

2025 Annual Report



Holding the Line, Shaping the Future
Strengthening Collective Power for Gender-Just Climate Action



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Message from our steering committee

As we reflect on 2025, we do so with a profound sense of pride, urgency, and conviction.

This year reaffirmed what GAGGA has demonstrated over the past decade: when resources, trust, and decision-making power are placed in the hands of women-led and community-rooted organizations, transformative change follows. Across the Global South, our partners continued to advance climate and gender justice in increasingly challenging contexts, reaching more than 2.2 million people and demonstrating the power of investing in local leadership and collective action.

The theme of this report, Holding the Line, Shaping the Future, reflects the reality facing our movements today. Women-led organizations and Women Environmental and Human Rights Defenders continue to confront escalating climate impacts, biodiversity loss, shrinking civic space, conflict, and attacks on gender equality, while advancing community-rooted solutions that protect ecosystems and build more just and resilient societies.

Over the past decade, GAGGA has channelled more than €50 million in flexible, long-term funding to over 2,550 women-led community-based organizations across 60 countries. This sustained investment contributed to more than 2,360 bottom-up advocacy initiatives, 73 government policy wins, over 175 peer-to-peer learning exchanges, and the participation of more than 150 Women Environmental and Human Rights Defenders in international climate policy spaces. These achievements demonstrate what becomes possible when funding reaches those closest to the challenges - and the solutions.

A defining moment of 2025 was the Global Partners Meeting in Bali, Indonesia, where around 80 partners from across the GAGGA network came together. The meeting was a powerful reminder of what makes this Alliance unique: relationships built on trust, solidarity, and a shared commitment to justice. Partners strengthened connections, exchanged experiences, and developed collective strategies for advancing gender-just climate action in rapidly changing contexts. These moments of connection continue to strengthen the resilience of our movements and reinforce the belief that our greatest strength lies in one another.

This year also reinforced an uncomfortable truth: the climate crisis continues to outpace the global response. We know that when women have access to resources, collective power and opportunities to influence decision-making, they drive climate solutions that are locally rooted, gender-just and capable of transforming systems. Despite this fact, women-led organizations remain significantly underfunded and underrepresented in decision-making spaces. Closing this gap remains one of the defining challenges of our time.

As a Steering Committee, we also want to recognize the extraordinary partnership at the heart of this Alliance. Ten years of working together has not only shaped GAGGA; it has shaped us as organizations and as people. Through mutual learning, honest dialogue, and shared ambition, we have built relationships that extend far beyond institutional collaboration. This foundation of trust continues to strengthen our ability to navigate complexity, challenge dominant systems, and remain accountable to the communities we engage with.

Over the years, we have learned that sustainable transformation requires more than funding: it requires long-term accompaniment, movement building, shared learning, strategic advocacy, and collective care. As funding landscapes become increasingly uncertain, these lessons have never been more important.

As GAGGA enters its second decade, we do so with evidence, experience, and conviction. We know that investing in women-led climate action delivers lasting results, and that collective action drives systemic change. The solutions already exist.

They are being implemented every day by our partners across the Global South. Our shared responsibility is to ensure they receive the recognition, resources, and political support they deserve.

As we launch our Fund Forward campaign and look to the decade ahead, we extend our deepest gratitude to our partners, allies, and supporters. Together, we have built a powerful ecosystem for gender-just climate action, and together, we will continue to strengthen it.

The challenges ahead are immense. But so is the power of organized communities, connected movements, and feminist leadership. We have never been more certain that the future of climate justice is local, collective, and gender-just.

Carla López Cabrera

Executive Director, FCAM Foundation

Happy Mwende Kinyili

Executive Director, Mama Cash

Karin van Boxtel

Executive Director, Both ENDS



Catalyzing a gender-just climate future



Catalyzing a gender-just climate future

Who we are

The Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA) is a global alliance of women's rights and environmental justice CBOs, NGOs and Funds lead by Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres Foundation (FCAM), Mama Cash and Both ENDS. Established to address the root causes of the climate crisis by advancing gender and climate justice, GAGGA works to close the gender-climate finance gap by directing resources to women, girls and trans, intersex and non-binary people¹, who are among the most effective, yet least resourced actors responding to the climate crisis. GAGGA's global network of women's funds, socio-environmental justice funds, NGOs, Women Environmental Human Rights Defenders (WEHRDs) and community-based organisations (CBOs)² are advancing climate adaptation and mitigation, protecting critical ecosystems, strengthening community resilience, and influencing the policies and financing systems that shape climate action.

As GAGGA celebrates its tenth year, the Alliance has channelled more than €50 million in flexible funding and support to over 2,550 women-led organisations across more than 60 countries. Guided by the conviction that movements rooted in their own communities are building the most effective and sustainable climate adaptation and mitigation solutions, GAGGA strengthens and unifies partners so that they have the support, capacities and collective power needed to advance the priorities and solutions emerging from their own territories and communities. The work in 2025 was supported through partnerships with Global Affairs Canada (GAC), the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland, and Fondation CHANEL, whose sustained support has helped advance a shared vision of environmentally sustainable and gender-just societies in which people thrive.

In 2025, GAGGA's network continued advancing gender-just climate action across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific, bringing together 366 CBOs, 43 NGOs and 31 women's and socio-environmental funds working across 60 countries. Across diverse contexts, partners advanced a wide range of gender-just climate solutions, including biodiversity conservation, agroecology, sustainable livelihoods, ecosystem restoration, water

governance, food systems transformation, disaster resilience, territorial defence and just energy transitions. While climate adaptation remained the most common area of work, partners also addressed loss and damage, climate mitigation, biodiversity protection and combating desertification,, demonstrating the interconnected nature of climate, environmental and social justice. Together, these efforts reached more than 2.2 million people and illustrate the scale, diversity and underlying strength of our infrastructure.

Why gender-just climate action

GAGGA is guided by the conviction that climate action is most effective, equitable and sustainable when it is shaped by the people living with the realities of climate change every day. Over the past decade, partners have demonstrated that when women have access to resources, collective power and opportunities to influence decision-making, they drive climate solutions that are locally rooted, gender-just and capable of transforming systems.

This conviction is more relevant than ever. GAGGA's first ten years have coincided with the hottest decade on record. Communities are experiencing more frequent and severe climate-related disasters while facing shrinking civic space, growing threats to WEHRDs, extractive development models, biodiversity loss, and increasing pressure from anti-gender and anti-rights movements. At the same time, declining development assistance³ and shifting donor priorities are placing additional strain on women-led organisations working at the intersection of gender, climate and environmental justice. In many contexts, governments continue to underestimate both the scale of the climate crisis and the disproportionate impacts it has on women. Yet despite these challenges, they continue to develop some of the most innovative, effective and locally led responses to climate change, while participating in decision-making processes and influencing the policies that affect their territories.

