GENDER JUST CLIMATE SOLUTIONS
Members of the Women & Gender Constituency at the climate march in Madrid, December 2019
The Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) is one of the nine stakeholder groups of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Established in 2009 and granted full constituency status in 2011, the WGC consists of 33 women’s and environmental civil society organizations, who are working together to ensure that women’s voices are heard and their rights prioritized in the fight against climate change. The Women and Gender Constituency, consisting of a broad variety of national and regional network organizations, represents hundreds and thousands of people across the globe, with advocates from over 60 countries.
Our Background

Since the Earth Summit in 1992, the United Nations has been working with governments and civil society to tackle one of the greatest challenges the planet has faced; climate change. At the summit the Member States of the UN agreed to a new convention on climate change; a non-legally binding international treaty. The convention provided a new framework through which nations could work together to agree on limiting emissions of greenhouse gases, those which cause climate change, principally carbon dioxide. This UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, or UNFCCC, is an evolving commitment that develops through the ongoing discussions and agreements of governments around the world. There are now around 1,400 such organizations observing the annual conferences, and many have grouped themselves into constituencies. These constituencies provide focal points for easier interaction with the UNFCCC Secretariat, based in Bonn, and individual governments. There are currently nine constituencies and they are broadly grouped by the type of organizations they represent: businesses and industry organizations; environmental organizations; local and municipal governments; trade unions; research and independent organizations; and organizations that work for the rights of indigenous people; young people; agricultural workers; and women and gender equality.

Our Goals

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

Our Principles

WGC members work to promote full realization of the human rights of women and girls through specific goal-oriented, clear and measurable purposes and objectives. The Constituency embraces principles of democratic and participatory governance, ensuring respectful collaboration between members, especially of diverging positions. Providing a platform for women’s leadership with broad and participatory access, procedures of the WGC are transparent, timely and flexible, further facilitating the potential for wide and inclusive membership. The WGC also emphasizes an equitable approach to representation, affiliation, age, and ability, encouraging members to build on our collective and individual history. As an official stakeholder body of the UNFCCC, the WGC also strives to mentor the younger generation and newcomers to the movement and the Constituency.
The Women and Gender Constituency, along with other women, gender, and human rights advocates, has been actively pushing world leaders to ensure just and equitable climate policies that put respect of people’s rights and the integrity of the planet first, while responding to injustice among and within countries in relation to climate impacts and resilience. We know the solutions to a more sustainable future already exist — it is time to showcase them far and wide and demand support for their upscaling and replication so they can lead the way to more ambitious and transformative climate policies and programmes nationally and internationally. As the Paris Agreement enters into force, we are proud to celebrate the 5th anniversary of the Gender Just Climate Solutions, especially showcasing the transformative outcomes achieved by 15 award winners who have implemented and up-scaled exemplary initiatives all around the world.

**SELECTION CRITERIA**

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

*Ndivile Mokoena, WGC co-focal point*
Our Mentoring Programme, in collaboration with the Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN)

Strengthening advocacy capacities

- During their week at the COP, awardees participate in a 2 day advocacy training and join in the Women & Gender Constituency daily caucus. They increase their understanding of climate negotiations, contribute to drafting interventions and position papers, and conduct advocacy with key stakeholders.

- The CTCN and WGC capacity building workshops have been an eye-opener for me and my organisation. They gave me confidence to adopt new growth strategies and especially inspired a new cost model that enabled many more poor, rural communities in India to access our Bhungroo water collecting technology.
  — Trupti Jain

Capacity building and upscaling workshops

- Each year we invite award winners to a 2 day capacity building workshop at the COP, organized jointly with the CTCN. Participants raise their understanding of the UNFCCC Financial and Technology Mechanisms, and acquire new competencies such as design thinking, strategic planning, project proposal development, and local and online advocacy. Awarders share knowledge on fundraising, project development, and innovation with one another, and identify potential synergies for future collaboration and multi-country projects that can fuel ambitious climate action.

Year-long support to reach new dimensions

- Throughout the year, WECF, the WGC and the CTCN mentor the awardees via tailored webinars, calls and online meetings. This year, participants received online training-of-trainers to support women’s green entrepreneurship, with a specific focus on technology, design thinking and finance. Mentoring included individual assistance in developing funding or technical assistance proposals, as well as project and/or business plans. Participants are also informed of important climate change meetings, negotiations, and funding/training opportunities.

- Thanks to the mentoring workshops and regular online trainings offered by the WGC and the CTCN, I gained confidence in my ability to mobilize the women cooperatives of our network and many other Moroccan stakeholders in promoting and adopting solar energy for their daily need.
  — Jamila Idbbourrous

Meeting delegates and networking

- Award winners meet their country delegation representatives as well as UNFCCC bodies and agencies. They are invited by WECF, the WGC and the CTCN to speak during side events where they can present their projects, views, priorities and needs. They also network with other relevant civil society organisations, the media, potential donors and other important stakeholders. Participants are encouraged to speak at regional and international events throughout the year in order to raise visibility for their work and the important relationship between gender, technology, and climate change action. Participants also regularly share their experiences with, and seek input from, their fellow award winners.
Gender Just Climate Solutions implemented all over the world

Meet here our 15 award winners from 14 countries

GenderCC SA, South Africa
Green Living Movement, Zambia
CFLEDD, Democratic Republic of the Congo
Naireeta Services, India
SOL & Navdanya, India
YAKKUM Emergency Unit, Lao People’s Democratic Republic
GDA, India
Indonesia
IslandEco, Republic of the Marshall Islands
ENDA Colombia
FUNDAECO, Guatemala
ENDA Graf Sahel, Senegal
UNIVERS-SEL, Guinea-Bissau
CAMGEW, Cameroon
Better World Cameroon, Cameroon
South Africa
GenderCC SA

All Gender Just Climate Solutions contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals, especially to SDG5 and SDG13. Look in the following pages for further SDGs addressed by the awardees.
BWC offers a simple, low-cost and sustainable alternative to heavy use of solid fuel by building clean cookstoves with clay-construction techniques using local materials. The programme is based on a training-of-trainers (ToT) methodology, whereby women leaders disseminate their acquired knowledge to further beneficiaries, ensuring a strong multiplying effect. The project prevents deforestation while empowering women and improving their livelihoods. Women trainers contribute to reducing conflicts among ethnic groups by initiating a culture of dialogue. This successful model has been replicated in Zambia.

