

Our Voices, Our Environment

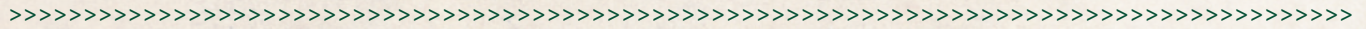
THE STATE OF FUNDING FOR
WOMEN'S ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION



*Made possible with generous support
from the Wallace Global Fund*



Credits



Authors

Christen Dobson
Independent Consultant

Steven Lawrence
Senior Research Affiliate, TCC Group

Contributors

Ursula Miniszewski
Global Greengrants Fund

Augusta Hagen-Dillon
Prospera International Network of Women's Funds

Lucia Carrasco Scherer
Formerly of Prospera International Network of Women's Funds

We are deeply grateful to everyone who shared their expertise and insights as part of this research. A full list of those interviewed is available on page 44.

We would like to acknowledge the Wallace Global Fund for its commitment to women's rights and climate justice, and its generous support of the writing and publication of this report. We would also like to acknowledge the invaluable partnership of the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action in the production of this report.

Case Study Authors and Contributors

Artemisa Castro
Solidarity in Action (FASOL)

Joanna Levitt Cea
Buen Vivir Fund, Thousand Currents

Julie Dugdale
Freelance Journalist

Laura García
Semillas

Konio Henao
Pari Women's Development Association

Arimbi Heroepoetri
Independent Consultant

Meerim Ilyas & Nathalie Margi
Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights

Nina Jusef
National Organization of Asians & Pacific Islanders Ending Sexual Violence

Leonardo Lacerda & Florence Tercier
Oak Foundation

Vik Mohan
Blue Ventures Conservation

Lucy Mullenkei
Indigenous Information Network

Judy A. Pasimio
LILAK (Purple Action for Indigenous Women's Rights)

Mary Robinson
Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice

Table of Contents



The Opportunity	04
<i>Understanding the current context for women and the environment</i>	
The Landscape	08
<i>Funding realities for women and the environment</i>	
Data and Analysis	08
Impact Investing	14
Bilateral and Multilateral Funding	16
The Practice	19
<i>Case studies and entry points for funding</i>	
Women Environmental Defenders	20
Women and Agriculture/Food Security	22
Women, Conservation, and Biodiversity	24
Women and Climate Change	26
Women, Disaster Response, and Resilience	28
Women, Environment, and Health	30
Women and Challenging Extractive Activities	32
The Partners	34
<i>Recommendations from funding peers and women on the frontlines of environmental action</i>	
Funding Opportunities	34
Actions that Enhance and Impede the Work	39
An Interview with Mary Robinson	40
Appendices.....	42
Appendix A: Methodology.....	42
Appendix B: Funding by Issue Area for Global Greengrants Fund and Prospera Members, 2015.....	43
Appendix C: Interviewees	44
Appendix D: Charts	45
Notes	48



- » Women are often responsible for 50 to 80 percent of the world's food production, yet they own less than 20 percent of the land. Climate change-induced droughts, flooding, and disasters can cause crop failures, which can significantly increase women's workloads and threaten the food security of their families.⁶
- » Women are often denied a voice in making decisions about how to address environmental challenges facing their communities.
- » Negative impacts of ecosystem deterioration and climate change are even greater for women who face discrimination due to other aspects of their identities. This includes women with disabilities, poor women, indigenous women, and transgender women.⁷

In addition to being among those most affected by environmental challenges, the role of women as agents of change is often overlooked.⁸ This statement is not intended to negate the important role of men in environmental solutions. Sustainable environmental actions require the full engagement of all members of affected populations, and it is critical to understand and address local gender dynamics, which differ by context. However, due to the current reality of gender inequality across the globe, women are most often underfunded and underrepresented.

The current funding gap for women and the environment⁹ signifies a missed opportunity for funders, who are committed to ensuring a healthy and equitable world for all, to create greater impact. To confront the most pressing environmental challenges, women must have adequate access to resources, opportunities, and decision-making power.

With an eye toward catalyzing this shift, *Our Voices, Our Environment: The State of Funding for Women's Environmental Action* represents the first-ever benchmarking of philanthropic funding in support of women and the environment. Produced by Global Greengrants Fund and Prospera International Network of Women's Funds, in partnership with the Wallace Global Fund and the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA), this report includes 34 interviews with funders, local women leaders, and regional and international advocates. It offers insights about the funding landscape; highlights lessons learned and funding strategies from peer grantmakers already active at this nexus; provides entry points for funders engaged in funding specific environmental issues, such as agriculture and biodiversity; and offers funding opportunities and guidance from women advocates.

A Moment of Opportunity and Urgency: Global Commitments to Support the Environment and Women's Rights

This is a moment of significant opportunity and great urgency to strengthen collective action to ensure a healthy planet for all. Global leaders increasingly recognize the crucial role of women in addressing environmental challenges, and understand that gender equality is a prerequisite for ensuring sustainable, healthy environments. The Paris Agreement represents an unprecedented commitment to reduce global warming, while respecting and promoting the rights of women and girls. The Sustainable Development Goals include gender equality indicators throughout, as well as a stand-alone goal on gender equality and several goals related to the environment, such as climate action and clean water and sanitation. These global-level policy agreements, if properly implemented, could significantly transform people's daily lives. Effective implementation is even more urgent given the risks that people on the frontlines of environmental protection currently face. Across the globe, people protecting the environment experience harassment and violence by both state and non-state actors, such as paramilitary groups and private security personnel linked with business operations.¹⁰ This trend of mounting repression and associated impunity is one of the greatest challenges for people defending the environment.



Why Grassroots Organizations Benefit From Approaching Environmental Justice With a Gender Perspective—and Why Funders Should Support these Collaborations

Author: Julie Dugdale, based on interviews with Laura García, Semillas, and Artemisa Castro, Solidarity In Action (FASOL)

Silvia Perez Yescas of Oaxaca, Mexico, knows what it's like to have her voice silenced. For an entire year, month after month, she stood outside a room full of men who gathered to discuss land rights and environmental issues that were affecting family and community well-being. For an entire year, she planted herself firmly on the other side of the room's window—she wasn't "allowed" to come inside—and raised her hand to participate in the discussion. For an entire year, the men ignored her.

Why? Because Yescas is a woman. In Mexican territories where vast swaths of natural resources are being threatened by energy companies, infrastructure projects, and mining corporations compounding the effects of climate change, the people most impacted—women—rarely get a seat at the table to lend their perspectives on protecting the land to which they are so tied.

"In communities and societies like Mexico, gender roles are clearly defined and separated," says Laura García, executive director of the Mexican women's fund Semillas, which means seeds. "In the rural way of life, women are the sole caretakers of the land; they work the land, they produce the food, and they provide it to their families. It's because of these roles that women absolutely need to be incorporated in decision-making around environmental action."

This interconnection between women and the environment is why Global Greengrants' partner in Mexico, FASOL, which supports grassroots Mexican environmental and social justice groups, has created an alliance with Semillas to integrate women's rights and environmental justice into the missions of both organizations.

Prior to forming this partnership, FASOL had not included a gender perspective in its environmental funding, and Semillas had not emphasized environmental justice as part of its funding for women's equality. Both were missing a key ingredient for funding effective, lasting change. In recognition of this gap, FASOL and Semillas began sharing their expertise with one another, including providing feedback on the gender and environmental justice dimensions of proposals they receive, and mobilizing resources to collaboratively make grants. They also connected each other's grantees to help increase the feminist movement's awareness of environmental issues and environmental groups' understanding of a gender perspective.

"Every factor intersects," said Artemisa Castro, executive director of FASOL. "One of the big learnings here is that [FASOL], as a social and environmental fund, had to understand the meaning of using a gender perspective. If we ask how many women or men are in a group, and the answer is, 'There are 10 women and 10 men'—that is not equity. It's a process; it's not the number of women involved in a certain project."

Semillas and FASOL's cross-movement funding has also enabled them to increase support to groups working at the intersection of women's rights and environmental protection. For example, Semillas' new grantmaking program called "Lands" focuses on advancing women's rights by securing land property rights. Broadening this funding priority enables Semillas to support a grassroots group of Mayan women beekeepers in their battle against GMO giant Monsanto, whose genetically modified soybean pesticides were killing bees, polluting local water, and contaminating the women's honey—a chief export to the United States and Europe and a key source of revenue in their traditional economy. The use of these harmful pesticides was negatively impacting the beekeepers' livelihoods and making them and their children ill. Backed by the Mexican government, Monsanto was a powerful entity in an arena in which the women don't typically have a voice; however, funding from Semillas enabled the beekeepers to mobilize and convince the men in their communities to take action.

After the beekeepers gained greater access to participation in their communities, they began building regional and national alliances. The result? A lawsuit and Supreme Court ruling against Monsanto and its toxic agricultural practices.

"This is a great example of how the actions of women in the margins ended up having a great impact on Mexico," García says. "They were the first ones who pushed for political participation, which means that without a gender perspective, you cannot really properly defend the environment."

Simply put, funders who support the intersection of environmental justice and women's rights have a greater chance of seeing a return on their investment than if they segregate their resources into one silo or the other.

In summary: It's a win-win situation.

The Landscape



It is critical that funding be available at the nexus of women and the environment so that women’s groups can address the myriad issues and challenges they face. Donors investing in women to create their own solutions to the daily challenges they identify will support both positive environmental outcomes and women’s rights, without instrumentalizing women as a means to achieve environmental ends.

TULIKA SRIVASTAVA,
SOUTH ASIA WOMEN’S FUND

This section provides an analysis of the current funding landscape for women and the environment through an in-depth examination of foundation grantmaking, as well as an exploration of approaches used by some bilateral and multilateral donors, impact investors, and individual donors.¹¹ Based on conversations with donors, this analysis intentionally takes a “big tent” approach. It uses a broad definition of the environment that is inclusive of funding focused on several environmental issues, regardless of whether that funding uses a justice or rights-based approach. This enables funders to exchange lessons about issues of shared interests across grantmaking approaches.

In this report, “environmental funding” includes support related to agriculture and livestock, biodiversity, climate change, disasters and emergency management,¹² environmental education, environmental health and toxins, environmental justice and resource rights, food security, forestry, fishing and aquaculture, natural resource protection, waste management, or water access and sanitation. Any grants by foundations and institutional donors that meet these criteria and also specify support for women, girls, or gender equality are included in this analysis as supporting “women and the environment.” This includes support going directly to women-led initiatives, as well as funding for research institutions and global organizations that specify supporting women, but may not engage or benefit women at the grassroots level. This analysis does not include any grants made by organizations whose primary role is operational programming, such as development or humanitarian organizations that may make some small grants or provide cash assistance. (For more details, see Appendix A: Methodology.)

Foundations, Women’s Funds, and Other Institutional Donors

In 2014, foundations, women’s funds, and other institutional donors granted \$110.2 million to activities ranging from supporting women’s agricultural livelihoods to investing in women-led efforts to address environmental toxins.

However, this represented less than 0.1 percent of all foundation grants and only 0.2 percent of all foundation grant dollars in 2014. Within environmental funding by foundations, this represented just 1 percent of all 2014 grants for the environment and less than 3 percent of grant dollars.¹³

Methodology Snapshot

<p>WHO IS INCLUDED IN THE DATA SET?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » More than 1,000 of the largest U.S. foundations (including Global Greengrants), members of Ariadne: European Funders for Social Change and Human Rights, the Human Rights Funders Network, and Prospera members that submit data to the Advancing Human Rights partnership, and selected giving by other funders. » Among these, 269 funders made at least one grant in support of women and the environment in 2014.
<p>WHO IS NOT INCLUDED?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Foundations that did not submit their 2014 grants data to the Foundation Center. » International organizations that primarily operate programming but may have made some grants in 2014 (such as humanitarian or development organizations).
<p>HOW WERE GRANTS CATEGORIZED AS SUPPORTING “WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT?”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Grants must be focused on at least one of these issues: agriculture and livestock, biodiversity, climate change, disasters and emergency management, environmental education, environmental health and toxins, environmental justice and resource rights, food security, forestry, fishing and aquaculture, natural resource protection, sustainable development, waste management, or water access and sanitation AND » Grants must specifically support women’s, girls’, or gender equality; or support an organization that states it focuses on women’s, girls’, or gender equality in its mission.

See page 42 for more detailed information.

An analysis of 2014 grantmaking by foundations, women’s funds, and other institutional donors,¹⁴ and interviews with 34 funders, grassroots women leaders, and international advocates¹⁵ revealed:

- » **Most funders supporting women and the environment show limited current engagement.** In 2014, 269 funders provided 825 grants focused on women and the environment. However, less than one-third of these funders (79) awarded more than one grant for this purpose, and only eight of these funders gave more than \$1 million at this intersection.

Through just 10 grants, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation accounted for nearly two-thirds of the \$110.2 million included in the analysis. It is important to note that the Gates Foundation grants primarily supported agricultural development and food security research to benefit smallholder farmers. While these grants focus on the Global South, the recipients are typically universities and global-level policy and research institutes, and not local women’s organizations.



Less than one-third
of funders awarded more than
one grant and only eight of these
funders gave more than \$1 million
for work at this intersection

The top 10 funders by grant dollars accounted for 91 percent of support for women and the environment in 2014. Among grantmaking organizations that showed the strongest commitment to funding women and the environment in 2014, Global Greengrants awarded the largest number of grants (318). The foundation making the second largest number of grants gave 22.

Top Foundations by Grant Dollars for Women and the Environment, 2014 (USD)

Foundation Name	Location	Amount
1 Gates Foundation	USA	\$72.7 million
2 NoVo Foundation	USA	\$6.1 million
3 Coca-Cola Foundation, Inc.	USA	\$5.2 million
4 Cordaid	Netherlands	\$4 million
5 Comic Relief	United Kingdom	\$3.2 million
6 Ford Foundation	USA	\$3 million
7 Global Greengrants Fund	USA	\$2 million
8 American Jewish World Service	USA	\$1 million
9 Howard G. Buffett Foundation	USA	\$998,000
10 Oak Foundation	Switzerland	\$900,000
Total for Top 10 Funders		\$99.9 million
Total for All Women and Environment Grants		\$110.2 million
Total for All Women and Environment Grants Excluding Gates Foundation		\$37.1 million
Total for All Grants		\$47.9 billion

Due to the large size of the 10 grants for women and the environment awarded by the Gates Foundation, the foundation accounted for nearly two-thirds of the \$110.2 million included in the analysis. The other 268 funders provided \$37.1 million. The Gates Foundation grants primarily focused on funding research for agricultural development and food security, with a focus on supporting smallholder farmers in the Global South. These grants mostly supported universities and global-level policy and research institutes, not local women's organizations directly.

Top Foundations by Number of Grants for Women and the Environment, 2014 (USD)

Foundation Name	Location	Number of Grants
1 Global Greengrants Fund	USA	318
2 Cordaid	Netherlands	22
3 American Jewish World Service	USA	21
4 African Women's Development Fund	Ghana	21
5 Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund	USA	12
6 Mama Cash	Netherlands	11
7 Gates Foundation	USA	10
8 Ford Foundation	USA	12
9 Fund for Global Human Rights, Inc.	United Kingdom	8
10 Abilis Foundation	Finland	8
Total for Top 10 Funders		443
Total for All Women and Environment Grants		825
Total Number of Grants		\$1.1 million

Source: These figures are based on an analysis of Foundation Center data by the authors, and include some grants for women and the environment made to other funders in the set. In instances where these grants would have resulted in double-counting of foundation support, they have been excluded from the distributions of funding by issue area and geographic focus presented in this report.

In addition to limited engagement, funder grantmaking priorities were quite narrow in scope, with close to three-out-of-five funders exclusively supporting food security and/or general environment and conservation.

