
Climate Objective	Adaptation, Mitigation, Cross-cutting	
Sector	Agriculture, Ecosystem adaptation, Education, Energy efficiency, Forestry and Land-Use, Industry and Infrastructure, Renewable Energy, Rural, Transportation, Urban, Waste management, Oceans and Coastal Resources, Disaster risk reduction, Health, Gender, Jobs and Livelihoods, Poverty, Water	
Recipient	Government Agencies, Civil Society Organizations, Private Sector companies, Research Institutions	
Grant	Up to \$50,000 directly (for small grant program)	Co-financing required
For more information	<a href="http://www.thegef.org/gef/">www.thegef.org/gef/</a> <a href="http://www.thegef.org/focal_points_list">www.thegef.org/focal_points_list</a> <a href="http://www.sgp.undp.org/">www.sgp.undp.org/</a>	

### 2.2.3. Private finance - support provided by PFAN

Sometimes organisations need capacity building and readiness support to access climate finance. For example, the project may be viable, and investors are ready, but an in-depth feasibility study is needed to de-risk investment or funding. The Private Financing Advisory Network (PFAN) can provide so-called tipping-point support to access funding. PFAN is a network of independent consultants, coaches, investors, and other stakeholders interested in clean energy projects and financing. The organisation has raised 1.46 billion USD for 113 projects so far. The PFAN project portfolio consists of climate mitigation and adaptation projects. The focus is heavier on mitigation, as funds come from the private finance sector, which has greater demands on return on investment. Private finance, due to its multiplier effect, can make a huge difference in meeting the countries goals. There is not enough public finance to cover all the needs at the global level.

PFAN brings in international coaches to match projects with financing actors. This service is free for all: NGO's, private sector etc. There is a competitive selection process; PFAN looks at projects that have strong business cases and are bankable but have not yet been financed. There is officially no project size definition, but PFAN projects are usually of the size of 5-15 million USD. The private sector favours larger projects, as they offer more possibilities for return on investment. PFAN must make climate action meaningful for the private sector and investors.

PFAN gender mainstreaming is happening on three levels:

- In the PFAN pipeline: as projects mature and PFAN provides coaching services, project leaders can meet face-to-face with investors. Previous experience in Asia has shown that women entrepreneurs have felt more comfortable with women coaches which helps break barriers;
- Through the PFAN network: gender experts can enter the network as partners;
- PFAN calls for proposals for gender projects: for example, the ECOWAS project on mainstreaming gender for a climate resilient energy system in West Africa<sup>3</sup> together with CTCN and ECREEE.

#### Learn more

- The Social Business Model Canvas is a tool for creating a solid business model around your social enterprise. It's also a collaborative tool that helps you communicate different business models with your stakeholders: [www.socialbusinessmodelcanvas.com](http://www.socialbusinessmodelcanvas.com)
- Contact information to country focal points of climate funds and technical assistance providers:
  - CTCN National Designated Entities (NDE): [www.ctc-n.org/about-ctcn/national-designated-entities/national-designated-entities-by-country](http://www.ctc-n.org/about-ctcn/national-designated-entities/national-designated-entities-by-country)
  - GCF National Designated Authorities (NDA): [www.greenclimate.fund/en/how-we-work/tools/country-directory](http://www.greenclimate.fund/en/how-we-work/tools/country-directory)
  - GEF focal points: [www.thegef.org/focal\\_points\\_list](http://www.thegef.org/focal_points_list)
  - AF Designated Authorities: [www.adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/designated-authorities/](http://www.adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/designated-authorities/)
- PFAN provides free business coaching and investor matchmaking to promising climate & clean energy

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ctc-n.org/technical-assistance/projects/mainstreaming-gender-climate-resilient-energy-system-west-africa>

entrepreneurs in low- and middle-income countries: [www.pfan.net](http://www.pfan.net)

- Presentation by Liane Schalatek, Heinrich-Böll Stiftung: "why climate finance actions need gender justice to succeed", COP23 Bonn 2017: [www.ctc-n.org/sites/www.ctc-n.org/files/liane\\_schalatek-why\\_climate\\_finance\\_actions\\_needs\\_gender\\_justice.pdf](http://www.ctc-n.org/sites/www.ctc-n.org/files/liane_schalatek-why_climate_finance_actions_needs_gender_justice.pdf)
- Heinrich-Böll Stiftung videos on climate finance:
  - "What is Climate Finance" [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y9vM4e9XaM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y9vM4e9XaM) (available in English narration with sub-titles in English, French, Spanish)
  - Gender Responsive Climate Finance": [www.youtube.com/watch?v=YKmvdiXIDFI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YKmvdiXIDFI) (available in English narration with Sub-titles in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Bangla and Portuguese)
  - "Green Climate Fund (GCF)": [www.youtube.com/watch?v=hiQ-Gs8NW3s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hiQ-Gs8NW3s) (available in English narration with sub-titles English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Bangla and Portuguese)

## 2.3. Databases for identification of climate funds

### 2.3.1. NDC Partnership Knowledge Portal - Climate Finance Explorer

The Climate Finance Explorer is a database of international public climate financing options to help increase transparency and access. It brings together information on sources of financial support and presents them in a standardized and user-friendly way to help country practitioners and other stakeholders identify, understand, and access relevant funding opportunities. The Climate Finance Explorer aggregates in one place information on the main international sources of public climate finance including finance from the international climate funds, Multilateral Development Banks, bilateral government donors, which are expected to play a key role in NDC implementation along with domestic resource mobilization, particularly in developing countries.

#### How does it work?

Through application of filters for the region or type of institution you are seeking support, you can find potential sources of climate funding and other support suitable to help finance your climate project or program. Detailed information is available including eligibility criteria, and a description of the process of accessing the support. Up to three different sources can be compared at a time to understand how they differ from one another.

#### What funds are included in the Climate Finance Explorer?

The funds included in the Climate Finance Explorer provide financial or in-kind support for one or more of the following: (1) scoping and project preparation, (2) creating enabling environments and building institutional capacity, (3) project or program implementation, and/or (4) complying with UNFCCC requirements. This includes several types of financial instruments, including grants, concessional loans, guarantees, market-rate loans, equity, and insurance. Funds included should be understood as complementing a broader set of development funds and financing opportunities. Each entry in the database represents a single fund or facility of a fund with its own unique eligibility or access requirements and procedures.

