

How funders can move resources

Funders can move more resources to women's movements fighting for climate justice. Recent in-depth interviews with Women's Funds surface ideas to help donors expand and deepen their environmental funding strategies.

Background

Two feminist funds, Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres (FCAM) and Mama Cash, and an environmental NGO, Both ENDS, launched the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA), a five-year programme, in 2016. Over the last several years, GAGGA has grown to include partnerships with over 400 grassroots groups and 44 NGOs across more than 30 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

In 2018, Mama Cash commissioned a series of interviews with fourteen Women's Funds working within GAGGA to learn more about their experience and expertise in working at the intersection of environmental justice and women's rights.



↓ The Organisation pour le Renforcement des Capacités de Développement (ORCADE) monitors the work of mining projects and the socio-economic and environmental impacts of the extractives industry in Burkina Faso. They supported women in Bomboré (above) to compel Canadian-owned Orezone Gold Corporation's mining project to provide relocation stipends. Photo courtesy of ORCADE.

Key Findings

The interviews demonstrated the key role Women's Funds play at the nexus of environmental justice and women's rights in six areas. They:

- **Fund engagement that is rooted in locally-generated agendas:** Women's Funds assess and address different implications of the climate crisis for people of different genders and contexts. They fund a diversity of women environmental defenders.
- **Connect the dots for multi-level lobbying and advocacy, from local to global:** Women's Funds connect local partners to regional and (inter)national-level policy makers, and facilitate knowledge sharing between actors.
- **Reach under-represented groups:** Women's Funds tend to fund groups that no other organisation (private or public) can – or will – fund.
- **Network groups to support grassroots capacity building:** Women's Funds offer creative opportunities for grantee-partners to learn from each other.
- **Offer flexibility to adapt and respond to women's needs:** Women's Funds are committed to adapting so the interventions they support are consistently relevant and rooted in the priorities of those most affected by environmental injustice.

- **Build relationships and connections based on trust and solidarity:** Women's Funds are from, of, and for the social movements they support.

The role for funders

Based on learnings from Women's Funds, here are ways funders can strengthen environmental justice efforts led by women's organisations:

- Invest in **locally-generated and -driven agendas, ideas, innovations, and solutions** born of the needs and know-how of the people most impacted by the climate crisis and environmental injustice.
- Play a **much-needed incubator role** to help nascent or marginalised women's groups grow by providing the types of support they need.
- Understand the many climate solutions - rooted in the work done every day by ordinary people - as **an opportunity for scaled funding** globally.
- Provide **long-term, predictable and flexible funding** and capacity strengthening, including rapid response, urgent action grants.
- Contribute to **strengthening the body of evidence** on women's rights and environmental justice by making the work done and research generated by women, girls, trans people and intersex people visible across the world.
- Evolve grantmaking, capacity building, and evaluation practices by **adapting to contextual changes** and being accountable to grantee-partners.

Even if funders cannot adopt these sound practices immediately, they can build strong partnerships with intermediary grantmakers and Women's Funds to achieve their ambitions in responding to the climate crisis.

More about GAGGA

The Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA) funds and supports local movements fighting for women's rights and environmental justice. By providing grants to an alliance of local, regional and international women's funds and over 400 grassroots groups and 44 NGOs in more than 30 countries around the world, GAGGA prioritises financial and capacity strengthening support to local groups, collectives, and organisations. GAGGA amplifies the work of people with the most local knowledge about how to build resilience to the global climate crisis.

GAGGA is a consortium led by the Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres, based in Nicaragua, in collaboration with Both ENDS and Mama Cash, both based in the Netherlands, and in strategic partnership with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It also partners with Global Greengrants Fund (GGF) and Prospera - International Network of Women Funds, as strategic allies.



GAGGA partner WoMin - African Women Unite Against Destructive Resource Extraction is working with International Rivers to support women in the area threatened by INGA 3, a large-scale hydropower project in the Democratic Republic of Congo, to make their demands heard and respected by authorities, companies, and financiers. Photo courtesy of WoMin.