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Financially supported by:
- Scottish Government for activities in Zambia
- Crowdfunding for the toto export to Zambia
- Scottish Government for activities in Zambia

What’s special about this project
- This initiative has become self-sufficient over time with a growing number of beneficiaries developing new income-generating activities such as artistic building decoration. The ToT-concept ensures an optimal skill and competences transfer with on-site maintenance, performance improvement and adaptation of the stoves.
- Going one step further, BWC exported the Africa Kitchen Revolution model to Zambia, via the ReSCOPE Programme, creating four cooperatives and one social enterprise specialised in advanced clay building.

AWARD IMPACTS
- The award grant was used to build seven extra stoves; to carry out three sets of trainings (with 45 participants) to develop and print a user-friendly manual for the stoves and to mentor the trainer’s network in Cameroon.
- The number of beneficiaries more than doubled from originally 250 to now 500 women and from 50 to 110 men trained.

TRANSFORMATIVE OUTCOMES
- 610 women and men trained, using the ToT (training of trainers) approach
- 1 network of 20 women lead trainers
- Reduction of firewood consumption by 60–70%
- Women’s health improved due to reduced firewood burning, less air pollution
- Reduction of women’s workload: significantly less hours spent on firewood collection and cooking
- New income-generating activities

“I am proud of this ground-up, self-regulated project. Our strong peer support system has raised the self-confidence of local women and their capacity to act for improved livelihoods and the climate.”
Sonita Mbah
ENDA Colombia developed a holistic urban concept in the south suburbs of Bogota with climate-resilient gardening, responsible consumption and the formal recognition of women recyclers as environmental agents of change and public service providers. Thanks to trainings on natural resource management, gender inequalities and masculinities, local public policies and citizen’s initiatives, the beneficiaries have been empowered to exercise their democratic rights, to protect their environment and cultural heritage. This collective project has woven strong solidarity ties among neighbours and generations, contributing to peace building in Colombia.

Sustainable urban model of solidarity economy

Project start: 2012, Award year: 2019

The women have gained more recognition within their communities. The organisation has strengthened expertise on advocacy, communication, entrepreneurship and overall management capacities.

Training-of-Trainers (ToT) concept whereby women are taking on leadership roles, increasing their control over production and income. This brings a positive change in gender roles enabling women to lead the replication of the solidarity economy model.

The grant enabled Enda Colombia to overcome difficulties during the Covid pandemic, to launch awareness-raising activities, mental health workshops and support to migrants in need.

“Reflect, dream and build collectively for a sustainable and gender-just world.”

Maria Victoria Bojacá Penagos

**What’s special about this project**

- It showcases an exemplary model of solidarity economy aiming to create a sustainable and gender-responsive city. This unique urban approach, based on local knowledge and resources, has been practiced by girls, boys, adolescents and adults for more than 30 years.
- Training-of-Trainers (ToT) concept whereby women are taking on leadership roles, increasing their control over production and income. This brings a positive change in gender roles enabling women to lead the replication of the solidarity economy model.

**AWARD IMPACTS**

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- The grant enabled Enda Colombia to overcome difficulties during the Covid pandemic, to launch awareness-raising activities, mental health workshops and support to migrants in need.

**TRANSFORMATIVE OUTCOMES**

- 6,430 direct beneficiaries
- 26 women recyclers recognized as environmental change agents and public service providers
- 2 savings and credit initiatives created by and for women with denied access to formal banking
- Seed bank forged alliances with indigenous communities to rescue traditional food and native seeds
- 21 urban terraces for agricultural production supplying healthy and affordable food
- 20 spokeswomen participate in municipal decision-making processes on environment, gender and local budgets topics

**AWARD IMPACTS**

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**UNIQUE VALUE**

- Sustainable urban model of solidarity economy
- Project start: 2012, Award year: 2019
- What’s special about this project
- TRANSFORMATIVE OUTCOMES
- AWARD IMPACTS
- UNIQUE VALUE

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Financially supported by:

- AFD, University of Valencia; Quartiers du monde Association; Label Paris Co-Développement Sud – Paris Municipality

www.endacol.com
Through a “learn and build methodology”, 2,000 women and men farmers in rural communities have been empowered to use and maintain new technologies for farming, water harvesting, waste management and sustainable energy - including biogas digesters. A network of female technology champions has been established to transfer their knowledge and skills to more communities. New social enterprises emerged with the initiative of women leaders, building climate resilience and food sovereignty.

What’s special about this project
- The project unleashed entrepreneurial dynamics, with women and youth strategizing on alternative income-generating activities. They established a mango processing cooperative, producing and selling mango achar. Beekeepers started their own organic honey business. Youth groups initiated the collection and selling of animal manure for owners of biogas digesters.
- GenderCC SA based their recommendations for a gender-responsive National Climate Change Policy on these good practice examples.