### 2.3.2. Climate Funds Update

Climate Funds Update is an independent website that provides information and data on the growing number of multilateral climate finance initiatives designed to help developing countries address the challenges of climate change. It presents relevant data and infographics, drawing from official fund documentation in order to give users the opportunity to explore the key aspects of climate finance that are pledged and approved through these funds. The website is maintained by the Heinrich Boell Foundation (HBS) and Overseas Development Institute (ODI).

#### *How does it work?*

Climate Funds Update provides extensive analysed information about the existing Climate Finance mechanisms through a list of multilateral climate funds, as well as data dashboard. The list of multilateral climate funds tracked by Climate Funds Update gives access to an individual fund page that offers an overview of key details on each of the fund, including: a general fund description, fund governance and relationship with official development assistance (ODA). The data dashboard presents cumulative data on the pledges, deposits and the project approvals made by multilateral climate change funds tracked by Climate Funds Update. The user can filter for themes of climate finance, to get the information that is searched for.

#### Learn more

- Climate Finance Explorer: [www.ndcpartnership.org/climate-finance-explorer](http://www.ndcpartnership.org/climate-finance-explorer)
- Climate Funds Update: [www.climatefundsupdate.org](http://www.climatefundsupdate.org)
- CTCN/Practical Action webinar on financing energy access: [www.ctc-n.org/calendar/webinars/ctcnpractical-action-webinar-energy-access-financing](http://www.ctc-n.org/calendar/webinars/ctcnpractical-action-webinar-energy-access-financing)
- WEDO webinar- Intro to Climate Finance: [www.wedo.org/webinar-intro-climate-finance/](http://www.wedo.org/webinar-intro-climate-finance/)

## 3. Overcoming technology barriers

The development of sustainable and gender-inclusive climate strategies must take special care of the needs and context in different national and local scenarios. To increase the impact of those strategies, we need to raise ambition. A paradigm shift and systematic change in consumption and production patterns is needed for an inclusive low-carbon and climate resilient development. In this sense, technology plays a major role for transformative change.

Technology is a concept that does not only refer to physical equipment but also to techniques, knowledge and skills that have been developed through time. It must be adapted to the specific needs of target beneficiaries who must have their part in the decision-making process of the implemented technologies. Implementing climate technology projects is a desire of all countries, but it is often also a challenge. Some challenges arise regarding access to technical support. Among the most common ones is the lack of funds for training and skills that enable project leaders and participants to acquire more knowledge on gender sensitive technologies. Furthermore, equal access to knowledge and information on best practise examples and successful cases in different sectors might be limited.

The prioritization of locally available technologies and endogenous knowledge is often an important option as they are easily accessible and adapted to specific climate conditions. However, there is sometimes a need for new ideas, innovations and transfer of technologies from outside, which should be adapted to the local context and technical capacities of the receiving beneficiaries. This enables an effective creation of ownership among the technology. Specific training for the target population is a key factor for beneficiaries to master the new technical solutions and their maintenance or monitor project results long-term (such as water quality, energy availability etc.). This is especially true for gender-responsive projects as women have less access to technical training and it is often a challenge to get social acceptance for gender-equal or technical training targeting women.

**Better World Cameroon: Access to technologies and technical skills training in remote rural areas**

In rural Cameroon, most of the rural women are using firewood and charcoal for cooking. This is causing deforestation, CO2 emissions, heavy indoor air pollution, and affecting their health. However, due to lacking resources and patriarchal norms, women have no access to technologies nor technical training to improve this situation. Better World Cameroon (BWC) has developed a simple, low cost, mud-building technology for women to build their own clean cookstoves with local materials. The technology transfer model relies on participatory stove building workshops with women's groups, in rural and forest communities, and training of trainer's programmes. Mud-building is simple technology using local, natural, ecological and affordable materials. It is easy to replicate, adapt and upscale. Additionally, BWC supports the establishment of cooperatives fostering income generation and organises annual meetings for all trainees to share their challenges and successes, improve the performance of the technologies. This has led to the construction of mud-building for food storage, animals or tools, enriching further the technical skills of the trained women.

**Eco-Island, Marshall Islands: Land scarcity and weather impacts on technology choices**

As the organization focuses on supporting women in learning and applying their skills in renewable energy, solar PV and electrical appliances, they are dependent on high-quality functioning technologies and the knowledge of their usage to sustain their initiative. However, they are experiencing challenges in terms of sustaining the technology in the harsh climatic conditions of high temperatures and high humidity with salt content. They receive negative feedback from clients when their solutions fail, affecting the long-term sustainability of the business. Other technical challenges limiting their capacity to expand is the issue of land scarcity on the island and finding creative technical solutions for the instalment of renewable energy solutions. They have considered various solutions, but off-grid wind power is for example not possible as the wind is limited, and they need technical assistance to evaluate their options. The organization is seeking support in accessing knowledge on technologies available on the global market, such as through training videos. A challenge has been to identify such material in local languages.

**Naireeta Services, Bhungroo, India: Providing tailored technical training for female farmers**

Naireeta Services, inventors of the Bhungroo rainwater storage system, have been successful in transferring technical skills to women in the water sector. The implementation of Bunghroo required to train local community members for good appropriation of the technology and because qualified maintenance personnel is too far away from the villages, so local technical experts were needed for the consistent operation of the water collecting system. Naireeta Services have adjusted their training support materials,

after having noticed that the information was too theoretical and not well conveyed. They adapted the designs, the level of information, translated all documents in local language to make them accessible. They had to overcome quality issues with the water pumps, as local suppliers are not all reliable. After several attempts with external experts, the local mechanics, working patiently with the women end users enabled Naireeta Services to identify an innovative way of finding broken water pumps: through sound! By listening and comparing the sounds of different pumps, the women could easily and intuitively learn how to monitor the proper functioning of a pump. Naireeta Services is now expanding this adapted line of technical trainings through 3D-animations with voice-over in local language, and mobile apps with listening functions.