» **Funders share similar challenges when considering** whether and how to fund at this intersection, including:

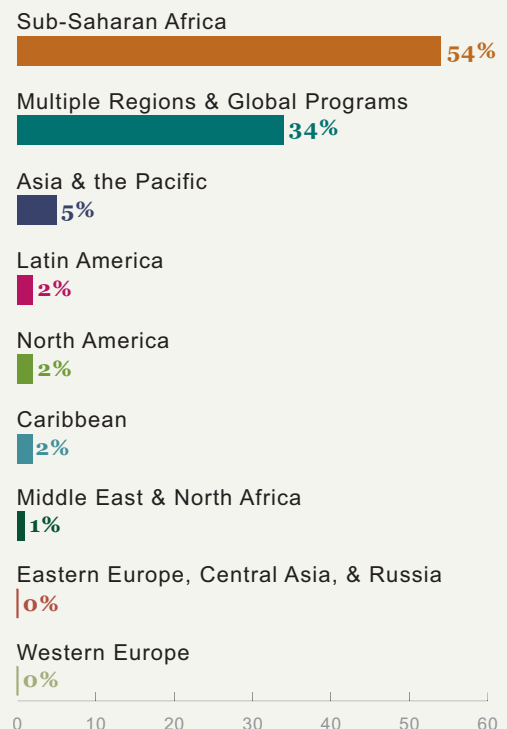
- **Understanding how and where to engage.** Because the scale of challenges the world faces due to climate change is immense, it is difficult to know where to direct limited resources. Some funders described not knowing the existing funding vehicles nor groups engaged in innovative work that need support. In addition, with the complexity and severity of environmental challenges, change is slow and may be difficult to measure. This report provides numerous case studies that highlight existing funding initiatives and examples of impact.
- **Making the case for the importance of supporting women within environmental portfolios in their own foundations.** While some colleagues understand the importance of using a gender lens when funding the environment and supporting women-led efforts, others do not believe there is sufficiently compelling evidence to prove that a focus on women or understanding of gender dynamics would help them reach their goals. This report aims to help address that concern by providing brief profiles exploring the nexus between women and the environment on key issues that foundations are already supporting, such as agriculture, conservation, and reproductive health (see page 19).
- **Operationalizing a women’s rights and/or environmental justice lens.** Interviewees raised questions about how their funding would change if they began strategically using a women’s rights or environmental justice lens. The Oak Foundation case study on page 18 and Semillas and FASOL case study on page 7 provide two examples of how these funders are integrating this justice perspective into their existing funding.

» **Among environmental issues funded, agriculture and food security received the highest amount of support (\$64.9 million).** In 2014, agriculture and food security received 59 percent of all of the dollars supporting women and the environment. Seventy-six percent of this funding was provided through just eight grants by the Gates Foundation. The remaining 33 funders making grants in this area provided \$15.6 million.

If the Gates Foundation’s grantmaking is excluded, agriculture and food security still remains the top funding priority among the other 268 funders for women and the environment.¹⁶

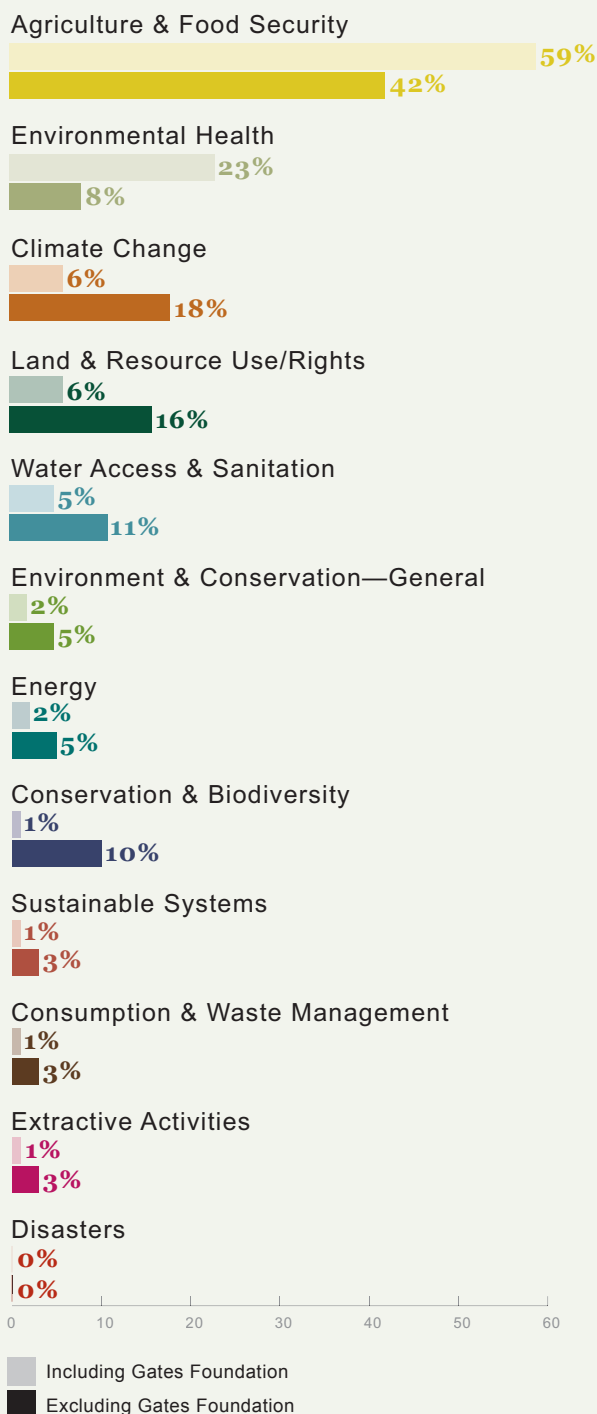
In some areas supported, a single funder accounted for nearly all of the grantmaking activity. For example, Global Greengrants provided all but two of the 19 grants made for women’s efforts to address hydropower projects in 2014, and all but one of the 29 grants related to women and biodiversity.

Foundation Funding for Women and the Environment by Geographic Focus, 2014 (USD)



Source: Based on Foundation Center data analyzed by report authors. See Appendix D for detailed data.

Foundation Funding for Women and the Environment by Issue Area, 2014



Source: Figures based on an analysis of Foundation Center data by the authors. See Appendix D for detailed data.

- » **Foundations can make unique contributions in areas such as environmental health, land and resource rights,¹⁷ and extractive activities compared to a subset of bilateral and multilateral donors.** A comparison of foundation funding with a subset of bilateral and multilateral funding showed foundations providing notably larger shares of their number of grants for environmental health (13 percent for foundations versus 0 percent for bilaterals/multilaterals), land and resource rights (12 percent for foundations versus 3 percent for bilaterals/multilaterals), and extractive activities (10 percent for foundations versus 1 percent for bilaterals/multilaterals).¹⁸ While total foundation funding for women and the environment represents only a tiny fraction of the support provided by bilateral and multilateral funders, these findings suggest that their support can nonetheless make a critical contribution to organizations working on these issues.
- » **Among funders already committed to women and the environment, the single largest share of funding focused on Sub-Saharan Africa.** Close to one-quarter (23 percent) of 2014 grants for women and the environment focused on Sub-Saharan Africa, and more than half of the grant dollars (54 percent) focused on this region. This finding reflects in part several exceptionally large grants awarded by the Gates Foundation for agriculture and food security with a focus on women farmers, and the Coca-Cola Foundation for clean water access with a focus on Africa and women.
- » **Each of the local women advocates interviewed cited lack of funding, especially unrestricted, multi-year support, as a major challenge they face.** A total of 548 organizations worldwide received grants related to women and the environment in 2014, with a median grant amount of \$7,000. Only 11 percent of grant recipients that are focused on women and the environment received more than one grant in 2014. These findings suggest that grants to support grassroots organizations are low relative to the need, and that many groups are working with few financial resources to effect change at the local and national levels.

» **Women’s funds, environmental funds,¹⁹ and other local funds connect other funders to grassroots organizations focused on women and the environment.** More than half of all grants awarded for women and the environment in 2014 were provided by Global Greengrants, Prospera members, and other local funds that raise support from multiple donors and make grants to other organizations. Among these funders, Global Greengrants, American Jewish World Service, the African Women’s Development Fund, the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund, Mama Cash, and the Fund for Global Human Rights provided the greatest number of grants for women and the environment in 2014.



More than half of all grants awarded for women and the environment in 2014 were provided by Global Greengrants Fund, Prospera members, and other local funds

The Climate Justice Resilience Fund and the Grassroots Climate Solutions Fund

Two new philanthropic initiatives have recently launched to support those most affected by climate change: the Climate Justice Resilience Fund (CJRF) and the Grassroots Climate Solutions Fund (GCSF).

In recognition of the lack of rights-based and community empowerment-focused funding to address climate change, Oak Foundation has provided \$20 million to launch CJRF. Rooted in a social justice and human rights framework, CJRF aims to address the most profound injustices associated with climate change by supporting communities facing the most significant impacts to develop and scale climate solutions that help them reduce risks, manage shocks, rebound, and continue charting a sustainable development path. CJRF works with groups that have been traditionally left out of decision-making processes, yet are often most negatively impacted by climate change. “The heart of our strategy is women, youth, and indigenous peoples, for them and by them,” noted Heather McGray of CJRF. “They have unique drivers of risk and vulnerability, and unique capacity as actors in development to make a difference.” CJRF focuses on three geographic areas already experiencing significant negative effects of climate change—East Africa, Bay of Bengal, and the Arctic. It invests in five “pillars of work”: advocacy, access

to information, local initiatives, movement infrastructure, and leadership development.

Launched in Spring 2016, GCSF is a collaboration between Global Greengrants, Grassroots International, Thousand Currents, and the Urgent Action Fund for Women’s Human Rights to amplify and strengthen grassroots solutions to the global climate crisis. GCSF supports grassroots organizations and social movements in Africa, the Americas, Asia, the Middle East, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Islands that are working at the intersection of climate resilience and human rights. GCSF provides a continuum of support to people fighting climate change, with specific focus on indigenous people, women, and youth. This support ranges from awarding a security grant in as little as 12 hours to an activist whose life or family has been threatened; to providing a promising grassroots movement with its first infusion of outside resources; to sustaining established organizations with multi-year support and capacity-building through proven, long-term partnership models. GCSF seeks to raise and deploy \$10 million over the next five years in direct funding and support for learning exchanges, climate solutions storytelling, and strategies to reshape approaches to advancing climate justice.

Transforming Impact Investing:

Co-Creating a New Model with Community and Environmental Well-Being at the Center

Author: Steven Lawrence and Christen Dobson, based on an interview with Joanna Levitt Cea, director of the Buen Vivir Fund, Thousand Currents



Elizabeth Weber

What if a community in Oaxaca, Mexico, that wanted to install a solar electric system could get the necessary \$50,000 and know that the community's decision-making processes and way of life would not be disrupted in the process? Or if a community in Rajasthan, India, could access the \$75,000 it needs to restore soil health and launch an organic farming initiative, knowing that the time frame, terms, and return would be aligned with the cycles of the community's agro-ecological systems?

These were a few of the questions that drove 81 people from six countries to spend 2,934 hours together co-designing a radically different model for impact investing. Thousand Currents, along with a founding circle of 10 grassroots groups and eight investors with an initial investment of \$1 million, has created the Buen Vivir Fund, an impact-investing fund that aims to advance grassroots-led economic innovation that promotes well-being and harmony in families, communities, and the natural environment. While the Fund did not start out with an explicit focus on women, co-founders discovered that the vast majority of organizations that have demonstrated profound thought leadership, proven impact, and innovation in boosting economic prosperity and community and environmental well-being were women-led and/or focused on women's rights.

For example, Women Awareness Center Nepal (WACN) has combined farming, economic development, and gender justice to weave one of the strongest civil infrastructures in Nepal. Representing 42 cooperatives and over 45,000 women, WACN boasts one of the largest bases of organized farmers—and the combined assets of these 42 cooperatives are over \$4.2 million.

In laying the groundwork for the Buen Vivir Fund, Thousand Currents began by having in-depth conversations with its existing grantee partners, as well as conducting research and interviews with over 40 leading actors working in impact investing. Thousand Currents' conversations revealed a set of broad challenges to creating investment opportunities that are beneficial for women working at the grassroots in the Global South, including:

1. Most impact investments have little or no genuine leadership by the communities they claim to benefit. Most "social entrepreneurs" who receive impact investment are formally trained males who are not from the communities they claim to benefit. There is a pronounced absence of community leadership, ownership, and decision-making power from the groups and places upon which the impact investments are focused.
2. The sector could undervalue work that is not based on business or revenue generation, and grant funding may decrease. As major development agencies like the World Bank Group, other multilateral development agencies, and large foundations increasingly promote impact investing, there is a risk that the sector will undervalue vital work that is not based on business or revenue generation. In short,

there is a danger of forgetting that grantmaking can also be a highly sophisticated, high-impact tool.

3. The fundamental terms and structures for investment remain very limited. Even while there is an explosion of diversity and growth among the numbers and kinds of entities receiving impact investments, there is a striking lack of innovation and diversity in the terms of these investments. The way that impact investments are structured, governed, and managed still tends to closely follow the blueprints created by investors in Silicon Valley and Wall Street.

The principles and model of the Buen Vivir Fund were established in response to this learning. These principles include:

- » Flip the usual dynamic on its head. Instead of having the terms of investment set by investors, the Buen Vivir Fund relies on practices for lending and enterprise that grassroots groups have developed themselves—and that have proven effective on the ground. And rather than using a typical investment committee structure, the Buen Vivir Fund is governed by a Members Assembly, with majority representation from grassroots groups that are receiving investment from the Fund.
- » Recognize that financial capital is one among many forms of investment. The Buen Vivir Fund recognizes and formally tracks multiple forms of investment, including financial, shared-time, shared-experience, and collective problem-solving, to address challenges that projects may face.
- » Track returns in multiple ways. For instance, one of the returns tracked by the Fund is "leadership by all"—including ways that projects boost and support women's economic leadership. Another type of return is "thriving earth"—all projects must actively "give back" and heal the ecosystems on which they depend.
- » Influence investment practices beyond the Fund as part of scaling its impact. All members of the Buen Vivir Fund commit to ways they will "share out" information, practices, and tools developed by the Fund to support a broadening circle of actors in the impact-investment and new-economy realms. This walk-the-talk type of investment places the well-being of people and the planet at the center of the work, every day.

The critical lesson that Thousand Currents learned throughout the process of researching the current potential of impact investing in improving the lives of women and the environment is that impact investors cannot change the what of their investments without changing the how of their processes and approach. Active co-creation of new models of investing with women living and working at the grassroots level offers the greatest potential to ensure they have a full life of happiness, balance, and well-being—buen vivir.

Multilateral Climate Finance

Climate finance is increasingly recognizing the importance of adopting a gender lens, and climate-relevant development assistance has the potential to be a significant source of support for initiatives addressing both gender equality and the environment.

One example of this progress is the Green Climate Fund (GCF), which was established in 2010 by the 194 countries that are parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. GCF supports the efforts of developing countries to respond to the

challenge of climate change, and is primarily funded by developed countries, but also developing countries, regions, and one city. It is the largest multilateral climate fund and the first to incorporate gender from the outset, sending a strong signal to the field. All GCF partners, including multilateral development banks and commercial banks, which wish to receive funds for projects must create their own gender policy as a condition of accreditation.²⁴ And yet, among climate finance mechanisms, there are questions related to implementation and accountability and the extent to which grassroots, women-led

organizations will be able to access these funds.²⁵

As Liane Schalatek, associate director of Heinrich Böll Stiftung North America and international climate finance expert, remarked: “From my perspective, funding for civil society organizations is not increasing, and there are a number of organizations that engage with the Green Climate Fund that will not be there at the end of the year because they don’t have any more funding. I also see more funding for mainstream organizations to do gender work, rather than organizations specialized in women and the environment.”

