# **GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS ARE FUNDAMENTAL TO COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE.**

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### About us

The Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) is a civil society observer – 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 15 women's and environmental civil society organizations, who are working together to ensure that women's voices are heard and their rights are embedded in all processes and actions of the UNFCCC framework, so that gender equality and women's



# human rights are central in the fight against climate change. The Women Gender Constituency, consisting of a broad variety of national network organizations, represents hundreds and thousands of people across the globe, with advocates from over 60 countries.



### **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 of all policies and measures related to climate change. The WGC strives to be a voice for women and to formalize and unify the perspectives of women and gender civil society organizations active in the UNFCCC processes. We provide a space for constituency members to present their concerns and priority actions, and formulate together democratically shared positions, which we strenghten and promote. The Constituency aims to further expand its outreach and engagement with various groups and unify a global movement. We want to ensure that global commitments embrace gender equality and women's rights, especially as they relate to climate change through UNFCCC conventions, and the Post-2015 Sustainable Development agenda.

### **Our Principles**

WGC members work to promote the full realization of the human rights of women and girls through specific goal-oriented, clear and measurable purposes and objectives. The Constituency embraces the principles of democratic and participatory governance, ensuring the 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 representing stakeholder body of the UNFCCC, the WGC also strives to mentor younger generations and newcomers to the Constituency and movement.

### **Our Members**

#### Huairou Commission



Global South, International Network focusing on Climate Change, Ecological Protection, Economic Empowerment, governance, Sustainable Development, Transformative Justice, Women's Leadership, Women's Rights. Address: 249 Manhattan Avenue, Brooklyn, NY,

11211-4905, USA. Tel: +1-718-388-8915, email : info@huairou.org, www.huairou.org

#### International Council for Adult Education (ICAE)



Global Network focusing on Climate Change, Ecological Protection, Economic Empowerment, Education, Sustainable Development, Transformative Justice Address: Av. 18 de Julio 2095/301, Montevideo, 11200, Uruguay.

Tel: +(598) 240 979 82, email: voicesrising@icae.org.uy www.icae2.org/index.php/en

#### Watershed Organization Trust (WOTR)



Indian national NGO focusing on Ecological Protection, Economic Empowerment, Health, Sustainable Development Adsress: "The Forum" 2nd Floor, Padmavati corner, Pune Satara Road, Pune, 411009, India. Tel: +91-20-24226211, email: info@wotr.org, www.wotr.org

#### Women Environmental Programme (WEP)



Regional Organization, Nigerian advocay NGO working on Women's Leadership, Women's Rights, Climate Change, Ecological Protection, Economic Empowerment, Governance, Health, Sustainable Development, Youth Address: Block E Flat 2 Anambra Court, Gaduwa Housing Estate, Apo after Legislative Quarters, Abuja, 900001, Nigeria. Tel: + 234 09 2910878, email: info@wepnigeria.net, www.wepnigeria.net

#### Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF)



European, international Network NGO focusing on Women's Empowerment, Leadership, Rights, Participative Citizenship and Governance, Climate Change, Sustainable Energy, Water and Sanitation Solutions, Local Organic Agricultural Practices and Ecological Protection, Environmental Health, Sustainable Development

Address: Korte Elisabethstraat 6, NL - 3511 JG Utrecht. Tel: +31 - 30-231 030 0, email: wecf@wecf.eu, www.wecf.org

#### Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN)



Global South, international Network NGO focusing on Climate Change, Ecological Protection, Economic Empowerment, Sustainable Development, Women's Leadership, Women's Rights Address: United Center, Level 41, 323 Silom Road, Bangkok,

Address: United Center, Level 41, 323 Silom Road, Bangkok, 10500, Thailand. Tel: +66 (0)87 993 00 96, email: info@wocan.org, www.wocan.org

#### Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO)



International advocacy NGO focusing on Women's Rights Climate Change, Economic Empowerment, governance, Sustainable Development, Transformative Justice Address: 355 Lexington Avenue, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 100 17, USA. Tel: +212-973-0325, email: wedo@wedo.org, www.wedo.org

#### Youth Action for Development (AJED-CONGO)



Congolese national advocacy NGO (Republic of Congo-Brazzaville) working on Climate Change, Ecological Protection, Economic Empowerment, Sustainable Development, Women's Rights, Youth Address: 29, Rue Tsaba Moungali - BP, Moukondo, Brazzaville, 10030, Republic of Congo, Tel: + 242-06-6786598, email: ong.ajedc@gmail.com, www.ong-ajedcongo.blogspot.com

#### 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 etc. Sarojini House, 6 Bhagwan Dass Road, New Delhi, 110001, India. Tel: 1-718-388-8915, email : info@aiwc.org.in, www.aiwc.org.in

#### Asia Pacific – Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)



Asia & Pacific, Regional Network working on Women Rights, Equity and Sustainable Development, Transformative Justice 189/3 Changklan Road, Amphoe Muang, Chiang Mai, 50100, Thailand. Tel: +(66) 53 284 527, email: apwld@apwld.org, www.apwld.org

#### **Centre for 21st Century Issues**



Nigerian national advocacy NGO focusing on Gender Rights and Climate Change, Democracy and Governance, Sustainable Development, Women Peace and Security, Women's Leadership, Youth Adress: 6, Balogun Street, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria Tel: +234 802 304 76 78, email: century21stcentre@yahoo.com C21stnigeria.wordpress.com

#### **ENERGIA**, part of the ETC Foundation



African, Asia & Pacific, Global South International Network focused on Ecological Protection, Economic Empowerment, Energy, Gender Rights and Equity, Health, Sustainable Development, Transformative Justice Adress: Kastanjelaan 5, Leusden, 3833 AN, The Netherlands Tel: + 31 (0)33 432 600 0, email: info@etcnl.nl www.energia.org

#### LIFE – Education | Environment | Equality



European, German Network NGO working on Climate Change, Ecological Protection, Sustainable Development, Transformative Justice, Women's Leadership, Women's Rights

Address: Rheinstr. 45, 12161 Berlin, Germany Tel: + 49 30 308 798-45, email: leitstelle@genanet.de www.life-online.de

#### GenderCC – Women for Climate Justice



Global South, International Network working on Climate Change, Ecological Protection, Sustainable Development, Transformative Justice, Women's Leadership, Women's Rights, Youth Address: Anklamer Str. 38, 10115 Berlin, Germany Tel: +49 30 219 800 88, email: info@gendercc.net www.gendercc.net

#### **Global Forest Coalition**



International Network working on Climate Change, Ecological Protection, Economic Empowerment, Governance, Indigenous People's Rights, Sustainable Development, Transformative Justice **Tel: + 595-21-663654** 

email: simone.lovera@globalforestcoalition.org www.globalforestcoalition.org

# Women demand just action from world leaders in Paris

WOMEN

### Women's Key Demands for COP21:

- **1. Governments must commit to keep global warming under 1.5 degrees Celsius** to prevent catastrophic climate change, in line with the principles of the Convention, namely equity and common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR).
- 2. The agreement must ensure that all climate actions, both adaptation and mitigation, respect, protect, promote and fulfil human rights, gender equality, the rights of indigenous peoples, intergenerational equity, a just transition and decent work, food security and resilient ecosystems.
- **3. Developed countries must do their fair share by taking the lead to close the inequitable** emissions gap of current intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) and providing unconditional support to developing countries to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- 4. Governments must commit to wide-ranging ambitious and just actions pre-2020 under Workstream II.
- 5. Concepts such as 'net-zero' or 'carbon neutrality' or any that encourage off-setting and unsafe technological solutions must be left out of the agreement.
- 6. The long-term global goal of the agreement must articulate a sustainable pathway for urgently reducing emissions: phasing in 100% safe and sustainable renewable energy systems and wide-ranging structural and lifestyle changes and phasing out harmful technologies and fossil fuels, in line with the principles of CBDR and equity.
- 7. Adaptation approaches must be country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent.
- 8. The new agreement must explicitly include a standalone section on Loss and Damage and include a mechanism to address both financial and non-monetized Loss and Damage.
- **9.** Technology development and transfer must be safe for people and the environment, affordable to all and gender responsive.
- **10. Countries must provide clearly defined, new, additional, and predictable gender-responsive** public finance, in the form of grants. The goal of \$100 billion per year must be a floor, not a ceiling, scaled up at least every five years, with a 50:50 balance between mitigation and adaptation, and include finance for Loss and Damage in addition to adaptation funding.
- **11. Finally, participation in decision-making under the new agreement should be** inclusive and transparent, ensuring all barriers to movement and travel for developing country participants are alleviated and that civil society has access to decision-making spaces.