AWARD IMPACTS
- The grant supported women in the Western Cape to start social enterprises, contributing to a sustainable local economy.
- GenderCC SA is recognised as an important actor fighting for gender just climate action, forging new partnerships with other community-based organisations as well as government institutions.

UNIQUE VALUE
- Through a “learn and build methodology”
- A network of female technology champions has been established to transfer their knowledge and skills to more communities.
- New social enterprises emerged with the initiative of women leaders.
- Building climate resilience and food sovereignty.

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Financially supported by:
- EU
- Oxfam
- Flanders Share of the 10%
Women solar cooperatives for a sustainable local economy


This project contributes to energy transition and a local, inclusive economy in rural Morocco. A value chain of productive solar technologies for agricultural food processing is emerging, based on the inclusive cooperative model. 600 rural women actively participate in the climate mitigation policy of their region, creating jobs that strengthen women’s economic and political empowerment. The solar cookers, dryers and torrefactors will serve the diversified and improved quality of a broad range of agricultural products, reducing GHG emissions while enhancing food security for thousands of inhabitants in semi-arid territories.

What’s special about this project

- The local production of solar technologies creates jobs for women in a male dominated industry. It enables a new sector to emerge and has a significant mitigation impact in rural areas via the broad use of affordable solar equipment.
- Thanks to newly acquired skills, women working in productive cooperatives are empowered through the control over the entire value chain.
- Has established UCFA’s reputation as a relevant stakeholder for energy and climate policies, so that local women working in cooperatives are included in decision-making bodies.
- FMV/RSA and UCFA have enlarged their network and forged new technical and financial partnerships. They have also acquired new advocacy capacities on gender and social justice.
- 600 women are improving their skills on cooperative management, governance and strategy
- 2 women energy cooperatives in development and 40 women technicians will master solar technologies
- 1 solar village: 15 families equipped with solar cookers, 1 solar oven, 1 pump, 1 hammam
- Ancestral knowledge for climate action and biodiversity protection is recognised
- Women’s workload is significantly reduced as they spend fewer hours on firewood collection and cooking

AWARD IMPACTS

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- FMV/RSA and UCFA have enlarged their network and forged new technical and financial partnerships. They have also acquired new advocacy capacities on gender and social justice.

CONTACT

Financially supported by:

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AFD (French Agency of Cooperation & Development); Foundations CDG and Prince Albert II de Monaco; Region Occitanie; Associations E2S2D and Essaouira Mogador; FDF (Foundation of France).
CFLEDD has reached a milestone in granting women access to land through the adoption of groundbreaking new land and forest legislation in 8 provinces of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Engaging 480 trained women advocates in participatory mapping and dialogues with customary chiefs, community members, and local authorities, they overthrew one of the biggest barriers to women’s participation in climate action. The project also supports women farmers in developing agroforestry activities (planting fruit-trees, acacias, small livestock) and in identifying illegal industrial activities. Promoting ancestral knowledge, they empower indigenous women and improve food security.

The international recognition was broadcasted on national media and enabled this emblematic initiative to upscale rapidly and significantly, with 8 provinces adopting new legislation to date. CFLEDD published a position paper whose recommendations were integrated in the revised NDC and the new draft legislation on Land and Forest Policy. The grant served to start a tree nursery.

What’s special about this project

- The successful ToT programme unifies women of different ethnicities engaging in a common fight for their rights. The constructive dialogues involve all community members and customary chiefs and enable new land rights for women.
- The project led to the adoption of new legislation with official land titles granted to women. The new land owners have demonstrated their ability to implement climate mitigation and adaptation activities. These results guide the revision of the national climate roadmap.

AWARD IMPACTS

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- CFLEDD published a position paper whose recommendations were integrated in the revised NDC and the new draft legislation on Land and Forest Policy. The grant served to start a tree nursery.

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Financially supported by:

NORAD, Rainforest Foundation Norway, RRI, WWF, Full Circle Foundation (John Filo), AJWS, Synchronicity Earth

AWARD IMPACTS

- The international recognition was broadcasted on national media and enabled this emblematic initiative to upscale rapidly and significantly, with 8 provinces adopting new legislation to date.
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TRANSFORMATIVE OUTCOMES

- 480 trained women advocates, via a Training of Trainers (ToT) model
- Mapping of 1,600 ha of land owned by women recognized by local authorities
- 125 women benefited directly from increased food security and income
- 7 certified land ownership titles for women
- Project integrated in the national climate policy and the new draft legislation on Land and Forest Policy
UNIVERS-SEL empowered 1,500 women and 500 men with innovative salt and rice production technologies that preserve the mangroves and drastically reduce firewood consumption. Solar salt production and sustainable water management also improved working conditions, health and yields. Women gained new technical skills and management capacities. They established 2 producers’ associations where 200 members gained control and decision-making power over their value chain and markets. Training and monitoring activities have enabled women to play a leading role in stabilizing the local economy and protecting ecosystems. The project is recognized as a relevant community-based climate strategy.

UNIVERS-SEL enlarged their network and established links with CTCN*. International recognition and mentoring enabled them to access additional funding and upscale their activities towards 500 more beneficiaries. New training targets literacy and accounting skills. Thanks to UNIVERS-SEL’s advocacy, this project is recognized by the EU as an inclusive community-based climate strategy.

**What’s special about this project**
- North-South exchange of ancestral knowledge combined with innovative technologies have given birth to climate resilient and inclusive development modes. Solar salt drying reduces emissions and transforms working conditions. In the rice fields, water pipes and strengthened dikes provide protection from excessive sea water rise and stabilize harvests.
- The participatory approach based on knowledge transfer by 76 trained “Solar Salt Leaders” and men’s involvement building dikes for the rice fields proves a key success factor.