Bilateral Climate-Relevant Development Assistance

An analysis of overseas bilateral development assistance by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development’s (OECD) Network on Gender Equality found that development support targeting gender and climate change has increased rapidly in recent years, nearly doubling between 2010 and 2014. Thirty-one percent of bilateral climate-relevant development assistance in 2014 supported gender equality (\$8 billion). While this funding may seem substantial, **only 3 percent of this assistance had gender equality as a primary target, and just 2 percent of gender-responsive climate assistance went to civil society organizations located in the Global South.** This suggests a significant gap in

support for grassroots initiatives focused on gender equality and the environment. **The OECD analysis states that “donors should improve their support to locally led action on gender and climate change through multi-year and predictable funding for southern civil society organizations, including women’s rights organizations.”**²⁶

As with philanthropic funding in 2014, the strongest focus on gender equality in bilateral climate-relevant development assistance was on agriculture. The OECD study also found that while gender equality was better integrated in adaptation²⁷ than in mitigation activities,²⁸ over half of the assistance for climate change adaptation efforts failed to take women’s specific needs and contributions into account. Germany, Japan, and the United States reported the largest volumes of gender-responsive

development assistance devoted to climate change, and Belgium, Sweden, and Denmark reported the strongest focus on gender equality as a share of their total climate-relevant development assistance (74 percent).

One new, unprecedented bilateral funding investment in women and the environment is the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA), which provided €32 million over a five-year period, funded by the Dutch government. GAGGA’s goal is to catalyze the collective power of the women’s rights and environmental justice movements towards realizing a world in which women can and do exercise their rights to water; food security; and a clean, healthy, and safe environment. GAGGA also seeks to influence funding flows to ensure they reach grassroots groups and movements.

Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA):

Cross-Movement Funding for Greater Impact

Author: Eve Rehse, Global Greengrants, and Augusta Hagen-Dillon, Prospera

The women of Inga in the Democratic Republic of Congo are an inspiring example of self-sufficiency and survival. Although there are two large hydropower dams in the region (Inga 1 and 2), essential services like energy, water, hospitals, and roads are nonexistent. Many of the men in the surrounding communities are unemployed. But rich forests and the Congo River provide women with enough food and produce to sell to feed their families and send their children to school.

For decades, the communities in the Inga Falls region have had no access to electricity, running water, or jobs. Now, the government plans to build a new dam, Inga 3. Not only is it clear that the communities in the region will not benefit from the construction of an additional dam, but they also face potential displacement from their lands. It is estimated that with the construction of Inga 3, 10,000 people would lose access to the land that sustains them, with dramatic consequences. “Sometimes, displacements and resettlements have moved people to a totally different kind of environment where they have no skills to survive,” says Rudo Sanyanga, Africa Program Director of NGO International Rivers. “We’ve found a lot of communities that have been displaced by dams becoming impoverished because of this.”

This destruction is amplified by the marginalization of Inga women. Despite being the main custodians of the land and their communities, the women of Inga are at the bottom of society. In a corrupt, unequal, and unjust system, they are the last to access information or receive any kind of benefits from infrastructure projects like Inga 3.

Funders like Global Greengrants have supported community struggles against the Inga 3 dam for over a decade. But even with initiatives to support grassroots advocacy and legal-rights training, the voices of women are not always heard, or their specific needs fully understood. This reality, echoed in communities across the globe, perpetuates gender inequality and hampers efforts to advance environmental justice.

The Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA) led by the Central American Women’s Fund together with Mama Cash, Both ENDS, and strategic partners Global Greengrants, Prospera, and the World Resources Institute, and financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, aims to support women of all ages and conditions to exercise their rights to water, food security, and a clean, safe, and healthy environment. Through a multi-year and cross-sectoral collaboration of environmental and women’s rights funders,

GAGGA has enabled Global Greengrants and International Rivers to support Inga communities in adopting a gender lens in their campaign for the first time. With this funding, a local grassroots group, Action pour les Droits, l’Environnement et la Vie, worked to articulate the different impact that the Inga 3 dam would have on women, and supported women to participate fully, enhancing the organization’s advocacy efforts.

Applying this particular women’s rights focus to a long-standing environmental justice struggle has deepened the impact of Global Greengrants’ funding and enriched the grassroots campaign it supports, contributing to a breakthrough success in July 2016 when the World Bank suspended financing to the Inga 3 dam, throwing the future of the entire development into question.

Innovative cross-thematic funder collaborations like GAGGA support multidimensional responses to deeply complex problems, in a way that single-movement or funder efforts are unable to. As To Tjoelker, head of the Civil Society Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, states, “Incorporating women’s rights is an area for improvement within the environmental field.” Environmental funders may understand the need for natural resource protection and the strategies that work, but often struggle to appreciate the myriad barriers women face that keep them from actively participating in, and ultimately ensuring the success of, environmental protection efforts. Women’s rights funders, on the other hand, are beginning to understand and appreciate that women’s economic and social equality hinges on a clean, safe, and healthy environment.

By coming together, these actors add value to each other’s strategies and approaches, and ultimately increase the impact for the women and environments they seek to support. This enhanced understanding is what attracted Tjoelker to this collaboration. She noted that it was the “clear vision of the two movements of the potential of the strength of lobbying on environmental and women’s rights issues” that makes GAGGA a unique effort.

It takes time to build cross-movement collaboration and to understand each other’s objectives and approaches. GAGGA started two years before it officially launched—with meetings, research, and intensive planning. Education between the partners and the execution of the alliance strategy is an iterative and ongoing process, with time and resources needed to convene, discuss, and learn in order to ultimately break down long-standing and detrimental silos and realize a collective goal.

Entry Points for Funding: How Financial Support for Women’s Environmental Action Can Strengthen the Impact of Current Grantmaking Priorities

The following sections serve as “entry points” for funders to identify opportunities aligned with their existing funding priorities. These sections illustrate the essential roles of women in ensuring food security, supporting biodiversity and conservation, addressing climate change, responding to disasters, challenging extractive activities that are negatively affecting their communities, and supporting the health of their families—all of which are interconnected and interdependent areas of women’s lives.

Funders working in this space must also understand that women’s environmental activities do not exist in a world that allows for drawing the same sharp distinctions funders themselves may find useful. For women supporting the long-term well-being of their families, communities, and culture, environmental protection and women’s rights are not distinct “funding silos”—they are what need to happen in order to survive and thrive.

Women Environmental Rights Defenders³⁰

Individuals and communities engaged in environmental protection are increasingly at risk. In 2016, Global Witness documented 200 killings of people defending their land, forests, and rivers across 24 countries. The greatest number of deaths were related to the mining, logging, and agribusiness sectors.³¹ For funders committed to environmental conservation and protection, this trend is a critical concern, as their grantees may be facing escalating threats and violence for their environmental work. Funders may need to adapt their funding practices to respond to this new reality, as there is a widespread perception that this trend will continue for the foreseeable future.³²

Women protecting the environment face many of the same risks as their male peers, including death threats, intimidation and harassment, criminalization, and violence. However, they face gender-specific challenges and attacks as well. For example, women engaged in environmental protection may be criticized for taking time away from their expected duties as mothers and wives, while their male peers are seen as leaders. In some cases, husbands have accused their wives of cheating while traveling for their environmental advocacy, leading some women to withdraw from their activism. In addition, women often have to balance childcare and domestic tasks with their environmental protection efforts.³³ Women also face greater risk of threats and acts of sexual violence as a means of silencing and intimidating them, as well as a lack of justice for these crimes.³⁴

The work of environmental defenders is reflected across all of the sections that follow, as the risks they face cut across protection of all natural resources and the environment. At the same time, there are funders that explicitly frame their work as supporting women human rights defenders engaged in environmental protection, as illustrated by the following grants.³⁵

Sample Grants

- » **Fund for Global Human Rights to Movimiento de Mujeres Indigenas Tz’Ununija** in Guatemala for general support for its activities with indigenous women in 10 departments. This includes advocating for indigenous women’s rights and working with indigenous women’s rights defenders—particularly those defending land and resource rights.
- » **Urgent Action Fund to a woman human rights defender** from Papua New Guinea to raise awareness among women in Vanuatu about seabed mining and its impact on women and their communities in advance of an upcoming election on the issue.
- » **Fondo Mujeres del Sur to Comisión de Víctimas de la Masacre de Curuguaty** in Paraguay to support women working with men as allies to create a community where everyone enjoys access to land and natural resources, health services, and a territory free of toxins.



Protecting Ancestral Lands from Gold Mining Contamination in Indonesia

Authors: Arimbi Heroepoetri, Meerim Ilyas, Nina Jusuf, Nathalie Margi, and Judy A. Pasimio

Excerpted from “In Our Bones: Stories from Women Defending Land, Community, Human Rights, and the Environment in Indonesia & the Philippines.”

Jull Takaliuang is an indigenous woman, a legal advocate, and a defender of the environment and human rights from the small village of Menggawa in North Sulawesi, Indonesia. Jull began her environmental advocacy when she discovered that people in the primarily indigenous communities living in and around Buyat Bay were showing symptoms of metal poisoning, resulting in paralysis and even death. Tests of the soil indicated high levels of contamination caused by hexavalent chromium, a toxic industrial waste product from mining operations nearby.

In response, Jull organized the Bangka Island community in Buyat Bay and led a successful campaign that ultimately shut down the Chinese mining company responsible for the pollution. In January 2012, the community filed a lawsuit to revoke the company’s exploration permit; however, the administrative court rejected their suit. The Bangka people, together with allies from the tourism industry, appealed to a higher administrative court in South Sulawesi and were successful. In March 2013, the court

reversed the earlier decision and revoked the exploration permit. The mining company then appealed to the Supreme Court, but its appeal was rejected.

Because of her activism to stop destructive gold mining, reclaim beaches from exploitation, and halt illegal logging carried out by members of the police on Bangka Island, Jull experienced many threats. These included physical attacks arranged by the mining company, and being unlawfully detained and placed under house arrest, with one year’s probation. Jull’s activism has also had consequences for her family. As a result of her involvement in a campaign for improved maternal health services, Jull and her family were blacklisted and prevented from using hospitals and health services in the area. When her son needed to be hospitalized for dengue fever, it was difficult to find doctors who would agree to treat him. For more than a decade, Jull has continued leading efforts to prosecute offenders in mining and land-grabbing cases, taking on the Indonesian government and powerful corporate interests.

Funding Lesson: Fund locally led campaigns that address environmental and/or women’s rights issues, and have the flexibility to support efforts that address local needs. When activists are the targets of spurious lawsuits or unjust detention, provide funding for legal aid, trial observation, and post-imprisonment support, such as when a grant recipient may need medical care or assistance with housing.

Women and Agriculture/Food Security

>>>> ONLY <<<<<
0.1%
 OF ALL FOUNDATION
 FUNDING FOCUSES
 EXPLICITLY ON WOMEN
 AND AGRICULTURE/
 FOOD SECURITY

Women farmers currently account for between 50 and 80 percent of all food production, making them essential partners in ensuring food security.³⁶ Yet, they are often overlooked in decision-making on access to and use of natural resources, and in many cases lack the right to own

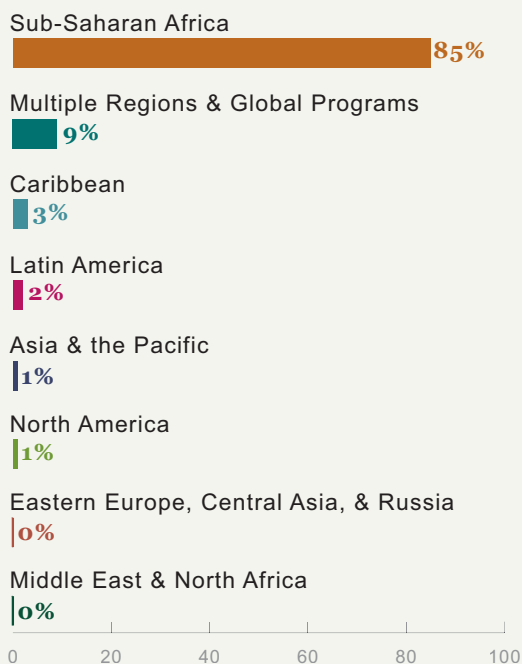
land and resources.³⁷ Well-intentioned agriculture-related interventions can also cause harm to women if they are not developed in partnership with women in affected communities and with knowledge of the local context. For example, in some cultures where women have traditionally safeguarded seeds, the introduction of genetically modified seeds can make it more difficult for them to continue this role. This can result in loss of livelihoods.

In 2014, funders directed 30 percent of their grants and nearly 60 percent of their grant dollars for women and the environment to improving agriculture livelihoods, enhancing agricultural productivity, and addressing food security. Nonetheless, this represented just .02 percent of overall foundation grants and 0.1 percent of grant dollars.

Sample Grants

- » **Cordaid to Afghan Women’s Resource Center** to empower women by training them in more efficient agricultural production; introducing new, profitable crops; and establishing links with local markets in order to increase household income and improve food security.
- » **Fundo Baobá to Rede de Mulheres Negras para Seguranca Alimentar e Nutricional** in Brazil to support training, discussion, and the exchange of experiences regarding food security and nutrition of the black population; strengthening efforts to engage black women in action to modify gender and racial inequities; and analyzing, evaluating, and monitoring the effects of public policies for black women.
- » **William and Flora Hewlett Foundation to Bread for the World Institute** in USA to strengthen coverage of women’s important role in eliminating hunger, and to elevate the faith community’s engagement in raising the profile of women’s economic empowerment as part of its advocacy directed at the U.S. government and the post-2015 development goals.

Foundation Funding for Women and Agriculture/Food Security by Geographic Focus, 2014 (USD)



Source: Figures based on an analysis of Foundation Center data conducted by the authors. See Appendix D for detailed data.

Reforestation and the Power of Exchange in Kenya's Rift Valley

Authors: Lucy Mulenkei, Executive Director, Indigenous Information Network



Greg Miller

The Mau Forest in the Kenyan Rift Valley is the largest water catchment area in the country and the largest indigenous montane forest in East Africa. Approximately 10 million people, several wildlife species, and livestock depend on the rivers fed by the forest complex. However, human activity, including agriculture, logging, and tree clearing for settlements, has reduced the Mau Forest to a quarter of what it once was. This degradation has disrupted the forest's role in storing and distributing water, leading to water shortages, competition for water between household and livestock use, and loss of local livelihoods.

The Enkutuk Entim community forest association in Narok County, which is made up of 24 forest-user groups primarily comprised of indigenous women, is one organization that is playing a critical role in restoring the Mau Forest, protecting biodiversity, and mitigating the water shortage. With support from the Indigenous Information Network (IIN) and the Kenya Forest Working Group (KFWG), women in these user groups are preparing tree nurseries and “kitchen gardens” using traditional seeds and growing practices. They are selling these tree seedlings to local farmers and the Kenyan government as part of the reforestation efforts. To date, almost every woman has sold 10,000 seedlings, restoring over 10,000 hectares of the Mau

Forest. This work has improved food security, provided a critical source of income for women and their families, increased the number of children attending school because families can now cover related expenses, improved the health of family members, and strengthened women's confidence to engage in decision-making in their communities.