Across the network, partners are protecting biodiversity, conserving critical ecosystems and supporting sustainable livelihoods through approaches adapted to local realities. Community-based initiatives in Colombia, the Philippines and beyond are protecting forests and biodiversity while

generating income through sustainably sourced plants, medicinal species and non-timber forest products. In Zambia and Mexico, partners are strengthening climate-resilient food systems through agroecological practices that improve food security, restore soil health and reduce dependence on external inputs. Meanwhile, in countries where climate change is placing increasing pressure on water resources, including Ecuador and Nepal, women are advancing more inclusive and gender-responsive approaches to water governance and conservation.

[Transforming Our World: A Film on Gender-Just Climate Solutions](#), produced by GAGGA together with partners from Fiji, Kenya, Brazil and Nepal, brings many of these realities to life. The experiences featured in the film, and reflected throughout this report, demonstrate that women-led community-based organisations are not peripheral actors in climate action, but essential drivers of more just and sustainable futures. They also reinforce a lesson that has emerged consistently across our work: the infrastructure needed to support locally led, gender-just climate action already exists and we must now ensure that those already delivering results have the resources required to sustain and scale their impact.



What we have learned together – Building from 10 years of shifting power and resources to the frontlines

GAGGA operates as a dynamic, interconnected ecosystem that brings together women's funds, socio-environmental funds, NGOs, WEHRDs and CBOs committed to advancing gender, climate and environmental justice. Rather than functioning as a traditional programme, GAGGA is built on long-term relationships, solidarity, peer-to-peer learning, accompaniment and flexible funding that enables women-led organisations to respond to local realities while contributing to broader systems change.

This model is sustained by three interconnected actors. The Alliance Members – Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres Foundation (FCAM), Both ENDS and Mama Cash. Women's funds, socio-environmental funds and partner NGOs provide funding, technical support, accompaniment and access to policy and decision-making spaces. CBOs in turn, bring the knowledge, leadership and lived experience that drive locally rooted climate adaptation, mitigation and ecosystem protection efforts.

In 2025, through an independent evaluation⁴, partner surveys and collective reflection processes across the network, partners shared their experiences of what has enabled them to advance gender-just climate solutions, strengthen cross-regional solidarity, and foster collective power. Their reflections point to the importance of long-term relationships, flexible funding, accompaniment, peer-to-peer learning and opportunities to connect with broader movements and influencing spaces.

- 94%⁵ of CBOs reported that GAGGA contributed to creating opportunities for women to strengthen their leadership, resilience and capacities.
- 80% reported that GAGGA strengthened their capacity to engage, lead, document and promote community-led solutions to climate adaptation and mitigation.

Partners consistently highlighted the value of belonging to a broader network working at the intersection of gender, climate and environmental justice as a result of sustained spaces for collaboration across women's funds, socio-environmental funds, NGOs, WEHRDs and CBOs operating at local, national, regional and global levels.

- More than 90% of all partners – including CBOs – reported expanded networks and increased collaboration beyond their usual communities, reinforcing the importance of investing in collective learning, relationship-building and movement resilience.

Partners also highlighted GAGGA's contribution to strengthening the broader ecosystem for gender and climate justice.

Through research, policy briefs, campaigns and other knowledge products co-created with partners⁶, the Alliance has helped bring community-led solutions and frontline experiences into policy, funding and advocacy spaces. The same evaluation found that GAGGA is widely recognised as an actor advancing transformative change at the community level, particularly in areas such as agroecology, biodiversity conservation, water governance and just energy transitions⁷.

- 72% of partner organisations reported that GAGGA created opportunities to engage and influence donors in support of locally led climate solutions. In 2025 alone, partners accessed more than USD 8.85 million in additional funding through opportunities supported by GAGGA's financial accompaniment and climate finance advocacy.



2025 by the numbers

Over 2,2 million people reached by CBOs gender-just climate solutions⁸

This figure reflects the estimated number of people reached through initiatives led by GAGGA-supported CBOs, including activities related to climate adaptation and mitigation, ecosystem protection, sustainable livelihoods, food systems transformation, water governance and community resilience.

42 countries where GAGGA supported CBOs

In 2025, GAGGA supported women-led community-based organisations across 42 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific. These organisations operate in diverse contexts – from tropical forests and coastal ecosystems to rural farming communities and urban areas – advancing locally led responses to climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation.

366 supported CBOs

43 supported NGOs

31 supported Funds
(15 Socio-Environmental Justice Funds and 16 Women's Funds)

60 countries where Funds & NGOs are active

Women's funds, socio-environmental funds and NGOs supported by GAGGA were active across 60 countries in 2025. Through funding, accompaniment, and collective advocacy, these partners help connect local priorities and experiences to national, regional and global processes.

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Micronesia, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Two countries remain anonymous.

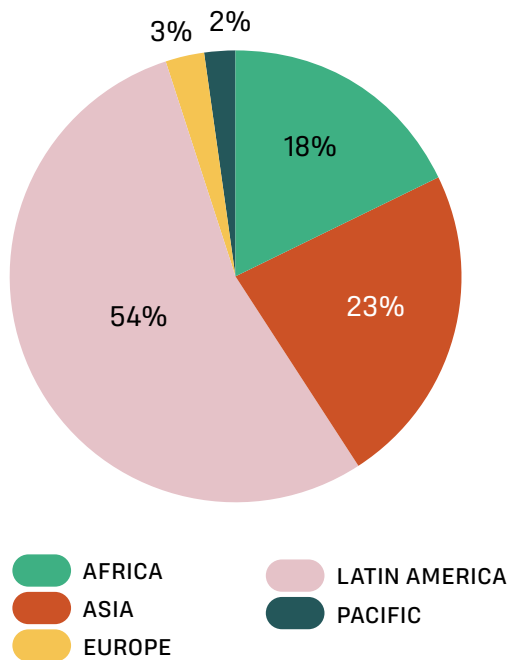
Together, these organisations form the core of the GAGGA network. CBOs lead locally rooted climate action, while women's funds, socio-environmental funds and NGOs provide resources, accompaniment, technical support and opportunities to strengthen collective action and influence across movements.