### Key lessons

- **Review your technical needs:** Depending on the scale of the project, a proper technical feasibility study might be useful. Assess the details of how you intend to deliver a product or service, such as material needs, labour, transportation, location etc. It is a useful tool for long-term planning and should support the financial information of your organization. In the example above, a detailed technical study looking at the feasibility for renewables on Marshall Islands could focus on questions such as land availability and best land-use options for installation of renewables, cost-benefit analysis of best technology solution, calculation of greenhouse gas reduction potential, options for facilitating a socially and financially enabling environment for uptake of the technology, mapping of stakeholders and suppliers, and technology risk analysis should unforeseen events occur related to climate change, shifting political landscapes or other reasons.
- **Seek expert support for capacity building and technology transfer:** By connecting with organizations who provide support for technical assistance you can build your knowledge and capacity for technology transfer and uptake. One example is through the CTCN's Technical Assistance or Fast Technical Assistance programme. Requests for support must be submitted via your country's National Designated Entity (NDE). Read more in chapter 3.2.
- **Look at best practice examples:** There is a wealth of knowledge out there and having a look through one of the many knowledge portals providing case studies and best practice examples, such as through the knowledge portals listed in chapter 3.2, might provide insights and inspiration into similar projects, technical challenges and how to overcome them.
- **Expand your network** and connect with other organizations around the world doing similar work. Build relations and explore innovative ways of mutual support. Especially in terms of over-coming technology barriers it could be beneficial to collaborate with for example schools and universities. Your organisation would bring presence on the ground (through your activities and local partners), and the academic partners contribution would be in terms of technical research and know-how to support your operations and needs while gaining access to the field.

- **Identify tools** which may support your project management and communication challenges. Many NGOs have been at the forefront of using ICT and other communicative technologies, such as local radio broadcasting of weather information and SMS alerts.

### **3.1. National climate processes**

Climate technologies can relate to many different practises, starting from traditional knowledge to high-tech industrial processes. Various national technology and climate change plans and processes that are useful to know about are:

- **Technology Needs Assessments (TNA)**

The TNA supports national sustainable development by building national capacity and facilitating the implementation of prioritized climate technologies. It helps to understand the technology needs that must be determined in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change. This support is provided by a national team which does a stakeholder consultation to determine priorities, barriers and implementation strategies.

- **National Adaptation Plans (NAP)**

The NAP aims to reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by building adaptive capacity and resilience and facilitating the integration of climate change adaptation into relevant new and existing policies, programmes and activities, in particular development planning processes and strategies, within all relevant sectors and at different levels.

- **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)**

Agreed under the Paris Agreement in 2015, the NDCs refer to the efforts needed by each country to reduce national greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. These climate actions determine whether the world achieves the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement in which a global peak of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is envisioned soon, after which rapid reductions are needed to stay within the 1.5- or 2-degree goal. Of the 190 countries that submitted an NDC, more than 75 per cent mentioned technology, and more than 100 developing countries expressed the need for international support for technology development and transfer to implement their national plans.

### **3.2. Access to technology support**

#### **3.2.1. Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN)**

The Centre is part of the Technology Mechanism under UNFCCC created in 2014. CTCN offers technical assistance, capacity building and knowledge exchange free of charge. Any type of organisation such as NGOs,

research institutions, private sector, national government and civil society can request technical assistance via their country's national focal point called National Designated Entities. The organization provides support on a broad range of sectors such as transport systems, waste, energy, and agriculture.

In order to facilitate the preparation and implementation of technology projects and strategies, the CTCN supports action on mitigation and adaptation which seeks to enhance low-emission and climate-resilient development taking into account gender considerations. For this, the CTCN helps to overcome technical barriers and identify the most relevant technology experts from its global network of more than 500 private sector companies, research institutions and organisations.

#### *How does the CTCN provide its support?*

The CTCN provides technical expertise and recommendations related to specific technology needs, identification of technologies, technology barriers and efficiency, as well as piloting and deployment of technologies. The application process for technical assistance is done by downloading and completing a four-page application from the website and send it to the National Designated Entity<sup>4</sup> of your country. Once the Centre receives the request, a response plan is developed and experts from its Network can bid on delivering the most suitable support. A recently developed form of assistance is the Fast Technical Assistance which aims to provide targeted, small-scale and quick support.

Furthermore, the CTCN can provide readiness support for development of project proposals to access climate finance and identify strategies for increased ambition and impact. It is important to highlight that the CTCN does not provide funding directly to countries. Funding is provided via implementing partners who deliver on the technology transfer and capacity building requested from your organisation or country.

### **3.2.2. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Partnership**

Every country presents different environmental challenges which must be addressed following an approach that is adapted to its conditions. For this, the NDC Partnership, known as a coalition of countries and institutions engaged to enhance sustainable development, works directly with national governments, international institutions, civil society, researchers and the private sector to support climate and development action.

#### *How does the NDC Partnership provide its support?*

The NDC Partnership provides a Knowledge Portal which is a free-to-use online platform that helps countries and organisations accelerate climate action by providing quick and easy access to data, tools, guidance, case studies, and funding opportunities. Users are enabled to find information according to common needs, including sectors, themes, countries, languages, and stages of NDC implementation. Within this platform, it is possible to get to know examples of good practices which can illustrate and inspire starting projects. There are resources available in English, Spanish and French that are easily searchable. The Knowledge Portal includes three main entry points:

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<sup>4</sup> Find the National Designated Entity (NDE) of your country: <https://www.ctc-n.org/about-ctcn/national-designated-entities/national-designated-entities-by-country>

- **The Good Practice Database provides** examples of successful climate action and lessons learned where countries have overcome obstacles, to enable countries to learn from one another
- **The Climate Toolbox** draws together tools, guidance, platforms, and technical support from leading institutions in a searchable database to help countries plan and implement their NDCs.
- **The Climate Finance Explorer** helps you identify potential sources of climate finance and learn how to access them. Read more on p.16.

The NDC Partnership also provides technical assistance. The NDC Partnership's Climate Action Enhancement Package is an offering designed to deliver targeted, fast-track support to countries to enhance the quality, increase the ambition, and implement nationally determined contributions.