# **Gender Just Climate Solutions Award**



The Women and Gender Constituency and other women, gender and human rights advocates have been actively pushing world leaders to ensure a just outcome, one which works for people and the planet, and which responds 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 change!

### The Gender Just Climate Solutions shown in this publication are aimed at making gender responsive and equitable solutions visible and central to just climate action!

We have asked the candidates to describe their women & gender initiative for climate solutions, in one of three categories:

• Technical Climate Solutions

**Selection Criteria** 

- Non-technical Climate Solutions
- Transformational Climate Solutions

The selection process was based on the following criteria. We received 60 applications.

- Women-led initiatives
- Equal access to benefits/equal benefits, women are in value chain
- Promotes the participation of women in all areas of decision making
- Does not add additional burden to women's workload
- Ensures environmental integrity
- Ensures sufficiency and a low input of resources
- Contributes to climate change mitigation, emissions reduction and/or climate adaptation
- Empowers women through e.g. reduced workload and costs, better accessibility, economic value, enhanced food security, improved health as many benefits as possible, "multiple benefits"
- Ensures decision making by local women and men, women's groups, cooperatives and communities
- Results can be shared, spread and up scaled not just benefitting one individual
- Decentralized, safe, appropriate, affordable, sustainable
- Shows inter-linkages to peace building, resource constraints, health does not increase conflict potential

With special thanks to our jury members:

Kalyani Raj — AIWC Isis Alvarez — GFC Tess Vistro — APWLD Sabine Bock / Miriam Reindl — WECF

Ulrike Roehr – LIFE e.V./ GenderCC Women for Climate Justice Gbemisola Akosa – Center for 21st Century Bridget Burns – WEDO

In order to implement the transformative shift that we need to appropriately respond to climate change, gender-just solutions must be supported, strenghtened and up-scaled in every country.

### **Winner Technical Solutions**

Country: Marshall Islands Organization: IslandECo Representative: Jerissa Fusitala Email: islandeco@gmail.com



# Training young women in the principles and installation of solar photovoltaic DC refrigeration

WINNER

**Description of the project:** Young women participated in the assembly, delivery and installation of solar powered lights, refrigerators and freezers on two atolls in the Marshall Islands. The young women independently learned how to master technical elements, assembly methods, and packing and delivery of the components across oceanic distances to remote islands. They also gained competency in the off-loading, re-assembly and installation of mechanical and electrical components.



**Climate Impact:** The project has both mitigation and adaptation impacts. It supports mitigation by substituting renewable energy generation for the very costly and largely unavailable fuel used to power diesel generators. It supports adaptation by enhancing food security on very remote islands impacted by adverse effects of climate change including frequent drought, salt water inundation from King (high) Tides and increased storm surges. It also alleviates the hardship of remote existence and the challenges to traditional fishing caused by lack of access to fuel and increased storm surges.

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**Gender Impact:** Young rural high school educated women were trained in the skills of electrical and mechanical assembly and the commissioning of solar PV systems. This training for women is uncommon as, especially in the Pacific Islands, it is a male dominated area of work. These young women also supervised the installation of solar photovoltaic refrigerators in their own homes. As women are the primary users of home refrigeration, women in the community were involved at each household. This is the first such activity in the Pacific Islands.

IslandECo www.islandeco.com **Financial Support**: The project was supported by the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development / Rural Utilities Service Electric Program through a grant for high energy cost areas.

Country: Tanzania Organization: International Collaborative for Science, Education and the Environment Representative: Nicola Steen Email: nicola@nicolasteen.com



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### Maasai stoves transforming lives

**Description of the project:** The Maasai Stoves and Solar Project sets a benchmark in stove projects: it transforms lives. The stoves are designed by women themselves, who love them! A spot check after one year showed 100% of stoves in use. Each stove annually relieves three tonnes of wood from a woman's back and releases 12 hours of labour a week: time freed-up for farming and children's care and education. The stoves produce 90% less smoke than traditional 3 stone fires Fireboxes are made locally and the stoves are installed by teams of trained women. No other organizations are working with the Maasai on sustainable energy projects; the need is great and the solutions offered are widely appreciated.



**Climate Impact:** Each stove saves 3.6 metric tonnes of  $CO_2$  emissions/year. This has been substantiated and validated through tests by an UN-Designated operational entity. The amount of wood used is reduced annually from five to three tonnes per household. This has a great impact locally too; in Tanzania 96 % of biomass is non-renewable.

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**Gender Impact:** The Project involves women throughout the community, and begins by using their stove design. The Project also employs women to install the stoves, while training and empowering them. One project participant said "We used to think only men could do this work; now we know we can do anything!" Inspired by their roles in the Project, they have established a women's organization, stating, "We love the work and the feelings of new power and freedom. We have formed this group so that we can determine and achieve our own goals." The women have more time, more energy and healthier lives. The stoves and chimneys bring clean homes. "If there is an average of five children in a household, and if all causes of severe respiratory disease were removed in fifty households, then one child's life would be saved." Installing solar systems further helps everyone, particularly with education. Where micro-grids are installed in bomas (homesteads), the homes run a refrigerator and a laptop, which the woman of the house is trained to use and with which she can teach her children.

#### International Collaborative for Science, Education and the Environment www.internationalcollaborative.org

**Financial Support**: Currently the project is funded by development funding, grants and charitable donations. ICSEE has also worked with For Stoves (www.forstoves.com) to design a business model to expand the project, replicating the same grassroots format, to install tens of thousands of stoves per year using carbon finance. The project is currently waiting for a Letter of Approval from the United Republic of Tanzania.

Country: Germany Organization: Windfang eG Representative: Melanie Ball Email: melanie.ball@gmx.de



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# Windfang: A women's cooperative that projects, builds and runs wind turbines

**Description of the project:** We are the first (and only) women run and operated energy cooperative in Germany. In 1991, a group of women studying engineering and natural sciences decided they wanted to contribute more to the energy transition than just protesting and discussions. They decided to build their own wind turbine on a family property in stormy Dithmarschen. And, they wanted to do it themselves, without men. Twenty-four years later, Windfang owns eleven wind turbines and three solar plants. In 2014, Windfang's first 2.5 MW turbine was installed, increasing Windfang's renewable electricity generation to more than 11 000 MW hours/year and, as a result enabled our cooperative to pay more than a 4% return on investment to our associates.



**Climate Impact:** The goal of our cooperative is the production of environmentally friendly, sustainable energy. Every woman who buys a share therefore supports an ecologically just project. Altogether, our decentralized power stations supply approximately 3,140 households with renewable energy, thereby avoiding 8,280 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Due to our local contacts and our lean organization, we work highly efficiently with a low input of resources. When starting a new project, environmental integrity is ensured - e.g. by avifaunistical (bird and mammal) impact assessment studies and by ecological compensatory measures. Additionally, a renewable energy plant can be fully dismantled at the end of its life cycle, in contrast to coal fired or nuclear power plants.

**Gender Impact:** Our cooperative enables women to participate in technical and strategic fields which are - even in the alternative sector - usually led by men. All bodies of our cooperative are occupied by women who are responsible for the technical management, the commercial management and the finances of our power plants. In our general assembly, all 300 associates decide on the further development of the cooperative and the usage of the profit democratically. With a return on our investment, the work does not add additional burden to our board members' workload, since they are no longer working voluntarily. Being associates, women use the opportunity to make their own investments; and through them they influence the energy market. We find our own women-specific solutions to climate change and bring in our creativity and multi-dimensional skills.

Windfang eG www.windfang.net **Financial Support**: Since our renewable power stations are financed by the shares and direct loans of our members as well as bank credits there is no need for additional funding.

Country: Uganda Organization: Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment (SWAGEN) Representative: Gertrude Kabusimbi Kenyangi Email: ruralwomenug@gmail.com



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# A forest-dependent women's initiative to enhance community resilience to climate change

**Description of the project:** Forest-dependent women organized themselves into groups, communally constructed fuel-saving stoves and replaced their kerosene (fossil fuel) lamps with solar lighting (an alternative renewable energy). They also constructed water harvesting tanks and planted trees. The women established forest-based, non-extractive income generating activities like beekeeping for honey and medicinal plant cultivation and processing. They also reached out to schools with sustainable livelihood practices with the aim of nurturing successive generations in these conservation efforts. The initiative creates synergies by implementing recommendations of the Multilateral Environment Agreements in an integrated manner.



