

NGO CSW66 Forum Event

#WeWomenAreWater
campaign: Amplifying
gender-just climate
solutions



22 March, 2022
12:00 - 13:30 EST

MONTI AGUIRRE | INTERNATIONAL RIVERS



In Asia, Africa, and Latin America, International Rivers protects rivers and defends the rights of communities that depend on them against some of the world's most potentially destructive dam projects. At the same time, the organization promotes sustainable alternatives to meet legitimate energy and water needs. International Rivers also works to address the underlying drivers of big dam projects. Applying science, rigorous policy analysis, and strategic advocacy, the organization assists partners across the globe in defending rivers and human rights and promotes better policies and investment standards with banks, governments, businesses, and international agencies.

Monti Aguirre works as part of International Rivers' Latin America program to support local movements for the protection of rivers and to develop strategies for legally protecting rivers permanently and globally. You can learn more about the work of International Rivers [on their website](#) and reach Monti at monti@internationalrivers.org.

BHANUMATHI KALLURI | WOMEN IN ACTION ON MINING IN ASIA, DHAATRI RESOURCE CENTRE, INDIA



Women in Action on Mining in Asia (WAMA) is a regional alliance of mining-affected communities and civil society groups working to amplify the voices of women resisting the plunder of the lands and forests by the politics of extractives. WAMA provides a collective space for women to share their stories and strategies on community actions. It is a regional advocacy platform to highlight the demands, perspectives and sustainable visions of Indigenous and rural women who have a historical knowledge of their natural resources and resilient economies. WAMA enables gendered research on the impacts of extractive projects, builds the skills of alliance members, facilitates information exchange, and engages in policy dialogue with regional and global institutions.

Bhanumathi Kalluri (she) works with Dhaatri, a resource centre for women and children in India. She has been working with Indigenous and mining-affected communities for over 30 years and is actively engaged in the coordination and collective advocacy dialogues of WAMA. She has been involved in evidence-based research, community leadership building, and policy level advocacy on Indigenous women's rights vis-a-vis their land rights and environmental justice. Follow WAMA [on Twitter](#) and find out more about Dhaatri [on their website](#).

MMABATHO MOTSAMAI | URGENT ACTION FUND-AFRICA



Urgent Action Fund-Africa (UAF-Africa) is a feminist, pan-African, Rapid Response Fund committed to transforming power relations through resourcing African feminists and women human rights defenders and their formations as an act of solidarity. Recognising the need to move resources rapidly on a continent where opportunities and threats arise and decline quickly, UAF-Africa uses a Rapid Response Grantmaking mechanism to support unanticipated, time-sensitive, innovative, and unique initiatives that promote women's agency in peace and political participation, social and economic power-building as well as natural resources governance and stewardship.

Mmabatho Motsamai is a development practitioner with over 6 years' experience in project coordination, facilitation, advocacy and communications. She is currently the advocacy and agenda setting consultant of UAF-Africa. Adopting SDG17, Motsamai is the founder and advisory of The Afrolutionist, a digital institution that enhances critical discussions and projects on inclusive development in Africa. They have also engaged in various global projects and co-facilitated the first policy hackathon in Botswana. She has previously served as a key correspondent for the Positive Vibes KPReach program, a FRIDA|Young Feminist Fund Climate Justice Story Collector, and the national coordinator of the Breaking Bounds Consortium.

You can learn more about UAF-Africa through [their website](#) and read their report [Women + Water in Africa: An overview of water justice struggles](#).

CARMEN ALIAGA MONRROY | COLECTIVO CASA, RED LATINOAMERICANA DE MUJERES DEFENSORAS DE DERECHOS SOCIALES Y AMBIENTALES, BOLIVIA



The Red Latinoamericana de Mujeres Defensoras de Derechos Sociales y Ambientales is a women's network that influences policies, projects and practices that contribute to the defense of women's and communities' rights against extractive projects. Colectivo de Coordinación de Acciones Socio Ambientales (Colectivo CASA) is a non-profit based in Oruro, Bolivia, that accompanies and strengthens organizations and communities that participate in socio-environmental movements.

Carmen Aliaga Monrroy is a feminist activist and environmental defender who works with the Colectivo CASA and the Red Latinoamericana de Mujeres Defensoras de Derechos Sociales y Ambientales. As a researcher, she accompanied the formation process of the Red Nacional de Mujeres en Defensa de la Madre Tierra (RENAMAT) in Bolivia. Nowadays, Carmen continues to engage with formation processes carried out by women through her commitment to a popular education grounded in feminist principles.