**AWARD IMPACTS**
- UNIVERS-SEL enlarged their network and established links with CTCN**. International recognition and mentoring enabled them to access additional funding and upscale their activities towards 500 more beneficiaries. New training targets literacy and accounting skills.
- Thanks to UNIVERS-SEL’s advocacy, this project is recognized by the EU as an inclusive community-based climate strategy.

**UNIQUE VALUE**

**TRANSFORMATIVE OUTCOMES**
- 2 salt producers’ associations created by 200 women in 4 villages
- 1,000 salt producers and 500 rice producers adopted new, climate resilient technologies
- Food security improved for 30,000 people
- Firewood consumption: 3 tons less firewood for each ton of salt produced
- Community-based and ecosystem-based coastal management

**AWARD IMPACTS**

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Financially supported by:
- AFD, Fondation Raja, Région Pays de la Loire, CD Loire-Atlantique, Cap Atlantique, SCA Salines de Guérande, CFSI, Fondation de France

*CTCN: Climate Technology Centre and Network. One of the two bodies of the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism

**SDG FOCUS**

- Transforming cities
- Water and sanitation
- Climate action

“Know-how exchange and simple technological innovation are key for women and men to take ownership and successfully up-scale.”

Pauline Lançon
CAMGEW engages ethnic women in reforestation and organic farming, preventing soil erosion and bushfires. They rely on cultural, religious and solidarity groups to provide agroforestry education to 50,000 women, as well as counseling for young victims of domestic violence. Gender parity in the 7 forest institutions’ executive boards has transformed patriarchal relations in the local communities. 1,600 women were trained on tree nursing, bee farming, business and marketing skills. 5 honey cooperatives were founded, as well as 100 MSMEs that produce beeswax, honey juice, soap and candles. Women have control over the entire value chain, while strengthening their communities’ resilience.

**What’s special about this project**

- CAMGEW fosters a unique scheme of social entrepreneurship focused on tree nursery, bee-keeping and transformed by-products, which rely on raising women’s technical knowledge and self-confidence. This model fosters women’s socio-economic empowerment and boosts the local economy.
- The project promotes strong cooperation and knowledge sharing between local communities and public authorities, research institutes and foundations, ensuring continuous learning for sustainable forest and biodiversity protection.

**AWARD IMPACTS**

- The grant was used to build the entrepreneurial capacities of 19 young women to consolidate the local honey value chain, as well as to conduct COVID-19 response measures.
- CAMGEW improved their outreach with 6,000 more women joining in forest protection activities, environmental education and women’s rights counselling.

**TRANSFORMATIVE OUTCOMES**

- 50,000 beneficiaries of forest conservation education
- 400 women farmers trained on agroforestry practices
- 5 honey cooperatives created for 2,000 bee farmers
- Gender parity in the executive board of 7 community forest institutions, where women were previously excluded
- Community-based and ecosystem-based coastal management

**CONTACT**

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Financially supported by:


"Engaging women and girls is essential to build a society that lives and thrives in harmony with nature.”

Sevidzem Ernestine Leikeki

Indigenous women preserve the Kilum Ijim forest, transforming lives and local economy

Project start: 2011, Award year: 2019
Green Living Movement

Community-owned, gender-just agroecological systems: a pillar of climate adaptation

Project start: 2014, Award year: 2018

GLM promotes exemplary climate-resilience in rural areas by implementing gender-responsive agroecological systems designed together with 10 communities of Mumbwa, Monze and Luanshya districts. Based on their success, GLM is advocating for the integration of agroecological strategies in Zambia’s national agricultural and climate adaptation policy. Thanks to new strategic partnerships with the government and the private sector for the adoption of solar stoves, GLM has helped prevent deforestation and reduce women’s burden of domestic work. With women now in leading roles, gender equality has become a strong pillar of this conservation agriculture scheme, alongside community’s knowledge.

What’s special about this project

- GLM promotes agroecology as a successful social movement, conducting storytelling and photo-debate campaigns in traditional languages, showcasing “Climate Change Champion Farmers” on local radio and markets. This prompts gender justice and women’s economic empowerment.
- The community-owned approach integrates women farmers’ needs in the development of sustainable food systems. They participate in decision-making on access to and management of natural resources, food sovereignty, rural employment and a safe environment.

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Financially supported by:

- Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland through GLM Finland, Volunteers.

6,000 women and men are directly benefiting from the project

- 50 households adopted solar stoves for cooking, lighting their homes and charging small appliances
- 4 marketing cooperatives created to enhance product sales, competitiveness and income security
- 25 women leaders elected as treasurers in development committees, positions traditionally occupied by men
- 35,000 community members increased their knowledge on climate mitigation and adaptation

UNIQUE VALUE

- The grant was used to purchase small-livestock in order to diversify women farmer’s income sources. This ensured greater financial independence and a suitable adaptation strategy for communities in dry regions.
- GLM’s mentoring program strengthened GLM’s capacities on monitoring and evaluation and allowed them to expand their network, establish new partnerships and secure more funding.