To further strengthen the capacity of local indigenous women, IIN has facilitated exchanges between women from West Pokot and women from Narok County, who have lost their livelihoods as pastoralists due to unpredictable weather patterns and loss of land to large-scale agriculture. The goal is for these women to share options for alternative livelihoods. For instance, the women have shared how they plant kitchen gardens using traditional seeds, as well as collect wild fruits and medicinal herbs from the forest and replant them to ensure they are not lost as the forest is destroyed. They have also exchanged lessons about how to adapt to climate change using both traditional and modern technology, such as planting certain vegetables and raising chickens. As many women in these communities are not able to read or write, sharing knowledge in person is the most effective means to deepen and expand their knowledge about environmental protection.

Funding Lesson: Supporting exchanges between women to share knowledge can be an important strategy to support improved food security, environmental restoration, biodiversity, girls' education, and women's participation and leadership.

Top Foundations by Grant Dollars for Women and Agriculture/Food Security, 2014 (USD)

Foundation Name	Location	Amount	No. of Grants
1 Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	USA	\$49,435,976	8
2 Cordaid	Netherlands	\$3,688,142	17
3 Comic Relief	United Kingdom	\$3,008,093	1
4 Howard G. Buffett Foundation	USA	\$998,000	1
5 Bloomberg Philanthropies	USA	\$899,000	1

Source: Figures based on an analysis of Foundation Center data conducted by the authors. These figures may include grants for women and the environment made to other funders in the set. In instances where these grants may result in double-counting of foundation support, they have been excluded from the distributions presented in this report.

Women, Conservation, and Biodiversity

>>>>> ONLY <<<<<<
0.03%
 OF ALL FOUNDATION
 FUNDING FOCUSES
 EXPLICITLY ON WOMEN,
 CONSERVATION, AND
 BIODIVERSITY

Due to socially constructed gender norms, women and men typically have different roles in the management of natural resources, wherein women are often the keepers of traditional ecological knowledge and stewards

of the environment in their communities.³⁸ Across the globe, women are actively engaged in efforts to conserve land, as well as fresh and marine water and other biodiversity resources—and these strategies and expertise are influencing conversations at the policy level. Mexico is one example: Last year, with support from the International Union for Conservation of Nature in partnership with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, women from across the country came together to share their work and analyze national biodiversity documents. They reshaped—in close cooperation with the government—the national biodiversity strategy and action plan to ensure that women’s unique needs and solutions were included—resulting in the official national plan including 203 references

to women and gender, up from an initial 21. These references acknowledged women’s important roles in natural-resource management and contributions as agents of change.

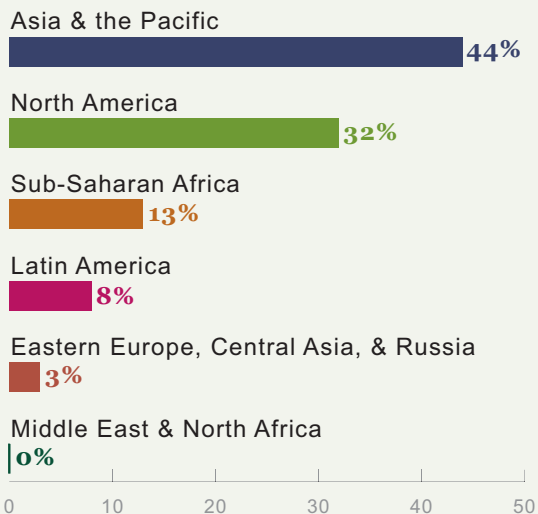
Women are also affected by biodiversity loss in unique ways. For example, in many parts of the world, deforestation results in wood being located farther away from where people live. As women and girls are often responsible for collecting traditional fuels, women then need to travel greater distances and spend more time on this work, increasing their risk of sexual harassment and assault.³⁹

In 2014, 11 funders made 75 grants totaling \$1.3 million to address women and conservation or biodiversity. This accounted for just .007 percent of overall foundation grants and 0.003 percent of grant dollars. Within funding for the environment, the shares amounted to less than 0.1 percent of foundation grants and .03 percent of grant dollars. Global Greengrants accounted for the vast majority of these grants (66). Of the remaining funders, only one—the Maine Community Foundation—made more than one grant related to women and conservation or biodiversity that year.

Sample Grants

- » **Fondo Alquimia to Mujeres por La Resistencia del Rio Pilmaiken y Defensa de los Espacios Sagrados Mapuche Williche** in Chile to support women’s protection of Mapuche-Huilliches sacred spaces and interregional conversations on the defense of the river, including opposition to the construction of a hydroelectric dam.
- » **Ford Foundation to the Environmental Investigation Agency, United Kingdom** in partnership with the women in the Greater Mekong region of Southeast Asia, to strengthen local civil-society monitoring to reduce global trade in illicit timber and forest loss.
- » **Global Greengrants to the Centre for Human Rights and Development** in Mongolia to bring together women farmers, agricultural workers, indigenous women, and environmental advocates through a six-day Rural Women’s Leadership Training. The training covered biodiversity, food, agriculture, and gender issues, and offered skills-building on leadership, media campaigns, and policy advocacy.

Foundation Funding for Women, Conservation, and Biodiversity by Geographic Focus, 2014 (USD)



Source: Figures based on an analysis of Foundation Center data conducted by the authors. See Appendix D for detailed data.

An Integrated Approach to Conservation:

The Importance of Supporting Women's Health and Participation in Decision-Making

Author: Vik Mohan, Blue Ventures Conservation



Blue Ventures works with coastal communities to rebuild tropical fisheries and support community-led conservation. In 2003, Blue Ventures began working with fishing communities in remote, southwest Madagascar. In 2007, it received a grant from the MacArthur Foundation for marine and coastal biodiversity protection and supporting sustainable fisheries management.

While Blue Ventures initially focused on biodiversity and sustainable fisheries, women in its partner communities soon expressed the need for improved reproductive health services. At the communities' request, and in an unconventional move for a conservation organization, Blue Ventures integrated family planning and maternal and child health initiatives into its program of marine conservation and fisheries activities.

Uptake of these health services by women has been dramatic: In under 10 years, the proportion of women of reproductive age using a modern method of contraception has increased from less than 10 percent to nearly 70 percent, with a fall in the general fertility rate of approximately 40 percent.

Blue Ventures also realized that while women played an important role in local fisheries (facilitated in part by being able to space their pregnancies), community management associations

in charge of decision-making were primarily comprised of men. Consultations with women revealed that they had limited knowledge of local fishing regulations and did not feel confident enough to participate in management meetings. Blue Ventures responded by convening women-only trainings about the locally led fisheries' management strategies and the enforcement rules that the community had developed with Blue Ventures' support.

The result of all of this activity has led to an increase in women's participation in natural resource management. Ten years ago, 13 percent of the local marine conservation committee in the village where Blue Ventures initiated its marine conservation program were women. In last year's elections, this figure jumped threefold to 38 percent. Addressing the need for equitable access to reproductive health services has also led to examples of greater engagement by communities in marine conservation activities, thanks to strengthened community relations.

By sharing Blue Ventures' vision for a more holistic response to the multifaceted challenges communities were facing, and by providing direct funding for reproductive health services alongside conservation activities, the MacArthur Foundation enabled Blue Ventures to work in a more integrated, and ultimately more effective, way.

Funding Lesson: The majority of funding Blue Ventures receives for its work has been for single-sector activities, yet as this case study illustrates, conservation efforts and women's rights are interconnected. For funders with a narrow thematic focus, providing flexible funding, which allows for tailoring of support to address community needs, would enable organizations to respond more holistically and ultimately deliver better results.

Top Foundations by Grant Dollars for Women, Conservation, and Biodiversity, 2014 (USD)

Foundation Name	Location	Amount	No. of Grants
1 NoVo Foundation	USA	\$500,000	1
2 Ford Foundation	USA	\$400,000	1
3 William Penn Foundation	USA	\$390,000	1
4 Global Greengrants Fund	USA	\$367,334	66
5 Tides Foundation	USA	\$75,000	1

Source: Figures based on an analysis of Foundation Center data conducted by the authors. These figures may include grants for women and the environment made to other funders in the set. In instances where these grants may result in double-counting of foundation support, they have been excluded from the distributions presented in this report.

Women and Climate Change

>>>> ONLY <<<<<
0.01%
 OF ALL FOUNDATION
 FUNDING FOCUSES
 EXPLICITLY ON WOMEN
 AND CLIMATE CHANGE

In 2014, minimal foundation funding explicitly supported women’s actions to address climate change and the disproportionate impacts women face.⁴⁰

Women constitute the majority of those living in poverty, and are often more dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods. When climate change-induced droughts and desertification result in water shortages and crop failure, women’s agricultural workload increases and they need to walk farther to access safe water, facing increased risk of sexual violence.⁴¹ In addition, an annual average of 21.5 million people have been forcibly displaced by weather-related disasters, such as tsunamis, floods, and extreme temperatures, since 2008.⁴² Displacement is projected to increase amid mounting environmental deterioration and natural resource scarcity over the coming years. Women comprise the majority of these climate refugees.⁴³

Social and cultural inequalities also often limit women’s access to information about climate change and participation in decision-making processes about mitigation and adaptation plans. Because male-led responses to climate change tend to be larger-scale and more public, they receive greater resources for their work, whereas women’s advocacy is typically locally based and less visible, making it more difficult for funders to find and support them.⁴⁴

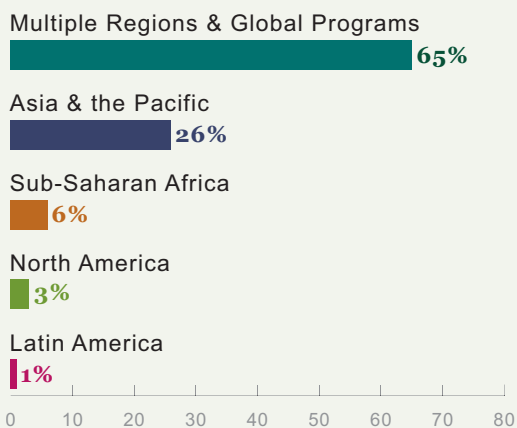
In 2014, just .01 percent of overall foundation grant dollars supported projects that address both climate change and women—a clear reflection of this critical funding gap.⁴⁵ Although other areas of environmental activity directly and indirectly impact climate change, including those mentioned in other sections, such as food security and disasters, for the purposes of this analysis, funding is limited to grantmaking that explicitly references climate change or climate justice. In 2014, 13 funders made 59 grants for women and the environment that included explicit references to addressing climate change or climate justice. (See page 13 for descriptions of two new funding initiatives aimed at supporting those most affected by climate change, including women.)

Global Greengrants provided 41 of the total 59 grants, while the NoVo Foundation gave the most grant dollars related to women and climate change—\$6.1 million through five grants. As one example, NoVo made a grant to the Accountability Council for defending the environmental and human rights of communities around the world, with a particular focus on climate security, natural-resource management, and gender-based violence.

Sample Grants

- » **Global Greengrants Fund to Swanirvar** in India to support women’s self-help groups to adapt to climate change, and to promote food security by organizing kitchen and school gardens, building a seed bank, and working with smokeless and higher-efficiency ovens.
- » **African Women’s Development Fund to Community Agriculture and Environmental Protection Association Cameroon** to support women and girls in the Balikumbat subdivision to combat soil deterioration and mitigate the impact of climate change through agroforestry for crop production. This helps improve the livelihoods and agricultural activities of smallholder women farmers, and protects the local land and environment.
- » **Mama Cash to AMIHAN Northern Mindanao Region** in the Philippines to organize a campaign against the expansion of corporate plantations in Northern Mindanao, and to work on a climate change program in communities that are often hit by natural disasters.

Foundation Funding for Women and Climate Change by Geographic Focus, 2014 (USD)



Source: Figures based on an analysis of Foundation Center data conducted by the authors. See Appendix D for detailed data.

Pari Women's Development Association:

Protecting Communities and Addressing Climate Change through Mangrove Restoration

Author: Julie Dugdale, freelance journalist



Mangroves are an invaluable part of Papua New Guinea's coastal communities and marine ecosystems. The carefully evolved root system of a mangrove forest provides a habitat for fish and wildlife that support local livelihoods, like those in Papua New Guinea's Pari village. Mangroves also play a critical role in protecting communities from the harmful effects of climate change, like flooding from rising sea levels, which threaten both the balanced ecosystem and traditional ways of life in coastal villages.

The problem? These forests, so essential in mitigating and adapting to the havoc wreaked by climate change, are being over-harvested and depleted for firewood and construction. In Pari village, 11 species of mangrove have been reduced to just five. The consequences of this decimation are dire not only for the health of the local economy and survival of coastal villages as fish disappear from the ravaged mangrove areas, but also for the bigger picture: Mangroves store two to four times more carbon than tropical rainforests; thus, when they are cut down, they release dangerous amounts of greenhouse gases.

It's a daunting statistic—but reversible thanks to the efforts of groups like the Pari Women's Development Association (PWDA). This coalition of women—the only women's group that belongs to Papua New Guinea's Eco-Forestry Forum—

was formed in 2003 to pursue social and environmental justice in Pari village through rehabilitation efforts that include community training, education, forest protection, and mangrove reforestation.

With two waves of funding from Global Greengrants, PWDA mobilized hundreds of women, men, and children to restore an area of mangrove forest along the coast and launch an awareness campaign about the importance of mangroves in protecting the community and ecosystem from dangerously high sea levels due to climate change. The two grants allowed the women to purchase over 500 mangrove seedlings, receive training on which species of mangroves thrive in different zones, and establish a monitoring system to ensure the health and sustainability of the mangrove plantations.

PWDA's efforts have earned the women local and regional recognition as environmental leaders. Climate change is jeopardizing an entire way of life, and the women of PWDA have identified the mangrove as a natural resource critical to preserving their homes and livelihoods. "Women are standing up for the mangroves we have neglected for so long," said Konio Henao, former acting president of PWDA. "We want to transform our environment, protect ourselves from climate change, and develop our livelihoods for a better, beautiful future."

Funding Lesson: Small grants have big impact. With less than \$10,000, the PWDA helped restore entire coastline ecosystems and local livelihoods, reducing carbon emissions (mitigation), and protecting coastal communities from rising sea levels (adaptation).

Top Foundations by Grant Dollars for Women and Climate Change, 2014 (USD)

Foundation Name	Location	Amount	No. of Grants
1 NoVo Foundation	USA	\$6.1 million	5
2 Oak Foundation	Switzerland	\$900,000	1
3 Cordaid	Netherlands	\$252,972	1
4 Ford Foundation	USA	\$250,000	1
5 Global Greengrants Fund	USA	\$241,535	41

Source: Figures based on an analysis of Foundation Center data conducted by the authors. These figures may include grants for women and the environment made to other funders in the set. In instances where these grants may result in double-counting of foundation support, they have been excluded from the distributions presented in this report.

Footnote: This does not include Oak Foundation's \$20 million investment over six years to launch the Climate Justice Resilience Fund, as that occurred in 2016.