**Climate Impact:** The project has had the effect of contributing to global efforts to reduce global warming and mitigate climate change by conserving the natural tropical forest of Rwoho, a carbon sink of international significance. This has been done by implementing activities aimed at reducing the human footprint on the forest and maintaining its integrity. The initiative has planted 2 137 hectares of the Rwoho Natural Forest buffer zone with 2 374 207 trees absorbing 1 282 200 tons of Carbon per rotation (Twenty Year Period). By promoting household and school use of fuel efficient stoves, the initiative has reduced consumption of woody biomass from the average 147 Kg per household per month to 100 Kgs per household per month. As a result the initiative has reduced the threat from fire within the natural, tropical forest of Rwoho from 76% to 10%.

**Gender Impact:** Century old traditional practices have left women without education, skills and their own productive resources from the land that they toil. This project has taken this into account. The initiative promoting honey production is an income generating activity that is not labour or capital intensive and does not require a lot of land in order to cater to women who lack productive resources. Using fuel saving stoves and installing water harvesting capacity reduces the workload of women who traditionally have the responsibility of gathering fuel wood and collecting water. The women are the owners of this initiative and they democratically elect their Governing Board annually. The initiative is creating awareness and imparting skills to women in fuel-efficient stove construction. These are marketable skills that women can use to get employment to earn a living.

# Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment (SWAGEN)

**Financial Support**: The project has received financial and technical support from Global Environment Facility and has recently won US \$20,000 from the Wangari Maathai Forest Champions Award.

www.swagenug.org P.O.Box 12223, Kampala, Uganda

Countries: Tanzania, Uganda, Nigeria Organization: Solar Sister Representative: Neha Misra Email: neha@solarsister.org



CONSTITUENCY

# Solar Sister eradicates energy poverty by empowering women with economic opportunity

**Description of the project:** Solar Sister combines the breakthrough potential of clean energy technology with a deliberately woman-centered direct sales network to bring light, hope and opportunity to even the most remote communities in rural Africa. Solar Sister eradicates energy poverty through empowering women with economic opportunity and we promote women's leadership to build a brighter future. Investing in women is not only the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do. Solar Sister creates sustainable businesses, powered by smart investments in women entrepreneurs.



**Gender Impact:** Solar Sister is a women-led social enterprise working at the forefront of women's leadership for gender just climate action. Since 2010, Solar Sister has built a thriving network of 2000 women entrepreneurs who have brought clean energy access to over 350 000 people across Sub-Saharan Africa. Solar Sister's CEO is a women, over 86% of the staff and over 57% of our board are women. We are showing that women's leadership is needed at all levels for lasting change. Solar Sister entrepreneurs are farmers, nurses, school teachers, basket weavers, community mobilizers - all making the world brighter and better!



**Financial Support**: Solar Sister is supported by the public, private partners and income from its social enterprise business model.

Solar Sister www.solarsister.org

Country: Pakistan Organization: Potohar Organization for Development Advocacy (PODA) Representative: Adnan Arshad Email: adnan.poda@gmail.com



### Rainwater harvesting and conservation training for women farmers

**Description of the project:** Rain is the only source of water for drinking and domestic usage in rain fed areas. PODA is implementing projects in 27 villages of the Chakwal District that are highly vulnerable to climate change and prolonged drought. Technical capacity-building trainings of women farmers are spreading awareness among communities on how to harvest every drop of rain for drinking, domestic usage and food production. The PODA team conducts trainings and technical assistance of women in rooftop construction, rainwater harvesting, runoff farming, storm flow conservation, benching and terracing of agriculture, micro catchments, solar pump systems; and using in-situ rainwater for sustainable food production



**Climate Impact:** Food productivity is being affected by climate change including shifts in rainfall patterns, drought, temperature hikes, changes in sowing and harvesting dates, and water and land quality. This project is based on innovative adaptation technologies in order to mitigate excess usage of natural resources. Rainwater conservation by women has had excellent impacts on food security and saves water in order to reduce flooding in downstream areas. Extreme climatic events and prolonged droughts can be coped with efficiently with this project and, as a result, the demand on other natural resources will be limited. Water-borne diseases and hunger are reduced and nutrition and health are efficiently delivered with adaptation to climatic conditions.

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**Gender Impact:** Women who are highly vulnerable to extreme climate change are trained well for adaptation under this project. As a result, women farmers are practicing multiple rainwater harvesting technologies to save water for future use. This project positively impacts on rural women's lives and reduces their daily work to gather water from long distances for drinking and sustainable food production. Women farmers are collecting rainwater and utilizing it for kitchen gardening for their family's consumption. This also empowers women economically. Issues faced by women farmers regarding both groundwater pollution and water scarcity for drinking, livestock and domestic use are addressed and sorted out in the targeted project area.

### Potohar Organization for Development Advocacy (PODA)

**Financial Support**: Initially, this project was supported by the Korea Green Foundation (KGF) for three villages for six months. After seeing the success and positive impacts, PODA took on the project as an initiative and has extended the program to 27 villages through PODA's own finances and support from local stakeholders.

House 4A, street 41, F-7/1, Islamabad, Pakistan

www.poda.org.pk



Country: Mozambique Organization: Lojas de Energias Representative: Gilda Monjane Email: gilmonjane@gmail.com



# A new adaptation initiative to disseminate the use of renewable energy while promoting women's empowerment

**Description of the project:** Lojas de Energias is an initiative adapted by Gilda Monjane, in 2011, as a way to fill a gap in infrastructure for rural off-grid areas. The initiative promotes female entrepreneurship in order to reinforce women's economic empowerment at the same time that it is aiming to supply clean and renewable forms of energy for rural villagers living in off-grid areas. At the energy shops one can buy improved cook stoves and photovoltaic systems. One can also re-charge lamps and mobile phones and buy low energy-use light bulbs. Some shops also sell gas for cooking.



**Climate Impact:** Energy shops sell environmental friendly material like improved stoves, low energy-consumption bulbs, PV systems powered by the sun, and rechargeable bulbs. Additionally, the women managing different shops are trained to be able to explain the advantages of the different products they sell and share environmental messages about the effects of climate change. We believe this will have positive implications for the community.

**Gender Impact:** The initiative contributes to increasing the numbers of women employed in wage employment. The shops intend to fill a gap by creating a new infrastructure, especially for the rural areas, which contributes to economic empowerment of rural women. The enterprises help to create jobs for people in the rural areas, for women in particular, and for girls that finish school in the rural areas and have no options to continue with their education in their home villages. People stop using kerosene and firewood to light and warm their houses and start using PV energy which is cleaner and healthier and, allows them to save money.

### Lojas de Energias

Financial Support: own income generation through the creation of women-owned shops.

Country: Senegal Organization: Center for Renewable Energy and Appropriate Technology for the Environment (CREATE!) Representative: Kaitlyn Grigsby-Hall Email: kaitlyn@createaction.org



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### Community-based adaptation to climate change in rural Senegal

**Description of the project:** CREATE! collaborates with eight rural Senegalese communities to help residents 1) gain access to abundant and affordable clean water using renewable solar energy; 2) reduce deforestation and desertification through tree planting programs and the widespread use of locally built fuelefficient clay/sand improved cook stoves; and 3) improve their health and security through sustainable agriculture and other income generating activities. CREATE! empowers village women for self-development, using training strategies based on local knowledge, participation, and social mobilization to maximize self-reliance and self-sufficiency.



**Climate Impact:** Rural Senegal is experiencing drought, deforestation, and desertification resulting from climate change. CREATE! programs train and empower rural women to reduce deforestation, promote alternative energy technologies, and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Solar-powered pumps in our villages' rehabilitated wells provide year-round access to clean water without producing carbon emissions. During our 2015 reforestation campaign, women-led cooperatives in CREATE! communities planted 19 000 tree seedlings throughout their villages. Trees serve as windbreaks and stabilize soils to slow desertification in Senegal. This campaign, in conjunction with the widespread use of fuel-saving improved cook stoves, is helping to combat deforestation. The Senegalese government honored CREATE! for these contributions on World Environment Day in 2015.

**Gender Impact:** In CREATE! partner villages, women and their families now have access to clean water, fresh food, and income generating opportunities. Our programs improve the health and safety of rural women while simultaneously reducing their workload. Because improved cook stoves use less wood, women can gather wood (and risk their safety) less frequently. Improved cook stoves also produce less smoke and reduce the risk of burns. With access to water, women can now work in female-led agricultural cooperatives to grow healthy vegetables throughout the year. Fresh vegetables improve diets and help women earn an income by selling produce in local markets. CREATE! programs empower women by helping them build financial security for their families through cooperative gardening, income generating programs, and community savings and lending associations.