AWARD IMPACTS

“Learn from the community, build on their knowledge and allow them to be masters of their own destiny.”
Clive Chibule
Fisherwomen rehabilitate the Saloum ecosystems and defend their rights


Using a gender transformative approach, Enda Graf Sahel supports 4,800 women fishers in the Saloum Delta to rehabilitate the mangrove ecosystem degraded by intensive industrial fishing and climate change. They implement reforestation, shellfish reseeding and organic gardening. Women’s training in public speaking and advocacy has enabled them to integrate local fishing regulation committees and to establish restricted access in protected areas. A new consultation framework on resources management has enabled them to reduce the excessive delivery of fishing licenses. Enda has disseminated efficient stoves to transform sea products which cuts emissions from firewood by 75%.

What’s special about this project

- Enda conducted a series of research and trainings on gender that contributed to significantly reduce domestic violence and strengthen economic solidarity:
  - Analysis of gender relationships in the fishery's industry economy and governance
  - Participatory analysis of the labour division in the household, which led men to share some of women's burden of domestic care work
  - Research led by young activists on masculinity in the local communities
  - Standardized training modules on gender inequalities and women's leadership

AWARD IMPACTS

- The grant was used to acquire 45 improved stoves and to create a revolving fund. Enda Graf’s expertise in project proposal writing has been improved by the mentoring programme.
- The award has brought national and international recognition leading to a new collaboration with the Senegalese Ministry of Environment and Energy Center for a Technical Assistance Request to the CTCN*.

TRANSFORMATIVE OUTCOMES

- 4,800 women fishers trained on public speaking, leadership and advocacy
- 6 economic interest groups for agriculture and fishery created
- Organic gardening and food transformation improved nutrition and diversified the family’s diet
- 75% reduction in firewood consumption through the dissemination of 200 improved stoves
- 180 women generated new income and 200 benefit from a new revolving fund system boosting energy transition
- 20 women leaders included in local fishery regulation bodies

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Financially supported by:

AFD, Fondation Internationale du Banc d’Arguin, NGO: Le monde selon les Femmes, Fondation RAJA

* Climate Technology Centre and Network

“Women don’t want to start behaving like ’big boys’. They want to preserve their own ways and values.”

Fatou Ndoye

SDG FOCUS
FUNDAECO has rolled out a unique development model based on implementing indigenous-owned forest conservation and ensuring the SRHR of adolescent girls in 100 Mayan and Q’eqchi communities of Guatemala. While officially recognizing midwives as essential contributors to the well-being of the communities, 28 health clinics were established, providing maternal and health care to 50,000 people and supporting victims of gender-based violence. These clinics provide spaces for indigenous women, who are the main users of forest resources, to strengthen their knowledge and skills on agroforestry and production systems while accessing information on family planning and women’s rights.

**What’s special about this project**

- Ensuring women’s SRHR has fostered their participation in sustainable management of natural resources in protected forest areas. The care economy model promotes biodiversity conservation and women’s empowerment in ecotourism services and agroforestry systems.
- Thanks to a scholarship and youth leadership program, indigenous adolescent girls attend school and learn about women’s rights and 64 young women reach secondary grade and university studies so they could become community leaders.

**UNIQUE VALUE**

**TRANSFORMATIVE OUTCOMES**

- 50,000 women and men are direct beneficiaries
- 90 midwives officially recognised by the Ministry of Health as community service providers
- 5 productive groups support 300 women in generating new income
- 300 women leaders participate in decision-making processes
- 28 health clinics (2 mobile) provide regular care and counseling over 4,000 people per year
- 500 indigenous families adopted innovative agroforestry systems

**MENTION OF HONOUR’S IMPACTS**

- FUNDAECO enlarged their network allowing the organization to replicate and promote this unique development model.
- The mentoring program offered by the WGC strengthened their capacities on women’s entrepreneurship and social-economic empowerment.

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Financially supported by:

![The Appleton Charitable Foundation](https://example.com/appleton)
![The Summit Foundation](https://example.com/summit)
![Bergstrom Foundation](https://example.com/bergstrom)

www.fundaeco.org.gt

“Community empowerment for climate action begins with the recognition of women’s sexual rights and their access to health.”
Karen Dubois
GDA bridged women’s traditional harvesting practices with sustainable livelihood initiatives in marginalized ethnic groups of Laos’ northern uplands, a high risk landslides area. Based on an initial gender assessment, key policies for rehabilitating women’s ancestral knowledge on foraging Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) to preserve biodiversity and improve food security were identified. Using a rights-based framework, the association built women’s capacities to develop income generation activities, enhance their financial independence and become leaders. This strengthened women’s inclusion in community decisions, as well as their influence in national climate policy.

GDA invested in a field study that brought village women leaders to share their knowledge about NTFPs with youth, valuing this oral transmission as important cultural wisdom and a source of food security.

Due to the international recognition at COP23, GDA accessed additional funding by developing new partnerships with international NGOs for follow-up activities in the region.

What’s special about this project

- By supporting alternative economies and sustainable forest livelihoods in ecosystems degraded by excessive logging, GDA contributes to mitigating the risk of natural disaster.
- They empower ethnic women to preserve natural resources through advocacy for policy reform on unsustainable harvesting practices like electric fishing. The activities have contributed to conflict resolution among Hmong and Khmu ethnic groups, facing internal displacement due to the activities of extractive and logging industries.

AWARD IMPACTS

- GDA invested in a field study that brought village women leaders to share their knowledge about NTFPs with youth, valuing this oral transmission as important cultural wisdom and a source of food security.
- Due to the international recognition at COP23, GDA accessed additional funding by developing new partnerships with international NGOs for follow-up activities in the region.

TRANSFORMATIVE OUTCOMES

- 50 women benefit from ToT programme and contribute to improved livelihoods for 4,500 people
- Rising contribution of women to governance structures
- Contribution to the decree on equal opportunities for ethnic groups
- Food and income security through sustainable NTFPs
- Mitigating the risk of natural disasters and preserving natural resources

AWARD IMPACTS

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- Due to the international recognition at COP23, GDA accessed additional funding by developing new partnerships with international NGOs for follow-up activities in the region.