### 3.2.3 IUCN Global Gender Office (GGO)

GGO is an organization committed to expanding the knowledge base on gender and environment by creating tools and methodologies which lead to advances in gender-responsive sustainable development and conservation goals. They lead training and provide technical support for capacity building, strategy development and implementation.

#### How does the GGO provide its support?

**G-REEN Platform:** This platform includes a discussion forum on various themes pertinent to gender and renewable energy, a list of relevant events, an interactive map showcasing projects globally, and a resource library that includes webinar recordings and hundreds of publications in regard to on various technologies utilized around the world.

**The Knowledge Centre:** It is a resource library with a wide range of the most up-to-date information on experiences, methodologies, best practices, training, and more concerning gender and the environment.

### 3.2.4. Low Emission Development Strategies Global Partnership (LEDS GP)

The LEDS Partnership, founded in 2011, brings together representatives from governments, civil society and the private sector working to advance on low-emission development strategies across different continents. It aims to promote low-carbon, climate-resilient development for poverty alleviation by supporting initiatives in the fields of agriculture, land use, forestry, energy and transportation. With this, the LEDS GP aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve social, economic and environmental development goals.

#### How does the LEDS GP provide its support?

The LEDS GP facilitate peer learning, technical cooperation and information exchange to support the formation and implementation of low-emission development strategies. It has a focus on support to developing countries

and regions. It operates through regional platforms in Africa, Asia, Europe and Eurasia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Thanks to its wide geographical reach it is possible for all members to share experiences, knowledge, lessons learned and best practices.

The membership is free to organizations, individuals and governments working to promote LEDS at local, national, regional and global levels. Included in this membership is access to remote expert support, training, workshops, remote forums, technical reports and events.

### **3.2.5 Climate & Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)**

The CCAC Expert Assistance is a no-cost service that connects an extensive network of professionals for consultation and advice on a range of short-lived climate pollution issues and policies, including black carbon and methane emissions from sources such as waste management, agriculture and transport. The service supports requests from policy makers and civil servants working to reduce black carbon, methane and HFCs in specific sectors or as part of overall mitigation planning and implementation.

#### **Learn more**

- CTCN technical assistance: [www.ctc-n.org/technical-assistance](http://www.ctc-n.org/technical-assistance)
- NDC Partnership knowledge portal: [www.ndcpartnership.org/knowledge-Portal](http://www.ndcpartnership.org/knowledge-Portal)
- NDC Partnership Climate Action Enhancement Package: [www.ndcpartnership.org/caep](http://www.ndcpartnership.org/caep)
- IUCN G-REEN Platform: [www.genderandenvironment.org/energy-resources/](http://www.genderandenvironment.org/energy-resources/)
- LEDS GP: [www.ledsgp.org](http://www.ledsgp.org)
- Climate & Clean Air Coalition: [www.ccacoalition.org/en/solutioncenter/expert-assistance](http://www.ccacoalition.org/en/solutioncenter/expert-assistance)

## 4. Societal and cultural norms

Gender-just climate solutions tackle gender roles and social norms within communities or territories. Overcoming gender barriers can be challenging as it requires changing cultural habits, public opinion or even adapt legal frameworks. Often it involves power redistribution so that access to information, finance and resources are distributed more equally. In certain regions women do not engage in climate initiatives, such as participating in community farmer meetings on resilient crops or sustainable agriculture, due to patriarchal norms dictating which spaces they can enter or positions they should occupy. Involving women in decision-making processes from which they have been previously excluded requires patience. Implementing a truly gender-transformative approach in projects can require more time, energy and creativity than originally anticipated. Previous winners of the Gender-Just Climate Solutions Award have demonstrated innovative ways of overcoming gender barriers related to societal and cultural norms in their communities through methods such as gender analysis, involving men as gender champions, awareness raising on the contributions of both men and women to the community, gender sensitization exercises, public speaking training for women and so on. Seeking funds that specifically target gender-responsive programmes can help overcome challenges by allowing for long-term planning and security for your organisation.

The two examples from award winners below highlight common societal and cultural barriers to women's access to decision-making as well as male-dominated jobs.

### **CFLEDD, Democratic Republic of Congo: challenging customary laws on land property rights for women**

According to a study conducted by the organisation CFLEDD in 2016, 70% of women in the DRC do not have access to land and forest titles. CFLEDD has obtained the recognition of women's land and forest rights in the provinces of Equateur and Maitland of the DRC, with the aim to strengthen their effective participation in reducing deforestation. The first step consisted in overcoming inherited rivalries among women of different ethnicities, often deriving from gender discriminations, and uniting women to work together for their rights. An advocacy tool was then developed and used in dialogues between local and indigenous women, customary chiefs and provincial authorities. Recommendations resulting from these dialogues have led to the adoption of 2 provincial edicts that guarantee land and forest rights for women. All power levels, customary chiefs, administration, legislature, executive, and judiciary, have committed to protecting the rights of women. This transforms the country's patriarchal framework, while strengthening the decision-making power of women in DRC's forest management policies for climate action.

### **Eco-Island, Marshall Islands: women in male-dominated workplaces**

Eco-Island trains women to install solar PV's in Marshall Islands. As the energy sector is generally a male-dominated field, clients have been hesitant when women show up to do the installations. Seeing the ship arrive with three women with technical equipment ready to take on installation work normally takes a couple of days for clients to accept, but over time they have experienced a gradual change towards increased acceptance. In the beginning, a male colleague had to join to provide a sense of legitimacy for the clients and

help normalize the arrangement. Another societal challenge Eco-Island is experiencing is the challenge for women to balance work and private life. Out of the girls that have been trained several have had to drop out when becoming pregnant, demonstrating the need to adapt work arrangements to accommodate for women's specific needs, such as flexible work schedules and incentives for returning to work, as well as the importance of overcoming social norms influencing marriage and women's role outside the household.



Where you want to be:  
equal access to land  
and an end to illegal logging

Why it's not happening?  
Cultural, legal, norm → barriers!

