



# TRANSFORMATIVE PATHWAYS

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CLIMATE AND GENDER-JUST ALTERNATIVES  
TO INTERSECTING CRISES



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TO INTERSECTING CRISES

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### **Dear reader, policymaker, practitioner, advocate:**

The historical and ongoing exploitation of territories and the outsourcing of labour based on gendered and geographic divisions have laid the foundation for a notion of development that has shaped the means and modes of production. The goal? Infinite economic growth. Decades of excessive natural resource extraction to supply materials and energy have caused permanent and irreversible loss and damage to various communities around the world. This process has not only altered physical infrastructures but also threatened traditional ways of life that used to coexist in harmony with and respect for the environment.

Principles from feminism, including decoloniality, intersectionality, and degrowth provide a framework for understanding how various forms of inequality often operate together and exacerbate one another. They systematically analyse and continually question all of the forces behind what is produced, how it is produced, and for what uses, deepening our knowledge of economic and political structures. Climate and gender justice calls for alternatives for mitigating climate change that move away from the indiscriminate appropriation and use of power.

This publication analyses the goals of the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement – policy benchmarks for moving towards a sustainable present and future – in order to propose specific targets for the Sustainable Development Goals that promote the construction of a more just society – from economic, environmental, and gendered perspectives. By systematising experiences, this publication gathers evidence on concrete alternatives to the dominant development model. These proven community and context-based alternatives already exist on the ground, where gender-just solutions for mitigating climate change come to life; they recognise women in all their diversity as vital agents of change, build people-powered democracy, and stand in contrast with individualistic or profit-oriented climate solutions.

The grassroots initiatives outlined in this publication demonstrate possible transformative pathways for moving forward through the current intersecting crises.

Hope you find this reading both challenges and inspires you to take concrete action.

Gina Cortés Valderrama  
**Women Engage for a Common Future**

## What is the purpose of this publication?

To contribute to systemic transformation by collecting evidence that demonstrates another world is possible.

## For whom is this publication intended?

**For grassroots organizations and civil society.** To broaden the understanding, recognition, and storytelling of how local and gender-just solutions do, in fact, contribute in a cross-cutting way to tackling intersecting crises, particular the climate crisis.

**For policymakers and governments.** To understand how local and gender-transformative alternatives to development can ensure the achievement of national climate policy goals that prioritise people’s wellbeing over profits.

**For funding organisations.** To reflect on and redefine selection and evaluation criteria when funding projects in order to better understand why gender matters and how impact is defined by communities in different contexts.

**For any person.** To increase an understanding of structural barriers and ways to move forward, building collective imaginaries that result in tangible systemic transformation.

### Two living concepts – explained in short – to guide reading:

**Womxn:** Short for “women in all their diversity”, used alternatively throughout the publication in recognition of the fact that women are not one homogenous group.

**Extractivism:** Process of exploitation and appropriation of natural, human, and/or epistemic resources as part of a persistent mechanism of colonial plunder and oppression over time.

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# THE COLONIAL FOUNDATIONS FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH:

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## Contextualizing the causes of the climate crisis

**The process of capitalist expansion has established an economic and political order, in which the current understanding of development considers a strategy based on economic growth as the central pillar for achieving prosperity.**

This economic growth relies on patterns of colonialism to pave a free way for appropriation and exploitation. Colonial, patriarchal, and capitalist hierarchies have perpetuated the indiscriminate use of natural resources in countries from the Global South and have outsourced intensive, undervalued, and low-wage/unpaid labour according to an individual's sex and/or geographical location. Under the monopoly of capitalism, rural, Black, Indigenous and people of colour (BIPOC), particularly womxn, are exploited and deprived of basic rights and social protection<sup>[1]</sup>. This pathway for development has catalysed intersecting forms of oppression and discrimination, thereby hindering the goal of achieving a life of dignity for all.

Extractivism of resources for material and energy use has been the motor to drive an uncontrollable desire for infinite growth, production, and consumption that does not consider planetary limits, or the rights of the communities impacted by that race for power. Consequently, environmental costs include the loss of biodiversity, water scarcity, ecosystem stress, and an increase in heatwaves, wildfires, droughts, and devastating floods. Climate change is categorized as one of the most pressing challenges of today's world, causing permanent and irreversible losses and damages in countries that despite having historically contributed the least to global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, experience disproportionately the negative impacts on their economies, livelihoods, and cultural heritage. The same countries that were plundered in the past during violating colonization processes and which today suffer the greatest impacts are those continuing to subsidize rich nations, corporations, and multilateral development banks to maintain the status quo.

The climate crisis is a global human rights threat and a pivotal global public policy issue of our era<sup>[2]</sup>. The reality of the nexus between gender and climate change is that womxn and children endure disproportionate adverse impacts of climate change and ecological disaster<sup>[3]</sup>. Effects of climate change are expected to differ based not only on geographical features but also across socio-economic groups, as in the case of gender differentials. The persistence of gender-based discrimination, inequality, stereotypes, and patriarchal institutions inherited from colonialism continue to hinder womxn's access to, control over, and use of resources and information to address climate change effects in a timely manner. Along the same lines, rural, peasant, BIPOC womxn who defend their communities from exploitation and who protect the environment through sustainable practices often experience gender-based violence and threats to their survival<sup>[1]</sup>. These threats and discrimination limit the ability to exercise their rights to health, housing, land, education, work, social security, and political representation<sup>[2]</sup>.

# COLONIALISM DRESSES-UP TO FIT THE PARTY:

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No more false solutions for climate action in a *green* costume

**Climate change mitigation efforts seek to preserve the environment by preventing and/or reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the atmosphere caused by human activities, while attenuating and eliminating the adverse effects of climate change to the welfare/health of living beings.**

The scientific group assembled by the United Nations (UN) to monitor and assess all global science related to climate change, known as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), claims in its sixth assessment report “Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change”<sup>[4]</sup> that during the period from 2010 to 2019, GHG emissions continued to rise, surpassing the highest figure of any previous decade. To prevent this rise from continuing, countries have agreed to limit the global temperature increase to below 2°C, preferably to 1.5°C (see pg. 13). This cooperative goal seeks to avoid more serious consequences and disruptions to ecosystems and livelihoods. However, continuing current climate policies with only a gradual improvement will mean an increase in temperature higher than this goal. These projections demonstrate why current policies and promises must be strengthened, as the world hurdles towards an uncertain scenario determined by the irreversible effects of a 2-3°C of global warming<sup>[5]</sup>. By strengthening these pledges, the IPCC

stresses that mitigation pathways require large-scale transformations in the energy, industry, transport, services, agriculture, forestry, and other land-use (AFOLU) sectors, dramatically affecting patterns of production and consumption<sup>[6]</sup>. Given this situation, national governments, corporations, and international bodies are declaring “Net Zero” climate goals to be accomplished by 2050. This narrative contains several concerning points.