Women, Disaster Response, and Resilience

>>>>> ONLY <<<<<<
0.0003%
 OF ALL FOUNDATION
 FUNDING FOCUSES
 EXPLICITLY ON WOMEN,
 DISASTER RESPONSE,
 AND RESILIENCE

In the wake of disasters, most funders broadly target their relief, recovery, and rebuilding grantmaking to affected populations.⁴⁶ Yet, there is increasing evidence of the disproportionate impact of disasters on women due to gender

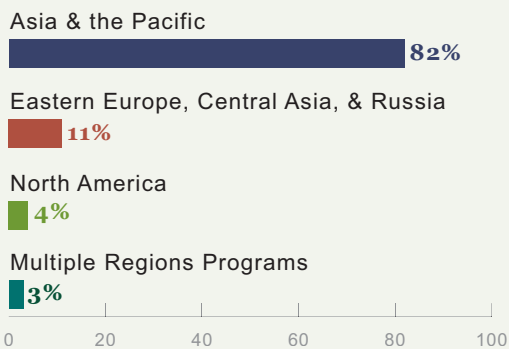
inequality, including less access to opportunities to participate in decision-making. As one example, during a drought in Gujarat, India, there were a number of cases where young girls died by falling into wells when trying to access water. Women and girls were responsible for getting water, but they did not have access to information about how the water table had retreated, and were not involved in planning about how to address the issue. Following a disaster, women are often at higher risk of being in unsafe, overcrowded conditions, or may need to migrate due to lack of land and other resources, increasing the risk of sexual violence.⁴⁷

Despite the growing awareness of how women are uniquely affected by natural disasters, eight foundations and other institutional funders included in this analysis provided just 11 grants related to women and disasters in 2014, totaling just over \$147,000.⁴⁸ This represented just .001 percent of overall foundation grants and .0003 percent of grant dollars. Within funding for the environment, this totaled .01 percent of foundation grants and .004 percent of grant dollars. As noted earlier in the report, these totals include foundation funding for disaster response and resilience that explicitly mentioned a specific focus on women. The data set also does not include any grants made by humanitarian organizations whose primary focus is operating programming.

Sample Grants

- » **Filia die Frauenstiftung to Women in Black** in Serbia for “Solidarity is Our Strength,” a regional meeting for women affected by the flood in Spring 2014.
- » **Mama Cash to Sentra Advokasi Perempuan Difabel dan Anak** in Indonesia to build a women’s disability rights movement by mobilizing and supporting village-based groups of women who became disabled as a result of recent natural disasters to form alliances with the women’s rights movement, the anti-violence movement, and the disability rights movement.
- » **Tewa to Tharu Mahila Utthan Kendra** in Nepal for postpartum mothers and their babies who were victims of flooding.

Foundation Funding for Women, Disaster Response and Resilience by Geographic Focus, 2014 (USD)



Source: Figures based on an analysis of Foundation Center data conducted by the authors. See Appendix D for detailed data.

Indigenous Women Strengthen Community Resilience to Disasters in the Philippines

Author: Christen Dobson, based on an interview with Judy A. Pasimio, LILAK (Purple Action for Indigenous Women's Rights)

U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Liam Kennedy/RELEASED

Super typhoons and droughts are significantly affecting food security and livelihoods of poor communities in the Philippines. Due to climate change, rains are becoming harder and more unpredictable, and hotter dry seasons are resulting in longer and more intense droughts. Without government support, many communities do not have the resources to develop resilience to cope with future disasters.

Indigenous women are affected differently by disasters, both as indigenous persons and as women. Indigenous communities are often located in remote, isolated areas that are not reached by basic social services provided by the government. Indigenous women can also face discrimination within their own communities due to their gender. Women are seldom given the chance to take on leadership positions, and are instead expected to assist male leaders, who receive the majority of training and development opportunities. Women who are in demanding roles to assist male leaders, acting as secretaries or organizers, are also still responsible for household tasks. During disasters, this discrimination and exclusion is reinforced—from disaster preparation to relief, recovery, and rehabilitation efforts.

In its response to Super Typhoon Yolanda in 2013, LILAK (Purple Action for Indigenous Women's Rights) discovered

that indigenous women were the first responders in their communities. In the community of indigenous Iraynon-Bukidnon women, the typhoon hit while husbands were working on sugar plantations in another province. Women led the response effort by taking steps to restore their houses, care for their children, and seek outside help. Their efforts ensured that their community survived.

Recognizing the critical role that these women played in disaster response, LILAK is working with indigenous women in this community to equip them with the knowledge and skills needed to respond to future disasters. LILAK has organized community learning sessions about human rights, climate justice, and national development under the new administration. LILAK has also held trainings on organic vegetable gardening and seed banking, to help develop community resilience and contribute to food security. LILAK is currently conducting research on the response of local government units in this province and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples during Typhoon Yolanda. This research will help LILAK understand the challenges faced by different levels of government with disaster recovery, and will help the organization aid in developing recommendations for more timely, effective, and empowering responses.

Funding Lesson: Funding training and capacity-building for women regarding disaster risk reduction and adapting to climate change is critical to developing community resilience to natural disasters. As this case study illustrates, women who are more marginalized, such as indigenous women living in rural areas, often have even less access to government resources, and need access to training and support to be able to protect their families and communities in future disasters.

Top Foundations by Grant Dollars for Women, Disaster Response, and Resilience, 2014 (USD)

Foundation Name	Location	Amount	No. of Grants
1 American Jewish World Service	USA	\$70,000	1
2 Mama Cash	Netherlands	\$39,840	1
3 Filia die Frauenstiftung	Germany	\$14,342	2
4 Global Greengrants Fund	USA	\$11,678	3
5 Calf Island Foundation	USA	\$5,000	1
6 Santa Barbara Foundation	USA	\$5,000	1

Source: Figures based on an analysis of Foundation Center data conducted by the authors. These figures may include grants for women and the environment made to other funders in the set. In instances where these grants may result in double-counting of foundation support, they have been excluded from the distributions presented in this report.

>>>>> ONLY <<<<<<
0.05%
 OF ALL FOUNDATION
 FUNDING FOCUSES
 EXPLICITLY ON WOMEN,
 ENVIRONMENT,
 AND HEALTH

Environmental contamination and toxins can have unique health impacts on women. In rural areas of Mongolia, for example, gold, coal, copper, and uranium mining are causing environmental contamination, leading to miscarriages and greater

numbers of children born with congenital problems. In Ulaanbaatar, coal-induced air pollution is increasing fertility problems, respiratory diseases, and cancer—which affect women and children more than men.

In Argentina—the world’s third-largest exporter of soybeans—agrottoxins included in Monsanto products are widely used in soybean production. After the death of her newborn daughter, Sofia Gatica organized 16 mothers to research the health impacts of local agrochemical use in their community. The group, called The Mothers of Ituzaingó, found that its community’s cancer rates were at least 41 times higher than the national average, and also discovered high rates of neurological and

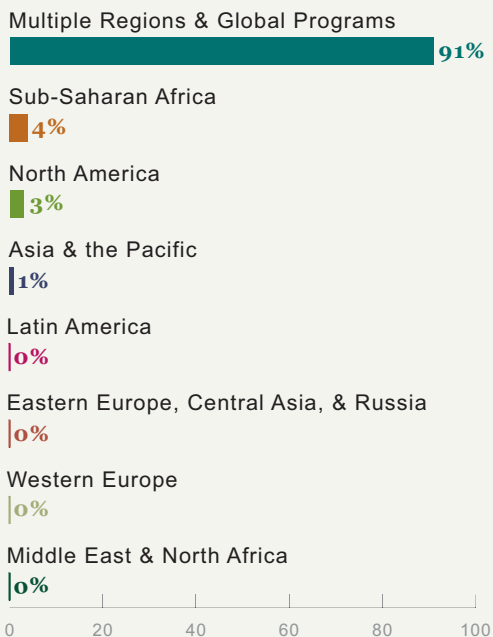
respiratory diseases, birth defects, and infant mortality. The Mothers of Ituzaingó’s advocacy led to an unprecedented victory when the Supreme Court in Argentina banned agrochemical spraying near populated areas, and placed responsibility on the government and soy producers to prove that the chemicals they use are safe.⁴⁹

In 2014, 28 funders made 102 grants focused on environmental health, totaling \$25.3 million. This amounted to only .009 percent of overall foundation grants and 0.05 percent of grant dollars. Within funding for the environment, this funding represented 0.1 percent of foundation grants and 0.6 percent of grant dollars. Moreover, Global Greengrants provided nearly two-thirds of these grants (64). The remaining 27 funders provided just 38 grants focused on women and environmental health, totaling \$1.9 million. Only 15 of the 102 total grants supported reproductive health.

Close to one-third of 2014 grants for environmental health focused on the impact of pesticides, with all of these grants provided by Global Greengrants.

While support for women and the environment largely focuses on the Global South, just over one-third of the 2014 grants for women and environmental health (35) supported efforts focused on the United States. Nearly half of these grants funded Montana-based Women’s Voices for the Earth, which seeks to amplify women’s voices to eliminate toxic chemicals that harm women’s health and communities.

Foundation Funding for Women, Environment, and Health by Geographic Focus, 2014 (USD)



Source: Figures based on an analysis of Foundation Center data conducted by the authors. See Appendix D for detailed data.

Sample Grants

- » **Barr Foundation to Pathfinder International** for the Population, Health, and the Environment Program in East Africa, which seeks to improve access to reproductive health services while empowering communities to manage their natural resources.
- » **Global Greengrants to Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment** to advance civil society participation in the national debate regarding toxic metals, strengthen the watchdog role of the NGO community in ensuring environmental-health protection, research and analyze gaps in current policy and legislation.
- » **Groundswell Fund to Alaska Community Action on Toxics in USA** to support the environmental reproductive justice project.

Supporting South Sudanese Women to Live Healthier, Safer Lives

Author: Julie Dugdale, freelance journalist



Women in Yei, South Sudan, are responsible for gathering firewood that fuels the traditional cooking stoves their families use to prepare food. Deforestation plagues the area due to the relentless demand for cooking fuel. Collecting firewood can take up to five hours, soil erosion is spreading, and trees—which play a critical role in absorbing the harmful buildup of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere—are disappearing fast.

Moreover, some women who travel long distances for the firewood and consequently fall behind in preparing meals or other household duties risk beatings and abuse from their husbands. Girls who devote much of their days to firewood missions often sacrifice their educations because they cannot make it to school, and it's not uncommon for girls and women to be sexually assaulted during their foraging trips to remote areas.

Aside from the threats of violence and the environmental toll, there are health impacts: Women who cook with traditional stoves inhale the equivalent of two packs of toxic cigarette smoke every day, making this the second-leading health risk for these women and girls behind childbirth.

That is why the women-led Forum for Community Change and Development used a grant of just \$5,000 from Global Greengrants to launch a campaign to train women in the Yei region to build and use improved cooking stoves. The new stoves require 75 percent less firewood than traditional stoves, so women do not have to make as many dangerous journeys to the forest.

“Our major purpose of carrying out this project,” said Anne Kyomugisha, the group’s executive director, “was to help reduce gender violence, improve education in the community, and educate women about the importance of the forest and preventing soil erosion.”

According to Kyomugisha, women and girls in the community now spend less time in the forest gathering firewood and inhaling smoke, and have more time for things like attending school. Over 200 women have learned how to use and build the stoves; many have also started to sell them for profit.

Empowered by their skills and understanding of their basic rights as household leaders, these women share their training with their communities and schools.

Funding Lesson: The right amount of money at the right time can mobilize critical action with lasting impact. Small grants can have outsized impact by supporting local solutions aimed at both protecting the environment and supporting women. This case study illustrates how people do not live their lives in “silos”—environmental degradation negatively affects access to education, along with women’s and children’s health and safety.

Top Foundations by Grant Dollars for Women, Environment, and Health, 2014 (USD)

Foundation Name	Location	Amount	No. of Grants
1 Global Greengrants Fund	USA	\$869,512	64
2 Barr Foundation	USA	\$800,000	1
3 William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	USA	\$200,000	1
4 Marisla Foundation	USA	\$130,000	4
5 John Merck Fund	USA	\$125,000	1

Source: Figures based on an analysis of Foundation Center data conducted by the authors. These figures may include grants for women and the environment made to other funders in the set. In instances where these grants may result in double-counting of foundation support, they have been excluded from the distributions presented in this report.

Women and Challenging Extractive Activities

>>>> ONLY <<<<<<
0.002%
 OF ALL FOUNDATION
 FUNDING FOCUSES
 EXPLICITLY ON WOMEN
 AND CHALLENGING
 EXTRACTIVE ACTIVITIES

Extractive industries⁵⁰ often have a devastating impact on the lives of women, communities, and the environment. Beyond having the potential to destroy natural environments

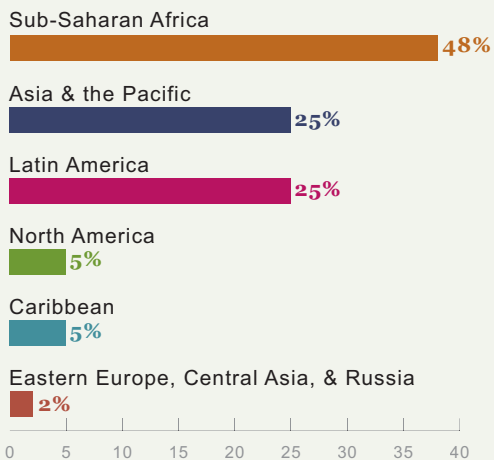
and violate land and resource rights, the presence of extractive industry in a region increases the risk of domestic and sexual violence against women. As one example, when mining operations began on an island in the Visayas—an archipelago in the western Philippines—communities lost their ability to farm. While previously, women had contributed financially to their families by growing vegetables, the mines offered only seasonal positions for men, concentrating all of the family income in men’s hands. This shift in control over resources changed dynamics between husbands and wives and led to increased domestic violence in the community.⁵¹ In response to these many impacts, women have taken on leadership roles in challenging the detrimental effects of extractive activities.

Despite the continued growth in extractive activities around the world, few funders are currently supporting the efforts of women to challenge these industries. In 2014, just nine foundations made 81 grants, totaling roughly \$970,000 that focused on women and extractive activities. This represented .007 percent of overall foundation grants and .002 percent of grant dollars. Within environmental funding, the comparable shares were 0.1 percent of grants and .02 percent of grant dollars. Global Greengrants provided most of these grants (68) and more than one-third of grant dollars (\$326,110). Overall, funding focused on 31 countries.

Sample Grants

- » **Mama Cash to Red Nacional de Mujeres en Defensa de la Madre Tierra (RENAMAT)** in Bolivia, a self-led network that campaigns for the social and environmental rights of indigenous, mestiza (mixed), and campesina (peasant) women based in the cities of Oruro, La Paz, and Potosi. RENAMAT strengthens the capacity, advocacy, and leadership skills of women affected by the destructive and exploitative impacts of extractive industries in Bolivia on their land and natural resource rights.
- » **National Endowment for Democracy to Friends of the Earth Nigeria** to strengthen the capacity of communities to participate effectively in local governance and oil industry regulation, and to reduce oil spills and conflict in Bayelsa and Akwa Ibom states by organizing environmental parliaments, women’s leadership trainings, and joint oil spill investigation visit trainings.
- » **Schmidt Family Foundation to Earth Island Institute in USA** to support the Women’s Earth Alliance, which equips women with the skills and tools they need to protect the earth and strengthen their communities, and the indigenous women and extractive industry advocacy program.

Foundation Funding for Women and Challenging Extractive Activities by Geographic Focus, 2014 (USD)



Source: Figures based on an analysis of Foundation Center data conducted by the authors. See Appendix D for detailed data.

Resisting Exploitative Extractive Industries in the Peruvian Amazon through Sustainable Agriculture

Author: Julie Dugdale, freelance journalist, based on an interview with Ximena Warnaaars, former Global Greengrants advisor



Under pressure from extractive industries like logging, mining, and palm-oil harvesting, the indigenous way of life in the Peruvian Amazon hangs in the balance. Families are struggling to sustain livelihoods based on land that is being depleted. Children are fleeing their homes for work in the city, leaving their heritage and culture behind. And natural resources critical to survival are disappearing into the void of foreign corporations with an eye on exports and profits.

The biggest burden-bearers? Women—the caretakers of land, harvesters of food, and collectors of water. But when it comes to resisting these exploitative extractive interests, indigenous women have long struggled in silence while men fill the roles of negotiators and decision-makers. Paradoxically, the women are tasked with figuring out how to sustain their disappearing way of life.