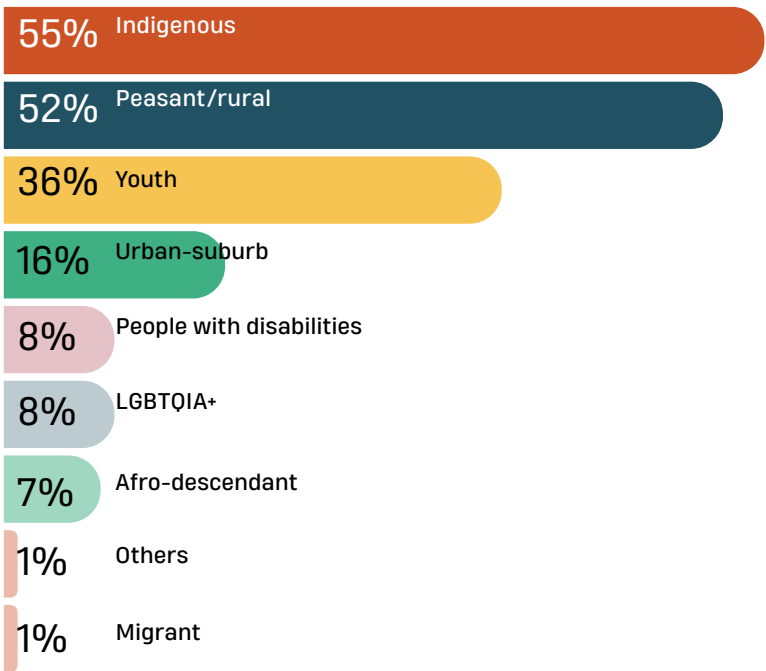
Identity Markers and Regional Distribution of Supported CBOs

Insight into the diversity of the organisations supported by GAGGA in 2025 - The metrics show the primary identity markers represented among supported CBOs, including Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities, rural and peasant groups, youth-led organisations, people with disabilities and other historically marginalised communities. The charts also illustrate the regional distribution of supported organisations, reflecting GAGGA's commitment to supporting locally led solutions across diverse social, cultural and environmental contexts.

Regional distribution of CBOs' work



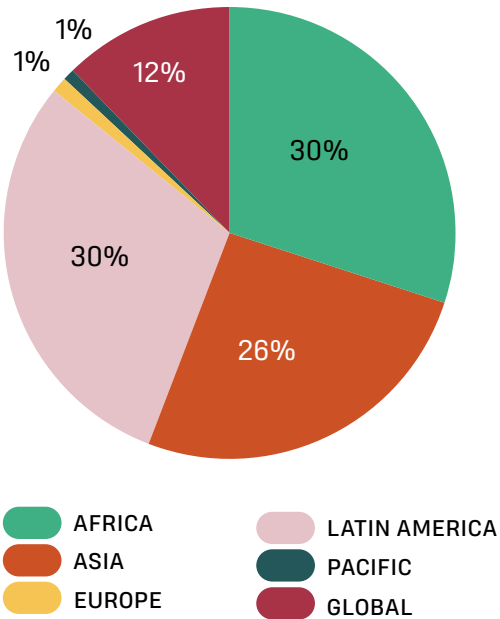
Identity markers for CBOs



Regional Scope of Supported Funds and NGOs

Partners play a critical role in strengthening connections between local, national, regional and global processes, while facilitating accompaniment and collective advocacy across regions. The same percentage of NGOs and Funds were active in Africa, Asia and Latin America, while slightly more than 10% operated at the global level.

Regional distribution of NGOs' & funds' work



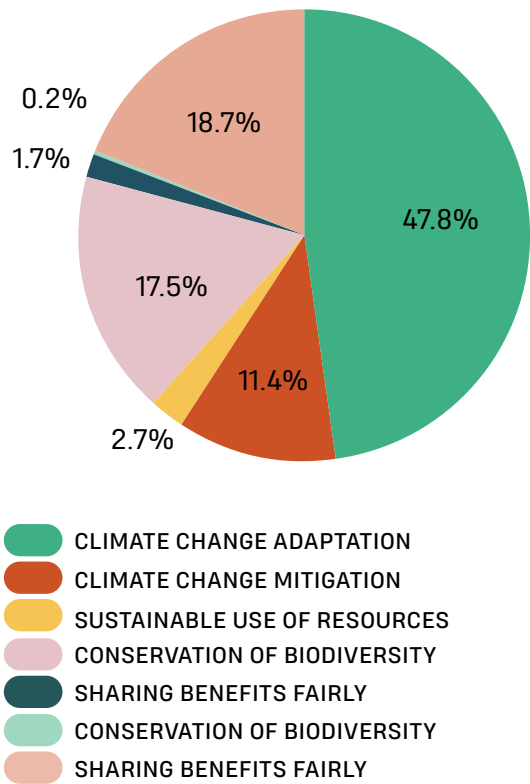
Climate Themes
Addressed Across
the GAGGA Network⁹

The main climate themes addressed by GAGGA-supported CBOs, NGOs and Funds in 2025 - Climate adaptation emerged as the most common area of work, reflecting the urgent realities facing communities on the frontlines of climate change.

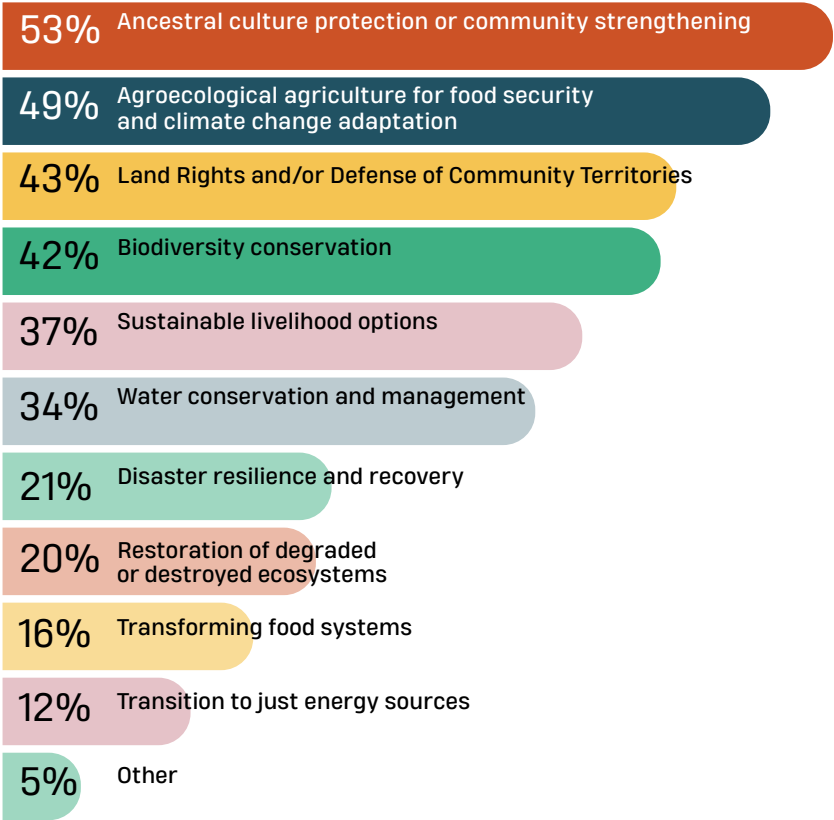
Gender-Just Climate
Solutions in Practice¹⁰

Partners play a critical role in strengthening connections Within these climate themes, partners advanced a wide range of gender-just climate solutions adapted to their local realities. The following chart illustrates the diversity of approaches implemented across the network, ranging from community strengthening and protection of ancestral cultures to agroecology, land and territorial rights, biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods, water governance, disaster resilience, ecosystem restoration, food systems transformation and just energy transitions.