Giant glaciers, ocean currents, and permafrost regions may already have passed the point of irreversible change. According to a major study released in September 2022 in the journal *Science*<sup>1</sup>, the climate crisis has driven the world to the brink of multiple “disastrous” tipping points<sup>[5]</sup>. These points of no return refer to climate conditions that are self-perpetuating, leading to possible abrupt, irreversible, and dangerous impacts with serious implications for humanity<sup>[7]</sup>. Out of the sixteen identified, five of these emergency climate junctures may have already passed due to global heating caused by humanity to date<sup>[5]</sup>. Thus, focusing commitments on a 2050 timeframe completely ignores the urgency of taking immediate action with a clear roadmap, targets, or action plan for how keeping the global temperature increase to 1.5° will be achieved in the near future; mid-century is far too late.

Even though it may sound similar, the phrase “net zero emissions” does NOT mean “zero emissions”. What net zero really means is that emissions will continue, but these will be balanced out based on the assumption that in the future new technologies will be able to suck carbon dioxide out of the air<sup>[8],[9]</sup>. In recent years, some technologies have become popular, marketed as positive offsetting mechanisms for achieving net zero climate emissions, despite - in reality - being unproven techno-fixes and risky technologies. Classified as “false solutions” by climate justice civil society organisations, activists, and advocates, some examples are Geoengineering, Bioenergy and Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS), and Nature-based Solutions (NbS) (see pg. 74)<sup>[10]</sup>. These technologies act as a smokescreen, allowing for continued emissions and profit generation from fossil fuel extraction. If deployed on a large scale, these false solutions will have significant detrimental social, equity, and environmental consequences, distracting from the rapid implementation of the real solutions needed<sup>[11]</sup>. For instance, deploying BECCS extensively would require growing large tree plantations to sequester CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere, harvesting the biomass and burning it for energy, while capturing the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the power stations and storing the waste underground. An operation of this magnitude requires plantations with a land area equivalent to up to three times the size of India, which would almost certainly be appropriated from the Global South<sup>[12]</sup>. In a recent study, researchers from the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) found underperforming carbon capture

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1. For further reading check “*Exceeding 1.5°C global warming could trigger multiple climate tipping points*”, McKay et. al, 2022

## COLONIALISM DRESSES-UP TO FIT THE PARTY

projects considerably outnumbered successful ones by large margins<sup>2</sup>.

Net zero has licensed a “burn now, pay later” approach that pushes carbon emissions soaring by increasing carbon-colonialism in the Global South. These net zero pledges are being implemented to offset emissions mainly from the Global North, often with human rights violations including the forced displacement of local, BIPOC communities from their native land<sup>[8]</sup>. This approach challenges neither present power structures nor old ways of thinking. This “greening” of technological capitalism and colonialism can thus hide deep inequity and injustice, once again disproportionately affecting people and communities that have done little to contribute to climate change, particularly frontline communities, womxn, and young people that must pay higher costs<sup>[9]</sup>.

Multiple disseminated mitigation technologies are based on a top-down approach that does not consider the context or needs of the territories and their populations. This approach is especially problematic in the Global South where a dependency on importing higher-cost technologies from the Global North may arise. Discussions around mitigation are often closed to large infrastructures and mega-projects, leading to the conception that this task can only be carried out by corporations from different sectors in the industry, while local and community activities are only aimed at adaptation. This misconception leads to a biased approach not only to climate policy design and implementation but also to climate finance. The conversation instead needs to turn to real climate solutions, which currently do not feature at high-level intergovernmental conferences, in mainstream media, or in academic journals. The discussions around climate change action should centre on a comprehensive and long-overdue transformation of our exploitative and destructive economic systems<sup>[13]</sup>.

Although the transformative goal of 1.5°C global temperature increase is challenging and involves high stakes, countries must integrate community-based and decentralized mitigation initiatives. These solutions will restore an approach to nature conscious of its boundaries and drastically improve peoples’ lives<sup>[9]</sup>. Innovation, from a feminist perspective, challenges power dynamics and redistributes decision-making spaces so that all have a say in building a desirable world together instead of following a predefined template for how it should look.

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2. For further reading check “Carbon capture remains a risky investment for achieving decarbonization”, IEEFA, 2022

# WHAT IS THE POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR ADVANCING CLIMATE ACTION?

## Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement<sup>[14]</sup> is a global and legally binding treaty to fight climate change and advance a low-carbon future by limiting the global temperature increase to 1.5°C. It established a framework for unifying nations under a common banner: mitigating the potential impacts of climate change on human development and adapting to its effects. This treaty was a landmark for multilateral cooperation, as it recognized the importance of international support in terms of financial resources, capacity building, and technology deployment. Support of this kind, particularly from so-called developed countries for developing countries, is vital, as the latter contribute less to global emission totals but experience disproportionately detrimental environmental effects. As mentioned in the agreement, the provision of scaled-up financial resources should aim to achieve a balance between adaptation and mitigation, as well as protect the priorities and needs of developing countries, especially those particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

## WHAT IS THE POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR ADVANCING CLIMATE ACTION?

In its introductory section, this agreement acknowledges the need for countries to consider their respective obligations to human dignity, emphasizing the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, and persons with disabilities. It reminds each country of its obligation to promote gender equality, the empowerment of womxn, and intergenerational equity.

## Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

The Paris Agreement is implemented through the National Determined Contributions (NDCs), which are the national action plans to cut emissions and adapt to climate impacts. The NDCs contain policies, activities, and measurements for achieving the Paris Agreement targets. Each country identifies, acts upon, and reports on its own goals for reducing GHG emissions, according to its national circumstances, needs, and ambition in the areas of mitigation and adaptation to climate change. After the initial submission of the Intended National Determined Contributions (INDCs) in 2015, each country must outline and communicate its climate action plan every five years. Climate actions determine whether countries are achieving the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement as quickly as possible and needed, following the recommendations of the best-available science<sup>[15]</sup>.

A gender analysis of the NDCs made by the International Union for Conservation Nature- IUCN<sup>[16]</sup> showed that 77.6% of the NDCs revised for 2021 included a reference to gender and/or women in all their diversity. This number represents an increase of 40% compared to the initial 2016 version of the NDCs, reflecting the fact that more countries have become aware of the link between gender and climate change and the importance of making this relationship explicit in national climate policies. Nevertheless, womxn continue to be characterized as vulnerable. Within 34% of current NDCs, women in all their diversity are identified as vulnerable, contrasting sharply with the mere 18% of NDCs in which they are recognized as agents of change.



## Gender Action Plan (GAP)

The Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG) and its Gender Action Plan (GAP) are tools established to achieve gender-responsive climate policies, gender equality, and womxn's empowerment in the efforts of countries toward the implementation of the Paris Agreement<sup>[17]</sup>. The GAP provides a policy framework with five priority areas for supporting gender mainstreaming in the implementation of sustainable, just, and equitable climate actions<sup>[18]</sup>. These five priority areas are: (1) Capacity building, knowledge management, and communication; (2) Gender balance, participation, and women's leadership; (3) Coherence; (4) Gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation; and (5) Monitoring and reporting<sup>[19]</sup>.

