

CASE STUDY | **DIVA, FIJI**

Diverse Voices and Action for Equality

Diverse Voices and Action for Equality (DIVA for Equality) was founded in 2011 in Fiji by a group of gender non-binary and transmasculine individuals. The group's work focuses on issues of human rights, social justice, as well as just and inclusive development.

At the core of its commitments is a recognition that LGBTQI+ people and all women and girls are affected by structural inequalities, and are among those most likely to be disenfranchised and unable to access key fundamental human needs while also facing active misogyny and gender injustice, homophobia and transphobia. DIVA works in 172 villages and 28 informal settlements, and with more than 100 partners locally, nationally, regionally and transnationally. DIVA is supported by Mama Cash, an alliance member of The Global Alliance of Gender and Green Action (GAGGA).



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1.1

Context of risks, vulnerabilities and impacts related to climate variability and climate change

As an island nation, Fiji is extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. In recent years, the country has confronted stronger cyclones, severe floods, drought and the looming threat of a rising sea level. Women in Fiji are heavily dependent on agriculture and fisheries for their livelihoods and food security, thus making them particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts.



1.2

Activities to address the context- and location- specific climate change vulnerabilities

[DIVA for Equality](#) has developed, supported and facilitated networks of women and LGBTQI+ activists to advance the climate justice agenda, moving from local-level work, including awareness-raising and policy advocacy, to successfully advocating in national, regional and international spaces for gender-just climate solutions informed by the inclusion of Pacific voices.

An example of their work at the local level is FARMarama. This initiative has involved leasing and setting up an ecological centre in Namulomulo Tailevu, Fiji, which aims to reconnect women farmers to the land,



water, biodiversity and the air based on the adoption of pro-poor, sustainable, and ecologically sound agroecological and organic farming practices that draw upon local knowledge, including Indigenous knowledge. In so doing, the centre also addresses long-standing inequalities and development injustices about the place of women in agriculture.

DIVA's Feminist Agroecology programmes now extend to 22 areas.



Practices of agroecological and organic farming, seed germination, seed banking and preservation are helping to support and sustain food sovereignty and food security for women and their communities, while also reversing the loss of soil fertility due to the use of chemical fertilizers, as well as climate change.



DIVA's work at the local level provides the basis for its advocacy at higher levels. DIVA has a high level of trust in the communities and is known for its analysis and work on issues that come from and matter to women-led movements. In 2025, DIVA conducted information sessions with more than 20 communities on topics such as ecological justice, climate justice, disaster risk reduction and biodiversity protection.

DIVA developed the Women Defend Commons network (in 2018), and supports and facilitates the network, which brings together some 3,000 climate and ecological justice activists from Pacific climate frontline communities.

In addition to their advocacy, the network's activists support each other on establishing strategic connections with government and other key actors, disaster preparedness and response, psycho-social care, and learning circles.

DIVA also started and supports the regional coalition Pacific Partners On Gender, Climate Change And Sustainable Development (PPGCCSD), which helps to support Pacific grassroots women-led groups to become active leaders in climate change work. This coalition, which includes over 60 groups in 11 Pacific small island states, has engaged in strategy meetings with government actors as well as convenings aimed at stimulating cross-sectoral work on gender and climate justice.

DIVA is also a part of the Pacific Feminists Defending the Living Planet campaign, an initiative of over twenty organizations.

The campaign coalition has formulated demands for systemic change to protect Pacific people, land, oceans, and the future, which are grounded in lived realities and the wisdom of generations of Pacific people. The campaign coalition hosted a roundtable at CSW69 and has facilitated collaborations across the Pacific, Hawaii, and Aotearoa representatives. In April 2025, DIVA co-organized the regional Feminists Defending the Living Planet Conference, which involved more than 65+ regional representatives from 16 Pacific Island Countries and territories (Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, West Papua, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Samoa, Palau, FSM, Guam, Tonga, Northern Mariana Islands, Niue, RMI, Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji). The Conference included a National Constituency Feedback Loop, which involved some 30 DIVA representatives of the Women Defend Commons Network across Fiji, including maritime islands, rural and highland communities.



The conference resulted in the formulation of 17 shared demands for climate action.

The Pacific Island feminists' shared demands were translated into the main UN languages and Pacific languages and are being used for national and regional advocacy on gender, climate justice and disaster risk reduction, including ongoing work in relation to the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, Small Island Developing States (SIDS), United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7), the UNFCCC.

DIVA engages in advocacy at all levels, including organizing regular meetings with civil society members, women's ministries and women's affairs ministers and finance ministers. For example, a representative from DIVA chaired the Gender Champion session of the 2024 Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risks Reduction.

As a result, the Asia Pacific Ministerial statement strongly incorporated gender and human rights, a major political shift from the previous one from 2022, where they pushed hard for gender even to be mentioned.



1.3

Impact of activities

DIVA's advocacy has had a major impact. For example, in 2022, DIVA worked with other key actors in the Pacific Region in developing Gender Briefing Notes for Pacific delegates to UNFCCC COP27, to ensure that a feminist framing was integrated and that feminist climate justice imperatives were clearly articulated. **The official briefing package was provided to delegates from 22 island states and territories, and was used in negotiations at COP27.**

By actively implementing gender just climate solutions in Fiji and putting Pacific solutions on the international agenda, DIVA has developed significant clout with negotiators, including Pacific Island negotiators. DIVA has pushed for reference to the Gender Action Plan and the Lima Work Programme on Gender in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

At the national level, Diva made successful contributions to the development of a 5-year National Action Plan on Women and Economic Empowerment in Fiji, with a Climate Change National Action Plan in preparation. DIVA is part of the technical and secretariat working group.



Diva has engaged in successful advocacy at the Commission on the Status of Women, where national and regional preparation work was followed by DIVA being part of the expert working group, joining in the negotiations and influencing the conclusions. **This resulted in the adoption for the first time of Agreed Conclusions on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, as well as environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes.**



DIVA has also been active at the International Conferences for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), including co-convening a SIDS feminist strategy meeting at the fourth conference in 2024, which included a significant focus on climate change and how it disproportionately affects women, as well as how to strengthen the targets for climate finance such that they support sustainable development and gender equality.

In 2024, DIVA hosted the first-ever Pacific Gender Technical Working Group strategic planning meeting with Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Pacific Community (SPC), UN Women, UNFPA, and feminist groups. The meeting resulted in a joint set of prioritized activities and a shared online calendar, leading to better coordination for Pacific Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) Week. The group developed a two-year work plan to advance collaborative feminist approaches to gender justice, and SRHR in the region.

DIVA's work at the local level has also made an impact.

Women are now negotiating their access to community-owned lands for their agroecological activities, and increasing recognition for their role as key custodians of the land.

DIVA is effectively raising awareness about feminist agroecology, biodiversity protection, and influencing government actors, including the Ministry for Women, Children and Social Welfare, Finance Ministry, and the Climate Change Department, to listen more carefully to the specific needs of women, including women in urban and maritime communities.





Let's connect:

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