Climate themes worked on by GAGGA



Gender-Just Climate Solutions worked on by GAGGA

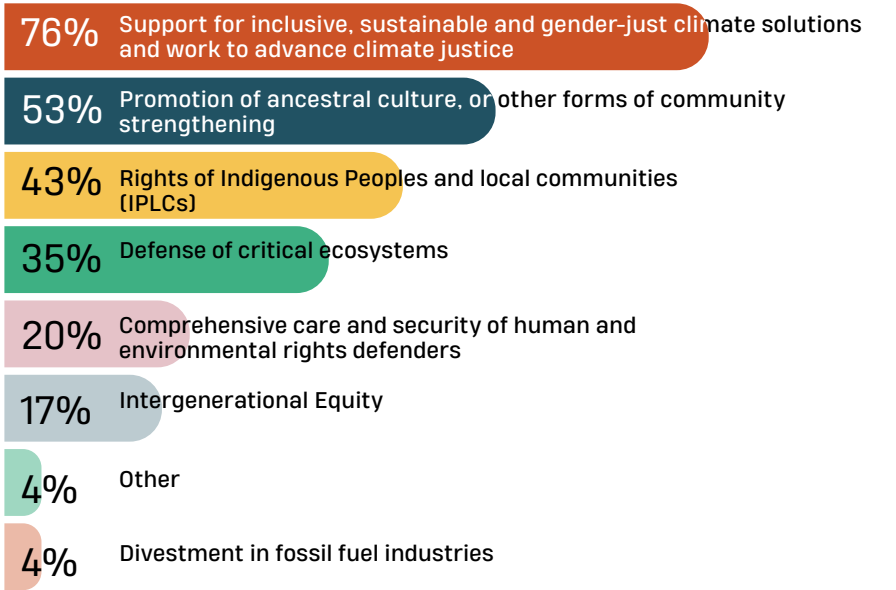


Objectives of gender-just climate solutions advanced by CBOs¹¹

While partners work across a wide range of climate and environmental themes, they are united by a shared commitment to advancing gender, climate and environmental justice. These objectives extend beyond responding to the impacts of climate change and include defending critical ecosystems, promoting inclusive and sustainable climate solutions, protecting the rights and well-being of environmental and human rights defenders, strengthening communities and ancestral cultures, advancing the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), fostering intergenerational equity, and challenging development models that contribute to environmental degradation and dependence on fossil fuels.

The following chart highlights the broader objectives pursued through the gender-just climate solutions implemented by GAGGA-supported CBOs in 2025.

Gender-Just Climate Solutions worked on by GAGGA



2025 progress and achievements



2025 progress and achievements

This report reflects the collective efforts of **440** partners advancing gender-just climate action across diverse contexts and regions. Underpinning these results is GAGGA's integrated model grounded on flexible funding, collective learning and opportunities for women to influence the decisions, policies and financing systems that shape climate action. This approach is implemented through three interconnected strategies.

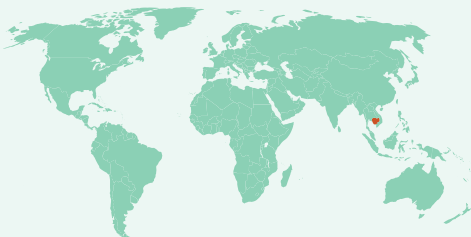
- **Strategy 1: STRENGTHENING** movements and scaling climate adaptation solutions Through long-term, flexible grant-making and accompaniment, we support partners to increase their access to relevant information, policies, laws, and advocacy mechanisms related to climate mitigation and adaptation.
- **Strategy 2: LINKING** climate, environmental and women's rights movements. We play a cross-movement support role, intentionally connecting Funds, NGOs, and CBOs, networks across regions. Through these linkages, partners develop joint or complementary advocacy agendas, strengthen strategies, and align actions to respond to the urgency of the climate crisis.
- **Strategy 3: INFLUENCING** government, investors and donors. We support partners on defining their own advocacy agendas and choose contextually appropriate pathways to influence decision-making. NGOs and Funds provide accompaniment based on CBOs' self-identified needs, peer learning, joint strategising, and careful context and risk analysis. Advocacy pathways are not linear and may engage local, national, regional, or global entry points depending on context. In addition, we operate at the international level closely with its partners to influence governments, donors and investors.

Together, these strategies reinforce one another, enabling partners to strengthen their leadership, expand collective action and drive systems change in support of climate and gender justice.

Strategy 1 — How flexible funding and accompaniment enable women to strengthen resilience, protect territories and advance climate solutions.

Across the GAGGA network, women-led and community-based organisations continued advancing gender-just climate solutions that strengthened resilience, protected ecosystems, defended territories and supported sustainable livelihoods. From ecosystem restoration and biodiversity conservation to water governance, climate-resilient food systems and territorial defence, partners demonstrated that effective climate solutions are already being developed and implemented by communities living with the realities of climate change every day.

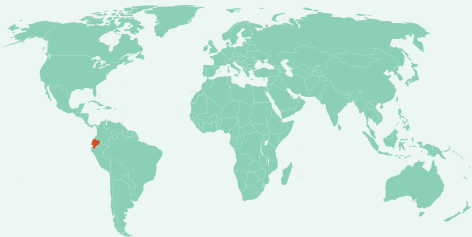
Protecting ecosystems and strengthening environmental accountability



Women and young people continued playing a leading role in protecting critical ecosystems and challenging environmental harm. In Cambodia, **Mother Nature Cambodia** supported communities living near the Peam Krasop Wildlife Sanctuary to document and expose illegal waste dumping activities inside a protected mangrove ecosystem. Community members were trained to collect evidence through photographs, videos and community monitoring, generating documentation that was used to raise public awareness and strengthen advocacy efforts. Although the issue remains unresolved, the initiative increased public scrutiny of environmental violations and contributed to greater caution among authorities managing

other protected areas. Women and young people emerged as visible leaders in defending their ecosystems, demonstrating the power of community-led monitoring to strengthen environmental accountability and challenge harmful development practices.