The establishment of the GAP involved an arduous political struggle by feminists around the world. It was an important step toward international recognition that climate change has a different impact on women and girls in all their diversity, because of historical and persisting gender inequalities. The GAP recognizes that the full, meaningful, and equal participation and leadership of womxn in national and local-level climate policy creation and action are vital for achieving long-term climate goals; it also states that gender-responsive strategies and implementation of climate policy and action can enable countries to raise ambition. In order to ensure compliance and advancement, countries are encouraged to appoint a National Gender and Climate Change Focal Point (NGCCFP) for the design, implementation, and monitoring of the GAP.

## Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The creation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been celebrated as a milestone in international cooperation, the result of the UN's broadest and most participatory consultation process in 2015. The seventeen SDGs are defined in the Agenda 2030, a multilateral consensus to implement a development model addressing social, economic, environmental, and cultural dimensions in order to ensure livelihoods for future generations. The SDGs respond to these dimensions by outlining strategies to end poverty and inequality, achieve peace, as well as improve health, education, sanitation, and employment - all while tackling climate change and working to preserve global oceans and forests. Progress on each

## WHAT IS THE POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR ADVANCING CLIMATE ACTION?

of the objectives is measured by specific indicators for the achievement of their corresponding targets. This agenda gives equal priority to all three dimensions of sustainability (social, economic, and environmental) and recognizes that any strategies for achieving these goals must be interconnected, as action in one area will affect outcomes in others.

The latest report developed by the UN entitled “The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022” presents a particularly alarming picture, as it reveals that multiple and intersecting crises threaten the achievement of Agenda 2030<sup>[20]</sup>. According to this report, the COVID-19 pandemic, together with a large number of violent conflicts, erased more than four years of progress in poverty eradication and resulted in a lack of progress in addressing the climate crisis. Women in all their diversity and children continue to be the ones most affected by these crises. Adding to this, the 2022 data report of UN Women on progress towards gender equality across the SDGs states that at the current rate of progress, it could take another 286 years to remove discriminatory laws and close prevailing gaps in protections for womxn and girls.



# WHAT IS FAILING?

**Without ignoring the relevance of the Agenda 2030, keeping the notion of economic and industrial growth as a crucial element for human development poses a contradiction for the achievement of its objectives.**

The SDGs assume the global economy can continue to grow (SDG 8) while emissions decline quickly enough to stay within or below the 2°C, as per the Paris Agreement<sup>[21]</sup>. However, economic growth, measured traditionally through a total monetary amount of production and services traded (also understood as Gross Domestic Product – GDP), cannot be sustained indefinitely. For instance, continued growth in the Global North leads to an increase in final energy and material use, which will in turn require rising levels of extractivism and spread inequality in poorer nations. Targets and indicators of progress have been enumerated using a top-down approach, making local operationalization challenging. From this point of view, the Agenda 2030 becomes an instrument for dominating Global South countries that are obliged to comply with the same goals and indicators as industrialized countries, countries which contribute most to GHG emissions but also have the best infrastructure to meet these climate goals<sup>[22]</sup>. Existing empirical evidence suggests it is not feasible to sustain the current trajectory in the long term<sup>3</sup>.

In “Accelerating the transition in the context of sustainable development,” a section of the latest IPCC report on Mitigation of Climate Change, scientists make clear that accelerating action does not only involve speeding up the rate of change but also addressing the underlying drivers of vulnerability and high emissions, enabling diverse communities, sectors, stakeholders, regions, and cultures to participate in just, equitable, and inclusive processes that improve the health and well-being of people and the planet<sup>[4]</sup>.

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**3.** For further reading check *“The contradiction of the sustainable development goals: Growth versus ecology on a finite planet”*, from Jason Hickel, 2019

## WHAT IS FAILING?

Although the Paris Agreement acknowledges countries should follow a gender-responsive approach to adaptation plans and actions, the agreement remains largely gender blind. There is no explicit reference to gender, even in relevant topics such as mitigation (Articles 4, 5, and 6); finance (Article 9); and technology (Article 10). The fact that womxn are not mentioned in the mitigation section is particularly alarming, as the omission reinforces the ignorant notion that womxn are neither key actors nor agents of change but merely victims of the climate crisis. This belief, which automatically confines womxn to a passive role in crisis management, carries implications for how countries design their climate objectives and activities. For example, decision-makers may not consider the participation, knowledge, and experience of womxn in the implementation of GHG reduction initiatives or the transformation of the energy sector (traditionally dominated by men). The IUCN analysis<sup>[16]</sup> previously mentioned reflects this reality, with only 18% of the eighty-nine updated NDCs mentioning gender within their mitigation section. An explanation of the efforts to advance the SDGs are often not included in the NDCs, partly due to the misconception that aspects such as education, hunger, and gender are not related to climate change<sup>[23]</sup>.

The NDCs have shown progress in gender mainstreaming by considering gender barriers to access to, control, and power over rights, resources, and services in the design and implementation of climate change policies; however, as the same analysis demonstrates, only 6% of the revised NDCs provide funds for womxn/gender activities. Thus, many of the gender aspirations within the NDCs remain theoretical, as commitments do not dedicate resources to real measures for applying a gender approach to climate policies. Without a focused budget, achieving the proposed gender equity objectives is impossible. At the same time, gender does not appear to be an issue integrated within the intersecting policies of different ministries. Gender is still largely seen as an isolated issue that is discussed in a room away from the main debates about mitigation, financing, and technology.

To make progress on the Paris Agreement while achieving the various goals outlined in the Agenda 2030, it is necessary to switch to a feminist approach that focuses on solidarity, intersectionality, and redistribution. It must change the discourse of economic growth and productivity measured in GDP to a degrowth narrative, which acknowledges the limits of the earth's systems to cope with continued growth, the inability of technological efficiency to meet growing demands, and the need to "down-shift" sustainably to reduce<sup>[24]</sup>.



# WHAT IS MISSING?

**The way out of the climate crisis, and the intersecting injustices it exacerbates, lies in the eradication of colonial models and structures in all areas of life.**

Climate justice recognizes the root causes of the climate crisis and acknowledges that, within the multiple phases of production and consumption, humans in power have exploited Earth's resources and abused the rights of colonized communities as a means to maintain the status quo<sup>[25]</sup>. For instance, according to some indigenous knowledge in Latin America, conventional development represents a cultural imposition inherited from Western knowledge. This belief has led to exploring alternatives to the idea of development. These alternatives focus on principles such as unity, equality, inclusion, dignity, freedom, solidarity, respect, and social and gender equity in participation<sup>[26]</sup>.

In response to the current understanding of development, climate justice calls for alternatives that move away from the indiscriminate accumulation of wealth through the burning of fossil fuels and the extraction of other common goods from our ecosystems. It recognizes the ecological debt of rich nations and corporations, making a clear demand for them to answer for their historical responsibilities in the face of climate change. Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), this demand reflects a specific principle by which countries should act, known as the "common but differentiated responsibilities" (CBDR) of developing and developed nations, when addressing climate change. Southern countries should be free to organise their resources and labour in order to meet human needs rather than to service Northern growth. Thus, a decolonial approach that breaks with the patterns of hyperconsumption, overexploitation, and unequal appropriation of natural and human resources by the Global North is imperative to stop ongoing cycles of exclusion, discrimination, and violence<sup>[12]</sup>.

