

From Concept to Action: Stories of Gender and Climate Change



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The Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA) is a diverse global membership group of nearly 100 like-minded entities including UN agencies, inter-governmental and civil society organizations.

GGCA operates on the premise that a collective voice, strategically representing a range of expertise and perspectives, can have far greater influence and reach than individual organizations alone can achieve. The overarching role of the GGCA is to highlight, facilitate, and strengthen the work of its members. The expertise, focus, and capabilities of GGCA members are varied and complex.

The GGCA began in 2007 with just four founding members - the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) - armed with an ambitious objective to ensure climate change policies, decision-making, and initiatives are gender responsive.

Since that time the GGCA has grown to be a well-recognized forceful body that brings strong voices and influence to the climate change movement.

At the time of GGCA's inception, there was no organized movement to address gendered impacts of climate change at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Through ongoing commitment, time, and energy on the part of the four founding members, an expanded GGCA Steering Committee, Secretariat, and Members, the GGCA has grown exponentially and has contributed to remarkable developments on gender and climate policy.

Overall the gender and climate change movement has moved from concept to action, and this booklet is the embodiment of that progress. GGCA Members have demonstrated that policies can be turned into action. The thirteen case studies showcased here illustrate exactly how these actions play out on the ground, in communities and villages worldwide.

We pay tribute to GGCA member actions here, and hope these stories both expand your perceptions and broaden our reach to achieve global, sustainable, gender responsive policies and action.

Vicky Markham, GGCA Coordinator

Hilary A. Landfried, Editor and Co-Chair, GGCA Practitioners Working Group



GLOBAL GREENGRANTS FUND

Mama Aleta: Protecting Ancestral Land and Resources

*Author: Ursula Miniszewski, Program and Development Officer,
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www.greengrants.org*

The Mollo people of West Timor, Indonesia are dependent on the forest for food, fuel, medicine, and fabric dyes, among other uses. The forest also holds deep cultural and spiritual meaning for the indigenous communities in the region. In the mid-1990s, foreign companies started illegally clearing forests and extracting marble from the Mollo people's sacred mountains. "Mama" Aleta Baun saw the threat to her people's rights and survival, and organized her community to oppose the marble mines. Her work made her a target. She was beaten up and hacked by a machete. But Mama Aleta continued organizing the Mollo people to stand up for their rights and protect their land.

From 2006 to 2007, Mama Aleta and over 150 women spent an entire year sitting on marble rocks blocking the entrance of the mining site in Fatumnasi and quietly weaving their traditional cloth in protest of the illegal activities. After a year, the mining companies gave up and abandoned all activity in the region.

Global Greengrants Fund has supported Mama Aleta and her organization, Pokja OAT, to develop a unified voice against companies illegally mining their ancestral land and destroying the island's resources.

Deforestation that occurs as a result of activities such as mining accounts for one-sixth of global carbon emissions, making forest protection a critical strategy for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Over the last two decades, Mama Aleta has led her community in saving approximately 40,000 acres of forest and preventing thousands of tons of carbon from being released into the atmosphere.



*Mama Aleta with a
local community group.*

*Photo credit: Goldman
Environmental Prize*



AFRICAN WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT FUND

Use of Environmentally Friendly Agricultural Production Systems

Author: Rose Buabeng, Programmes Officer for Anglophone Africa
<http://awdf.org/>

Children with Future in Zambia (CwFiZ) is a Zambian NGO established in 2006 to promote the welfare of the vulnerable in the Copperbelt, Northern Province, and North-Western Province of Zambia. CwFiZ's target populations are women and orphans, and the organization focuses on education, economic empowerment, agricultural activities, and the care and support of women living with HIV/AIDS.

The African Women's Development Fund's supports women responding to the challenges of climate change through adaptation and mitigation with grant-making and technical support activities. Through AWDF's support, CwFiZ has been able to train 225 women smallholder groundnut farmers in improved peanut farming and processing. The women were empowered to use organic agriculture in their farming activities as a means to naturally improve soil fertility. The training covered topics including: climate and soil requirement, varieties of peanut, crop rotation, land preparation, planting, spacing, weeding, diseases, and crop protection. In addition, the women were also trained in quality control, packaging, and how to use peanut processing machines to ensure that the highest standards of hygiene are observed. The project has enabled the trained women farmers to cultivate nine hectares of peanut, and they have acquired and installed a processing machine to enhance the crop's market value and increase income.