Restoring water systems and strengthening Indigenous governance



Women-led climate action also contributed to the restoration of critical ecosystems and the protection of water resources. In Ecuador, the **Union of Indigenous Communities of Toallo Santa Rosa (UCIT)** led the restoration of the Toallo-Santa Rosa stream, a vital water source for seven communities affected by pollution, deforestation and soil degradation. Through Indigenous collective work systems known as mingas, communities restored 12 kilometres of the watershed, reforested degraded areas and strengthened environmental stewardship. Participatory monitoring showed that water flow doubled in some periods, reaching 164 litres per second and benefiting approximately 4,600 farming families. More than 2,000 people participated in restoration activities, while Indigenous women and youth assumed leadership roles in environmental committees, community decision-making and territorial governance. The initiative demonstrates how ecosystem restoration, climate adaptation and Indigenous self-determination can reinforce one another while strengthening resilience to climate variability.ight to circulate in safe and sustainable environments.



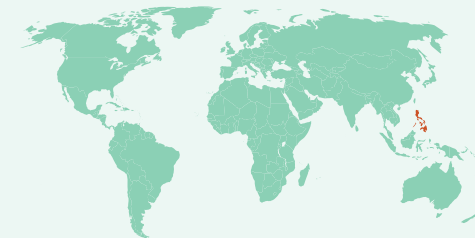
Advancing biodiversity, food sovereignty and sustainable livelihoods



Across regions, partners continued demonstrating that biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and sustainable livelihoods are mutually reinforcing. In 2025, the **International Analog Forestry Network (IAFN)** documented the results of community-led Analog Forestry initiatives supported through its Analog Forestry Restore Fund. The report showed that 143 hectares of degraded land were under restoration across participating communities, integrating an average of 250 plant species per site and contributing to biodiversity recovery, soil regeneration, water conservation and carbon sequestration. The initiatives also strengthened livelihoods and food sovereignty. Half of participating project leaders reported producing up to 50 percent of the food consumed by their households, while 71 percent linked income-generating activities to restored landscapes through agroecological production, forest-based products and local markets. By generating evidence of these results, partners strengthened recognition of community-led restoration as a viable and scalable climate solution that delivers environmental, social and economic benefits simultaneously.



Defending territories and advancing environmental justice



Women-led organisations also continued defending territories affected by extractive and industrial development. In the Philippines, WEHRDs, fisherfolk and youth continued demonstrating that defending territories is a critical climate strategy. Led by the **Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment (KPNE)**, communities mobilised to protect mangroves, mudflats and traditional fishing grounds threatened by large-scale reclamation and coastal infrastructure projects, including the New Manila International Airport development.

Mangroves are among the world's most effective natural climate solutions. They store significant amounts of carbon, protect coastlines from erosion and storm surges, sustain biodiversity and support the livelihoods of coastal communities. By defending these ecosystems, women-led organisations strengthened both climate resilience and the long-term stewardship of territories on which communities depend.

Throughout 2025, women leaders, fisherfolk and young people strengthened their capacity to monitor environmental impacts, document threats and organise collective responses to protect their territories. Knowledge exchanges with communities across the Philippines reinforced local strategies for defending coastal ecosystems, while expanding solidarity among women environmental defenders and grassroots movements confronting similar challenges.

These efforts translated into tangible environmental and governance outcomes. Community mobilisation and legal action contributed to a House of Representatives resolution investigating the impacts of reclamation projects and a Supreme Court ruling requiring companies and local government units to respond to the damage caused to Manila Bay's marine ecosystems and the rights and livelihoods of coastal communities. Together, these achievements demonstrate that protecting territories is fundamental to gender-just climate action, strengthening biodiversity conservation, climate resilience and the ability of communities to shape the future of the ecosystems they steward.

These experiences reflect only a small portion of the work led by GAGGA partners throughout 2025. Together, they demonstrate that women-led and community-based organisations are already advancing effective climate solutions that protect ecosystems, strengthen resilience, support livelihoods and defend rights. They also show that climate action is most effective when it is rooted in local knowledge, collective leadership and the priorities of the communities limite change. Sustained investment in these efforts enables communities not only to respond to immediate challenges, but also to shape more just, resilient and sustainable futures.

Strategy 2 — How peer-to-peer learning and cross-regional solidarity strengthen climate, environmental and gender justice

GAGGA's linking strategy is anchored in the conviction – and reinforced by nearly a decade of experience – that systems change requires more than strong individual organisations. It depends on the collective power of connected movements capable of learning from one another, building solidarity across sectors and geographies, developing shared analyses, and advancing common agendas for climate, environmental and gender justice.

A defining moment of the year was the **Global Partners Meeting in Bali, Indonesia**, which brought together around 80 partners from across the GAGGA network. Beyond reflecting on achievements and challenges, the gathering created space to deepen relationships, reinforce solidarity, exchange experiences across regions, and collectively strategise in response to increasingly difficult conditions for WEHRDs. Discussions on movement-building, collective care, climate finance, protection and advocacy helped lay the groundwork for renewed collaboration and context-specific strategies to advance gender-just climate action at national, regional and global levels.

Partner-led linking and learning initiatives further demonstrated how collective action can strengthen both local solutions and broader advocacy efforts. **In Latin America, several partners** joined forces to document and elevate gender-just climate solutions emerging from communities. Together, they developed [five case studies](#) showcasing locally led approaches to climate adaptation, biodiversity protection and environmental stewardship. Beyond documenting successful practices, the initiative strengthened collaboration among participating organisations and generated a collective advocacy tool supporting calls for more direct access to international climate finance for local women's groups.

Cross-movement collaboration also strengthened agroecological climate adaptation efforts. By connecting grassroots women's initiatives with wider advocacy spaces, partners exchanged practical strategies

on climate resilience, food sovereignty and sustainable livelihoods while strengthening regional networks of women leaders. These processes helped bridge local experiences and broader policy discussions, reinforcing the role of grassroots women's knowledge in shaping climate adaptation responses. For example, **Red de Mujeres de la Costa en Rebeldía (RMCR)**, in Chiapas, Mexico, where women are responding to increasing droughts, floods and environmental instability by strengthening food sovereignty, restoring traditional knowledge and protecting local ecosystems. Through GAGGA's linking and learning approach, RMCR deepened collaboration with organisations working on agroecology, Indigenous territorial rights and community health, including DESMI, Zapatista communities, Escuela para Chiapas and the United States Medical Brigade.