Ecofeminism provides an intersectional framework for understanding how various forms of inequality often operate together and exacerbate each other, as well as how social characteristics intersect, leading to unique experiences of discrimination and a better understanding of the structural, historical, and institutional root causes of such discrimination. Intersectionality broadens the reflection and recognition of multiple layers of oppression: gender, race, ethnicity,

## WHAT IS MISSING?

language, age, socioeconomic power, academic level, geographic location, or nationality. Ecofeminism argues that the climate crisis and oppression of marginalized groups are intimately intertwined and therefore neither issue can be solved independently. Womxn have been overburdened with the unpaid and undervalued care of humans and ecosystems in order to sustain the capitalistic bases of development. A feminist vision of a well-being economy aims at a systemic transformation of our economic system away from the fixation on GDP growth and material extraction and towards the goal of social and ecological justice and well-being<sup>[10]</sup>. This vision, also known as degrowth, is a political project that draws from different movements, such as ecofeminism, to (1) systematically analyse and continually question all the forces behind what is produced, how it is produced, and for what uses; (2) broaden and deepen our understanding of economic and political structures; and (3) scrutinize the articulation of associated factors and forces. Degrowth proposes an equitable downscaling of economic production and consumption, particularly in developed countries, that increases human well-being and enhances ecological conditions<sup>[20]</sup>.

Gender and climate justice advocates, demand actions that respect human rights, in particular the rights of women and girls in all their diversity<sup>[10]</sup>. Womxn and girls have a right to effectively participate in and lead efforts to achieve climate justice, as equal rights holders and agents of change. A feminist decolonial approach to climate change ensures the inclusion of womxn in decision-making processes related to climate governance, the resolution of conflicts over natural resources, equal access to justice, and the coherent implementation of inclusive and effective climate policies, laws, and financing mechanisms<sup>[2]</sup>. According to the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), addressing structural inequalities—especially in relation to political representation and participation in decision-making on environmental governance, as well as access to justice and financing—is key to achieving climate and gender justice goals in the long term.

Different movements are coming together to demand climate and gender justice. From the Global South, decolonial imaginaries that challenge preconceived beliefs and practices of predominantly Eurocentric thinking are materializing. Concrete alternatives to the dominant development model already exist on the ground where real solutions come to life. These community and context-based initiatives stand in contrast with individualistic or commercial climate solutions (e.g. electric cars), which tend to maintain structural inequalities for the benefit of a few. These pluralistic initiatives consciously engage with a diverse set of knowledge, methods, and praxis to ensure sustainable pathways for addressing the realities of climate change. **Womxn-led initiatives around the world are making one notion clear: ensuring a safe, clean, and healthy environment requires us to integrate diverse forms of knowledge, foster respect for cultural and spiritual identity, and eliminate multiple forms of oppression**<sup>[25]</sup>.

# PROPOSING NEW TARGETS:

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## A methodology for deeper analysis of the SDGs

After outlining what is failing and what is missing in the achievement of coherent efforts that respond to the real needs of people – and not of capital – this publication will analyse and reflect on the targets and indicators included in each of the SDGs. Climate and gender justice, following an intersectional, decolonial, and degrowth approach guide the framing of new targets that conceptualize an alternative way of assessing progress, particularly for climate change mitigation efforts. In order to conceive these new targets, this publication followed the steps listed below:

### I. DIVERSE CONTRIBUTIONS: Selecting the initiatives

To better understand the cross-cutting benefits of climate mitigation actions that are gender transformative, four standout initiatives led by grassroots organizations were selected for their regional, cultural, and thematic diversity with respect to their contribution to mitigating climate change. In selecting these initiatives, the following considerations and traits were taken into account:

#### Contribution to national climate change policies:

- ✓ Contributes to meeting national goals (NDCs) and implementing strategies set to reduce GHG emissions
- ✓ Executes activities and practices that are replicable in the national context

## Contribution to climate change mitigation – SDG13, Climate Action:

- ✓ Focuses on mitigation at different scales and in different sectors, contributing to SDG13 – Climate action
- ✓ Ensures self-sufficiency and low input of material and energy (safe, affordable, and sustainable)

## Community-based:

- ✓ Commits to being locally led and/or locally driven (decentralized)
- ✓ Achieves results that can be shared and scaled up (replicable, not benefiting just one individual)
- ✓ Promotes and enables participation by their beneficiaries in decision-making

## Gender-focused – SDG 5, Gender Equality:

- ✓ Aims to alleviate and/or does not add additional burdens for womxn (i.e. care workloads)
- ✓ Focuses on womxn’s capacity to define and pursue their personal life choices (agency) – not imposed from “outside”

## II. TESTIMONY AS EVIDENCE: Defining the methodology

The collection of disaggregated data remains one of the greatest challenges for the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of gender-responsive policies. This challenge arises from the lack of financial, human, and technical resources to facilitate the collection of disaggregated data on a local or national basis. Without available gender data, it is impossible to understand the full extent of challenges experienced by womxn and girls during crises, or the contributions they make to help weather the most adverse effects on households and communities <sup>[27]</sup>.

With a lack of data, plus information from different regions and initiatives, this publication follows a methodology understood as a systematization of experiences, which constructs evidence based on the successes and challenges of grassroots organizations actively working to combat climate change. This methodology allows for the generation of knowledge through testimony about and critical reflection on the intervening factors and the lessons learned; it has as its central axis the collective construction of evidence together with the actors directly involved in the experience. The results of systematization enhance communication, storytelling, and dissemination of the initiative’s relevance and impact to decision-makers, organizations, and communities. In the context of climate change mitigation, the systematization of experiences provides additional arguments for the need for and importance of designing gender-sensitive climate policies. Through qualitative evidence, this methodology delivers unknown or ignored information about the processes that are carried out to obtain results. This approach becomes necessary, as GHG reduction targets often lack an intersectional and territorial approach, making them nearly impossible to achieve.

### III. CONTEXT THROUGH DIALOGUE: Collecting evidence and reframing SDG targets

#### Literature review

**Purpose:** Contextualize the causes of the climate crisis, policy frameworks, and climate change mitigation efforts (pgs. 8-12); Understand key principles of gender and climate justice, degrowth, intersectional and decolonial feminism as components for a guiding analytical approach (pgs. 19, 20, 37, 50, 51); Review the latest science available, particularly IPCC reports (2022)

**How:** Review and analyze a variety of articles (both academic and nonacademic), webinars, blogs, opinion pieces, videos, and discussions from different regions and in different languages to establish a framework of analysis

#### Interviews with practitioners and policymakers

**Purpose:** Understand the nexus between gender, climate change mitigation, and SDGs, and the contribution of local initiatives to national policies; obtain external validation of the approach and methodology used in this publication; set a framework of key considerations created under the guiding approach to propose gender-specific targets

**How:** Conduct semi-structured dialogues through video calls with different experts working on: (1) Evaluation methods, (2) Environmental and gender impact assessments, (3) Climate finance, (4) Gender and climate justice, (5) Policymaking and institutions. These interviews helped to nurture/cultivate new targets for the SDGs as well as a survey questionnaire for the grassroots organizations.