Why important?  
Women are stewards of land  
and women's access to land is  
important for food security  
→ women put food on the table!

protecting forest protects biodiversity  
→ stops salination  
Health

## Key lessons

- **Gender equality is not only about women:** Involvement of both men and women in gradual gender-sensitization processes will prove more effective in ensuring that project benefits reach women and men equally. Several of the award winners in the workshop worked on awareness-raising campaigns for example through women and youth but also including men as gender champions.
- **Initial meetings with both men and women:** Similarly, when attempting dialogues with the purpose of highlighting societal and cultural norms, a successful approach towards increased participation has been to initially divide men and women into two groups and applying various exercises such as the daily schedule, role-playing and resource mapping as described in chapter 4.1, and then bringing the two groups together for broader discussions and lessons learned.
- **Stakeholder analysis:** A stakeholder analysis is a useful tool for finding which international and national gender organizations and other stakeholders you can link up to in solidarity and reach out to in order to access relevant gender tools useful for advocacy and communication work.
- **Develop a training of trainer's program:** Build a network of spokespersons and ambassadors from a wide range of communities to advocate for and over-come societal and cultural norms that hinder women and men's equal participation in climate action. The combined training can focus on giving back to the community through continued advocacy work and a structure where free training is provided given they in turn provide training for others.
- **Recognize women's strengths:** Women are often good at maintaining working relationships with city leaders and other groups which is a strong argument in favour of encouraging women to attend for example farmers' groups. Women also possess important traditional knowledge and experience which contribute to climate action in the community if up scaled. In Morocco, where men often continue conversations in cafés where women can't participate and thus miss out on important information, the award winner who participated in the WECF and CTCN workshop has supported women through cooperative and by training women on gaining the courage to speak out and be listened to.

“Women, and men, do not have legal rights to land. Even if women have access, they don't have legal ownership because of our patriarchal system. We need to address the legal system that is rooted in colonial thinking and is little respected”

*Dorothee Lisenga, C.F.L.E.D.D*



- **Work on building confidence:** Building the confidence and skills of women to speak confidently by providing training and access to information and knowledge is key to increasing women's participation in decision-making.
- **Recognize co-benefits of women-led enterprises:** In Morocco the women need permission from their men to work in the argan oil producing cooperatives. It wasn't uncommon for their cooperative members to be beaten and have the little money they earned taken away. After the women started self-help groups, they would put their money together in little savings. The government also helped them with microcredit loans. As the women started their simple businesses which then grew to make a profit, they put all the profits back in the business. With the women bringing in money to the household, while educating children and performing other tasks, they report that the relationship to the men has improved and domestic violence decreased.
- **Inclusion through participatory approaches and tools:** Adopting a truly participatory approach with dedicated tools has proven a key success factor in most of the presented projects. The participatory approach enables a stronger appropriation by the beneficiaries, thus ensuring the sustainability of the project, and allows for the use of local, ancestral knowledge that adds effectiveness and value to undertaken actions or sometimes broadens the scope of the action. The participatory approach also favours a more gender-responsive action. A good start would be to conduct a stakeholder analysis to understand all the actors involved.

#### 4.1. Gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment

Using gender analyses and promoting women's empowerment has proven to be success factors for overcoming norms in the Gender-Just Climate Solutions Award winner's projects. Women are keen to be trained and adopt new techniques if they can foresee a value for improving their livelihood and the well-being of the community. They become major drivers of change and multipliers within the territory, or even on a broader scale, thus highly contributing to and driving local climate action or regional and national climate policies. Women groups need to be supported and promoted through targeted trainings in climate technologies and practises, actions to increase women's income and access to finance, and trainings to participate in decision-making and improve public speaking skills.

Besides supporting women's empowerment through improving the self-esteem, confidence, skills and access to information, gender norms can also be overcome by educating and sensitizing the broader community of both men and women. The tool 'Gender in Sustainable Development- Collection of Exercises for Training of Trainers' linked below provides useful exercises to provide training on gender equality, gender analysis and gender mainstreaming which can be used by your organisation when advocating or raising awareness on gender roles and norms. A selection of some of example tools and exercises are presented below:

**Gender analysis:** An important tool for over-coming societal norms is by making them visible through a gender analysis which provides an opportunity to reflect on the gender issues and provides a starting point for determining how these issues should be addressed. A gender analysis provides an assessment on different levels of society, for example women's, men's, household and community level. It answers questions such as: who does what? who has access to/control over what? how does culture define or influence the access to/control over what?

**Daily schedule:** This exercise will allow practitioners to gain practical knowledge of the division of labour and gender roles in the examined community, through studying the different workloads of women and men. Analysing these “daily schedules” will shed light on who does what kind of work, for how long, and who has more free time. Female and male participants should be assembled in separate groups. Participants are asked to describe a typical day in their current life by writing a detailed schedule, that includes all their daily activities, such as work, household chores, childcare tasks, leisure time, etc. Participants should mention how long these activities usually take them, and whether they are performing several tasks at the same time, i.e. multitasking. When analysing these schedules, facilitators should take the current season into account. If necessary, they can ask participants to write down their typical day schedule during another season.

**Role-playing:** Role-play is an interactive tool where the participants are assigned roles (participants can role-play as their own gender or as a different gender) and are asked to act out a certain situation. Using drama, the participant can act out a real situation in a relaxed atmosphere and relate to their characters while raising awareness on the issues. For example, a female participant can be asked to narrate a common scenario from her daily life at home whereby a male participant can be asked to act this scenario out and vice versa.

**Resource mapping:** This tool will allow practitioners to better understand women’s and men’s access to and control over resources in a local context. The resource map can provide crucial information on the abundance, allocation, management and use of resources existing within the community. Female and male participants are assembled in separate groups. For this exercise, participants are asked to draw a map of their village/neighbourhood, which includes the existing resources in the area. Maps can (and should) include infrastructure facilities, water sites and sources, agricultural lands, forests, grazing areas, shops, markets, health clinics, schools and childcare provisions, churches, as well as any other places identified as relevant. Once their map is completed, participants should describe it and explain why they chose certain institutions, resources etc. The expectation is that women and men will choose to highlight different resources.