“It goes all the way up to more structural problems of inequality and power in greater society, not just the indigenous community,” said Ximena Warnaaars, former Peru adviser to the Andes Advisory Board for Global Greengrants. “It limits women in so many ways.”

The Coordination for the Development of Amazonian Indigenous Women (CODEMIA) is an association of indigenous women, who have united across different communities to pursue environmental justice on their terms rather than react to ill-advised decisions made without their input. “They’re saying, ‘We’re fed up with men who make these deals where they just let loggers come into our territory,’” Warnaaars says.

Global Greengrants supported a pair of CODEMIA projects to develop sustainable agriculture strategies, create permaculture plots near community schools, and provide artisan marketplace training. Women planted gardens on land surrounding the forests, as a tactic to protect their territory from harmful extractive practices. The gardens feed local families and create community self-sufficiency while paying homage to ancestral history. They also serve as “a way to gain control over the territory and keep it healthy,” according to Warnaaars. “If they were not planting the land, it would be destroyed.”

Funding Lesson: It’s important for funders to support women to develop their own culturally appropriate solutions to protect their natural resources, which may look quite different than the strategies used by men. While these approaches may not always be obvious, they can have a greater impact than “traditional” strategies. As Warnaaars explained, “This type of strategy may also counteract the difficult relations between the population concerned, the authorities, and the extractive companies, because these are productive, peaceful measures, which, in principle, appear to be simple daily activities—but which are actually strategic ways of safeguarding the environment.”

Top Foundations by Grant Dollars for Women and Challenging Extractive Activities, 2014 (USD)

Foundation Name	Location	Amount	No. of Grants
1 Global Greengrants Fund	USA	\$326,110	68
2 Cordaid	Netherlands	\$247,340	4
3 Ford Foundation	USA	\$200,000	1
4 Schmidt Family Foundation	USA	\$50,000	4
5 National Endowment for Democracy	USA	\$49,363	1

Source: Figures based on an analysis of Foundation Center data conducted by the authors. These figures may include grants for women and the environment made to other funders in the set. In instances where these grants may result in double-counting of foundation support, they have been excluded from the distributions presented in this report.

The Partners



Funding that supports women’s rights to make decisions in their everyday lives and promotes solutions at the local, national, and global levels has the greatest potential for making lasting progress in addressing environmental challenges. As documented previously, foundations, women’s funds, bilateral and multilateral funders, and others are already engaged in funding for women and the environment across a broad array of priorities. Yet, these resources are insufficient given the critical role that women are playing across the globe in developing and implementing solutions to the urgent environmental challenges the world faces.

One common concern among funders interviewed for this report was a sense of not knowing how to begin identifying opportunities for supporting women and the environment in ways consistent with their current grantmaking priorities. In fact, there are many ways funders can start engaging or becoming more explicitly focused on supporting women and the environment, without having to develop new funding areas.

The funding opportunities listed below were identified by a subset of 34 grassroots women leaders, international advocates, and funders already providing support for women and the environment (see Appendix C on page 44 for list of interviewees). These interviewees highlighted that it is vital to support the efforts of women and communities directly affected by environmental challenges to develop and implement context-specific solutions.

Funding Opportunities:

- » **Listen to women most affected by environmental challenges and support their participation in decision-making.** Grantmakers can start by considering the extent to which grassroots women’s voices are included in the decision-making and implementation of both their own grantmaking practices and those of the organizations and projects they already support. Low-resource steps include requesting that proposals identify how gender-specific needs will be factored into project design, budget, oversight, and implementation; examining the composition and roles of organizations’ staff and governance; and stating that potential grantees should include women’s voices and leadership in their proposed projects.⁵²



Despite good intentions, funders often find themselves compelled to impose their own traditions of organization, merit, and accountability on their grantees. Grantmakers must find ways to support women at the grassroots without burdening them with additional structures, rules, and timelines that are out of step with the norms and rhythms of their lives.

JANET AWIMBO,
EAST AFRICA REGIONAL COORDINATOR, GLOBAL GREENGRANTS



» **Fund training and capacity building on technical environmental information and processes for women.** “There is a profound lack of knowledge about environmental pollutants and their impacts on human health, as well as how to engage in national and international advocacy. Support for training on technical environmental information and capacity building to women’s organizations advocating for environmental rights is nonexistent,” says Sukhgerel Dugersuren, Executive Director of OT Watch.

Access to training on technical environmental language and processes enables women to be even more effective and compelling advocates for environmental protection on national, regional, and global levels. As countries develop national-level policies to implement the Paris Agreement, access to technical environmental knowledge will be even more critical to ensure that women can meaningfully contribute to environmental policy development in their own countries. Resources are needed to support training about climate mitigation, access to scientific information in local languages, and capacity building on how to engage in advocacy. Another funding opportunity is providing resources for technical and scientific support, such as water samples or weather predictions, for groups working on environmental defense that do not have that in-house experience and cannot afford to hire an external expert.

» **Facilitate women’s organizations’ engagement with national and global climate policy and finance architecture.** Given the central role of women in agricultural production and natural resource management, it is critical to have their perspectives represented in national and global decision-making on climate policy. Neglecting to capture their insights, concerns, and support will result in climate policies that have little chance of succeeding at the grassroots level. “The connection between work happening at the grassroots and global levels is critical. People who are most affected by environmental degradation know much better the impacts and potential solutions,” commented Eleanor Blomstrom of the Women’s Environment and Development Organization (WEDO).

One example from the Philippines is LILAK’s “One Week, One Voice” initiative, which empowers indigenous women from isolated communities to engage in weeklong dialogues with government agencies to advocate for their rights and well-being of their communities. For many of these women, this is the first time they have ever entered a government office and spoken with government representatives. These initial encounters have led to further engagement with government officials.

» **Support engagement between environmental groups and women’s groups and cross-movement building.** Supporting opportunities for shared learning between women’s groups and environmental organizations will strengthen expertise on both sides. Women’s groups can support environmental organizations to integrate a gender lens into their practices, and environmental groups can increase women’s access to information, and ensure women are involved in decision-making about their natural resources and environments. The Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (see case study on page 17) is working with grassroots funds to support women’s voices and leadership in addressing environmental challenges. It is linking women in order to share lessons learned, support each other, and build stronger partnerships across regions.

» **Fund learning and exchange among communities and advocates across provinces, countries, and regions.** Sharing expertise across locations will help ensure that effective practices and successes can be adapted to different contexts, as well as build networks of support that communities and advocates can draw upon when facing threats or timely opportunities. “In our experience, exchange visits among indigenous women have been very successful. We have been able to learn from one another’s forestry strategies to serve as a source of both food and income, and about the use of energy-saving cookers to hatch chicks as a source of income,” shared Lucy Mullenkei of the Indigenous Information Network. There is also a significant opportunity for advocates in countries that have signed the Paris Agreement to learn from one another and influence national-level implementation.

- » **Support women-led adaptation and resilience programs and strategies to combat climate change and environmental degradation.** Given the reality that women face greater negative impacts from natural and manmade disasters, and that climate change will continue to cause unpredictable weather hazards,⁵³ it is especially critical for funders to move beyond solely providing relief in the wake of disasters, and to support resilience strategies that take into account the unique impact of disasters on women, as well as women’s role in prevention. “On the private-funding side, community adaptation and resilience has not been supported. This leaves a specific gap and is a missing piece in the climate puzzle. Even if we cut emissions tomorrow, communities will still need to adapt,” said Heather McGray of the Climate Justice Resilience Fund.
 - » **Reach out to local funds already active in funding women and the environment.** Public foundations and local funds play a critical role in ensuring that funds support women-led environmental actions, providing more than half of the grants made in 2014 for women and the environment. Women’s funds and environmental funds have deep connections with, and understanding of, local cultures, traditions, and practices, and can also support informal groups and unregistered organizations. All of these organizations are open to working with other funders to facilitate partnerships with women-led environmental initiatives and to provide the means for funders to reach organizations of various sizes and scopes that are doing work consistent with their priorities.
 - » **Support the protection of women environmental rights defenders.** Women are often at the forefront of defending land and other natural resources. When an indigenous women’s rights organization that addresses land grabbing in the Philippines asked a community leader to identify a personal victory in the past year, the woman responded, “The fact that I’m still alive.” By challenging government authorities and corporations over their detrimental environmental practices, women are experiencing defamation, threats of violence, and actual harm, as well as near-complete impunity for perpetrators of these crimes.
- Funders can support women human rights defenders by providing resources to enable them to collectively identify risks and strategies for sustaining their activism, implement protective security measures, including support for family and children, medical care and education; obtain documentation trainings and tools, such as cameras and phones; and provide relocation support when they face immediate threats. While many human rights funders have been supporting physical, digital, and psychosocial security measures for their grantees for some time, this may be a newer practice for environmental funders, and they can learn from the experiences of peers already engaged in support of environmental defenders.
- » **Fund women’s human rights organizations, programs, and strategies contributing to environmental protection.** This opportunity may be seen as a non-starter by many environmental funders that consider their focus to be, for example, deforestation or access to clean water or biodiversity. Yet, as has been demonstrated throughout the case studies presented in this report, environmental sustainability and women’s rights are interdependent. Women’s informed participation in decision-making means they are able to engage in determining the use of land, minerals, and the conservation of natural resources. Providing support to women at the grassroots level to organize and secure recognition of their rights may not appear to be the most direct path toward addressing climate change and promoting healthy environments. But, ultimately, environmental sustainability will not be achieved unless all members of a community have equal access to information and knowledge, as well as an equal say in ensuring their own well-being.
 - » **Rethink the “how” of your funding.** Interviewees emphasized the value of funders offering more flexible and unrestricted support so that communities are equipped to respond effectively to unpredictable and context-specific problems caused by climate change. In addition, as climate change is an unprecedented challenge, and shifts in norms, policies, and behavior outlive the lifecycle of project funding, funders may need to take greater risks and be open to providing support to organizations over the long-term.



Island Reach

Global Greengrants and Prospera Partner to Promote Grassroots Funding

Author: Lucía Carrasco Scherer and Augusta Hagen-Dillon, Prospera, and Ursula Miniszewski, Global Greengrants

Global Greengrants and Prospera have established a cross-movement funding relationship to expand support for women engaged in environmental action at the grassroots level in the Global South and East. A direct outgrowth of the August 2014 Summit on Women and Climate, Global Greengrants and Prospera leverage their extensive networks and relationships (with grantees and members, respectively) in over 165 countries to identify opportunities to advance work and resources at the intersection of women and the environment. Through joint research, donor advocacy, technical assistance, and learning opportunities, Global Greengrants and Prospera promote movement building and generate greater visibility and resources for women-led environmental initiatives. One of the ways that this partnership has mobilized more resources is by amplifying grassroots women's voices on the frontlines of environmental movements, and promoting regional partnerships with women's funds and regional grantmaking advisors for Global Greengrants. Two examples of successful cross-movement and cross-funder collaborations include:

- » The Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights and the Samdhana Institute (Global Greengrants' Southeast Asia grantmaking partner) convened a first-ever exchange between environmental and human rights defenders in the region to increase understanding about the threats women face and how funders can help.
- » Global Greengrants' advisors in the Russia/Mongolia region supported the Mongolian Women's Fund and OT Watch to identify and fund Mongolian women's groups leading environmental initiatives, with nine grassroots grantees receiving support totaling over \$30,000 since 2015. This process represents the first time that members of the grassroots environmental network in this region worked on joint funding proposals with members of the women's rights network in Mongolia.

Global Greengrants and members of Prospera have provided crucial support for women and the environment for many years. In 2014, Global Greengrants awarded 318 grants for women and the environment, far surpassing other funders included in this analysis. These grants encompassed a broad array of issues, with the largest shares of number of grants focused on environmental health, conservation and biodiversity, land and resource rights, and challenging extractive activities. That same year, Prospera member women's funds provided 80 grants for women and the environment, led by the Africa Women's Development Fund and Mama Cash. Priorities included agricultural livelihoods and food security—which accounted for over half of grants (44) and grant dollars (\$537,100) provided by these funders—followed by land and resource rights.

Support from Global Greengrants and Prospera members represented 3 percent of all 2014 grant dollars for women and the environment, but almost half (48 percent) of the number of grants awarded.

Global Greengrants and many Prospera members also shared information on their 2015 grantmaking (see chart showing 2015 funding by issue on page 43), and the data show an increase in the number of grants awarded to women and the environment compared to 2014. Together, Global Greengrants and Prospera members made 430 grants totaling \$8.7 million for women and the environment in 2015, up from 398 grants totaling \$3.3 million in 2014.

Moving forward, Prospera members and Global Greengrants will continue to expand their funding at this intersection, provide grantees and member funds with opportunities for exchange of best practices and strategies, and build their capacity as strategic partners for other donors and interested parties in supporting local women to access information, participate in public policy making, and guarantee environmental and gender justice.

Actions That Enhance and Impede Environmental Sustainability and Gender Equality

Enhancing the Work

Making the connections between issues.

“It is really important to remain focused on the intersections between issues. It is dangerously easy to address water scarcity because it seems to be so pressing. However, if we do not address organizational capacity or policy change, that will end up being just one component of a much bigger problem over the long-term.”

Hilda Vega,

FORMERLY OF GRASSROOTS CLIMATE SOLUTIONS FUND, THOUSAND CURRENTS

Respecting women’s knowledge.

“Indigenous women are fighting to ensure the survival of their families and communities. They interact with the environment on a day-to-day basis and understand the solutions to address the environmental challenges they face. Recognizing that they have valuable knowledge to address environmental issues is crucial.”

Lucy Mulenkei,

INDIGENOUS INFORMATION NETWORK

Developing connections between women’s and environmental groups and decision-makers before setting priorities.

“Bringing women’s and environmental groups together is important to facilitate understanding of the value of one another’s work, and it’s a two-way street. Unfortunately, at times, people in the environmental sector leading policy development processes don’t necessarily think about engaging women as stakeholders, and thereby miss critical and necessary steps to ensure success. In the countries where this dialogue has been created, the effect has been both inspiring and remarkable.

For instance, in Malawi, IUCN surveyed local people on what trees should be planted as a part of forest landscape restoration projects. Respondents—overwhelmingly men—suggested income-generating trees for cutting down, providing timber, charcoal or furniture-making materials. Women respondents asked for fruit-bearing or medicinal trees to supplement their income and provide nourishment, all the while restoring their forests. As users and custodians of land, women are essential to effective solutions—that is, if we want to successfully restore landscapes while reducing emissions. Policymakers should take note and remember not to leave out the issues and solutions of 50 percent of the people they are seeking to support.”

Lorena Aguilar,

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

Impeding the Work

Having insufficient understanding of gendered social roles and their impact on environmental protection.

“Approaches don’t work when they don’t understand the different social roles played by people of different genders, and don’t place women’s leadership and decision-making at the center. One example is when environmental groups say use of firewood from local forests should be banned without giving an alternative. That adds to women’s responsibilities, as they need to collect fuel for fires and cooking. We need to speak directly with women about how their daily lives are affected by climate change and environmental degradation, and what their goals are.”

Tulika Srivastava,

SOUTH ASIA WOMEN’S FUND

Not providing adequate resources to support using a gender lens in decisions related to the environment.

“Donors say that they expect projects to use a gender lens, but they don’t make funds available for training on how to do so. If someone is a climate scientist, they may not know what using a gender lens looks like in practice. For example, if an agronomist comes into a community and tells women that they have to do something in order to meet the planned outcomes, this could put them at risk for domestic violence if they are seen as taking away opportunities from men.”

Natalie Elwell,

WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

Only supporting individual leadership for systems change.