## Screening of SDGs targets and proposal of new ones

**Purpose:** Propose two new targets (one general – one gender specific) for each of the SDGs (pgs. 25–28)

**How:** Screen and analyze all targets from the SDGs using the guiding approach, which resulted from the literature review and the conversations conducted with experts. SDG5 and SDG13 were not screened as this were part of the criteria for selecting the initiatives. One or two focus targets per SDG were selected, and after identifying gaps, new or adapted targets were proposed.

## Questionnaire for community members/leaders from each organization

**Purpose:** Understand the meaning of real targets and outcomes for local organizations

**How:** Define and integrate questions related to each target into a questionnaire, based on the new/adapted targets proposed. The questionnaire was then sent to the organizations with four possible levels of response (None, Low, Medium, High).

## Interviews with community members/leaders from each organization

**Purpose:** Understand cross-cutting benefits of gender transformative initiatives

**How:** Conduct semi-structured dialogues with organization leaders to understand the motivation behind the creation of a solution, the context of the area and community, the most significant moments during the project, the changes generated with its implementation, and the persisting challenges for the future

## Integration and showcase of findings

**Purpose:** Propose gender-specific targets and showcase alternative models to address the structural causes of the climate crisis

**How:** Review targets and questions developed previously and then integrate perspectives and insights from community leaders in order to nurture the new targets. Evidence of these cross-cutting benefits is delineated within each individual initiative/organization section (pgs. 29–77)

SDG	Target	Guiding question
 <p>1 NO POVERTY</p>	<p>Promote and implement alternative and intersectional development strategies to overcome barriers to poverty eradication **</p>	<p>Does this climate solution promote alternative and intersectional development models for overcoming barriers to poverty eradication?</p>
	<p>By 2030, ensure that men and women <b>in all their diversity</b>, in particular poor and <b>marginalized communities</b>, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to essential services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, and new technology and financial services, including microfinance *</p>	<p>Does this climate solution contribute to equal distribution and opportunities for men and women in all their diversity to own and control land, new technologies, and financial services?</p>
 <p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p>	<p>By 2030, advance sustainable, rather than <b>large-scale industrialized</b>, food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices to maintain ecosystems; strengthen their capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters; and progressively improve land and soil quality *</p>	<p>Does this climate solution promote sustainable and resilient agricultural practices?</p>
	<p>Ensure an equal distribution of power between men and women in all their diversity in decision-making spaces regarding food production systems and agricultural practices **</p>	<p>How does this climate solution foster equal power in decision-making for men and women in all their diversity regarding agricultural practices?</p>
 <p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>	<p>By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, as well as water and soil pollution and contamination, <b>recognizing gender-differentiated impacts of toxic and chemical substances</b> *</p>	<p>Has this project helped to reduce the emission of pollutants/contaminants into the environment?</p>
	<p>Reduce womxn's exposure to pollutants/contaminants by facilitating access and use of renewable and sustainable climate technologies **</p>	<p>Does this initiative reduce womxn's exposure to pollutants/contaminants in their daily life?</p>
 <p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	<p>By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, through education on sustainable development and lifestyles, human rights, and gender equality, and the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence</p>	<p>Does this initiative provide training opportunities and raise awareness for sustainable lifestyles?</p>

SDG	Target	Guiding question
<p><b>4</b> QUALITY EDUCATION</p> 	<p>By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for marginalized communities, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and children in dangerous/unhealthy/unsafe situations</p>	<p>Does this solution raise awareness and strengthen knowledge of womxn’s rights and gender equality through training and sensitization?</p>
<p><b>6</b> CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p> 	<p>By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping, and minimizing the release of hazardous chemicals and materials, with goals of halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally</p>	<p>Does this initiative reduce or avoid water pollution within the community and promote a safe (re)use of this resource?</p>
<p><b>7</b> AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p> 	<p>By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, sustainable, reliable, <b>community-owned, and decentralized</b> renewable energy services *</p>	<p>Does this climate solution ensure access to affordable, sustainable, and reliable renewable energy services with a decentralized approach?</p>
<p><b>8</b> DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p> 	<p>Promote and execute alternative pathways for development that emphasize care, solidarity, autonomy, and socio-ecological well-being over economic growth and individual profits **</p>	<p>Does this climate solution foster alternative economic models that propose a shift towards care, solidarity, autonomy, and socio-ecological well-being?</p>
<p><b>8</b> DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p> 	<p>Promote and achieve full employment and decent work for women and men in all their diversity, including young people and persons with disabilities, by recognizing, reducing, and redistributing unpaid work and care **</p>	<p>Does this climate solution address time poverty, reduce workload burdens, and/or not exacerbate existing inequalities?</p>
<p><b>9</b> INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p> 	<p>Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development and subsequent implementation grants in developing countries through decolonial, localized, and decentralized technological and technical support to African nations, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island states **</p>	<p>Does this climate solution/project/initiative implement strategies for increasing skills and knowledge in climate-resilient technologies and innovative practices?</p>

SDG	Target	Guiding question
<p><b>9</b> INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p> 	Facilitate sustainable and gender-responsive infrastructure to reduce and redistribute the care workloads of womxn and girls by responding to diverse needs **	Does this solution provide gender-responsive technological tools to reduce and redistribute unpaid and care workloads?
<p><b>10</b> REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p> 	By 2030, promote and achieve the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, <b>gender</b> , disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other status *	Does this climate solution promote social, economic, and political inclusion of all through an understanding of multiple layers of discrimination based on age, sex, (dis)ability, ethnicity, origin, religion, academic, economic or another status – also understood as intersectionality?
	Encourage and promote the design and adoption of gender-responsive tools to guide the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of policies, plans, and strategies at the local, regional, and national level **	Has this project conducted a gender assessment?
<p><b>11</b> SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p> 	Ensure access for all to adequate, safe, and affordable housing and basic services	Does this solution enhance access to safe and affordable basic household or public services?
	Enhance womxn’s participation in territorial planning and in inclusive and sustainable urbanization **	Does this initiative promote the inclusion of womxn in territorial planning and land use decision-making spaces?
<p><b>12</b> RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p> 	By 2030, substantially reduce natural resource use in production and consumption modes, as well as waste generation, through behavioural changes in prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse **	Does this climate solution promote behavioral changes for efficient and/or reduced use of natural resources in production and consumption modes?
	Strengthen the role of womxn and marginalized communities in the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources **	Does this initiative strengthen the active contribution of women in all their diversity towards sustainable resource management strategies?
<p><b>14</b> LIFE BELOW WATER</p> 	Sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, by strengthening their resilience through restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans	Does this initiative contribute to developing a sustainable and inclusive marine/coastal management model that benefits local communities?
	Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by supporting the practices of small-scale and womxn fishers **	Does this solution integrate a gender perspective in the sustainable management of maritime/coastal ecosystems, supporting womxn’s initiatives to protect them?