These exchanges strengthened RMCR's own climate adaptation strategies by combining technical knowledge with ancestral practices. Partners expanded organic food production, strengthened community herbalism initiatives and reinforced the protection of native seeds and local biodiversity – approaches that not only improve food security and reduce household costs, but also increase communities' capacity to adapt to climate change using locally available knowledge and resources. Importantly, these collaborations extended beyond technical exchange. They created lasting relationships among women confronting similar environmental and social challenges across the region, enabling partners to learn from different experiences of territorial defence, community organising and climate resilience

Collective learning also strengthened partners' ability to respond to increasingly complex climate and socio-environmental challenges while connecting local struggles to regional and global advocacy spaces. For example, through the **Global South House initiative, organized during COP30 in Belém**, partners met in-person and exchanged experiences and strategies on defending territories, resisting extractive projects and advancing community-led alternatives. As preparations for the UNFCCC COP30 gained momentum, the initiative also strengthened partners' understanding of international climate processes and helped identify shared priorities for collective advocacy. Bringing together more than 1,200 participants representing approximately 500 organisations from 29 countries, it created a unique space for cross-regional exchange and joint strategising.

Another powerful example related to **the Fondo de Acción Urgente para América Latina y el Caribe (FAU-AL)** initiative which strengthened solidarity and protection across networks of women environmental defenders in Latin America. Through exchanges, collective accompaniment processes and rapid response mechanisms, women defenders from diverse territories connected their experiences, shared strategies for addressing threats and repression, and reinforced collective approaches to care, security and resistance. In increasingly hostile contexts, these networks have become an essential source of protection, political support and movement resilience, demonstrating that solidarity itself is a critical form of infrastructure for sustaining environmental and climate justice work.

Alliance members also played a key role in creating opportunities for partners to learn from one another and strengthen collective action. Through a series of **online skillshares facilitated by Mama Cash**, 13 CBOs from different regions exchanged on i) advocacy strategies for resisting unwanted development projects and fossil fuel expansion, while centering Indigenous women's leadership and strengthening approaches to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC); and ii) territorial defence through biodiversity and marine conservation initiatives in Colombia and Mexico, enabling partners to learn directly from one another's experiences and adapt successful approaches to their own contexts. These exchanges helped strengthen cross-regional solidarity among organisations confronting similar threats while reinforcing the role of Indigenous and community-led solutions in protecting land, territories and ecosystems¹².

In Central America, **FCAM convened the Central American Meeting on Narratives of Hope for Socio-Environmental and Climate Justice**, bringing together 23 CBOs from Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. The gathering created space for collective reflection on how organisations communicate and mobilise communities in contexts marked by climate crises, violence and shrinking civic space. Together, participants explored how hope can function not simply as an aspiration, but as a political strategy that inspires action, strengthens community engagement and sustains long-term organising. The resulting narratives strengthened movement cohesion across the region and provided partners with new tools to communicate socio-environmental and climate justice in ways that are grounded in local realities while contributing to broader collective agendas.

The value of cross-regional, peer-to-peer learning, ultimately lies in its ability to influence systems. As partners connected local experiences to broader movements and strengthened their collective voice, they became better positioned to shape the policies and public narratives that affect their territories. The following section highlights how partners translated collective power into concrete influence at national, regional and global levels.

Strategy 3 — How women are shaping the policies and systems behind climate action

In 2025, GAGGA partners advanced gender-just climate finance, influenced policy processes, unlocked philanthropic capital, and strengthened recognition of women as critical actors in climate adaptation and mitigation. Together, these efforts contribute to reshaping how climate action is funded, governed and understood. In doing so, we continue bridging the gap between frontline realities and the institutions that determine where resources flow, whose voices are heard, and which climate solutions are prioritised.

Shifting climate finance towards locally led and gender-just climate action

The central components of GAGGA's influencing work is supporting partners to engage directly with the institutions, decision-makers and investors shaping the future of their communities and territories. They advance their own advocacy agendas at local, national and international levels, influencing policies, corporate practices, funding priorities and public debates on climate, environmental and social justice.

In Nigeria, **Kebetkache Women Development and Resource Centre** continued advancing justice and accountability in the Niger Delta as Shell prepared to withdraw from its onshore oil operations. Together with Both ENDS and the European Responsible Investment Network (ERIN), Kebetkache brought evidence from affected communities directly to Shell's 2025 Annual General Meeting, creating an unprecedented opportunity

for women from the Niger Delta to engage with company leadership and investors. Both ENDS and its partners also engaged directly with Dutch investors, encouraging them to raise concerns about Shell's environmental and human rights responsibilities during the meeting. Questions posed to Shell's Board generated public commitments and responses that extended well beyond the AGM, informing ongoing advocacy, media engagement and legal proceedings led by affected communities.

The collaboration resulted in coverage in Dutch financial media and international advocacy platforms, while evidence generated through these exchanges strengthened local litigation efforts seeking environmental remediation, accountability and compensation. By connecting community voices with investors, shareholders and international accountability mechanisms, GAGGA's influencing approach helped ensure that the experiences and demands of women on the frontlines shaped discussions in spaces where decisions with global consequences are made¹³.

In **Brazil, women leaders from the Quilombola community of Ilha de Mercês** continued defending their territory and way of life against the impacts of the Suape Port Industrial Complex. With support from a GAGGA partner - that have requested to stay anonymous -, community representatives brought their demands directly to Brazil's Ministry of Racial Equality, calling for justice, reparations and the protection of constitutionally recognised rights. By connecting local struggles with national decision-making spaces, the initiative strengthened the political visibility of Quilombola communities and amplified calls for racial, environmental and territorial justice.

Partners also worked to influence the institutions that shape resource allocation. For example, in Mexico, Fondo Acción Solidaria (FASOL) used its leadership within Arrecife, a network of community philanthropy organisations, to promote greater integration of gender and intersectional perspectives within Mexican philanthropy. Through dialogue, collective learning and the co-development of a sector-wide manifesto, the organisation helped strengthen recognition of women's contributions, diversity and inclusion within community philanthropy discussions, influencing how participating funders understand and support community-led change.

Another major focus of our **influencing work was demonstrating how climate finance can more effectively reach, sustain and scale gender-just climate action**. In this sense, we are increasingly recognised as a key contributor to these discussions, bringing nearly a decade of experience supporting women that are already advancing effective adaptation strategies in their communities. From agroecological food systems in Zambia and Mexico, to gender-responsive water governance in Ecuador and Nepal, and ecosystem protection initiatives led by Indigenous, rural and Afro-descendant women across the Global South, partners provide evidence that locally led approaches deliver lasting climate, environmental and social benefits when supported through flexible, long-term funding.