Center for Renewable Energy and Appropriate Technology for the Environment (CREATE!) www.createaction.org **Financial Support**: CREATE! receives financial support from both individual donors and foundations. The Vibrant Village Foundation provides our largest source of grant funding.





132 East Broadway, Suite 416 Eugene, Oregon 97401, USA

Country: Senegal Organization: Association for Research Action Development and Environment in Sahel (ARADES) Representative: Abibatou Banda FALL Email: bibaminata@gmail.com



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### Selling thermal baskets to keep food hot and reduce CO, and waste

#### Description of the project:

Association for Research Action Development and Environment in Sahel (ARADES) is developing and selling thermal baskets sold by women. This low-tech product enables households to save cooking fuel and reduce waste. This enhances sustainable development and civic behaviour. We hope to sell 44 000 thermal baskets per year, from which women can make an average revenue of US \$220 per month.



**Climate Impact:** The energy context is characterized, for thirty years now by a strong energy demand with growth of 1.6% to 2%. This has led to more deforestation increasing climate change. However, the Senegalese area has considerable potential for biomass energy products like the thermal basket, an alternative energy source to traditional fuels, to enable further reductions of 50% in environmental impact, 50% in economic and 50 % in social costs. Given this situation, it is urgent to popularize the successful experiences of the value of thermal baskets. The community organizations have been a strong mobilizer of young men and women whose earnest desire is to bring a positive change.

**Gender Impact:** The ARADES network has eight member associations of women between Saint-Louis and Thies ranging from 15 to over 200 members each. They work in girl's education, the protection of the environment, food processing, sewing, dyeing, selling biochar and improved stoves, solar cookers, and income generating activities. The managing committee is composed of environmentalists, lawyers in public law, teachers of home economics and, foreign languages, students in literature, cartographers, economists and facilitators in OCBs. The Impact is ARADES's challenge. It is to help the community to benefit from experiences by helping people throughout the social scale to take maximum advantage of scientific and technological progress while creating jobs and revitalizing their respective sectors.

Association for Research Action Development and Environment in Sahel (ARADES) www.aradessen.blogspot.co.za/ Financial Support: Seeking partnerships.

Rue Ndiaye Diouf, Sor Saint- Iouis, Senegal

**Country: Togo Organization: ONG Monde Volontaire au Développement** Representative: Akpadja Yaogan Amédodji Email: ongmvd@yahoo.fr

**Description of the project:** The project consists of the

stoves. And instead of using coal, these new stoves use wood

pellets, from wood recycling material which further reduces CO<sub>2</sub>

emissions. The project is led by 4 women who are responsible for the fabrication of the cooking stoves. 700 stoves have been built

and sold to 700 benefiting households until today and 400 are in

They enable a 40% CO, emissions reduction compared to previous

fabrication of traditional efficient stoves for cooking food.

**Building improved efficient stoves for women** 

### **Climate Impact:** The climate impacts of implementing local solutions for deforestation problems include the reduction of stove can reduce 40% CO, compared to existing household

**Gender Impact:** The project provides employment to four women, who sell their cooking stoves in the market. The programme also reduces women's traditional time burden in cooking and providing food for the family. The efficient stoves allows women to save time in the kitchen, so they can better provide for other needs such as education and health, for themselves and their community. Women's health has also improved directly from the stoves as they inhale less coal fumes than before. The projet has benefiting 700 women and families so far.

fuelwood consumption and reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. An improved cooking methods. A further advantage of the stoves is that they use wood pellets, which have a longer burning process compare to relugar wood.

**ONG Monde Volontaire au Développement** www.ong-mvd.org

Financial Support: each stove is sold for aproximatly 200 dollars. Seeking partnerships.

order.









### Constituency Member Contributions Technical Solutions

Country: International Organization: Women in Europe for a Common Future Representative: Anna Samwel Email: anna.samwel@wecf.eu



# Improving livelihoods in rural areas with safe and sustainable energy and sanitation – practical solutions

**Description of the project:** In the WECF energy and sanitation programme, decentralized solutions (solar water heaters, solar heating, solar fruit driers, biogas, insulation measures, sustainable sanitation solutions) are implemented by locally trained craftsmen and women, using local materials. By providing energy security in a sustainable way the project contributes to improved living conditions and health, reduces poverty and environmental degradation in rural areas in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine, Tajikistan and Uganda.



**Climate Impact:** The majority of the rural population in the project countries suffers from energy poverty and uses un-safe, fossil and traditional energy sources. By using fuel wood from unsustainably managed forests for heating, a rural household emits 6 -10 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually. Technologies implemented by WECF and its partners provide safe, sustainable energy services, reducing household emissions up to 50%. Communities also become more climate resilient because there is less land degradation and deforestation. The programme also works on sustainable sanitation solutions that use less or no water compared with traditional alternatives.

**Gender Impact:** In the target regions, women have an unpaid labor burden in and around the house and have fewer opportunities to participate in economic and public activities. Women are traditionally responsible to produce heat and hot water and are exposed to indoor air pollution caused by the burning of unsafe fuel. Insufficient availability of warm water and appropriate sanitation for hygienic purposes likewise adversely affects women's health. WECF fosters gender equality by 1. Reducing women's and men's unpaid labor burden, improving women's health and comfort by reducing indoor air pollution; 2. Ensuring that men and women participate equally in all project aspects, that women's needs are taken into account, and empowering women to become promoters of safe, sustainable energy and improved hygiene; 3. Empowering women and men economically by saving money for fuel and creating jobs.

WECF www.wecf.eu **Financial Support**: The programme is supported by the European Union, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, different public funds and private foundations.



### **Winner Non-Technical Solutions**

Country: Southern Africa Organization: GenderCC-Southern Africa/ Mopani District, Limpopo and Western Cape in Makhaza Community Representative: Bertha Chiroro Email: bertha@gendercc.org.za



CONSTITUENCY

GENDER

#### Southern Africa

### Raising awareness on gender integration in climate change adaptation and building community resilience

WOMEN

WINNER

**Description of the project:** The project used a "learn and build methodology" of awareness training on gender integration in climate change adaptation, water management, access to sustainable energy, waste management, and sustainable farming methods in selected communities. The projects were led by women champions, government officials in Gauteng, Limpopo and the Western Cape, NGOs, and village leaders. Mostly the women farmers undertook a process of skills training and capacity building in the installation, of biogas digesters, PVC solar units and water harvesting tanks.



**Climate Impact:** By using a learn and build methodology led by women, the project empowers the resilience of women living in poverty to adapt to the negative impacts of climate change. Skills include 1) learning to be able to install, maintain and use renewable energy, such as biogas digesters and solar panel photovoltaic power units; 2) water harvesting for irrigation and establishment of food gardens for energy security, and 3) increased access to water and food security.

**Gender Impact:** The project has enhanced women's decision making powers. They lead and manage the project. Women champions have formed cooperatives to run the project, and save money from selling garden produce. The "learn and build" methodology has enabled women to use and maintain the installed technologies. A participatory approach and ongoing capacity building has been important both ensuring that the beneficiaries have "buy in" in all aspects of the project cycle and for conflict resolution. It has given women extra time to do other activities including beading, exchanging information about how best to package and sell their produce, counseling each other, giving each other tips on economic empowerment and strategizing on other income generating projects such as packaging their produce and herb processing.

#### Genderccsa/Mopani District, Limpopo and Western Cape in Makhaza Community www.gendercc.org.za

**Financial Support**: The current project intervention is funded by EU, with a co-funding support from Oxfam to contribute to the specific and overall objectives.



Gender CC SA, Wolmarans Street, Joubert Park, Johannesburg, Southern Africa



Country: India Organization: THREAD (Team for Human Resource Education & Action for Development) Representative: George John Email: threadodisha@gmail.com



# Empowerment and climate change resilience for tribal and Dalit women in India

**Description of the project:** Participatory planning at the grassroots level is introduced for effective management and development of natural resources with a focus on initiating an ecovillage. A particular effort is to strengthen 53 tribal previously initiated women's organizations from ten districts of Orissa at the block level. These groups in turn carry out social and ecological initiatives. The project is implemented while keeping in view the empowerment of socially excluded tribal and Dalit women, addressing the issues of climate change and ensuring respect for indigenous practices and traditional knowledge for protecting natural resources.