In 2013, AWDF committed an amount of \$623,200, which is 27% of its annual grant making budget to 46 women's groups and organizations within 21 countries in Africa to undertake innovative projects which improve their livelihoods and also enable them to adapt to and mitigate the impact of climate change. The various interventions reached over 18,700 African women. African Women's Development Fund is a member of the International Network of Women's Funds (INWF).



SUPPORT FOR WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT (SWAGEN)

Energy Liberation for Women in Mwizi, Uganda

Author: Gertrude Kenyangi

<http://swagenug.org/>

Born in a remote village in Uganda, Edita Gakyaro lost her mother at birth and her father to AIDS at a very early age. Her paternal uncle dispossessed her of the land her parents had left her, and none of the distant relatives who took her in could afford school fees. 16 hours a day, every day, she cultivated, cooked and served food, washed dishes, fetched water, gathered fuelwood, and took care of sick members of the family. To escape from this life of drudgery, she married before she was 18 years old. Her husband, only a few years older than her and in no better circumstances, frequently beat her.

SWAGEN helped Edita transform her life. She was trained in fuel-efficient stove construction, reducing her household fuel consumption significantly. She was able to construct a rainwater harvesting tank, providing clean water for household use well into the dry season. She also received five beehives and training in the harvesting of honey. She now markets her honey in a cooperative formed with other beneficiaries of the project. When asked what she thought of the project, Edita said, "I am a new creature! The project has given me a second life. I have time to go to functional adult literacy classes, and I can now read and write my name. I have money from selling honey, and I can buy myself vaseline without begging from my husband. He is careful not to treat me badly, because he sees that I can leave him and be independent. I have bargaining power now."



Edita Gakyaro with her daughter next to her improved cookstove.



CGIAR RESEARCH PROGRAM ON CLIMATE CHANGE, AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY (CCAFS) EAST AFRICA

Women Champion Knowledge and Technology Based Approaches to Climate-Smart Agriculture in Africa

Authors: John Recha, Participatory Action Research (PAR) Specialist, Maren Radeny, Science Officer, James Kinyangi, Regional Program Leader
<https://ccafs.cgiar.org/regions/east-africa>

In the Nyando area of Kenya's Lake Victoria Basin, late onset of seasonal rainfall leads to occasional flooding of agricultural fields, destroying crops and eroding productive topsoil. Early onset of rainfall can substantially increase the chance of longer dry spells, often leading to pre-season pest outbreaks. While potential pest outbreaks are announced on national radio, broadcasts rarely reach rural women.

The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) is working with one community of women to use SMS messaging services along with other CSA approaches to plan their growing season and adapt to climate variability. With 21 members, the Obinju Women's Group relies less on rain-fed crop production and more on a mix of closed polythene tube greenhouses and open spaces fitted with water harvesting structures and drip supply lines. These offer protection for their crops from drought, flooding, and insect and pest attacks. Four pilot units are now operational in seven villages. They showcase highly diversified and innovative vegetable and bean seed production under drip irrigation.

Initially, water for the drip lines was supplied with a labor-intensive manual foot-pump from a 300,000 liter mini-earth dam. The Obinju group has now adopted a labor- and energy-saving solar-driven water pump. This now ensures a year-round supply of water to the climate smart farm at a very low maintenance cost. The latest data show that these interventions have helped reduced the number of households that go at least two months a year with one or no meals a day by 60%.



Learning event in the Obinju Greenhouse.

PROJECT GAIA

Including Woman in Fuel Supply Chains

Author: Hilary Landfried, Project Manager

<https://projectgaia.com/projects/ethiopia/>

For nine years, Kongi and her mother spent eighty hours each week gathering wood. On a good day, the two women carried sixty-five pound bundles many miles home to be sold at market. When she was 14 her mother abandoned her, forcing Kongi to marry. She continued collecting firewood eight months into her first pregnancy.