“Supporting only individual leadership puts too much responsibility and emotional burden on one person to represent a collective. This implies a negative effect on that person, and on the community and movement when that person is no longer there. As funders, if we say that we want to support movements, we need to change what we understand about leadership and make an effort to support the collective. We should avoid creating individual figures, as this is not good for them or the groups and communities they are working with.”

Tatiana Cordero Velásquez,

URGENT ACTION FUND—LATIN AMERICA



AN INTERVIEW WITH

Mary Robinson

former President of Ireland & President of the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice ⁵⁵



Why is it important that environmental funding supports women, and that women’s rights funding supports efforts to protect the environment?

This funding is important because women are at the frontlines of action to address climate change, and are also disproportionately impacted by climate change and potentially the responses to address it. Climate action and funding can further exacerbate the challenges women face and undermine their rights if solutions are not responsive to women’s needs. Women’s critical contributions need to be supported, especially women at the grassroots level. This is one area where funders need to catch up.

What is needed is a people-centered approach with a strong gender lens. At the family level, there is no distinction between agriculture, climate change, and conservation. As one woman has shared with me, ‘We’re always being told to think outside of the box. In my community, we don’t think in boxes.’

Is financial support for women and the environment increasing?

There is some evidence of increased support. However, the problem is that not enough of it gets to the grassroots. That may be in part because grants to grassroots communities should be smaller—not small but smaller—and there are transaction costs with smaller grants. That is where Global Greengrants Fund and others play an important role, because they are willing to take on these transaction costs.

I believe that two priority areas for additional funding are: first, the participation and involvement of women in climate discussions at the local, national, and international levels; and second, their participation in climate-action planning, design, and implementation. Women also need resources to support their engagement in meaningful climate action and to build an evidence base that will demonstrate their impact. More could and should be done to strengthen the evidence that will show the good outcomes for men,



women, and children that are the result of gender-responsive support of women who are addressing climate change.

Do you believe that existing climate finance mechanisms⁵⁶ are accessible to women at the community level? What more can be done to ensure that women who are most affected by climate change can access resources that will support them as agents of change at the community, national, regional, and global levels?

Most public climate finance mechanisms don’t include a focus on gender equality. A 2014 report by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development shows that 3 percent of these finance mechanisms focused on women.⁵⁷ Between 2013 and 2015, the International Institute for Environment and Development estimated that only \$1.6 billion of climate finance, or 11 percent, flowed to the local level.⁵⁸ The Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme shows that it is possible to give small amounts of money. But we need to embed gender equality and human rights in every aspect of climate finance, learn from the funders that specialized in getting money to the grassroots, invest in training and capacity building for women, and support grassroots women’s participation in local decision-making. Also, we need to simplify access to the funds, with guidelines on how to circumvent unnecessary burdens placed on community-based initiatives.



Elizabeth Weber

Learn More

For questions about this report or to learn more about how funders are supporting women and the environment, contact:

Global Greengrants Fund
gender@greengrants.org

Prospera International Network of Women's Funds
info@prospera-inwf.org

Appendices

Appendix A: Methodology

Our Voices, Our Environment provides a first-ever quantitative and qualitative analysis of funding for women and the environment by foundations, women’s funds, and other institutional donors. This analysis was informed by 34 interviews with local women leaders, funders, and international advocates (see Appendix C for full list), as well as an in-depth examination of 2014 grants data from 269 funders that met the criteria established for this analysis.

The project partners—Global Greengrants Fund and Prospera International Network of Women’s Funds—identified the range of activities to be included within the custom definition of environmental funding adopted for this report, based on the key issues supported by funders already active in this area. These include support focused on agriculture and livestock, biodiversity, climate change, disasters and emergency management, environmental education, environmental health and toxins, environmental justice and resource rights, food security, forestry, fishing and aquaculture, natural resource protection, sustainable development, waste management, or water access and sanitation.

These priorities were mapped to the Foundation Center’s Philanthropy Classification System (<http://taxonomy.foundationcenter.org/>) and run on 2014 data (the latest complete data set available at the time of the analysis). The Foundation Center’s data are the most robust grants-level data available and include grants from more than 1,000 of the largest U.S. foundations; grantmaking by private and public foundation members of Ariadne: European Funders for Social Change and Human Rights, Human Rights Funders Network, and Prospera (provided through the Advancing Human Rights partnership); and selected giving by other funders in the U.S. and other countries. These foundations account for approximately 75 to 80 percent of international giving by U.S.-based foundations annually. No similar estimate is available for foundations included in the data set that are based outside of the United States. Grants made by organizations that primarily operate programming rather than engage in grantmaking, such as humanitarian organizations, were not included in the data set.

Foundations were not preselected for this analysis. To be included in the data set analyzed for this report, their grants had to meet the definition for “environmental” funding developed by project advisors, and also include an explicit focus on women. Funding focused on women and/or girls includes all grants that specified these populations in their descriptions, supported organizations with an explicit focus on serving the needs of women and/or girls, or funders that identify themselves as having a focus on women and/or girls. Funding at the nexus of women and the environment includes support going directly to initiatives led by local women’s groups, as well as funding targeting universities and major institutions for work with an intended benefit for women and/or girls that may or may not directly engage grassroots women. Some of this funding focused specifically on women’s rights and environmental justice, but the majority did not. An explicit rights-based strategy was not a prerequisite for the inclusion of grants in this analysis. Any 2014 funding focused on both women and the environment was included.

A total of 74,619 grants for \$4.1 billion met the project’s criteria for 2014 environmental funding by foundations, women’s funds, and other institutional donors. Of this support, 825 grants totaling \$110.2 million were identified as focusing on women, girls, and/or gender equality. (Nearly half of these grants—48 percent—were awarded by Global Greengrants and members of Prospera.) These 825 grants formed the basis for the analyses by issue and geographic focus presented in this report.

For the analysis by geographic focus, grantmaking was distributed based on the country or region of focus, regardless of the recipient’s location. In cases where a grant focused on multiple countries or regions, the full value of the grant is counted in the total for each specified country or region. Grants also provided support that did not identify specific countries but instead focused on “developing countries” or on providing a global benefit.

Finally, in addition to detailing support by foundations, women’s funds, and other institutional donors for women and the environment, this

report examined funding by bilateral and multilateral donors. Using the criteria identified for environmental funding by foundations, in conjunction with Development Assistance Committee “markers” for environment, climate change mitigation, and climate change adaptation and gender equity policy markers 1 (gender equity is an important and deliberate objective, but not the principal reason for undertaking the project) and 2 (gender equity is the main objective of the project and fundamental to its design and expected results),⁵⁹ the Foundation Center identified

\$13.4 million in 2014 bilateral and multilateral funding for women and the environment across 74,619 disbursements. The authors of this report examined a subset of roughly 1,800 of these grants that focused on issues directly aligning with foundation and other institutional donor priorities that also explicitly referenced women or girls in their descriptions. The distribution of this funding and foundation and other institutional donor funding was then compared to identify overlapping and differing priorities.

Appendix B: Funding by Issue Focus for Global Greengrants Fund and Prospera Members, 2015 (USD)

	GLOBAL GREENGRANTS FUND (23)				PROSPERA MEMBERS (37)			
	Grant Dollars	% of Grant Dollars	No. of Grants	% of Number of Grants	Grant Dollars	% of Grant Dollars	No. of Grants	% of Number of Grants
Agriculture and Food Security	\$275,596	12.5%	58	17.2%	\$2,030,768	31.4%	37	40.2%
Climate Change*	\$265,196	12.0%	45	13.3%	\$425,000	6.6%	23	25.0%
Conservation and Biodiversity	\$275,531	12.5%	52	15.4%	\$15,426	0.2%	2	2.2%
Consumption and Waste Management	\$80,072	3.6%	21	6.2%	\$0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Disasters	\$58,358	2.6%	11	3.3%	\$469,982	7.3%	25	27.2%
Energy	\$119,699	5.4%	32	9.5%	\$22,834	0.4%	4	4.3%
Environment and Conservation—General	\$212,359	9.6%	45	13.3%	\$3,654,253	56.6%	14	15.2%
Environmental Health	\$748,240	33.8%	47	13.9%	\$72,150	1.1%	1	1.1%
Extractive Activities	\$380,880	17.2%	68	20.1%	\$66,600	1.0%	1	1.1%
Land and Resource Use/Rights	\$207,701	9.4%	38	11.2%	\$302,311	4.7%	13	14.4%
Sustainable Systems	\$113,929	5.2%	23	6.8%	\$10,000	0.2%	1	1.1%
Water Access and Sanitation	\$131,164	5.9%	24	7.1%	\$63,889	1.0%	6	6.5%
Other Livelihoods	\$33,850	1.5%	9	2.7%	\$11,665	0.2%	1	1.1%
TOTAL	\$2,210,881	100.0%	338	100.0%	\$6,460,502	100.0%	92	100.0%

Source: Figures based on an analysis of Foundation Center data by the authors. The full value of grants focused on more than one issue area are counted in the totals for each applicable issue areas. Therefore, totals exceed 100 percent.

*While for the purpose of this analysis, only grants explicitly referencing “climate change” were included in the climate change total, climate change affects every issue area tracked above.

Appendix C: Interviewees

Lorena Aguilar

Director, a.i., Global Programme on Governance on Rights and Global Senior Gender Advisor, International Union for Conservation of Nature, United States

Kate Barnes

Program Officer, Conservation and Sustainable Development and Climate Solutions, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, United States

Eleanor Blomstrom

Co-Director, Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), United States

Jane Breyer

Senior Vice-President, Strategic Partnerships, Energy Foundation, United States

Sundaa Bridget-Jones

Senior Associate Director, The Rockefeller Foundation, United States

Kai Carter

Program Officer, International Conservation and Agriculture, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, United States

Tatiana Cordero Velásquez

Executive Director, Urgent Action Fund—Latin America, Colombia

Penny Davies

Global Initiative Coordinator Program Officer, Climate Social Investment Foundation and Program Officer, Equitable Development, Ford Foundation, United States

Sukhgerel Dugersuren

Executive Director, OT Watch, Mongolia

Natalie Elwell

Senior Gender Advisor, World Resources Institute, United States

Susan Frank

Senior Director, Strategic Partnerships, Energy Foundation, United States

Ekaterine Gejadze

Former Program Coordinator, Women's Fund in Georgia, Georgia

Rajib Ghosal

Gender and Social Specialist, Green Climate Fund, South Korea

Erin Hohlfelder

Senior Program Officer, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, United States

Tamara Kreinin

Director of Population and Reproductive Health, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, United States

Leonardo Lacerda

Environmental Programme Director, Oak Foundation, Switzerland

Joanna Levitt Cea

Director, Buen Vivir Fund, United States

Elaine Martyn

Vice-President of Private Donor Group, Fidelity Charitable, United States

Heather McGray

Director, Climate Justice Resilience Fund, United States

Lucy Mulenkei

Executive Director, Indigenous Information Network, Kenya

Connie Nawaigo-Zhuwarara

Strategic Programmes Manager, Urgent Action Fund—Africa, Kenya

Eduardo Parada

Executive Director, Fundación Tichi Muñoz, Mexico

Judy A. Pasimio

Indigenous Women's Rights Advocate and Coordinator, LILAK (Purple Action for Indigenous Women's Rights), Philippines

Alfonsina Penalosa

Program Officer, Global Development and Population, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, United States

Annaka Peterson

Former Senior Program Officer, Oxfam America, United States

Jennifer Pryce

President and CEO, Calvert Social Investment Foundation, United States

Sara Radelet

Senior Fundraising Manager, C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, United Kingdom

Dave Rapaport

Former Vice President of Earth and Community Care, Aveda, United States

Mary Robinson

President, Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice, Republic of Ireland

Erin Rodgers

Program Officer, Environment, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, United States

Majandra Rodriguez

Member, TierrActiva Peru, Peru

Liane Schalatek

Associate Director, Heinrich Böll Stiftung North America, United States

Ann Schulman

Executive Director, Philanthropy Associates, United States

Tulika Srivastava

Executive Director, South Asia Women's Fund, India

Florence Tercier

Former Head of Issues Affecting Women Program, Oak Foundation, Switzerland

To Tjoelker

Head of Civil Society Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Development, The Netherlands

Hilda Vega

Former Director, Grassroots Climate Solutions Fund, United States

Appendix D: Charts



PG 11

Foundation Funding for Women and the Environment by Geographic Focus, 2014 (USD)

	Grant Dollars	% of Grant Dollars	No. of Grants	% of Number of Grants
Sub-Saharan Africa ¹	\$59,012,885	54%	192	23%
Multiple Regions and Global Programs ²	\$37,893,912	34%	188	23%
Asia and the Pacific	\$5,111,593	5%	151	18%
North America	\$2,616,870	2%	106	13%
Latin America	\$2,504,670	2%	118	14%
Caribbean	\$1,801,307	2%	7	1%
Middle East and North Africa	\$1,095,818	1%	18	2%
Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Russia	\$213,195	0%	44	5%
Western Europe ³	\$158,858	0%	2	0%

Source: Based on Foundation Center data analyzed by report authors.

¹ The Gates Foundation provided \$49.3 million in funding for women and the environment focused on Sub-Saharan Africa; and the Coca-Cola Foundation gave \$4.5 million. Together, these funders accounted for 91 percent of grant dollars for women and the environment focused on the region, but only 5 percent of the number of grants.

² Includes funding specifying global activities, multiple regions, or “developing countries.”

³ A total of 0.2 percent of grants and 0.1 percent of grant dollars for women and the environment focused on Western Europe.

PG 12

Foundation Funding for Women and the Environment by Issue Area, 2014 (USD)

	Grant Dollars	% of Grant Dollars	No. of Grants	% of Number of Grants
Agriculture and Food Security	\$64,991,572	59%	248	30%
Environmental Health	\$25,270,585	23%	103	13%
Climate Change*	\$6,806,567	6%	56	7%
Land and Resource Use/Rights	\$6,026,600	6%	98	12%
Water Access and Sanitation	\$5,005,927	5%	40	5%
Environment and Conservation—General	\$1,964,960	2%	148	18%
Energy	\$1,720,456	2%	49	6%
Sustainable Systems	\$1,272,492	1%	23	3%
Conservation and Biodiversity	\$1,270,394	1%	75	10%
Consumption and Waste Management	\$1,200,717	1%	38	5%
Extractive Activities	\$969,293	1%	81	10%
Disasters	\$147,443	0%	11	1%

Source: Figures based on an analysis of Foundation Center data by the authors. The full value of grants that are focused on more than one issue area are counted in the totals for each applicable issue area. Therefore, totals exceed 100 percent.

*While for the purpose of this analysis, only grants explicitly referencing “climate change” were included in the climate change total, climate change affects every issue area tracked above.

Foundation Funding for Women and Agriculture/Food Security by Geographic Focus, 2014 (USD)

	Grant Dollars	% of Grant Dollars	No. of Grants	% of Number of Grants
Sub-Saharan Africa ¹	\$54,975,798	85%	81	33%
Multiple Regions and Global Programs ²	\$5,953,968	9%	109	44%
Caribbean	\$1,711,839	3%	4	2%
Latin America	\$1,038,181	2%	12	5%
Asia and the Pacific	\$728,201	1%	9	4%
North America	\$541,085	1%	9	4%
Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Russia	\$30,500	0%	8	3%
Middle East and North Africa	\$12,000	0%	1	0%

Source: Figures based on an analysis of Foundation Center data conducted by the authors.

¹Among the funders for women and agriculture/food security with a focus on Sub-Saharan Africa, The Gates Foundation provided seven grants totaling \$49.3 million.

²Includes funding specifying global activities, multiple regions, or "developing countries."