**Climate Impact:** All tribal women's organization's leaders are under the umbrella of Orissa Nari Aamaj, the state level organizations federation, and plan the activities addressing climate change, and disseminating information and good practices of some of their counterparts. The women leaders were selected by the organizations and they are trained by THREAD to participating in self-autonomous local institutions' elections. Activities for mitigating climate change like organic farming, systematic rice intensification, organic manure production (using cow dung and cow urine), tree planting, lobbying for a forest rights act and community forests for tribes have been the main focus during the past seven years. THREAD supported tribal women to create awareness on peak oil after training them in the "Transition Town" concept.

**Gender Impact:** Over 325 tribal women have been elected as village representatives, panchayat presidents and vice chairpersons of their block. 120 000 individual forest land titles are provided to the women who are the main recipients and owners. THREAD and tribal women leaders are also directly involved in creating employment through effective implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and have mobilised 1,06 million person days of labour among the tribal and Dalit families of Odisha. A 'Grow Your Own Food' drive has positively impacted the health and nutritional intake of women. Tribal women have been trained in block brick making and in masonry skills to construct their own eco-friendly homes. Over 5000 tribal women have been trained in permaculture and ecovillage design education.

### Team for Human Resource Education & Action for Development, (THREAD)

www.threadsiddharthvillage.org/ www.odishanarisamaj.org Siddharthvillage, At/PO: Badatota, Via: Jatni-752050, Dist: Khurda, Odisha, INDIA **Financial Support**: Received from Misereor, Germany, Entraide et Fraternite, Belgium, Scotland's parliament and through Gaia Education.



Country: Vietnam Organization: Centre for Sustainable Rural Development/ Women's Union at Commune level/local women Representative: Toan Tran Email: toan@srd.org.vn



# Confronting disaster response in lagoon regions through women empowerment at community level

**Description of the project:** Affected by Confucian ideology, patriarchy remained dominant in Vietnam. It has been not only limiting to the development and social equality of women but also prevents them from taking part in disaster response and climate change adaptation even though they belong to the most vulnerable group. They are not considered eligible and often described passively as support recipients during disasters even though their experience and contributions are as valuable as men's. Therefore, from 2014 –2015, Sustainable Rural Development (SRD) worked with 5700 women in 2 lagoon communes in central Vietnam to promote their voices and to include them in village rapid response teams as active contributors.



**Climate Impact:** The vulnerability of women has been increased in the context of climate change. They have found it extremely difficult to adapt and maintain life for themselves and for their families and their children. Through the project, 60 local women were added to the 12 village rapid response teams which previously only involved men. Furthermore, their participation is now recognized by local authorities as officially equal to men. It is encouraging to local women who can from now on have the same opportunity to go the trainings for capacity building in preparedness planning, first aid, communication, environmental protection, and adaptive livelihoods. Additionally, they have experienced trainings to enable them to reduce their vulnerability, to help the community be more responsive to disaster and to strengthen their community resilience.

**Gender Impact:** With women's participation in the rapid response team, the perception of women by the men and by the community is positively changed. Women themselves feel more confident in speaking out in public and in participating not only in disaster response and climate change adaptation but also in many other activities in the community. Women are now highly appreciated by their families and society. They are mentioned as skillful and patient campaigners in disaster response and as creative and hardworking in climate change adaptation. Thanks to this, local men are now more aware of sharing housework with women than before. Women's voice and position as well as decision making powers in the family and community are thus strengthened and leveraged.

#### Centre for Sustainable Rural Development/ Women's Union at Commune level/local women www.srd.org.vn



**Financial Support**: The project is funded by APWLD through the FPAR program. With remarkable changes in promoting women's participation, institutionalization and disaster planning processes, APWLD decided to fund the advocacy phase after FPAR to replicate the model of women taking part in rapid response teams into other communes in the district.

No. 56, lane 19/9 Kim Dong str, Hoang Mai dis., Hanoi, Vietnam



Country: United Kingdom Organization: IPNAMME (International-Curricula Educators Association) Representative: Gihan Sami Soliman

### IPNAMME

### A women-led permaculture global initiative for sustainable development

**Description of the project:** The project seeks to connect international actors participating (and willing to participate) in permaculture activities, while communicating human rights, peace, tolerance, and gender equality and, at the same time, acting on climate change. The project is comprised of three innovative basic concepts that are capable of securing healthy global partnerships and empowering women and local communities while addressing pressing environmental issues. The My Own Moringa design, as simple as it seems, is potentially capable of transforming agricultural innovation in the 21st century, achieving global solidarity and alleviating extreme poverty.



**Climate Impact:** Encouraging the global trade of Moringa and African superfood, is an ideal solution to several environmental problems. It provides an alternative local currency at times of crises that is capable of supplying the essential nutrients for poor communities and allows food exchange (Barter) within the community based on the supply of Moringa. Moringa can be dried and stored and can be used to make bread and animal staple food while it is also used as medicine and biofuel. It, however, is still underused. Moringa grows in arid and semi-arid soils and can tolerate salinity stress. On the other hand, it can be exported to other places of the world to aid in reducing the consumption of meat with all its harmful effects on the environment and the plant can also serve as a carbon sink.

**Gender Impact:** The engagement of women in planning and leadership adds another dimension to the project's impact on the environment and on innovation. Women and women's groups are invited not only to participate but to take the lead. As the project grows, it will allow women to own land and influence food markets. IPNAMME takes a special focus on educating girls and training women in organic farming; empowering women through sports, networking and social media; and providing motivational support for girls and women to take control over their lives and wellbeing. Many enthusiastic young men and women, as well as community leaders from countries such as Kenya, Egypt, Nigeria and Uganda are getting interested and are joining in, either as educators/trainers or as farmers of both genders.

#### IPNAMME (International-Curricula Educators Association) https://sites.google.com/site/ipnamme

**Financial Support**: The project is designed to be self-sustainable through unique funding strategies congruent with the need of transforming innovation for the 21th century.



Country: Sri Lanka Organization: NetWwater (Network of Women Water Professionals) Representative: Kusum Athukorala Email: kusum@itmin.net



# Empowering women community leaders in rural Sri Lanka in climate resilient low-tech water resource management

**Description of the project:** The Jalavahini programme builds the capacity of women community leaders in climate change resilience via a series of interactive trainings. The capacity building activity introduces water-friendly approaches in climate change adaptation. So far, 15 programmes have trained 300 rural women leaders in seven regions all across Sri Lanka. They were trained on climate change adaptation and disaster risk resilience, enhanced food security through eco-friendly agriculture and non-toxic home gardening, and the use of modern and appropriate water conservation and agriculture technologies. The programme provides livelihood security for communities, especially female headed households.



**Climate Impact:** Sri Lanka oscillates between floods and droughts with extreme weather events taking a high toll on communities. High use of chemical pesticides and weedicides in agriculture leads to the loss of soil fertility which is compounded due to extreme events. The Jalavahini programs led to a pilot project targeting the development of a year round supply of food from home gardens through eco-friendly organic agriculture. Jalavahini promotes user friendly simple techniques to be carried out through the dry seasons. Droughts are combatted with simple irrigation techniques using buried pots. Simple drip lines simulate expensive drip irrigation systems. Enhanced knowledge leads to best crop selection and improves post-harvest management. Jalavahini's yield is strong and empowers women which makes them game changers in community-level climate change adaptation.

**Gender Impact:** Jalavahini builds a two-way linkage channeling knowledge of women water professionals to support community women. The programme builds on existing skills and strengths of women leaders to develop and implement water and food/agriculture related activities, strengthen their leadership and organizational skills and ultimately improve their livelihood security in a climate threatened scenario. Supporting livelihood development and income generation, Jalavahini's strategy recognizes that economic empowerment is intertwined with social and political empowerment: it requires interventions at different levels and with different actors. Jalavahini advocates with agency and policy makers to enhance

opportunities for women leaders. Women are given financial management training and practical exposure to consensus build-ing and to shared knowledge.

#### NetWwater (Network of Women Water Professionals)

Financial Support: The project is supported financially by Brandix PLC with co-financing in kind provided by NetWwater. NetWwater provides technical support knowledge for the training; the Women for Water Partnership provides support for communication.

www.womenforwater.org/openbaar/index. php?themaID=299&memberID=12



Country: Australia Organization: 1 Million Women Representative: Natalie Isaacs Email: natalie.isaacs@1millionwomen.com.au

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# Empowering millions of women in rich economies to cut carbon pollution in their daily lives through behaviour change

**Description of the project:** 1 Million Women (1MW) was founded by Natalie Isaacs in 2009. She saw individual action as vital to a climate solution. Her behaviour change story resonates with women of all ages. Based in a wealthy economy with very high per capita carbon pollution, 1MW's aims are to 1) engage women beyond the traditional 'green belt'; 2) empower them to lead practical action in their households and communities; 3) unite them into a powerful collective voice, and; 4) ensure 20% of its members are girls under 20 (the next generation of consumers/decision makers). Historically public campaigns on climate rarely considered gender so 1MW set out to change that and enlist women as change agents. 1MW has 370,000+ members as of November 2015.