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Financially supported by:

Helvetas, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), Views from the Frontline (VFL).
**Bhungroo©: innovative water-technology and co-ownership model for a better life**

Project start: 2013, Award year: 2018

Bhungroo©, a rainwater management technology developed locally and widely disseminated by a social enterprise, saves farmers’ crops from flooding during monsoons and ensures adequate irrigation during dry seasons. It has brought back two harvests per year on farmland depleted by salinity and droughts in the Gujarat State. The co-ownership model, based on women self-help groups, and governmental support has ensured food security for over 50,000 women farmers in seven provinces and prevented rural-to-urban labor migration. Trained Women Climate Leaders (WCLs) promote the technology as paid experts. Bhungroo© has won multiple awards and was adopted in Vietnam, Bangladesh and Ghana.

**UNIQUE VALUE**

**What’s special about this project**

- This unique, affordable technology reduces water salinity via a filtration system, warding off desertification. Each unit can store 1–4 million liters of floodwater and irrigate 22+ acres during the dry season. Constant technical improvement and support from provincial authorities have allowed to standardize the units and lower investment cost.

- The women co-owners are trained to build and maintain the systems. With doubled harvests and incomes, and through their role as Women Climate Leaders, they are empowered and take part in community governance.

**TRANSFORMATIVE OUTCOMES**

- **Food security and sustainable livelihoods for 50,000 marginalized farmers**

- **From local to global: 32 franchises established in 5 countries, with a goal to reach 5 M. beneficiaries**

- **Reduction of extreme poverty: family income raised by up to 500% in 5 years**

- **Coastal zones adaptation and water protection model**

- **Over 8,800 acres of agricultural land irrigated without over-exploiting groundwater**

- **121 trained Women Climate Leaders**

**AWARD IMPACTS**

- International recognition and cooperating with the CTCN brought crucial additional support. The mentoring programme helped Naireeta Services enhance their financial and staff management capacities. They built a new franchise strategy that will open doors to worldwide dissemination.

**CONTACT**

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Financially supported by:

- Millennium Alliance
- The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)
- Cartier Women’s Initiative

Securing Water for Food, Millennium Alliance, The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), earned income from sales.

“**When marginalized women mobilize around an innovative technology, it improves their resilience and also restores their dignity.**”

Trupti Jain

**www.naireetaservices.com**
Rural women are champions of seed and biodiversity conservation

Project start: 2011, Award year: 2017

SOL and Navdanya transformed the resilience capacity of 69 villages in Northern India by valuing women's knowledge on biodiversity conservation and their role as seed bank keepers. 1,457 farmers (80% women) enhanced their skills via field trainings, improving soil fertility and moisture (organic matter raised by 25%) as well as food processing. 274 women seed keepers have strengthened the food sovereignty of thousands of farmers and the diversity of cultivated crops. Self-help groups share techniques, improve income-generating activities and set up a fair trade sales network. Navdanya’s advocacy directly influenced the decision of Uttarakhand’s State to become 100% organic.

“Understanding gender interactions in the communities has been crucial for our success. We need a systemic approach in all actions we undertake.”
— Neha Raj Singh

WHAT’S SPECIAL ABOUT THIS PROJECT

- This programme is a model of community owned, gender-transformative and ecosystem-based climate action. It relies on a strong North-South CSO cooperation with a broad range of capacity building activities empowering women, men and children, and enhancing their resilience.
- Through regular visits by local authorities to Navdanya’s biodiversity conservation farm, the project has directly influenced State policy on agriculture. This has led to a positive change in gender roles and norms among communities.

AWARD IMPACTS

- The international recognition has shed a new light on the trustful cooperation of SOL and Navdanya and gave a broader aura to their collective action. It has brought new financial partnerships, reinforcing the multiplying effect among local communities and the holistic approach (sustainable water management, nutrition, solidarity support).
- 1,457 farmers trained in agroecology (80%), improving food security for 55,000 inhabitants in 69 villages
- 38 self-help groups, with 606 women sharing knowledge and access to market via collective actions
- 17 community seed banks conserving 30 climate-resilient seed varieties
- Outreach to 8,381 children including 4,434 girls on agroecology and climate resilience
- 274 women seed keepers become community leaders. Some have been elected in villages councils

CONTACT

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www.navdanya.org

Financially supported by:


UNIQUE VALUE

TRANSFORMATIVE OUTCOMES
YEU empowered grassroots women in Central Java to adapt to the threats of landslide and water scarcity caused by deforestation. At the beginning, 5 local groups were structured to apply participatory approaches, rehabilitating traditional knowledge to ensure the supply of drinkable water and to restore mountain agriculture. Aquaponics farming was introduced to provide food security with a wider nutritional scope (fish and vegetables). Women conducted field assessments with regional authorities, contributing to local decisions on water saving and filtration techniques and ecological sanitation. They developed a gender-responsive emergency preparedness program targeted at women.

**What’s special about this project**
- YEU applied a replicable associative structure, ensuring effective governance in 49 groups of over 1,000 grassroots women in Central Java and in Yogyakarta provinces. 100 leaders serve as trainers and multipliers of tested resilience practices.
- This project was recognized by the government as a model of climate resilience, gender-responsive community-based action. A local woman was invited by the Min. of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection to contribute to a public program aimed at ending violence against women and child, human trafficking, and economic gender discrimination.

