

# Gender just climate action and solutions are in urgent need of your support

Women, girls, trans, intersex, and non-binary people from local and Indigenous communities are at the forefront of fighting for climate and environmental justice against false climate solutions. The time is now to resource the transformative climate solutions led by women, girls, inter, non-binary and trans people and stop investment in false climate solutions. Commit your support to uphold human rights and invest in women's leadership in gender-just climate solutions!

March 2024

Feminist movements are driving climate action, bringing critical perspectives and building initiatives to advance climate justice at the local, national, regional, and international levels. As governments and philanthropic actors step up their ambition on climate finance, there is increasing recognition of the role of local women's rights organisations in climate action, including on adaptation and mitigation as well as in addressing the root causes of the crisis. Despite this, organisations led by women, girls, trans and intersex people are still dramatically underfunded.

Despite the explicit commitment by developed countries to achieve the USD 100 billion goal per year by 2020 for climate action in developing countries, the current global climate finance infrastructure has not only fallen short in fulfilling its promise but is an inaccessible and unjust system, exacerbating pre-existing social and regional inequalities. Only 10% of traceable climate finance from international climate funds is earmarked for local activities and only 20% of climate finance goes to least developed countries and around 3% to small island developing states. Furthermore, climate finance was always intended to be new and additional to official development assistance (ODA), however, climate finance to date is largely a reallocation (and often, rebranding) of existing ODA.

Furthermore, there is limited and inflexible support from public and private climate finance flows to feminist movements that have shown leadership and action to address the root causes of the environmental and climate crises. Only 2.4% of all climate-related development assistance is dedicated to gender equality as the "principal" objective, and within that, only 0.22% of overall ODA for climate change and gender equality goes to women's rights organizations. In the case of philanthropic funding, of the total amount of philanthropic giving estimated to be allocated to climate-related issues, only 3% directly supports women's environmental activism.

The majority of climate finance (57%) is distributed in the form of loans rather than grants, reinforcing regional inequalities and colonial legacies by increasing the burden of debt on countries already disproportionately affected by climate change.

The Principles for Locally-Led Adaptation, endorsed by over 70 institutions, encourage climate actors to fund 'context-specific, coherent, agile, and cost-effective solutions and benefits', while underlining how the engagement of historically-excluded groups leads to more effective adaptation measures. Within the Paris Agreement itself, Parties are encouraged to follow a gender-responsive approach to adaptation, with particular consideration to vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems, including Indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems. (Locally Led Adaption: from principles to practice, World Resources Institute, June 2022)

**The good news is that the infrastructure to fund these actors exists.**





Women's funds and environmental justice funds around the world are already supporting and channelling resources to the feminist movements implementing robust, transformative and sustainable climate action globally.

Embedded in the feminist movements they serve, women's funds and environmental justice funds have awareness of the broader feminist funding ecosystem and ensure organisations working across different issues and in different contexts are well-resourced and able to access the funding to carry out their work.

By providing core, flexible, predictable, long-term funding, women's funds and environmental justice funds are ideally placed to support such multi-sector work.

# WE NEED TO TAKE ACTION



-  To move resourcing away from false climate solutions which violate human rights and redirect investment towards gender-just climate solutions, as well as strengthen policy coherence within governments and philanthropic donors between gender and climate divisions.
-  At a minimum, governments need to meet existing targets on climate finance, sustainable development, and gender equality and ensure climate finance is contributed as additional to ODA budgets.
-  Governments need to increase the proportion of climate-related ODA that serves gender equality objectives to 88%, including ensuring 15% of this funding has gender equality as a principal objective.
-  It is time to protect Women Environmental Human Rights Defenders against structural violence.



we women  
are water

## we women are water

The annual We Women are Water Campaign highlights gender-just climate solutions from the GAGGA network; from advancing just and sustainable energy practices at the community level, to sustainable, regenerative, and circular production systems such as agroecology, to holding international institutions, corporations, governments and investors involved in any harmful projects or policies to account. **Gender-just climate solutions**, a term that describes the rights-based, bottom-up and people-centred approaches that put gender justice and democracy at the centre of climate action, and therefore seek to address the root causes of climate injustice and ensure the well-being and protection of communities and the leaders who keep movements alive.

These transformative initiatives need support and resources, while false climate solutions, privatization of water resources, pollution from extractive industries and human rights violations must stop immediately, and Women Environmental Human Rights Defenders need to be protected.

Witness the transformative power of women-led and Indigenous communities as they fight for climate and environmental justice. **Narrated by women from the affected communities themselves, the We Women Are Water Campaign 2024 presents a series of videos to raise awareness on the action of women around the globe for climate and environmental justice.**

[WATCH THE VIDEOS](#)



## BRAZIL


Since 2007, the Tatuoca River, vital to the **Quilombola community of Ilha de Mercês in Ipojuca**, northeast Brazil, has been critically impacted by a dam constructed by the SUAPE Industrial Port Complex. This dam, intended as temporary for shipyard access, drastically disrupted the river's ecosystem, devastating the mangroves and the community's livelihood. Predominantly affecting women who rely on these mangroves for subsistence fishing, this situation epitomizes environmental racism — a marginalized, historically oppressed community bearing the brunt of ecological harm. The community's resilient response involved mobilization, public outcry, and legal action, leading to the partial reopening of the river, in August, 2021. However, their fight continues, demanding full restoration and accountability, highlighting a broader struggle for environmental, racial, and gender justice.

 [Play video](#)



## INDIA


In India's Panna Tiger Reserve, the **Gond Adivasi community of Umraavan village** faces a dire situation. Displaced in the name of wildlife protection, these Indigenous people struggle to maintain their traditional way of life. A group of resilient women, however, has risen to this challenge. They have spearheaded a movement to cultivate kitchen gardens, which not only provide much-needed food security and support for tuberculosis and silicosis patients but also represent a sustainable, gender-just climate solution. Their story is a call to action for recognizing and funding genuine, community-led gender-just climate solutions.

 [Play video](#)



## ZAMBIA

In Zambia's Rufunsa district, the **Mukonka village**, rich in natural resources and biodiversity, faced severe environmental degradation due to illegal logging and charcoal production, leading to the loss of streams, forests, and traditional food sources. The women of Mukonka, rooted in eco-feminist principles, turned this crisis around by reviving Indigenous seeds. Through advocacy, they secured land rights and banned illegal logging, gradually restoring the ecosystem. Their story highlights the need for climate finance to be redirected to Indigenous women's actions advancing climate mitigation and adaptation.

 [Play video](#)

## About GAGGA

Launched in 2016, the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA) rallies the collective power of women's rights, environmental, and climate justice movements around the world. GAGGA's vision is a world where women's rights to water, food security, and a clean, healthy and safe environment are recognised and respected.



**Help spread the word. Share these videos on Social Media. Share the Call to Action.**



Find more information here:  
[www.gaggaalliance.com](http://www.gaggaalliance.com)



@GAGGA\_Alliance  
#WeWomenAreWater



Contact for ways to get involved:  
[n.grutter@fondocentroamericano.org](mailto:n.grutter@fondocentroamericano.org)