Foundation Funding for Women, Conservation, and Biodiversity by Geographic Focus, 2014 (USD)

	Grant Dollars	% of Grant Dollars	No. of Grants	% of Number of Grants
Asia and the Pacific	\$558,749	44%	28	37%
North America	\$407,500	32%	6	8%
Sub-Saharan Africa	\$163,066	13%	10	13%
Latin America	\$98,089	8%	17	23%
Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Russia	\$40,640	3%	13	17%
Middle East and North Africa	\$2,350	0%	1	1%

Source: Figures based on an analysis of Foundation Center data conducted by the authors.

Foundation Funding for Women and Climate Change by Geographic Focus, 2014 (USD)

	Grant Dollars	% of Grant Dollars	No. of Grants	% of Number of Grants
Multiple Regions and Global Programs ¹	\$4,450,000	65%	5	8%
Asia and the Pacific	\$1,684,790	26%	19	32%
Sub-Saharan Africa	\$361,762	6%	15	25%
North America	\$205,000	3%	3	5%
Latin America	\$87,593	1%	11	19%

Source: Figures based on an analysis of Foundation Center data conducted by the authors.

¹Includes funding specifying global activities, multiple regions, or "developing countries."

Foundation Funding for Women, Disaster Response and Resilience by Geographic Focus, 2014 (USD)

	Grant Dollars	% of Grant Dollars	No. of Grants	% of Number of Grants
Asia and the Pacific	\$120,423	82%	5	45%
Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Russia	\$16,020	11%	3	27%
North America	\$6,000	4%	2	18%
Multiple Regions and Global Programs ¹	\$5,000	3%	1	9%

Source: Figures based on an analysis of Foundation Center data conducted by the authors.

¹ Includes funding specifying global activities, multiple regions, or "developing countries."

Foundation Funding for Women, Environment, and Health by Geographic Focus, 2014 (USD)

	Grant Dollars	% of Grant Dollars	No. of Grants	% of Number of Grants
Multiple Regions and Global Programs ¹	\$22,950,586	91%	7	7%
Sub-Saharan Africa	\$1,047,500	4%	14	14%
North America	\$829,139	3%	35	34%
Asia and the Pacific	\$127,260	1%	17	17%
Latin America	\$124,400	0%	14	14%
Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Russia	\$91,200	0%	11	11%
Western Europe	\$65,000	0%	1	1%
Middle East and North Africa	\$35,500	0%	4	4%

Source: Figures based on an analysis of Foundation Center data conducted by the authors.

¹ Includes funding specifying global activities, multiple regions, or "developing countries."

Foundation Funding for Women and Challenging Extractive Activities by Geographic Focus, 2014 (USD)

	Grant Dollars	% of Grant Dollars	No. of Grants	% of Number of Grants
Sub-Saharan Africa	\$369,657	38%	33	41%
Asia and the Pacific	\$246,418	25%	8	10%
Latin America	\$238,450	25%	34	42%
North America	\$50,000	5%	1	1%
Caribbean	\$49,468	5%	1	1%
Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Russia	\$15,300	2%	4	5%

Source: Figures based on an analysis of Foundation Center data conducted by the authors.

Notes

1. “Environmental degradation is the deterioration in environmental quality from ambient concentrations of pollutants and other activities and processes such as improper land use and natural disasters.” OECD Glossary of Statistical Terms. <https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=821>
2. *Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*, UN Sustainable Development Goals. <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change-2/>
3. *Climate Justice and Women’s Rights: A Guide to Supporting Grassroots Women’s Action*, Global Greengrants Fund, Prospera International Network of Women’s Funds, and the Alliance of Funds, 2015. <http://womenandclimate.org/>
4. *Women, Gender Equality, and Climate Change Fact Sheet*, Women Watch. http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate_change/downloads/Women_and_Climate_Change_Factsheet.pdf
5. *Women leading climate action*, UN Women. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/climate-change>
6. *Gender, climate change, and food security*, UNDP, 2014. <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/womens-empowerment/gender-climate-change-food-security.html>
7. Gender refers to the roles, responsibilities, rights, relationships, and identities that are ascribed to men, women, and transgender people within a given society and context—and how these factors affect and influence each other. Gender is a spectrum and is not limited solely to men and women. This report primarily refers to women due to the growing body of evidence about how women are disproportionately affected by climate change and environmental challenges compared with men, and the unique roles they play in their societies due to socially defined norms. There is a lack of data about specific impacts of environmental challenges on trans people, as well as funding specific to supporting this group. The use of “women” in this report is inclusive of transgender women.
8. *Women leading climate action*, UN Women. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/climate-change>
9. The use of “funding for women and the environment” in this report refers to supporting a broad range of work at that nexus, including funding women-led actions to protect the environment, supporting the inclusion of women’s voices and participation in environmental initiatives, and addressing the differential impacts of environmental interventions on women due to their gender. For more information about the methodology, see Appendix A on page 42.
10. Global Witness found that nearly four people a week were killed in 2016 defending their land, forests, and rivers. <https://www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/environmental-activists/defenders-earth/>
11. This analysis focuses on key actors, levels of support, grantmaking strategies, funding opportunities, and lessons learned and does not assess the quality or impact of these grants. Data sources include the Foundation Center and OECD Development Assistance Committee (stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=crs1), among others.
12. In this report, only foundation funding for disasters and emergency management that explicitly specifies a focus on women, or that is awarded to organizations that have an explicit focus on women in their missions, is included. Therefore, while several leading organizations involved in disaster response may specifically support women, funding from foundations to these organizations is not included unless the funder specified that its grants to the organization are explicitly intended to focus on women. In addition, the data set does not include data about any grants made by development or humanitarian actors whose primary focus is operating their own programming, rather than grantmaking.
13. The Foundation Center tracked 74,619 grants made in 2014, totaling \$4.1 billion, for environmental activities consistent with the criteria used for this study. Overall, in 2014, the Foundation Center tracked 1.1 million grants, totaling \$47.9 billion, for all purposes.
14. This analysis is based on 2014 grantmaking data, as that is the latest year available. The data set is comprised of 269 institutional donors, including private foundations, public foundations, women’s funds, and other grantmaking organizations. It does not include organizations that may provide funds but for whom grantmaking is not a primary focus.
15. See Appendix C on page 44 for a list of interviewees.
16. See chart on page 12.
17. Consistent with the *Advancing Human Rights* project, established by the Human Rights Funders Network, Ariadne, and Prospera, this report defines human rights funding as being in pursuit of structural change to ensure the protection and enjoyment of rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent human rights treaties, often with a focus on marginalized populations.
18. Based on an analysis by the authors of a subset of the \$13.4 billion in bilateral and multilateral support for women and the environment provided by the Foundation Center. See Methodology on page 42 for details.
19. Women’s funds are philanthropic organizations that work to realize the power of grassroots women, girls, and trans persons around the world. Women’s funds are historically linked to the grassroots movements and constituencies they support, and raise resources from individual and institutional donors for the following purposes: making direct grants to women-led groups and organizations; providing accompaniment to ensure that local groups and organizations’ capacities are strengthened according to self-identified needs and priorities; amplifying the voices of these groups and organizations through local, regional and international fora; advocating for more quality resources, including flexible, core support, and multi-year funding, which are critical for the sustainability of women’s groups working on the ground; and providing spaces and opportunities for groups and organizations to network and build connections across sectors and movements, contributing to cross-movement building. Environmental funds focus on a broad array of issues, from climate change to preserving the natural environment.
20. *What you need to know about impact investing*, Global Impact Investing Network. <https://thegiin.org/impact-investing/need-to-know/>
21. *Annual Impact Investor Survey*, Global Impact Investing Network, 2017. https://thegiin.org/assets/GIIN_AnnualImpactInvestorSurvey_2017_Web_Final.pdf

22. *Development aid rises again in 2016 but flows to poorest countries dip*, OECD, 11 May 2017. <http://www.oecd.org/dac/development-aid-rises-again-in-2016-but-flows-to-poorest-countries-dip.htm>
23. *The Rise of Gender Capitalism*. Sarah Kaplan and Jackie VanderBrug. Stanford Social Innovation Review, Fall 2014. https://ssir.org/articles/entry/the_rise_of_gender_capitalism
24. *The gender approach of the Green Climate Fund (GCF): leading the way for climate finance*, Liane Schalatek, Heinrich Böll Stiftung North America. September 2016. <https://us.boell.org/2016/09/26/gender-approach-green-climate-fund-gcf-leading-way-climate-finance>
25. *Gender and Climate Finance*, UNDP. <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/womens-empowerment/gender-and-climate-finance.html>
26. *Making climate finance work for women: Overview of bilateral ODA to gender and climate*, OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality (Gendernet), October 2016. <http://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/making-climate-finance-work-for-women.htm>
27. "Adaptation refers to adjustments in ecological, social, or economic systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli and their effects or impacts. It refers to changes in processes, practices, and structures to moderate potential damages or to benefit from opportunities associated with climate change." UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. <http://unfccc.int/focus/adaptation/items/6999.php>
28. "Mitigation refers to efforts to reduce or prevent emission of greenhouse gases, which could include using new technologies and renewable energies, making older equipment more energy efficient, or changing management practices or consumer behavior." UN Environment Program. <http://www.unep.org/climatechange/mitigation>
29. *Climate Justice and Women's Rights: A Guide to Supporting Grassroots Women's Action*, Global Greengrants, Prospera, and the Alliance of Funds, 2015. <http://womenandclimate.org/>
30. Global Witness defines a land and environmental defender as a "person who take peaceful action, either voluntarily or professionally, to protect environmental or land rights." AWID defines women human rights defenders as "self-identified women and lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LBTQI) people and others who defend rights and are subject to gender-specific risks and threats due to their human rights work and/or as a direct consequence of their gender identity or sexual orientation. WHRDs are subject to systematic violence and discrimination due to their identities and unyielding struggles for rights, equality and justice." <https://www.awid.org/priority-areas/women-human-rights-defenders>
31. *Defenders of the Earth*, Global Witness, July 2017. <https://www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/environmental-activists/defenders-earth/>
32. *Standing Firm: Women and Trans-Led Organisations Respond to Closing Space for Civil Society*, Mama Cash and Urgent Action Fund, July 2017. http://www.mamacash.org/content/uploads/2017/07/MC_Closing_Space_Report_DEF.pdf
33. *Violence Against Women Human Rights Defenders in MesoAmerica*, Just Associates, 2012. https://justassociates.org/sites/justassociates.org/files/violence_against_women_human_rights_defenders_in_mesoamerica_-_summary_findings.pdf
34. *Standing Firm: Women and Trans-Led Organisations Respond to Closing Space for Civil Society*, Mama Cash and Urgent Action Fund, July 2017. http://www.mamacash.org/content/uploads/2017/07/MC_Closing_Space_Report_DEF.pdf
35. As there is limited information available about grants in support of women human rights defenders, largely due to potential security risks, the authors have not calculated total funding in support of women human rights defenders for this report.
36. *Gender, climate change, and food security*, UNDP, 2014. <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/womens-empowerment/gender-climate-change-food-security.html>
37. *What is Gender and Biodiversity?* Convention of Biological Diversity. <https://www.cbd.int/gender/what/default.shtml>
38. *Gender and Biodiversity*, WEDO. <http://wedo.org/what-we-do/our-focus-areas/biodiversity/>
39. *Women, Gender Equality, and Climate Change fact sheet*, UN Women Watch. http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate_change/
40. While for the purpose of this analysis, only grants explicitly referencing "climate change" were included in the climate change total, climate change affects every environmental issue area tracked in this research.
41. *Gender and Climate Change*, WEDO. <http://wedo.org/what-we-do/our-focus-areas/climate-change/>
42. *Frequently asked questions on climate change and disaster displacement*, UNHCR. <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/latest/2016/11/581f52dc4/frequently-asked-questions-climate-change-disaster-displacement.html>
43. *Why Women*, Women Earth and Climate Action Network International. <http://wecaninternational.org/pages/why-women-are-key>
44. *Climate Justice and Women's Rights: A Guide to Supporting Grassroots Women's Action*, Global Greengrants Fund, Prospera, and the Alliance of Funds, 2015. <http://womenandclimate.org/>
45. Ibid.
46. *Measuring the State of Disaster Philanthropy*, 2016: Data to Drive Decisions, Foundation Center and Center for Disaster Philanthropy. <http://disasterphilanthropy.foundationcenter.org/download-report-thank-you/>
47. *Women, Gender Equality, and Climate Change fact sheet*, UN Women Watch. http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/climate_change/
This analysis focuses on key actors, levels of support, grantmaking strategies, funding opportunities, and lessons learned and does not assess the quality or impact of these grants. Data sources include Foundation Center and OECD Development Assistance Committee, among others.
48. This report only includes foundation funding for disasters and emergency management that explicitly specifies a focus on women, or that is awarded to organizations that have an explicit focus on women in their missions. Therefore, while several leading organizations involved in disaster response may specifically support women, funding from foundations to these organizations would not be included unless the funder specified that its grants to the organization were explicitly intended to focus on women. In addition, the data set does not include data about any grants made by development or humanitarian actors whose primary focus is operating their own programming, rather than grantmaking.
49. *Sofía Gatica: 2012 Goldman Prize Recipient, South and Central America*. <http://www.goldmanprize.org/recipient/sofia-gatica/>




50. Extractive industries refers to “all forms of industry that conduct extraction, exploitation, and appropriation of nature and natural resources.” Weaving Resistance Through Action: Strategies of Women Human Rights Defenders Confronting Extractive Industries, AWID and Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition. https://www.awid.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/eng_weaving_resistance_through_action-web.pdf
51. *Autonomy: The Precious Resource for Filipino Women*, interview with Judy A. Pasimio. <http://LILAK.net/2016/07/autonomy-the-precious-resource-for-filipino-women/>
52. For more information about key questions and guidance for both environmental funders incorporating women’s rights and women’s funds incorporating a focus on climate change, see *Climate Justice and Women’s Rights: A Guide to Supporting Grassroots Women’s Action*, Global Greengrants, Prospera, and the Alliance of Funds, 2015. <http://womenandclimate.org/>
53. *Defenders of the Earth*, Global Witness, July 2017. <https://www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/environmental-activists/defenders-earth/>
54. *#Our Solutions*, WEDO. http://wedo.org/get-involved/oursolutions/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Follow%20here&utm_campaign=Emma%20Newsletter
55. According to the Mary Robinson Foundation, “Climate justice links human rights and development to achieve a human-centered approach, safeguarding the rights of the most vulnerable people and sharing the burdens and benefits of climate change and its impacts equitably and fairly. Climate justice is informed by science, responds to science and acknowledges the need for equitable stewardship of the world’s resources.” See the Foundation’s Principles of Climate Justice here: <http://www.mrfcj.org/principles-of-climate-justice/>
56. Climate finance refers to local, national, or transnational financing, which may be drawn from public, private, and alternative sources of financing, to address climate change. (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change)
57. *Making Climate Finance Work for Women*, OECD, 2015. <https://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/Making-Climate-Finance-Work-for-Women.pdf>
58. *Six Steps to Local Climate Finance*, Clare Shakya, Marek Soanes, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), November 2016. <https://www.iied.org/six-steps-local-climate-finance>
59. *DAC Gender Equality Policy Marker*, OECD. <http://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/dac-gender-equality-marker.htm>








Rucha Chitnis

 **GLOBAL GREENGRANTS FUND**
Where change takes root

-  Greengrants.org
-  [GlobalGreengrantsFund](https://www.facebook.com/GlobalGreengrantsFund)
-  [GreengrantsFund](https://twitter.com/GreengrantsFund)



 **Prospera**
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF WOMEN'S FUNDS

-  Prospera-inwf.org
-  [Prosperainwf](https://www.facebook.com/Prosperainwf)
-  [Prospera_INWF](https://twitter.com/Prospera_INWF)