SDG	Target	Guiding question
<p><b>15</b> LIFE ON LAND</p> 	<p>Ensure the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains, and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements</p>	<p>Does this climate solution contribute to conserving and/or nurturing biodiversity?</p>
	<p>Ensure equitable and significant participation of men and women in all their diversity within decision-making spaces that define the use and conservation of ecosystems **</p>	<p>Does this climate solution contribute to an equitable and significant participation of men and women in all their diversity within decision-making spaces that define the use and conservation of ecosystems?</p>
<p><b>16</b> PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p> 	<p>Reduce conflict and enhance trustworthy relationships within communities through a gender-responsive approach **</p>	<p>Does this climate solution contribute to reducing conflict in the communities or surrounding areas?</p>
	<p>Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory, significant, and representative participation of people in all their diversity in decision-making institutions at all levels **</p>	<p>Does this climate solution strengthen the significant and representative participation of women in all their diversity in decision-making institutions at different levels?</p>
<p><b>17</b> PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p> 	<p>Encourage and promote effective public, public-private, and civil society networking/relationships/dialogue, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships</p>	<p>Does this solution have the potential to foster multisectoral/multi-stakeholder dialogue, in which the community significantly participates in and coordinates the interests of different actors?</p>
	<p>Encourage and promote the adoption of a gender-responsive approach in the design and implementation of public, public-private, and civil society partnerships **</p>	<p>Does this initiative advocate for the inclusion of a gender perspective in the design and implementation of public, public-private, and civil society partnerships?</p>

## Conventions:

\* Modified target. Underlined words show modifications.

\*\* Alternative target proposed.

*Targets without convention have not been modified.*

# ENDA COLOMBIA

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An alternative to development from a  
solidarity economy model



**In Bogotá, ENDA Colombia works to strengthen the agency of the city’s popular sectors, increasing their power as political actors and leaders to address the structural causes of political, economic, social, and environmental conflicts within their territories.**

For this purpose, ENDA Colombia has developed a holistic urban model with climate-resilient gardening, responsible consumption, and the formal recognition of womxn recyclers as environmental agents of change and public service providers.

This collective project challenges toxic masculinities and addresses gender inequalities based on the double discrimination faced by womxn recyclers. Through a Training of Trainers (ToT) program on natural resource management and political participation, womxn recyclers strengthen their leadership skills and gain control over their income.

26

womxn recyclers recognized as environmental change agents and public service providers

2

savings and credit initiatives created by and for womxn as an alternative to formal banking

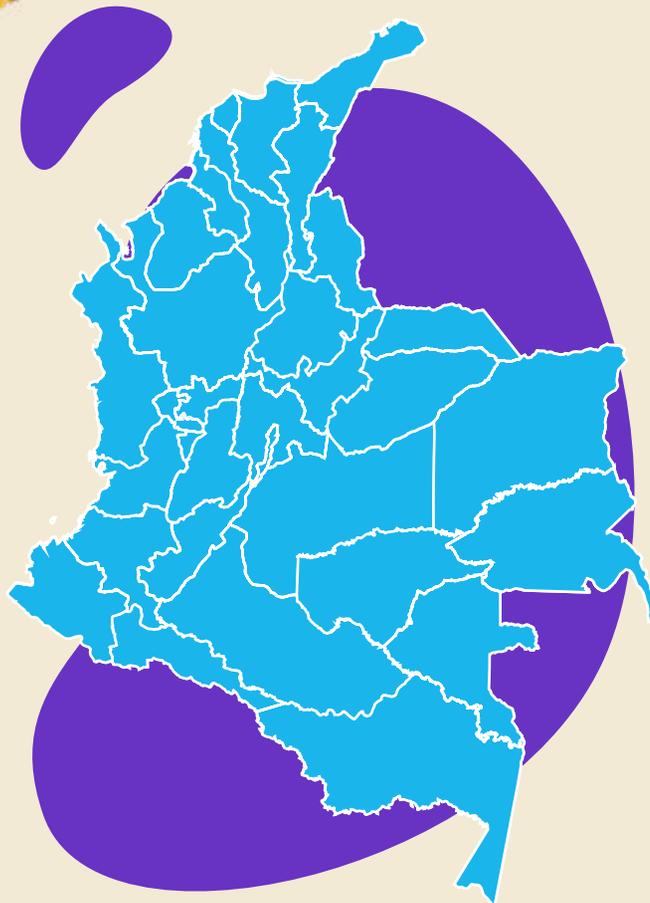
20

spokes womxn participated in municipal decision-making processes on environment, gender, and local budgets topics



## Location

Colombia is a country of great environmental relevance. It is the second most biodiverse country in the world after Brazil; the nation boasts the highest number of bird and orchid species, and 53% of its territory is covered by forests. Due to the richness and value of Colombia's ecosystems, climate change mitigation and adaptation policies and activities within the country are not only important but necessary.



Annual share of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions:

**0.26%**

Climate-vulnerable country ranking:

**98<sup>th</sup>**

Human Development Index ranking

**83**

Global Gender Gap ranking

**59**



## Contribution to national climate change policies

Colombia acknowledges that a circular economy is a key element for mitigating and reducing the negative impact of climate change on health and ecosystems. One of the priorities of the national long-term climate strategy for 2050 is the reduction of solid waste destined for final disposal by using emergent technologies for prevention, reutilization, recycling, and treatment<sup>[28]</sup>. ENDA Colombia, through its gender-responsive and community-based approach to urban environmental management, implements alternatives to recycling and waste management that help to achieve these goals and fulfill the National Strategy of Circular Economy<sup>[29]</sup>.

Emissions reduction target  
by 2030:

**51%**

Recycling rate and new  
use of waste 2021:

**16%**

Registered recyclers in  
Bogotá who are womxn

**42%**



## Contribution to climate change mitigation

ENDA Colombia recognizes that climate change not only has repercussions on the environment but also on the people, especially for women in all their diversity and the population in poverty. In its commitment to climate change mitigation, the organization has accompanied and motivated the creation of recycler collectives led by womxn, which promoted collective participation in decision-making spaces for the environmental, political, and social management of the territory.



This climate mitigation initiative defends the role of womxn recyclers as environmental advocates and agents of change. ENDA has helped recycler collectives to guarantee a standard price per kilogram of recycled waste which has been a key step toward stable economic independence and the recognition of womxn’s contribution to the reduction of GHG emissions.

## Community-based approach

ENDA Colombia has been endorsed waste pickers’ associations in Bogotá for more than 30 years. Throughout this journey, the organization has strengthened the political participation and advocacy skills of womxn recyclers and their families. Its approach is multi-sectorial and intersectional because ENDA Colombia believes that mitigation and adaptation to climate change cannot be efficiently implemented without understanding the historical relationship between domination, discrimination, and social injustice to which women in all their diversity have been subjected due to being womxn, poor, and – for many of them – victims of the armed conflict.

## Gender focus

ENDA Colombia has conducted training and enabled advocacy spaces to address the problem of gender violence that many womxn waste pickers suffer not only in their homes but also in the streets, which acts as their workspace. Additionally, ENDA has been conducting educational activities to denaturalize this problem so that men, women, and young people have a greater knowledge about community practices that are discriminatory towards womxn and threaten their dignity and rights. Thanks to multiple workshops and ongoing dialogue, the organization has strengthened womxn's expertise in advocacy, communication, economic alternatives, and overall resources management capacities.