Thanks to Project Gaia's collaboration with the Former Women Fuelwood Carriers Association (FWFCA), a group that helps women secure new livelihoods, Kongi now cooks her meals on ethanol, and sells the fuel so other women can avoid her former burden. Project Gaia works with the FWFCA to build an environmentally friendly supply chain, to distribute clean alcohol fuels and stoves, and to displace the need for gathering wood. In October 2015, Project Gaia and its Ethiopian sister organization, Gaia Association, commissioned the first-of-its-kind microdistillery in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Women from the FWFCA help run the facility, sell ethanol fuel and stoves to others around the city, and continue the energy revolution.



Kongi roasts coffee beans on an ethanol-powered CLEANCOOK stove for the traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony.



FONDO DE MUJERES DEL SUR

Team MoCaFor Peasant Women

Author: Paula E. Leiva, Intern

www.mujiresdelsur.org

Team MoCaFor Peasant Women was founded in 1989 to strengthen the participation of rural women in Formosa, Argentina. The team consists of 30 women leading actions of resistance against the advance of soybean monoculture in the area and the toxic consequences resulting from the use of pesticides.

The organization works to mitigate problems arising from the use of pesticides, recover seeds, and develop strategies addressing the effects of climate change. They also sell their organic origin products, generating opportunities for the rest of the population to access nutritious and healthy food.

The women denounce the negative connection between the use of toxic pesticides and their children's health, the loss of job opportunities, and the deformities and deaths of both plants and animals. Team MoCaFor Peasant Women has successfully brought these claims to the public and legal spaces, influencing and advancing local regulations and legislation.

One of the main focuses of their work is to influence their neighbors as well as the people of the city who receive farm products so that they join the women in generating solutions. The latest achievement of the women's group is a documentary about their work, which was broadcasted on national television. Fondo Mujeres del Sur is a member of the International Network of Women's Funds (INWF).



UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Gender-Responsive Climate Change Adaptation: Empowering Women Farmers and Entrepreneurs

Author: Meriem Bolata

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/9/moroccan-oases-women-watch-plants-and-incomes-grow>

UN Women-Morocco is strengthening gender mainstreaming in climate change adaptation by advancing gender equality, enhancing women's livelihoods, and increasing policymakers' understanding that women farmers' perspectives must be integrated into sustainable climate-related policies.

One key activity has been to engage and empower women in preserving and commercializing aromatic and medicinal plants (AMP). Women have been trained in technical and business skills and have participated in comprehensive gender and climate change capacity building workshops at local levels. Local, regional, and national trainings have been held focusing on gender-responsive risk prevention and mapping, local leadership, and Morocco's commitment for the integration of gender in climate change adaptation strategies. These trainings have improved women's livelihoods and increased resilience for their families.

120 women from eight AMP pilot communities have benefited from business training. The project fostered an Economic Interest Group of 12 cooperatives and 15 NGOs to reinforce the production and commercialization of AMPs. Each of the eight pilot communities has created development plans that fully integrate gender issues with climate change adaptation. These development plans have been informed by sex-disaggregated data on socioeconomics and the environment, reducing risk in community planning.



GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR CLEAN COOKSTOVES

Women's Empowerment Fund Supports Catalytic Role of Women in Clean Cooking Value Chain

Author: Rachel Mahmud, Gender Associate
www.cleancookstoves.org

Reliance on biomass for cooking and heating increases pressure on natural resources and leads to a wide variety of environmental problems including deforestation, air pollution, and climate change. Every year, 4.3 million people die prematurely due to household air pollution from inefficient cooking. Residential solid fuel burning contributes up to 25% of black carbon emissions, which is the second major contributor to climate change. Women and girls are disproportionately impacted by this environmental degradation. Women in developing countries are an untapped resource and play a crucial role in the widespread adoption and use of clean cooking solutions because of their central responsibility for cooking and managing household energy. The core objective of the Women's Empowerment Fund (WEF), funded by the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, is to support women's catalytic role in the sector by empowering women throughout the value chain, which can help the sector reach scale and reduce the impact of cooking on the climate.