**TRANSFORMATIVE OUTCOMES**
- 49 grassroots women groups created to structure disaster risk management and water-food supply
- 611 women improved their livelihoods via the sale of aquaponic products and waste recycling activities
- Increased efficiency in water use reducing risks related to climate disasters
- Improvement of waste recycling and reduction of waste produced
- Contribution to local and national policies on climate disaster and gender-based violence

**AWARD IMPACTS**
- The grant allowed YEU to initiate aquaponic systems using a participatory approach for the initial design, operation and maintenance strategy, as well as the distribution of harvests. This aquaponics model spread in 20 communities, improving their food sovereignty, climate and Covid resilience. YEU received additional public support and funding, joining in large CSO consortia.

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**CONTACT**

**Country:** Indonesia  
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**Financially supported by:**
- GNDR (global network of Civil Society Organizations for disaster Reduction)
- Huairou Commission, In-kind donation from local government

**www.yeu.or.id**
IslandEco trained young women in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) on the assembly, installation, operation and maintenance of solar-powered lights, refrigerators and freezers. These solar equipments replace polluting diesel generators on remote atolls where access to fossil fuel is highly expensive and rare. This gender innovative programme contributes to the RMI’s national climate plan, which aims at producing 100% renewable energy by 2050 and has set a target of having 20% women among all trained electricians by 2030. The results and activities of this project have been included in the national electricity roadmap.

What’s special about this project

- By demonstrating women’s ability to perform well in the male dominated energy sector, this project breaks gender stereotypes and challenges structural barriers, mobilizing all citizens of the Marshall Islands for solar technologies.

- The National Energy Office decided to include an ambitious gender target – 20% women in the solar and renewable electricity sector by 2030 – in its national electricity roadmap. The activities and results were incorporated into the National Action Plan on Climate Change.

AWARD IMPACTS

- The award and participation in 3 COPs since 2017 ensured national and international recognition, leading to additional funding and further project successes.

- The mentoring program offered by the WGC and the CTCN, as well as being part of a network of awardees, helped better understand the challenges faced by the women to enter a male dominated, technical industry.

CONTACT

Country: Republic of the Marshall Islands
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Address: PO Box 1354 Majuro, Marshall Islands

Financially supported by:

- US Department of Agriculture’s Rural Development / Rural Utilities Service Electric Program through a grant for high energy cost areas; Canada Fund for Local Initiatives

“Women can and should contribute to the flow of energy transition. They will help overcome resistance.”
Riyad M Mucadam

TRANSFORMATIVE OUTCOMES

- 110 solar PV installations on different Islands performed by women technicians

- Cooperation with the National Energy Office

- Inclusion of women’s contribution in the National Electricity Roadmap

- Breaking gender stereotypes in a technical sector / STEMS

- Revenue generating activities through the production and sale of local foods that could be refrigerated or frozen

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www.islandeco.com

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CONTACT
Gender-just solutions respond to both climate mitigation and adaptation

The climate impacts of the Gender Just Climate Solutions encompass multiple benefits because they develop holistic models for a sustainable and inclusive development. As highlighted in several IPCC reports, gender equality and addressing barriers to women's participation at all levels is crucial for climate adaptation and mitigation. The range of achievements of the 15 Gender Just Climate Solutions awardees provide evidence on this point.

**CLIMATE IMPACT**

To which concrete climate impacts did your project contribute?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mitigation</th>
<th>Adaptation</th>
<th>Mitigation &amp; Adaptation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reduction of GHG-emissions &amp; air pollution</td>
<td>Protection of biodiversity, including reforestation</td>
<td>Increased use of renewable energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection of biodiversity, including reforestation</td>
<td>Reduced risks for climate related disasters</td>
<td>Recycling &amp; reduction of waste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resilient organic agriculture</td>
<td>Sustainable production &amp; consumption</td>
<td>Contribution to climate policies, strategies &amp; regulations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GENDER IMPACT**

The Gender Just Climate Solutions demonstrate that women's empowerment and advancing gender equality has multiple positive effects on food security, sustainable land management, poverty alleviation, health and well-being, decent work and economic development. Incorporating gender in adaptation and mitigation strategies also contributes to redressing power imbalances and patriarchal norms, ensuring equal participation to decision-making, and equal access to and control over resources, including finance. All of these accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Acting on gender brings multiple transformative benefits for the entire society**

A positive change in gender roles and/or gender norms among women
- Increased self-confidence of women
- Women's economic empowerment (more access to jobs, resources and markets, more control over production and/or income)
- Increased respect for women by men/community members
- Increased number of women taking on leadership roles
- A positive change in gender roles and/or gender norms among men
- Decision-making by men and women within the household became more shared / more equal
- Increased participation of women in decision-making processes related to climate change
- Increased mobility of women and/or greater social / support networks of women
- Reduced workload of women, especially of Unpaid Care Work (UCW)
- New or improved legislation, policies or (local) measures for women's empowerment and gender equality & increased number of women in political and/or government institutions and/or at higher positions

To which concrete gender impacts did your project contribute?

Number of respondents who indicated having this impact (multiple answers possible)
All award winning initiatives have reached a new scale or been replicated

All award winners have demonstrated their ability to expand and/or replicate their successful models, with an impressive adoption rate by other organisations. This has been achieved via specific partnerships, as well as open-source and proactive sharing.