**Climate Impact:** Our "free-to-join" website enables a low carbon life, capturing real data on behaviour change. Our online Carbon Challenge has 50+ activities across energy, transport, food, shopping, finances and sharing. Women can audit their lifestyles, chose activities and calculate CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions savings. They commit to cut at least 1 tonne of pollution from their daily lives, with 100 000+ pledging carbon savings of 156 801 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions. Everything we do promotes a 'less is more' philosophy to women who live privileged lifestyles by global standards, as a direct strategy to counter a typical high-consumption, high-waste contemporary way of living that threatens the planet. All our projects, speaking and campaigns focus on cutting carbon pollution through the way we live. In 2013 we won an award from the UN Momentum for Change program for the work we do.

**Gender Impact:** Women in Australia have extraordinary consumer power, making up to 85% of purchases that affect the household carbon footprint. We empower women to change behaviour and decisions on everything from eliminating food waste and increasing energy efficiency, to divesting away from fossil fuel exposed investments and brands. Women feel connected, increasing happiness and wellbeing. We're growing internationally. In 2016 we're launching: 1) our global 'Women Power' app (under development) engaging women everywhere in daily climate action; 2) our 'Goodwill Carbon Fund' - collective savings from pledged daily climate actions – and financial support of on-the-ground initiatives empowering women on the front line of the climate crisis. Our mission is to connect women everywhere via the power of women's climate action supporting women's climate justice.

#### 1 Million Women www.1millionwomen.com.au

Financial Support: 1 Million Women raises funds to support a core team of 6-8 plus volunteers from a range of sources including: member donations, major giving by philanthropic individuals and foundations, government grants, brand sponsorships and corporate partnerships. We are a not-for-profit and a registered environmental charity in Australia with tax-deductible status.



Country: Georgia Organization: Association for Farmers Rights Defense, AFRD Representative: Nana Phirosmanashvili Email: foodsafetyge@gmail.com

### AFRD

# Defending Women farmers Rights for climate change adaptation and mitigation

**Description of the project:** This project aims to mitigate and adapt to the many gender related insecurities due to climate change in Georgia by supporting women farmer cooperatives. Our association's topics range — from risks to opportunities for women to participate in decision-making processes that affect their lives, to women's increased dependence on informal loans to ensure family food security, to the lack of mobility for women to avoid 'disaster' stemming from their domestic and agricultural responsibilities, and a lack of access to capacity building services such as education, credit, training, and health.



**Climate Impact:** One of the great challenges of the 21st century will be to feed a rapidly growing population. Current projections suggest the number of people on earth will outpace our ability to feed them by 2050. Food insecurity can lead not only to famine but also to political instability and violence. Our project, through a consortium of universities and a research institute, looks at how we can correct this imbalance through education, innovation, and advocacy by expanding existing educational programs and research priorities to place a greater emphasis on the post-harvest preservation of food.

**Gender Impact:** Drought, flooding and heavy rains are negative impacts of climate change and deeper analysis of our project highlights how climate justice for women focuses on the social vulnerabilities women face. The agricultural cooperatives we work with, holistically address women's vulnerabilities in the context of climate change. The Georgian Women Farmers, for instance, directly responds to women's climate and social vulnerabilities in their activities. Our project is connected with benefits to bring forth discourse around distinguishing between rural women, agricultural cooperatives, gender, and climate change and vulnerabilities associated with poor sectoral responses to the needs of the rural poor and the causes of women's vulnerabilities and gender inequities in a climate change context.

Association for Farmers Rights Defense, AFRD www.facebook.com/pages/Association-for-Farmers-Rights-Defense-AFRD Financial Support: Association for Farmers Rights Defense, AFRD contributes 10% of total budget to this project.

Country: Brazil Organization: SEMEAR Representative: Maiara Silva Email: maiarapilar@gmail.com



CONSTITUENCY

WOMEN C GENDER

# The SEMEAR group works to add value to the forest, turning seeds and seedlings as forest product capable to generate ecological, political and social processes

**Description of the project:** This project empowers women, vulnerable groups, agrarian reform settlers, people in traditional communities and youth groups through conservation, forest restoration and sustainable management in permanent preservation areas. The sustainable use of seed as a non-timber product, promotes forest conservation standing and adds environmental value, provides farmers a source of employment, thus is an income generator, and also improves their quality of life The actions become generators of confidence as they organize their social groups. In addition to the empowerment of women and youth, there was income generation for sustainable use of seed as non-timber product. This process promotes forest conservation standing and adds environmental value; social and economic due seed harvest.



**Climate Impact:** Its main innovation is to generate management technologies and conservation of forests with the participation of communities and applying unconventional restoration techniques, both innovative that join the restoration and conservation with small producers. The subproject "Morizukuri - creating forests" applies innovative practices of forest restoration accelerating ecological processes and generating ecosystem services in 10 years, a process which normally would take 20 years. Restoration plantings in innovative models have a capacity of up to 50% higher atmospheric carbon rescue, greatly contributing to the control of carbon emissions near large urban areas.

**Gender Impact:** In the communities of Capão Bonito SP, Paraty-RJ and Cotijuba (PA) before the intervention of the SEMEAR group women, worked in domestic services while their husbands worked in the fields. After the training actions and participatory management, women began to work in the harvest and sale of seeds for seedlings production purpose and its management as non-timber product. In Xingu River, we helped organize a group of indigenous women as seed collectors.

#### SEMEAR http://sementeflorestaltropical.blogspot.com.br/

**Financial Support**: SEMEAR was supported by CNPq (National Counsel of Technological and Scientific Development) as well as private institutions that support our subprojects.



Country: India Organization: All India Women's Conference, Trivandrum branch, Kerala Representative: Indira Pillai Email: aiwc.tvpm@gmail.com



# Training volunteers for door to door promotion of energy efficiency and alternative energy solutions

**Description of the project:** Clean energy and energy efficiency have been recognised as pragmatic means of mitigating climate change. The project aims to propagate clean energy and energy efficiency in the domestic sector by training young women through energy clinics across the state thereby reaching everyone in their community. In each clinic women visit households in the areas allotted to them and build capacity by educating the members of the households on the what, why, and how they can utilize clean energy in their homes through personal interactions. The aim is to motivate households to switch to clean energy for domestic requirements. Trained volunteers are paid a fixed sum per visit. Currently, energy clinic volunteer house visits are in progress in 9 of the 14 districts in Kerala.



**Gender Impact:** In the initial phase 100+ women were trained per district in 14 districts. Under the later phase thirty women are being trained per centre for household visits. Each woman will cover an average of 1000 households during the year. Beneficiaries will include 1400 trained women, 420 energy clinic workers and about 5000 members of the local population in one year. The trained women volunteers of the Energy Clinics will have a sustained income through house visits and agency for sale of solar appliances.



#### All India Women's Conference, Trivandrum branch, Kerala www.aiwc.org.in

**Financial Support**: The project implemented in six phases has financial support from national and sub-national governments and their agencies. Some components have been funded by All India Women's Conference, Central Office, New Delhi.





# Constituency Member Contributions Non-Technical Solutions

Country: India Organization: All India Women's Conference Representative: Kalyani Raj Email: raj.kalyani@gmail.com



### Minimum initial service package for Sexual and Reproductive Health services for women during post disaster

**Description of the project:** Minimum Initial Service Package in SRH Services is a post disaster adaptation strategy that includes coordination, services and planning. It ensures that women's reproductive health needs are met, they have access to minimal health care services like prenatal care, assisted delivery, emergency obstetric care and avoid unsafe abortion. The initiative also ensures that districts and states have MISP integrated in every disaster management plan. Women leaders and volunteers from the community are selected for the Train of Trainers in MISP and encouraged to share their knowledge with wider networks.



**Climate Impact:** There has been significant increase in the number and intensity of disasters during the past decade as a result of increasing global warming, sea level rise and other seasonal changes. Within India, there are regions facing drought and flood in the same year due to the impacts of climate change. These unforeseen disasters take special toll on women and girls. It is estimated that in any displaced population, about 4% of the population is pregnant, of which, 15 % of the women experience obstetric complications risking their lives. Unfortunately, prenatal and emergency obstetric care is often unavailable to the survivors and disaster management services barely take the needs of women into account.