Learn more about Colectivo CASA [on their website](#) and Red Latinoamericana de Mujeres Defensoras de Derechos Sociales y Ambientales also [on their website](#).

INDIRA K. SHREESH | INDIGENOUS WOMEN LEGAL AWARENESS GROUP, NEPAL



The Indigenous Women Legal Awareness Group (INWOLAG) is a non-governmental organization in Nepal comprised of Indigenous women legal experts and professionals who are dedicated to fighting for Indigenous women's human rights. INWOLAG mainstreams gender in all its actions and provides free legal aid to women victimized by various kinds of violence.

Indira Kumari Shreesh is a founding member of INWOLAG and is currently serving as its chairperson. With master's degrees in law and sociology, she is a lawyer belonging to an Indigenous Magar Community and is an Indigenous women's rights activist. She was a legal fellow of Women's Fund Asia from 2013 to 2017, and has published numerous publications in law journals (Nepal Bar Association), Indigenous papers and has co-authored a book on the state's inclusive policy and program implementation and achievements, and REDD+. Since 2015, Indira has been advocating on behalf of the Indigenous community affected by the Tanahu Hydropower Project for land rights, natural resources, and climate and gender justice. You can follow INWOLAG [on Facebook](#) and learn more about their work [on their website](#).

MARTHA AGBANI-BARINUAZOR | LOKIAKA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, NIGERIA



Established in 2009, the Lokiaka Community Development Centre is a self-led organisation working for and with Indigenous women farmers and human rights activists from the Niger Delta. The group provides training and engages in advocacy, campaigning, forest restoration, conservation and management, alliance building, and knowledge exchange to secure Indigenous women's land rights and ensure that women are seen as important stakeholders in decision-making related to their land and environment. The Lokiaka Community Development Centre has been carrying out campaigns targeting Shell and the Nigerian government to provide potable water in communities, and is pushing these actors to clean, remediate and restore the Ogoni environment.

Mrs. Martha Agbani-Barinuazor is an Indigenous woman and feminist from Ogoni-Nigeria; she is the Executive Director of Lokiaka Community Development Centre, a management scientist, a development practitioner, and also an environmental justice advocate, campaigner, and capacity builder. Martha is the initiator of a project to raise mangrove nurseries and restore lost mangrove forests in Ogoni-Nigeria. This initiative has established a mangrove restoration study site and restored 1,350,000 mangroves in two areas which were originally mangrove swamp forests that were destroyed by oil spills and Nipa palm invasion in Ogoni Land. As a result, women are beginning to gain access to clean water, have their livelihoods restored, and create alternative livelihood sources. You can follow Lokiaka Centre [on their Facebook](#).

BERNARDA PESOA TORRES | QOM COMMUNITY LEADER, MEMBER OF CONAMURI AND THE ORGANIZACIÓN DE MUJERES ARTESANAS DE SANTA ROSA, PARAGUAY



Bernarda Pesoa Torres is a Qom artisan, a defender of the land, the environment, and the rights of Indigenous peoples, a member of the Coordinadora Nacional de Organizaciones de Mujeres Trabajadoras Rurales e Indígenas (CONAMURI), and a Qom language teacher. In 1999, she contributed to the birth of CONAMURI, the first organization to bring together peasant and indigenous women through their common realities, needs, and their pursuit of a good life. In 2014, in an assembly of eight hundred peasant and indigenous women, she was elected CONAMURI's Secretary of Public Relations, the first indigenous woman to hold that position. That same year, the people of Santa Rosa, her community, elected her their leader. In 2016, she joined the Colectivo de Mujeres del Gran Chaco Americano—the Gran Chaco is divided among Bolivia, Paraguay, and Argentina—and in 2018 she became a member of the Grupo de Acción Intercultural Sunu.

Bernarda Pesoa is currently leading the fight to defend Qom territory and the environment against extractivist initiatives pushed by the Fundación Paraguaya and Forestal Sylvis, a reforestation company. Due to her opposition to their project, she has been physically assaulted and slandered by community leaders who are involved in the eucalyptus reforestation project, which is opposed by five of the eight villages that live in Cerrito, located in Qom territory.

You can follow the work of CONAMURI [on their Facebook page](#).