The proven-track of the Alliance's support to women-led community-based organization informed GAGGA's engagement with decision-makers within governments, including those of the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Canada, Denmark, Switzerland, Sweden, Ireland, France, Finland, Norway, and Germany. Through advocacy, policy dialogue, and strategic convening, GAGGA created opportunities for government representatives to engage directly with women-led organisations, exchange lessons and good practices, and deepen their understanding of locally led, gender-just climate solutions. These engagements also contributed to influencing policy discussions, funding priorities, and approaches to climate finance.

Other significant milestones were GAGGA's participation in the **Wilton Park Dialogue on Locally Led Adaptation**, convened by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), as well as an in-person session co-organized with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and FCDO on Locally Led Adaptation showcasing GAGGA as a best practice for implementation during **London Climate Action Week** (LCAW). During this event, GAGGA and IIED launched **a joint briefing on the role of effective intermediaries in climate finance** which highlights how effective intermediary organisations can help bridge the gap between global climate finance mechanisms and local actors by combining grant-making, capacity strengthening, movement building, and long-term accompaniment.

Mobilising government actors, bilateral donors and the wider donor community for gender-just climate action

Over the past decade, GAGGA has established itself as a thought leader and convener within the gender, climate, and environmental justice ecosystem. Working in collaboration with allied organisations, we have reduced the gap between frontline realities and global decision-making spaces. By facilitating dialogue, fostering cross-regional learning, generating evidence, and creating opportunities for exchange among governments, bilateral donors, philanthropic actors, and grassroots leaders, GAGGA has contributed to advancing greater recognition of gender-just climate action and locally led solutions.

Throughout 2025, we maintained regular engagement with the climate and gender teams from the aforementioned countries, particularly focusing on gender-responsive climate finance. A notable example was the **webinar *How Can Climate Finance Directly Support Feminist Movements Working on Climate Mitigation, Adaptation, Resilience and Governance?*** organised together with Global Affairs Canada (GAC). The event brought together bilateral donors and practitioners to explore how climate finance can more effectively reach feminist movements and women-led organisations. Follow-up engagement contributed to the **establishment of a new partnership with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)**, resulting in additional climate finance resources being directed towards women-led climate action.

We also strengthened our **engagement with philanthropic actors** at the Environmental Grantmakers Association (EGA) annual retreat; Aligned Funders in International Energy (ALFIE) meeting; New York Climate Week (NYCW) and the COLAB Summit. These engagements provided opportunities to challenge prevailing assumptions about climate philanthropy and demonstrate how to unlock more capital for women-led climate solutions. Specifically, at NYCW, we convened philanthropic actors through the event ***Powering Climate Action: Unlocking Philanthropic Capital for Women-Led Solutions***. The discussion focused on the structural barriers that continue to limit investment in women-led climate action despite growing recognition of its effectiveness. We reinforced our main messages in an [article](#) in Alliance Magazine, ***Fund the fire: Women, climate action, and the politics of philanthropy***.

Additionally, the publication of articles on the Foundations Platform F20 – [How women's funds are leading the charge for climate justice: Women's Funds in Action – Moving Resources to the Heart of Climate Solutions](#); and [How feminist climate action transforms people and planet](#) – enabled us to reach members of this new network of more than 80 global foundations and philanthropic organisations.

These efforts contributed to strengthened relationships with existing philanthropic partners while helping secure **new partnerships, including ClimateWorks Foundation and Ford Foundation**.

Elevating frontline voices in global climate spaces and institutions

Alongside efforts to influence bilateral donors, GAGGA continued to engage directly with multilateral climate finance institutions, particularly the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the world's largest climate fund. **Partners from Latin America and Asia conducted participatory monitoring of GCF-funded projects** and generated evidence on how climate finance is experienced at community level. This work examined the implementation of gender commitments within funded projects, the accessibility of information for local communities, and the extent to which women's participation and leadership were meaningfully incorporated into project implementation. Through webinars, policy dialogues, publications and direct advocacy, GAGGA partners highlighted persistent gaps between gender commitments on paper and realities on the ground, while also demonstrating the effectiveness of women-led climate solutions that continue to struggle to access international climate finance¹⁴.

For example, In **Thailand, Climate Watch Thailand (CWT)** demonstrated the potential of women-led monitoring to strengthen accountability within international climate finance systems. Through a grassroots network of Green Climate Fund and Gender Monitors, women documented gaps between project commitments and community realities, including concerns related to participation, access to information and project implementation. The evidence generated informed advocacy with national authorities, climate finance actors and GCF stakeholders, contributing to dialogue with the GCF Secretariat, its Independent Evaluation Unit, and Accredited Entities including United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ). The

experience highlights how participatory monitoring can strengthen transparency, accountability and community influence within climate finance decision-making.

Likewise, the **UNFCCC COP30, held in Belém, Brazil**, arose as an important opportunity to elevate the voices, priorities and solutions of women-led organisations in global climate discussions. Preparations began months in advance through a collaborative “Road to COP30” process, during which partners from multiple regions jointly identified advocacy priorities, developed key messages and coordinated engagement strategies in 7 virtual sessions (regional and global). As a result, **32 partners participated in the COP30 in person, connected and well prepared** bringing frontline perspectives into discussions on climate finance, adaptation, biodiversity, gender equality (Belém Gender Action Plan) and just transition (Belém Action Mechanism – BAM).

Together, we **engaged directly with representatives** from FCDO, NORAD, GIZ, GAC, DANIDA and Irish Aid, while **co-organising four strategic side events** aimed at strengthening political recognition and support for feminist movements as critical actors in climate mitigation and adaptation. Among these was ***Exploring the Conflict, Gender and Climate Nexus: Policies and Financing for a Locally Led Approach***, which provided an important platform to share findings from FCDO-supported [research](#) and draw attention to the interconnected challenges of climate change, conflict and rising authoritarianism, and their disproportionate impacts on women and girls.

A significant outcome of COP30 was the adoption of the **Belém Gender Action Plan**, which incorporated 10 of the 11 priorities advanced by the Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) of the UNFCCC, a space in which GAGGA partners and strategic ally WEDO played an active role. The agreement establishes 27 activities and 98 deliverables that will guide implementation over the next nine years. WGC also helped shape the BAM on Just Transition and advanced calls for stronger gender-responsive accountability within global climate adaptation processes. A debrief session with WEDO and GAGGA partners was organized just after COP30 in order to learn how to follow up with the implementation of the Belém Gender Action Plan at the national level.

Collective reflections for the decade ahead



Collective reflections for the decade ahead

For GAGGA, 2025 provided an important opportunity to reflect on what has worked, the challenges encountered, and the impact achieved, several key lessons have emerged regarding the conditions needed to strengthen how women continue driving lasting systems change. These insights not only affirm the relevance of GAGGA's approach, but will also inform the Alliance's future planning, helping shape the next phase of its strategy, partnerships, and investments in its infrastructure.