**Gender Impact:** Climate change adaptation plans need to be gender responsive, have a participatory and transparent approach as well as take into account the needs of vulnerable groups. Studies have revealed that women and children suffer the brunt of the chaos during most post disasters and reproductive health services are often unavailable. Quite a number of youngsters become more susceptible to HIV infection and sexual exploitation post disaster probably due to the lack of precautionary tools and depression caused by the situation. The MISP programme addresses most of the challenges women face during post disaster situation relating to sexual and reproductive health services.

#### All India Women's Conference www.aiwc.org.in

**Financial Support**: The MISP programme has been conducted by AIWC in different locations within India with self-support.

6 Bhagwan Das Road, New Delhi, India

### Winner Transformational Solutions

Country: Papua New Guinea Organization: Tulele Peisa Representative: Ursula Rakova Email: rakovaursula@gmail.com



# Community-led relocation effort by the Carteret Islanders who face extinction from climate change impacts and extreme weather events

WINNER

**Description of the project:** This project aims to prepare and work with three host communities on Bougainville to ensure that there is adequate land, infrastructure and economic opportunities to include Carterets people — work with 1700 Carterets people to prepare them for voluntary relocation on Bougainville through counselling, agriculture, income generation, education, health and community development training programmes — establish a conservation and marine management area for sustainable use of marine resources for Carterets Islanders – and increase awareness about the plight of Carterets people and the complexities surrounding their relocation to new communities.



**Climate Impact:** Due to climate change scientists predict that between 2020 and 2040, the island atoll of the Carterets will be completely submerged by the ocean. In the meantime, the inability to grow sufficient nutritious foods as well as island erosion caused by King Tides cannot be reversed even if all global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions ceased today. In the absence of a coordinated government response, the Carteret Elders called on Ursula Rakova to lead Tulele Peisa and work with the community for a strategic plan to relocate to mainland Papua New Guinea.

GENDER

CONSTITUENCY

WOMEN

**Gender Impact:** The Carteret Islanders, like other Melanesian peoples, are a matrilineal society. The women are the landowners. As awareness grows globally of Ursula's skills and accomplishments in community relocation and sustainable development, despite incredible odds, she will join the ranks of Wangari Maathai and Sheila Watt-Cloutier, demonstrating the power and essential role of women's leadership in effective climate change response. To ensure that the Carteret Islanders can survive in their new homes, Ursula has founded a cocoa cooperative of 640 small farmers in Bougainville, mostly women, to create a reliable stream of income to sustain both the Islanders and their new neighbors as they forge a future together.

#### Tulele Peisa www.tulele-peisa.org

**Financial Support**: At this time, Tulele Peisa relies on individual donations and the continued support of the Christensen Foundation.

Country: India Organization: Alternative Futures Representative: Aditi Kapoor Email: aditikapoor2@gmail.com



CONSTITUENCY

WOMEN C GENDER

# Incorporating and institutionalizing the gender dimension in India's State Action Plans on Climate Change

**Description of the project:** This evidence-based policy research project addressed the missing gender dimension in India's State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCCs), working closely with the Central Environment Ministry and four State governments. India's National Action Plan on Climate Change recognised in theory the differentiated climate change impacts on poor women but this was not addressed in the actual Plans. The project undertook policy analysis, gender budget analysis and field research on adaptive farming. Policy briefs and policy round-tables with State governments helped incorporate and institutionalise gender perspectives and actions into the SAPCCs and the Central Ministry's approval process.



**Climate Impact:** Project showed that compared to conventional agriculture, integrated, organic farming is more resilient to climate-induced disasters in the Indo-Gangetic flood plains of Uttar Pradesh, arid Deccan plateau in Andhra Pradesh and coastal Sunderbans in West Bengal. Integrated, organic agriculture withstands climate uncertainties better, with higher and more diverse farm-based productivity than conventional agriculture. Integrated, organic agriculture leads to better food security and more income for smallholder farmers — over 85% of India's 600 million farm-based population — who rely on highly climate-sensitive farming practices. These results have strengthened state-level adoption of integrated, organic agriculture and especially understanding the role of gender in climate resilience.

**Gender Impact:** 1. The integral link between women and climate change adaptation was recognized in climate planning by the Central, State governments. 2. Succeeded in reflecting concerns of 87% of India's working women living off climate-sensitive smallholder farming. 3. Field research showed adaptive agriculture also puts more labour and time burden on women compared to men, which led grassroots groups, agriculture scientists to review organic farming from a gender lens. 4. Prepared UNDP's Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit for state governments to implement SAPCCs; inclusion of climate change in the government's High-level Committee's Report on Status of Women to guide gender policy in future. 5. Contributed to India's official submission on gender to the UNFCCC subsequent to the decision of the 18th Conference of Parties on advancing the gender balance goal.

#### Alternative Futures www.gencap.org.in

**Financial Support**: The 2-year project (February 2012 - January 2014) was funded by the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), www. cdkn.org, under its Innovative Fund and was judged to be one of its best case studies in 2014.

Country: Republic of Maldives Organization: Voice of Women-Maldives Representative: Thilmeeza Hussain Email: thil@voiceofwomen.org



CONSTITUENCY

# Sustained advocacy on good governance, democracy and climate change

**Description of the project:** Voice of Women has continued to advocate about the importance of democracy and a good governance system to address climate change effectively. In particular, the negative effects on women who are disproportionately impacted. For three short years under the first democratic president, women were empowered. After the coup d'état that overthrew the democratic government in 2012, women collectively took to the streets in numbers never seen in the history of the country. They organized to call for fresh elections and continue to call to restore democracy in the country.



**Climate Impact:** Under very difficult conditions, VoW was the only NGO in the country that addressed climate change and democracy. VoW worked to make the issue a bipartisan issue and held the first event, "Women Organizing to Address Climate Justice" in partnership with WECAN, an event that was attended by former President Nasheed and the current environment Minister who signed the WECAN declaration at the same table. VoW continued its advocacy work not only on the area of gender and climate change but also on protection of basic human rights and women's rights in the Maldives.

**Gender Impact:** Climate Change is a human's rights issue for everyone, but we have seen that it puts a heavier burden on women than men. During the 2004 tsunami, we saw first-hand, the effects of women displaced and forced to live in temporary housing. These women were subject to sexual assaults, harassment and abuse; access to reproductive care such as safe facilities to give birth and take care of children were not available. Climate Justice is understanding that these inequalities add an unfair burden on certain groups of people as a result of climate change and tries to make arrangements to alleviate these burdens, taking these inequalities into account while taking adaptation measures. VoW continues its work to raise awareness on the issue both domestically and internationally.

Voice of Women www.voiceofwomen.org **Financial Support:** There was no external financial support, most of the projects were self-funded by our generous board members and voluntary contribution of technical expertise.

Country: Papua New Guinea Organization: CARE International- Papua New Guinea Representative: Helmtrude Sikas Email: helmtrude.sikas@careint.org



CONSTITUENCY

# Climate resilient agricultural schools and building priority-planning footbridges

**Description of the project:** CARE's Integrated Community Development Project (ICDP) has been developped since 2009 in Papua New Guinea, where people have limited or no access to income, basic services, markets, transport and experience seasonal food insecurity. The programme's goal is to bring about significant and sustainable improvement in the lives of women, girls and their families living in remote and disadvantaged areas. An independent external evaluation conducted in June 2014 confirmed the ICDP Pilot has made real brought about real progress. 'The main conclusion of this evaluation is that ICDP is making a significant and tangible contribution to improving the wellbeing of disadvantaged communities living in remote areas of PNG'.



**Climate Impact:** The long term impact and sustainability of the interventions piloted through ICDP are yet to be proven. However, the initial results are encouraging. Improved ward level planning and targeted community support has resulted in changes to farming practices through the school's climate resilient agriculture activity. As well, girls were able to use and transfer the knowledge gained to their mothers at home. The leveraging of national and local government budgets has funded necessary local infrastructure projects such as footbridges has enabled women from remote rural areas access to the local markets to sell their produce. As a result, the project provides an increase in household income, but most importantly more girls are able to cross fast flooding rivers to attend school. The footbridge has also significantly reduced the time it takes to reach basic services.

WOMEN C GENDER

**Gender Impact:** CARE's approach centres around building a supportive environment for rural service delivery by facilitating Ward Planning capacity and awareness, creating links between government, communities and local organizations, and modelling ways to support and deliver services and community development activities as identified in ward plans. A particular focus is women's empowerment which is systematically advanced through all areas of its work with the aim to strengthen and better informed communities, government, and civil society organizations. Thereby working more effectively in partnership to identify, prioritise, address and advocate for development needs, improved access to basic services and improved, more secure and self-reliant livelihoods.