In Kenya, for example, the Paradigm Project hired its first team of women sales agents by developing a performance-based hiring process combined with mentorship. Women cookstove distributors sold 2.65 times more stoves than men sales agents. Women were responsible for 85% percent of cookstove sales, increasing women's income and retention as employees. Women employees were key to establishing lasting community relationships, helped identify new product opportunities, and offered a path to consumer financing in conjunction with women's self-help groups. Under the project, 97% of borrowers were women, utilizing installment payments with competitive interest rates. Due to its success under the WEF, The Paradigm Project will expand this woman-led distribution model into operations in Tanzania and Ethiopia.



Lucy, from Kenya, demonstrates her new Jikokoa cookstove purchased from The Paradigm Project's fleet of women sales agents.

Photo credit: The Paradigm Project



INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE GLOBAL GENDER OFFICE

Gender and REDD+ Roadmaps in Cameroon, Ghana, and Uganda

Authors: Lorena Aguilar (Global Senior Gender Advisor), Cate Owren (Senior Officer), Margaux Granat (Climate Policy Specialist), Maggie Roth (GGO Communications Officer)
<http://genderandenvironment.org/>

Over the last five years, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has facilitated participatory, multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral Climate Change Gender Action Plan (ccGAP) processes. These processes help countries identify priority climate concerns and respective gender-responsive activities to champion. In three countries, Cameroon, Ghana, and Uganda, this process focused on REDD+ as an entry point and developed national Gender & REDD+ Roadmaps:

- Cameroon's Roadmap included the creation of a Gender Task Forces (GTFs); the development of a national strategy for the involvement of women in the REDD+ process; and the development of an action plan for mainstreaming gender into it.
- In Ghana, the Roadmap brought men on board to understand the value of and support gender actions, increasing the effectiveness of interventions and dispelling the notion that gender is only about women and that forests are only relevant to men. The Roadmap also brought about greater engagement with key government agencies, particularly the Forestry Commission, in which a "Gender Desk" was created.
- Uganda engaged government and non-government stakeholders in the Roadmap's participatory processes. The process enhanced the understanding of gender considerations in REDD+, prepared for a gender-responsive National REDD+ Strategy, and recognized gender stereotypes and norms in Uganda's forestry sector and in natural resource governance more broadly.

In each country, IUCN's technical support has assisted these efforts in forging ahead and achieving the next necessary steps for gender equality in REDD+. Today, the Roadmaps, as well as other ccGAPs, are setting the stage for other countries to follow suit in taking steps to ensure that both women and men are equally recognized as important climate change stakeholders and guaranteed the opportunity to learn about and participate in policy, planning, and implementation.



Participants in gender & REDD+ workshop, Cameroon.

Photo credit: Maggie Roth, IUCN, 2015



CLIMATE WISE WOMEN

Leading the Response to Climate Change on the Carteret Islands

Author: Tracy Mann

<http://climatewisewomen.org/>

Since 2006, Ursula Rakova has led Tulele Peisa, a non-profit formed by the Elders of the Carteret Islands, to prepare for the islanders' relocation to the mainland of Papua New Guinea. As early 1984, the Elders realized that they would need to plan for the eventual disappearance of their seven-island atoll due to the impacts of climate change and other geological conditions. Ursula and Tulele Peisa are dedicated to an ecologically and culturally sustainable relocation process, one that includes a pathway to self-sufficiency for the relocated Islanders.

Under Ursula's leadership, some 89 families from the Carteret Islands have already relocated to land ceded by the Catholic Church in several communities on Buka in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville in Papua New Guinea. She constructed a delicate process weaving together the islanders with the existing communities and envisioning shared opportunities and prosperity as the best chance for a sustainable integration scheme.