*“Women don’t want to start behaving like the ‘big boys. They want to preserve their own ways and values, which means that the enterprises they enter should also benefit all of society, and not just be a pure profit-making venture. We feel like we have to show a socioeconomic benefit for the world.”*

*Fatou Ndoye, Enda Graaf Sahel, Senegal*



## 4.2. Changing mindsets to promote gender equality

How women access information, finance and resources is often governed by public opinion which in turn is shaped by social norms. Empowering women as agents of change and active participants in climate action requires engaging the public and challenging those norms and values by making them visible and showcasing the benefits of more gender-just societies. We need informed and engaged people on our side if we want to change how things are done at our local community centre or to change a law. This often requires patience, as demonstrated by award winner Dorothée Lisenga from Congo DRC, who through her organisation CFLEDD (Coalition des Femmes Leaders pour l'Environnement et le Développement Durable) has organised numerous peaceful dialogues on women's land inheritance rights between customary chiefs, local and indigenous women. The organisation also uses community radios as a tool for relaying information and awareness. According to a 2016 study, 70% of women in the DRC did until recently not have access to land and forest titles. Their advocacy approach through dialogues and communications sensitized the communities on women's rights and benefits thereof and has led to huge successes in women's access to land and forest rights of women in the provinces of Ecuador and Maindombe of the DRC.

Changing public opinion requires providing access to context-specific analyses and knowledge on the issue and the impacts on gender relations. A knowledge resource can for example mean a study on how climate change impacts men and women farmers differently in the community and the benefits of strengthening women's access to land. Such knowledge resources can be an effective tool in raising not only awareness but also funds, as it provides a strong argument in favour of your organisation's climate actions. By generating knowledge, we can highlight those voices that are not always heard. We can provide a basis for dialogues and advocacy to those who have power to decide on the issue, e.g. the government, to change laws or an international body to act in a time of crisis. Advocating is a way to inform duty bearers and/or decision-makers of women's experiences and hold them accountable. The most successful advocacy work is linked to broader movements and a mobilised constituency in which the most affected take the lead and speak for themselves.

### Tools

- Gender impact assessment and monitoring tool:  
<http://www.wecf.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/FINAL-GIM-Tool-Jan-19.pdf>
- Gender in Sustainable Development- Collection of Exercises for Training of Trainers:  
<http://www.wecf.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/GenderTOTinstrumentsupdatedversion.pdf>
- ICT's for Feminist Movement Building- Activist Toolkit:  
[https://www.apc.org/sites/default/files/ICTs%20Toolkit\\_2015\\_0\\_0.pdf](https://www.apc.org/sites/default/files/ICTs%20Toolkit_2015_0_0.pdf)
- Feminist Participatory Action Research:  
<https://apwld.org/new-resource-feminist-participatory-action-research-report/>

## **Best practice examples**

### **Green Living Movement (GLM), Zambia:**

Due to very scarce resources and poor food security, women in rural Zambia often live in a negative spiral of lacking skills, mobilisation and motivation. GLM worked with a wide set of tools to overcome this destructive trend and help women have more control over their destiny, thereby positively contributing to the resilience of their communities. The first step was taken by opening dialogue spaces and creating platforms for sharing knowledge, with a diversified representation within the community, asking women farmers to lead the knowledge sharing. They built on the experience of elders using storytelling and listening campaigns in traditional languages, showcasing "Climate Change Champion Farmers" on local radio, or conducting photo-voice campaigns on community markets (photos were taken by the communities and discussed among them). This changed the current approach to delivering information and improved the level of understanding climate related disasters and adaptation strategies within the target communities, especially among women and youth. With steady increase in revenue from new agricultural production, women headed households are now able to afford school fees for their children, to access medical care and to eat 2 to 3 meals per day. This has transformed the attitudes of villagers and the gender relations within the communities. The project has also won enormous support from the media, local and traditional authorities and government departments (Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary). The "Climate Change Champion Farmers" are rural women (60%), men and youth selected by the community for their outstanding understanding of climate impacts and resilience strategies. They act as ambassadors to educate people in local meetings and motivate others to engage in the preservation of natural resources or sustainable agriculture. GLM has also implemented environmental clubs in schools, promoting women as educators.

### **Gender Development Association: Gender assessment as project start**

GDA used a women's empowerment lens to bridge traditional harvesting practices with sustainable livelihood initiatives in northern rural uplands of Lao PDR, focusing on Hmong and Khmu ethnic groups who have been systematically marginalized. Thanks to an initial gender assessment, GDA could identify key areas and policies for rehabilitating women's ancestral knowledge and improving the food security of these ethnic groups. Using a rights-based gender framework, the association conducted training for women on financial management to promote their financial independence. By building the capacity of the women to become knowledge bearers in the field of Non-Timber Forest Production (NTFP), and income generation, the project increased their inclusion and their role in community decisions.

### **Enda Graaf Sahel, Saloum Delta, Senegal: Public speaking, participatory dialogue and changing toxic masculinities**

The organization Enda Graaf Sahel in Senegal recognized local women's ancestral knowledge in ecosystems, but noticed they were often side-lined by men and were not participating in decision-making. The organisation worked with women to build up their confidence by providing **public speaking classes, resulting** in a positive change in women's ability to speak out at meetings. Enda conducted group exercises to analyse

