

Under Embargo until 15th of March

PRESS STATEMENT: Women-led climate and water solutions take centre stage at the UN 2023 Water Conference

13th of March, Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action

The UN 2023 Water Conference is set to be a momentous occasion, with six Women Environmental and Human Rights Defenders (WEHRD) taking centre stage to share their stories of transformative community-led initiatives.

The Indigenous women and their communities are leading the way in gender-just solutions to the climate and water crisis, using their ancestral knowledge and skills to conserve and protect water resources. They restore the mangroves of Nigeria's polluted Niger Delta, apply agroecological practices to feed their communities, plant broom grass to prevent soil erosion and secure indigenous territorial sovereignty.

The stories of the women, who hail from rural villages and Indigenous communities in Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, and Paraguay, promise to inspire and inform global leaders on the urgent need to prioritise water security for all. They are fighting against drought, pollution, and inequality brought by "false climate solutions" like hydropower dams or monoculture plantations for biofuels threatening their territories and well-being.

The #WeWomenAreWater campaign, led by the [Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action \(GAGGA\)](#), amplifies the crucial role that women play in the protection and sustainable use of water-related ecosystems as the basis of resilient livelihoods and in addressing the climate crisis. These women hope for real government commitments to support their gender-just solutions at this one-in-a-decade event.

The fact that almost 50 years after the UN Water Conference in Mar del Plata, Argentina, the global community is coming together again to address water-related challenges shows the urgency of this issue. The stories of the Women Environmental Human Rights Defenders (WEHRDs) serve as a reminder that indigenous knowledge and gender equality are essential components of any practical solution to the climate and water crisis.

"My story is one of many, but it reflects the reality and initiatives of many communities across the globe. We hope that by sharing our experiences, we can raise awareness, show the urgency, and inspire others to act towards gender-just climate and water solutions," stated Martha Agbani from the Lokiaka Community Development Center, from the Niger Delta in Nigeria.

Note to Editors

The WEHRDs from Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, and Paraguay are part of the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA) delegation attending the UN Water Conference. These women are available for interviews directly from the UN Water Conference in New York from the 20th of March to the 24th of March. GAGGA is a global alliance of women-led, feminist, and environmental justice organisations working to strengthen the role of women in the protection of water resources. The #WeWomenAreWater campaign is spotlighting our selected stories from the more than 400 communities supported by GAGGA globally. These are only a few of the world's many stories showcasing how women are leading successful, rights-based and community-driven solutions while combating extractive industries and other false climate solutions. Despite this, their gender-just climate and water solutions lack political and financial support.

For media inquiries, please contact Noemi Grutter: n.grutter@fondocentroamericano.org
Summaries of stories of the WEHRD, high-resolution photos and videos of the communities supported by GAGGA [are available in this folder](#).