"How can power be democratized so that decisions are made for the common good from a feminist view of the world?"

Ma.Victoria Bojacá

# Transformative contribution to the SDGs



**This climate solution has promoted behavioural changes through efficient use and reduction of natural resource utilization in production and consumption**

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ENDA Colombia has sensitized neighbourhoods and communities about the importance of waste sorting, circular economy, responsible consumption, and the use of resources through an activity called “Recitrueque”. This project consists of an exchange of plastic for objects that were recovered from the streets during the recycling labour or vegetables harvested from community gardens. The community has set up terraces for urban agriculture, seed conservation, and the supply of organic and affordable food and healthy products. Thanks to alliances with indigenous communities, children and youth are actively involved in community gardening, learning how to rescue traditional foods and indigenous seeds. Recitrueque is committed to an engaging and sustainable model for recovering native species and encouraging the consumption of traditional products obtained in the region.

This initiative evidences a different way of conceiving the territory, of building it collectively. Through multiple campaigns, it offers an alternative response to capitalism in the sense that the community developed another way of doing and being in this world that is possible without depredating natural resources whilst also leaving the possibility of a dignified life not only for the present but also for future generations. For example, a neighbourhood oversight body has been formed to fight against government policies that seek to implement only infrastructure for growth. According to the organization’s testimony, these are long processes to bring about a new cultural/collective awareness. For this reason, it is essential to work from the beginning with young people and children in schools and in their homes to ensure early understanding and participation.



## Degrowth as an alternative route to capitalist development

Degrowth is a movement, a political project, a pathway to explore and make possible a systemic transformation. It is not a fixed term, but one that is built upon and learned from the long-standing experiences of resistance and struggle. Degrowth critiques and proposes an alternative to the conception of economic growth, particularly in the North, which relies on patterns of colonialism and capitalism for the appropriation and accumulation of natural resources and labour. Along with the criticism of growth, this movement points out that Gross Domestic Product – GDP is a measure that increases inequality, especially between the Global North and the Global South, as a hegemonic and colonizing instrument of the so-called developed countries<sup>[30]</sup>. As an increasing number of studies reveal, high-income countries are the primary drivers of global ecological breakdown<sup>[31]</sup> – while the permanent losses and damages that result fall disproportionately upon the Global South.

Degrowth calls for confronting overexploitation and overconsumption through a drastic reduction in resource and energy use by countries and communities in the Global North while striving for equality: social, gender, and climate justice. In line with ecofeminism and feminist economics, degrowth proposes various radical reforms, ranging from a solidarity economy to a radical redistribution of income and wealth, and the valuing of reproductive and care work<sup>[32]</sup>.

In Latin America, particularly in Ecuador and Bolivia, Buen Vivir – “good living” – emerges as an alternative proposal to development that comes from marginalized, excluded, exploited, or even destroyed groups. It has been shaped through the passionate battle cries of indigenous peoples and nations demanding a process of decolonization on political, social, economic, and cultural levels so that people can live in harmony with themselves, with their community, and with nature<sup>[25]</sup>.

*“Degrowth is an invitation to go on the inevitably long journey of the decolonization of our growth imaginaries, moving from cultural awareness to a systemic and material transformation changing our everyday practices”* <sup>[33]</sup>.



**This climate solution integrates an alternative approach to the current economic model that proposes a shift towards care, solidarity, autonomy, and socio-ecological well being**

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Young people, adults, and elders of the north suburbs of Bogotá unite in actions of resistance and cultural expression to face extractive policies, protest against rigid infrastructures focused on growth, and denounce acts of violence. The community has forged its own model of development for their territory based on a multidimensional empowerment process that follows a gender approach. This model seeks to influence public policies for the rights of women in all their diversity and for the whole community. Through a solidarity economy, and the principles of Buen Vivir – good living – the community conceives a different way of thinking, saying “no” to the patriarchal and capitalist systems that silence the voices of some and privilege a few.

The community focuses its actions on peacebuilding and care for the environment as central axes that respond to the historical struggles of the country. When the community comes together to carry out environmental monitoring for the recovery of natural areas, the values of ownership and conservation of the territory emerge, as the people began to consider themselves protagonists of their own history and lives.

As part of this climate solution, the organization has managed to weave and strengthen bonds of trust with and among the leaders of the community and the womxn recycler groups. As a foundational achievement, the groups have created a loan and savings program led by and for local womxn. This initiative, named ‘*Bancomunal*’, understands the discriminatory barriers that they face in formal banking systems, as well as their time limitations and needs.

Based on trust, solidarity, and empathy, this community model has strengthened collective empowerment, ensuring generational support of the different initiatives as the stakeholders work toward their own development.





**This climate solution has intersectionality at the core of its actions, understanding different challenges and needs and engaging actively in campaigns and advocacy**

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Intersectionality is at the core of this initiative's actions since ENDA works with a population that suffers systemic discrimination for being womxn, recyclers, and living in poverty; many of them are Afro-descendants, LGBTIQ+, migrants, indigenous, and/or armed conflict victims. This project understands intersectionality as the acknowledgement of gender as a cross-cutting issue in the struggle for the fulfilment of collective social, political, and environmental human rights of discriminated or oppressed populations.

With an intersectional approach, ENDA has conducted gender assessments with the womxn recyclers through surveys and interviews, which provide a better picture of the gender situation in a given context, through the analysis of both the legal or institutional framework and the social realities within and outside community households. In doing so, the assessment identifies the distribution of power, resources, and opportunities between womxn and men. Through an





indicator system, ENDA Colombia seeks to better understand womxn’s autonomy in all dimensions of human development, considering a life free from violence, the realization of personal goals, as well as access to public services, such as day-care centers, to increase free time. The project utilizes two methodologies – “empowerment grid” and “assets-liabilities” – to monitor the change in the quality of life of the participating womxn. For example, quality of life might be measured by the number of womxn who have started or returned to their studies, the number of womxn who report gender-based violence by their partners, or the level of financial freedom for these womxn.

This experience has shown that in order to understand an improvement in well-being, it is important to go beyond traditional measurements and quantitative indicators. Trust and autonomy are two of these key additional components. Intersectionality is also a way to understand gender discrimination does not occur only in one aspect of daily life but affects the integral development of womxn.



**This climate solution has achieved the significant and representative participation of women in all their diversity in decision-making institutions at different levels**

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An essential dimension of ENDA’s processes and projects has always been the construction of (new) leadership in the community with a gender and human rights-based approach. On its way to democratizing power, the organization opens spaces for participation and decision-making to women in all their diversity to implement a feminist vision in the management of the territory.

These processes, guided by ENDA Colombia, strengthen womxn’s leadership abilities and other skills so they are able to advocate for a culture of rights and equality. The organization carry out literacy and knowledge-sharing sessions that provide possibilities for womxn to move from a private space to a public one, increasing their self-esteem, confidence, and self-recognition as agents of change. This movement allows womxn to identify and coordinate among themselves to occupy management, advisory, and organizational positions, which have been dominated mainly by men.