**How was your project up-scaled or replicated?**

- Extension / expansion in the same project area
- Replication of the project in other project area(s)
- Replication of the project with other target group(s)
- Restructuring of the project, focusing on our most successful activities

**How were your successful activities or technologies replicated by other organisations?**

- Yes, other organisations replicated (some of) our successful activities / technologies after we actively shared / disseminated information to them
- Yes, other organisations replicated (some of) our successful activities / technologies, but on their own initiative
- We put in place specific partnerships for further adoption / replication of the technologies

**What had the biggest impact on your organisation?**

- Receiving an internationally recognized award (known by national authorities)
- Participating in the mentoring programme offered by WECF and the CTcn (workshops, calls, etc.)
- Participating in the Climate COPs as an award winning person / organization
- Receiving a grant of 2000 €

**How was the capacity of your organisation strengthened?**

- Stronger network
- Stronger overall (incl. financial) management capacities
- Stronger fund-raising expertise, including proposal writing
- More expertise on lobby & advocacy
- More technical expertise & skills
- Stronger monitoring and evaluation capacities
- More expertise on communication, including using social media

Official recognition and networking translated into financial support

The success of the Gender Just Climate Solutions Awards and Mentoring Programme is first and foremost demonstrated by the ability of most award winners to access additional funding after they received the award during the COP. Five award winners were able to significantly up-scale their activities thanks to this new funding.

70% of the award winners gained additional funding
COVID-19

Gender Just Climate Solutions demonstrate a strong resilience capacity

Despite the strong impact of the COVID-19 crisis on all award winning organisations and activities, all of them were able to deploy fast and effective responses on the ground for affected populations. From awareness raising and hygiene measures to the provision of food and emergency services, or financial support, award winners prove to be actors of resilience everywhere.

How are your activities affected by the COVID-19 crisis?

- Some activities continue to be implemented; some other activities are now on hold
- Most of our planned activities are now on hold
- Most planned activities continue to be implemented, but with some adjustments
- We have (temporarily) discontinued all project activities
- Most planned activities continue to be implemented as planned

How did you respond to the COVID-19 crisis?

- Awareness raising on COVID-19 and/or relevant hygiene measures
- Support to project beneficiaries who lost income with measures, such as food or money distribution
- Distribution of protection/hygiene materials
- Advocacy activities to defend the rights of project beneficiaries and/or other project stakeholders
- Number of answers (multiple answers possible)
Our Members

Association Démocratique des Femmes du Maroc (ADFIM)

Feminist and independent Moroccan NGO, focused on promoting Women’s rights and achieving Gender Equality, contributing to strengthening democracy, Sustainable Development, Climate Justice
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All India Women’s Conference (AIWC)

Indian NGO working for Women’s Empowerment, Social Justice, Equal Rights and Opportunities, Literacy; Skill Training, Energy, Environment Climate Change, Sustainable Development, Women’s Leadership
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All India Women’s Education Fund Association (AIWEFA)

Indian NGO focusing on Academic Strengths, Sustainable Development, Technology in Women’s Rights, Family and Child Care, Nutrition, Health, Climate Change, Energy, Youth, Livelihood, Political Participation
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Youth Action for Development (AJED-CONGO)

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Tel: +237-699-846-113, tamoifo@gmail.com

Association Jeunesse verte du Cameroun (AJVC)

Youth Action for Development (AJED-CONGO)

Association Démocratique des Femmes du Maroc (ADFIM)

Centre for 21st Century Issues

Nigerian National advocacy NGO focusing on Gender Rights and Climate Change, Democracy and Governance, Sustainable Development, Peace and Security, Women’s Leadership, Youth
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Global network focusing on Gender Rights and Equality, Sustainable Development, Women’s Leadership, Women’s Rights
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Climates

Climates mobilizes youth and raises awareness, working to raise the voice of youth on climate-related issues
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Danish Family Planning Association (DFPM)

Danish NGO fighting for sexual and reproductive rights; strengthen each person’s chance of making free and informed choices
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ENERGIA, part of the ETC Foundation

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Gana Unyany Kendra (GUK)

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Landesa

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Laya

Empowerment of marginalized communities for assertion of their rights and to promote relevant sustainable alternatives at the grassroots level
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Vendoda, Vullivaxmapam- 32000 Andhra Pradesh, India
Tel: +91-991-2122663, laya@gmail.com, www.laya.org.in

LIFE – Education | Environment | Equality

German NGO working locally, nationally and internationally on Gender and Climate Justice, Environmental Protection, Education for Sustainable Development and Women’s leadership, participatory and rights
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climatejustice@life-online.de, www.on-life-online.de

Margaret Pyke Trust, with the Population & Sustainability Network

Sub-Saharan Africa, Global Network working on Sustainable Development, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
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thepopulationandsustainability.org

Rural Women Energy Security (RUWES) Initiative

Nigerian National NGO focusing on Ecological Protection, Economic Empowerment, Sustainable Development and Women’s Leadership, participation and rights
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Tel: +234-903-127-5592
nabubakar@ruwes.org, www.ruwes.org.ng

Solar Cookers International

Global NGO aiming to put ingenious ideas to work so people in poverty can change their world
1917 Clarkson Road, Amherst Maori, Chiang Mai, 50100 Thailand, Tel: +66-532-845-27, apiplaw@cpdf.org, www.apiplaw.org

Italian Climate Network

Italian non-profit network working on Climate Science, Climate Policy, International Advocacy, Education, Awareness Human Rights, Women’s Rights, Health
Via Manelli 17, 20129, Milan, Italy, Tel: +39-2-999-1400
deniseditatt@italianlima.org, www.italianlima.org

Practical Action

Global NGO aiming to put ingenious ideas to work so people in poverty can change their world
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Tel: +44-872-634-400 enquiries/practicalaction.org.uk, www.practicalaction.org

Practicable Action
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