Flexible funding enables systems change

The increasingly volatile contexts in which partners operate reinforce the importance of flexible, long-term funding. Climate impacts, shrinking civic space, conflict, political instability and changing donor priorities require organisations to continuously adapt their strategies and respond to emerging challenges. Sustained financial support allows organisations and movements to maintain momentum, respond to changing circumstances and pursue long-term objectives that cannot be achieved through short funding cycles alone. Flexibility is therefore not simply a funding modality; it is a necessary condition for resilience, continuity and systems change.

Collective power multiplies impact

Complex challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss and gender inequality cannot be addressed by individual organisations acting alone. Over time, we have learned that connecting organisations and movements across regions and sectors is a way of scaling up through multiplication, it further strengthens collective analysis, solidarity and the ability to influence broader systems. Peer-to-peer learning and exchange fosters the relationships, trust and shared agendas that enable coordinated action, strengthen movement resilience and amplify the influence of local experiences in national and global spaces while multiplying best practices.

Evidence and storytelling help shift systems

Changing policies, funding practices and public narratives requires more than compelling evidence alone. Our experience highlights the importance of combining research, monitoring and documentation with strategic communications and storytelling. Making visible the contributions, knowledge and leadership of women-led organisations helps challenge dominant narratives about climate action and strengthens the case for more equitable and effective approaches. Research, evidence

generation and storytelling are therefore essential tools not only for accountability, but also for influencing decision-makers, shifting perceptions and strengthening collective advocacy.

Accessible climate finance requires a trusted infrastructure

Persistent barriers continue to limit the ability of women to access climate finance directly. Experience across the Alliance demonstrates that trusted effective intermediary structures play an important role in bridging the gap between global funding systems and local realities. Beyond managing resources, these structures provide accompaniment, and help connect local priorities to broader policy and funding discussions. As interest in LLA continues to grow, ensuring that climate finance reaches the organisations driving change on the frontlines will require continued attention to the systems and relationships that make access possible.

Sustaining the infrastructure behind gender-just climate action

As official development assistance (ODA) declines and funding priorities shift, maintaining this infrastructure becomes increasingly important. At the same time, growing recognition of locally led and gender-just climate solutions presents new opportunities to engage climate philanthropy and other actors committed to climate justice. This reality has reinforced the importance of diversifying our funding base, strengthening long-term partnerships and securing multi-year commitments. As we approach our tenth anniversary, the [Fund Forward](#) campaign serves as an invitation to funders, philanthropists and institutions to help sustain and strengthen the ecosystem that enables women-led organisations and movements to continue advancing climate, environmental and gender justice.

The evidence presented throughout this report reinforces a clear conclusion: **women-led community-based organisations are already advancing effective climate solutions**. Across diverse contexts, they are protecting ecosystems, strengthening food systems, restoring watersheds, defending territories, advancing just energy transitions and influencing the decisions that affect their communities. Their experiences demonstrate that climate action is most effective, equitable and sustainable when it is locally led and grounded in the realities of those living with the impacts of climate change every day.

At the same time, the context in which these efforts take place is evolving rapidly. Climate impacts continue to intensify, civic space is under pressure in many countries, conflicts are reshaping communities and ecosystems, and funding landscapes are shifting. These challenges underscore the urgency of investing in approaches that are already delivering results and of strengthening the organisations and movements that have the trust, knowledge, and legitimacy to respond effectively in complex and changing contexts.

The past decade has also demonstrated that the infrastructure needed to advance gender-just climate action already exists. Women's funds, socio-environmental funds, community-based organisations, WEHRDs and grassroots movements have built the relationships, knowledge, trust and collective power needed to drive change. When resources reach those closest to both the challenges and the solutions, they generate lasting benefits for people, ecosystems and communities.

As GAGGA enters its second decade, we do so with evidence, experience and conviction. The solutions exist. The leadership exists. The movements exist. The task ahead is not to build something new, but to strengthen and sustain what is already working – ensuring that women-led organisations have the recognition, resources and decision-making power needed to continue advancing climate, environmental and gender justice for years to come.

Footnotes

- ¹ For readability purposes, GAGGA uses the term ‘women’ to refer to women, girls, and intersex, trans and non-binary people.
- ² Throughout this report, the term “partners” is used collectively to refer to all these actors.
- ³ Despite growing recognition of the importance of locally led climate action, funding remains severely constrained. Only 1.2% of global human rights funding supports work at the intersection of gender, climate, and environmental justice; women’s rights organizations receive approximately 1% of ODA for gender equality and just 0.22% of climate-related ODA. Philanthropic funding for gender-just climate action remains below 1%, while adaptation continues to receive less than 10% of total philanthropic climate funding.
Source: <https://www.iied.org/22654iied>
- ⁴ External end-term evaluation, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs 5-year programme (2021-2025) currently being finalised.
- ⁵ GAGGA Research Mapping Summary: A Collective Creation of GAGGA's Future.
- ⁶ Examples of 2025 products are highlighted below. All publications are available at <https://gaggaalliance.org/news-and-media/>
- ⁷ External end-term evaluation, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs 5-year programme (2021-2025) currently being finalised.
- ⁸ Estimated total number of people reached by CBOs which received grants through funding of Fondation CHANEL, Dutch MFA and GAC. Based on 2025 CBO annual survey.
- ⁹ Based on annual CBO & NGO surveys for Fondation CHANEL, Dutch MFA, and GAC.
- ¹⁰ 2025 Annual Survey administered to CBOs, NGOs and Funds which received grants through funding of Fondation CHANEL, Dutch MFA and GAC.
- ¹¹ 2025 Annual Survey administered to CBOs which received grants through funding of Fondation CHANEL, Dutch MFA and GAC.
- ¹² At the Financing for Feminist Futures conference, Mama Cash shared lessons from Funding Our Future: Resourcing the Feminist Movements Driving Climate Action (co-authored with Equality Fund). The discussion and subsequent Alliance Magazine [article](#) helped advance dialogue on strengthening women’s funds as key intermediaries for directing climate finance to feminist movements on the frontlines.
- ¹³ See: Financieel Dagblad: <https://fd.nl/bedrijfsleven/1556601/aandeelhouders-shell-hebben-vooral-vragen-over-klimaat-en-nigeria> and Podcasts: <https://mediastormpodcast.com/podcast/episode/?episode=132>
- ¹⁴ AIDA and other GAGGA partners developed five case studies showcasing locally led, gender-just climate solutions. The resulting publication highlighted the persistent gap between GCFcommitments and funding reaching women-led local initiatives, strengthening advocacy for more direct access to international climate finance.