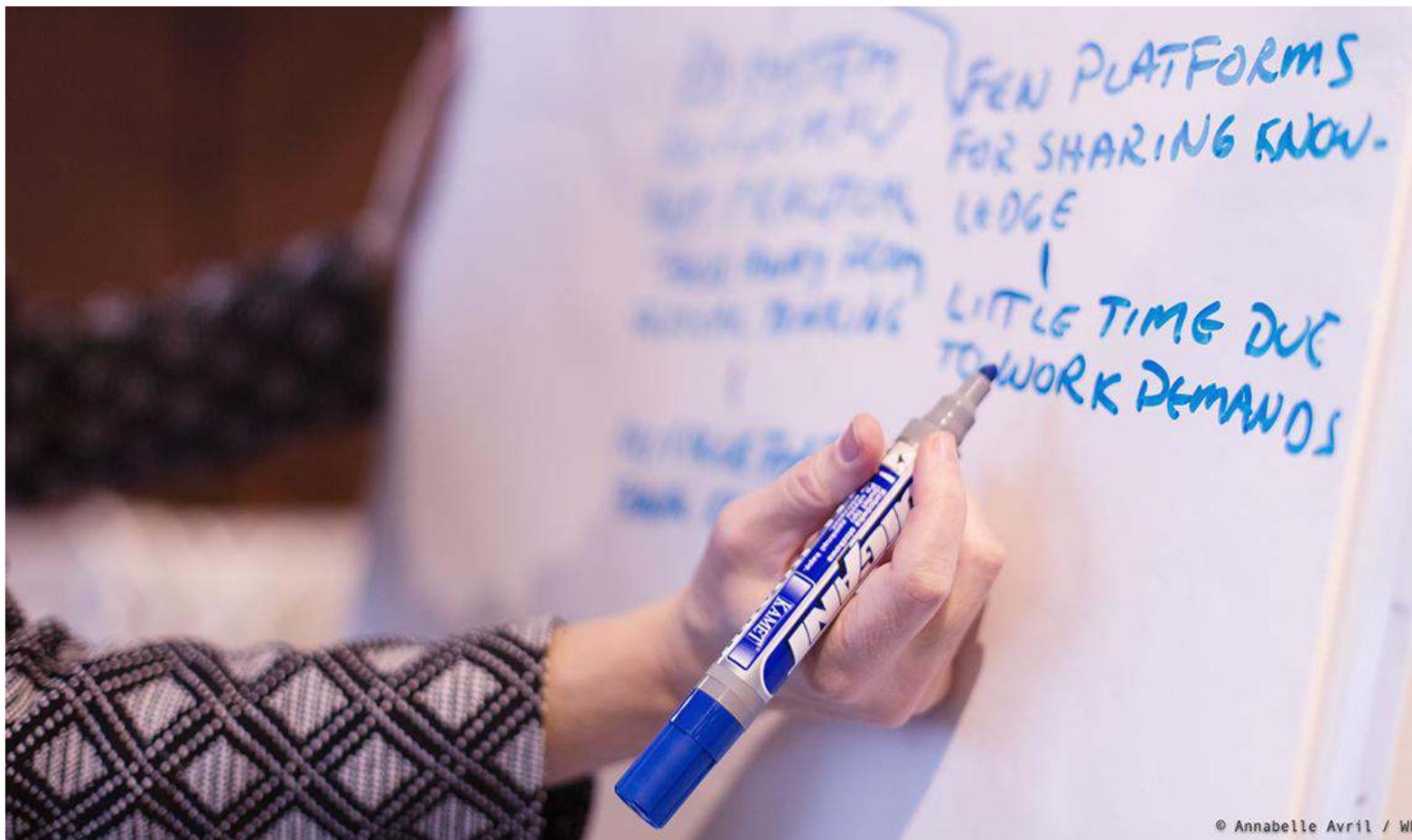
the division of labour between men and women and opened the men's eyes on the burden of unpaid care work assumed by their wives. A significant reduction of domestic violence was reported in the households that had participated in such exercises.

Enda Graaf Sahel also organized **participatory dialogues**, using dedicated tools, such as diagnostics with formalized questionnaires. These dialogues allowed to identify and highlight the important contribution of women to the local economy. It also helped identify specific ancestral knowledge owned by women, that were essential to restore fragile environments. This knowledge was shared with other villages and used to conduct ecosystem restoration in the mangroves. Finally, a citizen-scientist approach enabled women to collaborate with universities and state institutions on a wide rehabilitation programme of the Saloum delta, which gained visibility via local radio stations and local churches. The women fisher implement shellfish reseedling in the Saloum river delta; they created a replicable system to monitor the shellfish biological rhythm and ensure resting periods via restricted areas. They promote the use of efficient stoves to transform sea products. This cuts the burning of fuelwood by 75%. All these actions have turned women into agents of sustainable change.

Enda Graf Sahel has also conducted **research on masculinity** with local young activists, who came up with the initiative, interviewing the population how masculinity was reflected in the time of ancestors and how it is today with young people. This research triggered discussions on gender roles in the communities and highlighted the heavy burden of unpaid domestic tasks carried out by women. The project also uses standardized training modules on gender inequalities and women's leadership.

#### **GenderCC, South Africa: gender sensitization to build skills for women**

The organization ensured that women would be trained and able to install and maintain climate-smart technologies, like biogas digesters, water conservation systems, and sustainable farming methods. Several exercises and tools were needed to convince men to allow women to gain such skills. Women gradually became leaders and active members of their communities. Most of them have moved on to become successful entrepreneurs and are now transferring their knowledge to other people. Furthermore, they are advocating at the national level for the government to support climate resilient policies, invest in renewable energy and climate-friendly technologies. The government of South Africa has begun to include gender in their policies.



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## 5. Organizational challenges

For some organizations, it has been a challenge to adopt a truly participatory approach, either due to gender barriers that prevent women from actively participating in public meetings, or due to the political context that sometimes restricts the organization of community meetings or projects. It is also a challenge for local NGO's to find enough staff with experience or specialized skills/knowledge within specific fields (renewable energy, agroecology, water management etc.), creating a barrier for development and up-scaling of projects.

### Key lessons

- **Creating replicable structures and tools** or methodologies is one of the major success factors for all projects, according to the experiences that were shared during the workshop. Replicable governance structures (such as women's groups or associations, or cooperatives) allow for a rapid extension of the project to other villages and territories, and appropriation by the beneficiaries leading to successful up-scaling. A good step towards replicability is through monitoring of progress. Sometimes organisations are in isolated and remote areas with limited telephone signal and mobility challenges which hinders capturing of data and learning.

Decentralizing the task of data gathering and empowering community members, such as in the case example of Bhungroo below, would help overcome the challenge of accessing beneficiaries while strengthening local ownership of projects.