#### CARE International In Papua New Guinea www.care.org/country/papua-new-guinea

**Financial Support:** Budget \$ 9 Millions over 5 years. Funding: Australian government. Cooperation with communities and local organizations.



Country: Germany Organization: LIFE - Education | Environment | Equality Representative: Ulrike Roehr Email: roehr@life-online.de



### More than just green – towards a low-carbon and just economy

**Description of the project:** A sustainable economy respecting the planetary boundaries, based on human needs, global justice and gender equality must be part of the solutions to combat the climate crisis. Women's business and start-ups play a progressive role in dealing with these problems. Most of them are small or micro-enterprises, like 96% of all enterprises in Germany are. Yet, while many want to manage their enterprises in a sustainable, fair and caring way, they often don't know how, particularly given the often limited time and financial resources available in their small business. The project supports these women entrepreneurs in becoming pioneers for an economy that cares for the people and the planet.



**Climate Impact:** In order to combat climate change it is fundamental to change our current production and consumption patterns. Sustainable economy is more than an ecological modernisation of production, resource efficiency or new technologies. It has to acknowledge care-work as such and the principles of care as the basis for all our economic activities. And it has to address the issue of sufficiency. In this understanding, the economy is part of a far-reaching socio-ecological transformation. Entrepreneurs and start-ups have substantial responsibility as well as opportunities to actively contribute to a just, fair and sustainable future. They are crucial for a transition towards a zero carbon society by reducing drastically the carbon footprints of their enterprises itself and by offering real alternatives for consumers.

**Gender Impact:** The project supports women entrepreneurs in contributing to a sustainable, fair and in particular a caring economy. Given the situation that it is still mainly women caring for children, elderly or sick persons it provides information, guidance and good practices on how to manage an enterprise in a way that helps to reduce these double burdens for the women entrepreneurs themselves as well as for their employees. By advocating for a business model that is based on caring for others, for nature and for future generations a good life for all is envisioned. The project is implemented in cooperation with the women's entrepreneur centre WeiberWirtschaft eG., who are nominated for the "startup4climate"-award for their consultancy-activities for women startups concerning both, resource-efficiency and social aspects and fairness.

#### LIFE — Education | Environment | Equality www.genanet.de/en/projects/fuge.html

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**Financial Support**: The project was funded by the German Environment Agency (UBA) and the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB)







Country: International Organization: Women's Environment and Development Organization Representative: Bridget Burns Email: bridget@wedo.org



# Women's equal participation in climate change decision-making is fundamental to just policies

**Description of the project:** Recognizing a need to support the participation and leadership of women in the UN climate negotiations, particularly from countries most affected by climate change, the Women Delegates Fund (WDF) was launched in 2009. The WDF works to enhance women's participation in the climate negotiations in three key ways: 1) Travel support; 2) Capacity Building and Networking, and 3) Outreach and Advocacy. This is not a program aimed only at bringing women to the table, but in creating a stepchange in the power dynamics of the UN climate negotiations, and in all relevant bodies, towards one which encompasses women and men's equal right to participate in decision-making.



**Climate Impact:** The impacts are both in terms of policy and political leadership of those supported. The period of the WDF programme has seen wide-ranging decisions on gender-responsive climate policy taken under the UNFCCC. Additionally, many WDF delegates have translated knowledge and experiences to the national level. For example, after participating in negotiations with the WDF, Anniete Cohn-Lois of the Dominican Republic designed a project for women's empowerment under her mission at the Vice President's office. The project promotes women's entrepreneurship in climate vulnerable areas of the Dominican Republic, supporting them in skills development, capacity-building and financial inclusion.

**Gender Impact:** Since 2009, the WDF has supported 218 trips for 54 women across 40 countries to attend 25 sessions of the UNFCCC. Among these, over 40% of funded delegates were the only women on their national delegations. During these sessions, nine 'Night Schools' have been held and a further 270 women have been trained in technical language and negotiations skills. In the last seven years, the number of total women delegates has increased from 31% to 35% in this time frame, and women Heads of Delegation has risen from 16% to 26%.

WEDO www.wedo.org **Financial Support:** The project is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland via the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (2009-2016), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Iceland (2012-2015), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands (2015).



Country: International Organization: GenderCC – Women for Climate Justice Representative: Kate Cahoon Email: k.cahoon@gendercc.net



# Bringing climate and gender justice together where it makes a difference!

**Description of the project:** Until now, gender issues have rarely been addressed in urban climate policy. In order to close this gap, this project explores options for integrating gender & social aspects into climate policies in several pilot cities. It seeks to build capacity at the local level and develop gender-responsive policy recommendations with the aim of strengthening citizens' capacity to become involved in local government planning processes and implementation, and to enhance the effectiveness, inclusiveness and acceptance of mitigation & adaptation policies. It is a collaboration between GenderCC, All India Women's Conference, Aksi! for gender, social & ecological justice (Indonesia), & GenderCC Southern Africa.



**Climate Impact:** Urban action on climate change is receiving growing attention, with cities increasingly considered to be key actors for the implementation of climate policy. As urban settlements expand rapidly in many parts of the world, many cities face the challenge of becoming more resilient to climate impacts and tackling rising emissions. Many cities are therefore currently developing and implementing strategies and policies to address climate change and its impacts. This project recognises that local governments therefore have a crucial opportunity to enhance their climate responses by integrating social issues such as poverty alleviation and gender equality, in order to make them more effective and viable, and to create social & environmental co-benefits. For each pilot city, key issues and priorities will be identified & local strategies developed.

**Gender Impact:** While progress has been made in addressing the nexus of climate change and gender, a lack of experience still exists when it comes to the specific challenges faced in urban contexts. To address this, the project partners are working together to develop a methodology to assess local policies on their ability to integrate gender aspects into adaptation and mitigation policies, seeking to identify areas that have to potential to bring together climate action and gender equality, such as providing access to clean and affordable energy and transport services. Activities conducted in the various pilot cities, including capacity building programmes and gender training for climate policy makers, will serve as a model for ongoing efforts to develop effective gender-responsive climate policies at local level.

#### GenderCC – Women for Climate Justice www.gendercc.net

**Financial Support**: This project is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) supports this initiative on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Bundestag.





Country: Asia-Pacific Organization: Asia Pacific Forum on Women Law and Development (APWLD) Representative: Camille Risler Email: camille@apwld.org



### **Women-led** action research

**Description of the project:** The FPAR project was led by 9 grassroots women's organizations from from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Vietnam, Philippines and Thailand to conduct research in their communities to document the impacts of climate change on their lives and to take actions to build a local climate justice movement. The participants are not objects of research but rather the subjects who participate in research process, and control the use of the outcomes. The research found that rising sea level, warming temperatures, erratic rainfall, extreme typhoons and false climate solutions like REDD+, are some of the major climate impacts in the Asia Pacific region.



**Climate Impact:** The implementation of FPAR in these Asia Pacific countries has increased the collective capacity and knowledge of women to take climate action. They have become the agent of change in their local community to fight climate change. This has not only contributed to dismantle traditional gender inequalities but has also introduced new techniques and skills to adapt and mitigate climate change. For example women in the Asia Pacific region have participated and led the implementation of adaptation and mitigation measures like livelihood diversification program, new cropping technique, disaster risk reduction programs, rain-water harvesting and garbage collections. The FPAR has proved that women play a central role in adaptation and mitigation to climate change and has helped them to become a leader of climate solution in their community.

**Gender Impact:** The FPAR project helped to raise women's voices across the Asia Pacific region by strengthening women's collective action in the targeted communities. FPAR is fostering change inside and outside of the communities. Through FPAR activities women developed their capacity to act as agent of climate solutions in local community. FPAR has helped the women of Asia Pacific to come together with collective intention of breaking the oppressive power structure of climate change; FPAR gave them the strength and the knowledge to demand climate justice. For example, women have been succeed in being included in local decision making bodies, local disaster risk reduction team and climate policy reviewing processes. These roles were traditionally considered exclusively for man.

Asia Pacific Forum on Women Law and Development (APWLD) www.apwld.org **Financial Support**: APWLD supported nine grassroots women's organization from 8 Asia Pacific Countries with amount of \$8000 each to conduct the research in their respective community.

# www.womengenderclimate.org



In partnership with the Women and Gender Constituency, with financial support from the Oak Fondation

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