Ursula's vision of a sustainable future extends beyond the relocation process. To create a sustainable community, she recognizes that the Carteret people must also be self-sufficient and productive. In 2014, she formed Bougainville Cocoa Net Ltd., a collaborative of 640 small production

cocoa farmers, the majority of them women, which acts as a platform for global export and capacity scaling to meet the international demand for high quality chocolate. It is her intention to fund her continued relocation work and ensure a viable future for the Carteret Islanders through the profits from the cocoa exportation.



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Providing Access to Cleaner Cookstoves and Lighting by Empowering Women and Girls

Authors: Allison Towle, Programme Analyst, UNDP Low Emission Capacity Building Programme, Yvonne Nyokabi, LECB Kenya, Harun Warui, LECB Project Manager, Kenya
<http://www.undp.org/>

In Kenya, over 80% of the population does not have access to modern energy services. Families use firewood, other traditional biomass, and kerosene for household cooking and lighting. This reality places immense stress on the environment via land and forest degradation and the unabated and growing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Women are affected the most, since they must travel further in deforested areas to search for firewood and are exposed to smoke inhalation when cooking.

UNDP has responded to this problem by supporting a community-based project providing access to improved cookstoves in the remote pastoral communities of Samburu County. The pilot model addresses the issues of sustainability and ensuring continued stove-use by specifically targeting the end-user not only in use, but also in installation and repair. Local women are taught installation, a skill that can be used as a source of income, and they learn how improved cookstoves contribute to reducing environmental degradation and support the sustainability of the community.

In all of the six pilot sites, women expressed their joy and enthusiasm in learning installations skills and declared that the process was easy. The women helped to install the improved cookstoves in primary school kitchens where the demonstrations were held.



*Training at
Lkiloriti Primary School.*



CARE INTERNATIONAL

Village Savings and Loans Associations: Building Resilience and Empowering Women

Author: Nicola Ward, ALP Learning and Evidence Specialist

<http://careclimatechange.org/our-work/alp/>

Mother of seven, Anabig Ayaab, from Tariganga, Ghana relies on farming to feed and provide for her family. Increasing instances of drought caused by climate change have devastated her crops and affected her animals. Luckily, for the last few years she has participated in a village savings and loans (VSLA) group facilitated by CARE's Adaptation Learning Programme for Africa (ALP), which provides her with the credit and skills to invest in improved seeds and agricultural practices.

Anabig says, "I was able to acquire improved seeds of maize by taking a loan from my savings group. I bought enough seeds which I shared with my husband. I harvested five bags of maize from my farmland as compared to two bags the previous years and my husband harvested nine bags from his farm as compared to five bags in previous years. We used the improved seeds combined with use of farm residue as organic fertilizer... My husband now respects me and I feel happy to be among my fellow women in the community."

VSLA's are just one of the community based adaptation (CBA) approaches used by ALP that aim to build the capacity of vulnerable people to adapt to the impacts of climate change and simultaneously address gender

inequality. VSLAs allow people to save up the capital to diversify into less 'climate sensitive' livelihoods, in order to spread risk and build resilience.

VSLAs have served as platforms for women's economic and social empowerment. They have helped strengthen financial management skills and provide new opportunities for people, strengthening both household resilience and gender equality.



LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR

Developing Climate Resilience through Animal Husbandry and Skill-Building

Author: Mahamuda Begum, Executive Director
www.lovethyneighbour1.blog.com

Rahima Begum lives in North Chachara in Bangladesh. After her husband's death, Rahima struggled to make ends meet for her three children. Their home was destroyed by erosion, and they often went without food.

Rahima's community is extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Moreover, women are particularly at risk. Their limited adaptive capacities from prevailing social inequalities and social and economic roles manifest in differences in property rights, access to information, lack of employment, and unequal access to resources.

However, women are effective actors too. Love Thy Neighbor started a program for early childhood education and the improvement of women's livelihoods. When Rahima joined the group, the family's fortunes improved. The family had enough food, and the children received an education. Rahima also received a cow from the project, and with the help of a loan, she purchased another cow. Her herd continues to multiply today, and Rahima sells milk for income, while keeping a portion for her children. She has also started a poultry farm with the money she earned by selling milk. These resources and skills have made her more resilient to climate change and loss from disaster.





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