- **Capacity building for local teams** can be organized with the support of national or international networks and institutions. This support is usually easier to receive than support in the form of funding and should be explored more.
- **Creating new governance and/or entrepreneurship structures** with democratic rules and decision-making processes, to develop local skills and generate local activities can help alleviate organizational challenges.
- **Expand network to access new knowledge, skills and opportunities:** For example, rural women can link up with women in urban areas for the promotion and marketing of agricultural products in towns which they do not have the capacity to undertake themselves.
- **Raising awareness through children and youth:** In Morocco, they started raising awareness with school projects. The teenage girls brought their mothers in to see stoves they had built, which also engaged their fathers in hearing about the work they were doing. It is important to involve children, as they will then grow up with a more sustainable mind-set and view on what they are capable of. They are however also able to influence their family at home. Another recommendation from the award winners has been to involve elder members of the community in communication and outreach activities more.

*“We now have 32 franchises, and as we have grown bigger it has also become more necessary to raise the organisational capacity of the team in terms of partnership and financial management.”* Trupti Jain, Naireeta

Services, Bhungroo, India



**Naireeta Services, Bhungroo, India: Decentralizing governance by empowering female farmers**

Bhungroo is a proven and certified technology for capturing and storing excess monsoon water from land plots and reusing it for irrigation during drought season. With the support of the Indian government thousands of units have been installed with positive impacts on soil fertility and groundwater savings. By increasing profitability of the rural area farming communities, the solution has also had a positive effect on rural-to-urban labour migration. The first step when installing a unit is assessing if the land is suitable through satellite data and data collection, which can be made in 16 different ways. Naireeta Services is

working on empowering women to collect this data by dividing the work in sub-steps where female local farmers do the knowledge work and sampling while the technical analysis is provided by professional monitors. The organization has experienced that there is a reluctance from male engineers to work in the villages, while there is also a reluctance towards sharing knowledge with women. For this reason, empowering local women to do their own geophysical data capturing is a means towards ensuring continuous and thorough data collection.

**Yakkum Emergency Unit (YEU), Indonesia: utilizing women’s traditional knowledge and structuring their action**

The Gemawang, Kaloran & Temmangung districts in Central Java are threatened by water scarcity and landslides due to deforestation. YEU structured and facilitated five women’s groups to enable them to actively contribute to improved water management in their communities, responding to the needs for drinkable water and to the challenges of mountain agriculture. YEU replicated the same associative structure, with three members (chair, secretary, and treasurer) ensuring effective governance within the women’s groups. They highlighted their traditional knowledge of water management through Participatory Rural Appraisal to identify the main water problems, i.e., quality, distribution and management. The women groups were then guided to develop an emergency preparedness program targeted at women for areas prone to landslides. Some beneficia decided to implement aquaponic farming, building small ponds in the villages, as well as small-size vegetable farming for the households. These technical tools can be easily replicated and provide food security with a wider nutritional scope.

**Gender Development Association (GDA), Laos: Seeking organisational support for climate finance access**

GDA has a long history of working with Lao women’s unions who operate at national, regional, district and local levels. They use a decentralised approach, to engage with communities and let them take ownership of ideas. Tools have been developed based on the needs of the communities enabling a successful participatory approach. All GDA staff are Lao women representing four different ethnic groups and speaking four different dialects. GDA has also conducted a complete gender assessment in different ethnic communities, evaluating women’s workloads and specific knowledge linked to the management of non-timber forest products and biodiversity conservation, as well as their role in providing food for the community. The gender assessment has helped to identify opportunities for formal governance structures based on women’s formal knowledge in the region. As well to implement a “Train the Trainer” concept with specifically adapted training tools fitted to the needs of the target women based on the outcomes of the gender assessment. Their financial constraints are related to getting core funding instead of tied (as they are dependent on organisational funding today). They are also unable to comply with requirements of financial institutions, as their budgets do not align and they need technical assistance for their staff to meet the expectations of funders in terms of providing evidence-based research, using correct budget language, responding to audits etc.

**Tools**

Women2030 tool on organisational structure and gender mainstreaming:  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1grQA1vL9zFPorRM\\_UYpM9jOCiyDc25I-/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1grQA1vL9zFPorRM_UYpM9jOCiyDc25I-/view)

## 6. Way forward

This resource guide captures the experiences, best practices examples, and key lessons shared by the winners of the Gender Just Climate Solutions Awards (GJCSA). The GJCSA has been awarded by the UNFCCC Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) since COP21 in 2015 and supported by the Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN) and other partners. The yearly capacity building workshops with the award winners, together with this guide, lay the foundation for an ambitious, structured and sustainable up-scaling of the exemplary gender-responsive climate initiatives that have been recognized.

By carefully mapping the specific and differentiating needs and barriers faced by the award winners and their organisations, the capacity building workshops have provided tailored responses to increase their awareness and access to different climate finance resources and support available for over-coming technical barriers. The workshops have also encouraged experience sharing on ways to overcome organisational, cultural and social norms and barriers when working in the gender and climate nexus.

Capitalizing on these lessons learned and recognizing the great need for more ambitious scales of gender-just climate action, the Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF) aims to continue working with the award winners and identify how they can collaborate closely on thematic, regional and high-potential initiatives to deliver climate mitigation and adaptation solutions. With support from the CTCN and other partners, these gender-just initiatives, ranging from water management technologies to participatory processes for forest conservation, can be up-scaled to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, and support implementation of the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan. The way forward will also serve the advocacy strategy of the Women and Gender Constituency, with the goal of ensuring the full and effective participation of women in climate policies at all levels of decision-making.

The mentoring programme for up-scaling gender just climate solutions will be defined during and in the follow-up of COP25 in Madrid, with activities planned to start in 2020. The WECF and CTCN are currently seeking collaboration partners with a shared vision to provide expertise, networking and financial opportunities.

The Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) fosters technology transfer and deployment at the request of developing countries through three core services: technical assistance, capacity building and scaling up international collaboration. The Centre is the operational arm of the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism, it is hosted and managed by the United Nations Environment and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and supported by more than 500 network partners around the world.

**CTCN contact details:**

Climate Technology Centre and Network  
 UN City, Marmorvej 51  
 DK-2100 Copenhagen, Denmark

Tel: +45 4533 5372  
 Web: [www.ctc-n.org](http://www.ctc-n.org)  
 Email: [ctcn@un.org](mailto:ctcn@un.org)

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