Through activities that focus on womxn and human rights, participation mechanisms, environmental education, and land management, ENDA has provided women in all their diversity with more tools to foster a development model based on the good living – el Buen Vivir- and to break the dominant capitalist model.

This journey of resistance for the vindication of womxn recycler's rights in local decision-making spaces creates opportunities in the community not only for literacy but also for sorority among the group members. The womxn have recognized their right to free time and to enjoy other spaces for recreation, rest, and learning outside of their households and families. Hence, womxn waste pickers have begun to highlight the problem of time poverty in discussion spaces and have used participatory platforms to demand greater attention from the local government to these issues.



## Three significant moments of their systemic transformation

- 1** Three knowledge meetings with other womxn collectives in the country, in which other models of territorial appropriation and solidarity economy that challenge the traditional capitalist and extractivist model are explored.
- 2** The first election of a woman as a council member in their community boosted the public recognition of the work of womxn in the territory and was an important step to break the macho culture.
- 3** Annual cultural and solidarity activities, in which the community gathers around the care and defense of its territory.

# ENDA GRAF SAHEL

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A gender-just transition is possible  
through a shift to a care economy



## **Enda Graf Sahel employs a gender-transformative approach to mitigate the impacts of rising water levels, soil salinization, and industrial overfishing in the Saloum River Delta.**

The organization supports womxn fishers from seven villages of Senegal to rehabilitate the mangrove ecosystem and develop sustainable fishing models through reforestation, organic gardening, and shellfish reseeding and transformation with solar energy. To strengthen their mitigation activities, Enda has disseminated solar stoves to dry and process the fish and shellfish, cutting firewood emissions by 75%.

The aim of this climate solution model is to ensure that the roles and initiatives of womxn fishers are recognized and better accounted for within the community and in decision-making and policy spaces. To this end, womxn are trained in public speaking and advocacy to be active members of local fishing committees and incorporate their needs, knowledge, and vision into the regulation of fishing activities, as the over-exploitation of the delta has caused fishers to exploit resources in protected areas. Enda Graf Sahel has contributed significantly to shifting power relationships and the division of labour within the fisher communities of the Saloum Delta. Through a gender assessment that included focus groups and surveys among 200 households, a comparison of the daily routines of men and women was conducted in 2021. The results were especially enlightening for men who now better understand the heavy burden of unpaid care work carried by womxn. The gender assessment led to a more balanced redistribution of tasks and to reduced gender-based violence within village households.

# 500

womxn fishers trained in public **speaking, leadership, and advocacy**

# 20

womxn leaders included in local fishery regulation bodies

# 180

womxn generated new income and

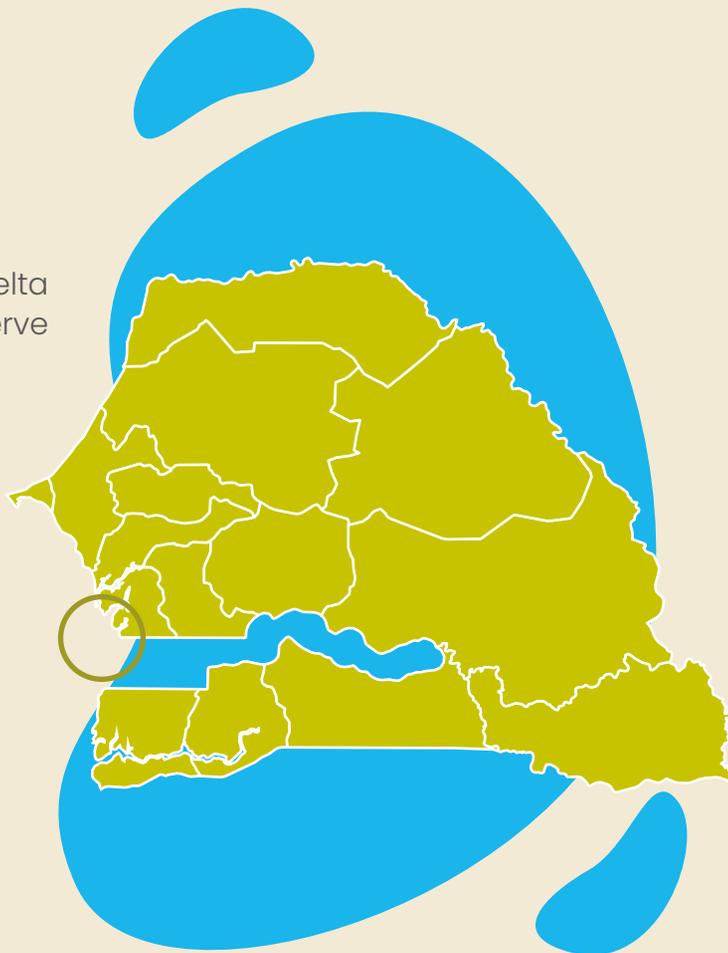
# 200

benefited from a new revolving fund system boosting energy transition



## Location

The mangrove ecosystem of the Saloum Delta has been classified as a biosphere reserve thanks to its great richness of aquatic and avian fauna formed by the branches of three rivers, mangrove forests, Atlantic coastal areas, and dry forest. The Saloum Delta is of great environmental and socio-economic importance since fish is the primary source of food for the Senegalese people providing formal and informal jobs for ±700,000 Senegalese. Its continuous deterioration caused by overfishing is a threat to the stability of the ecosystem and the species living there, creating competition between traditional fishmongers and women processors over local catches<sup>[34]</sup>.



Annual share of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions:

**0.03%**

Climate-vulnerable country ranking:

**33<sub>rd</sub>**

Human Development Index ranking:

**#168**

Global Gender Gap ranking:

**#104**



## Contribution to national climate change policies

Senegal's environmental and development policies reflect the commitment to mitigate GHG emissions, specifically in the energy and agricultural sectors. The country adopted the Plan for an Emerging Senegal (PES)<sup>[35]</sup>, which is the socio-economic development framework planned for both the mid-term (2023) and the long-term (2035). PES contemplates a structural transformation of the economy and encourages a more balanced and sustainable development of the agricultural and fishery sectors through assisting natural regeneration practices for farming and fishing. Senegal also intends to increase its forest coverage and promote the mangrove's restoration. With the goal of promoting human development, the country has developed from 2005 the National Strategy for Gender Equality and Equity (SNEEG)<sup>[36]</sup> to eliminate inequalities between womxn and men and guarantee the participation of womxn in decision-making spaces, as well as their access to resources and benefits. ENDA Graf Sahel contributes to the national climate change policies with its gender-transformative initiative, which rehabilitates the mangrove ecosystem and therefore carries forward sustainable fishing and an energy transition. The inclusion of womxn in decision-making processes about fishing regulation and resource management is a step towards gender and climate justice in the region.



Emissions reduction target by 2030:

**29.5%**

Protein consumed in Senegal coming from the fishing sector:

**80%**

Direct jobs provided by the fishery sector in Senegal, mainly in artisanal fishing in 2019:

**+86,000**



## Contribution to climate change mitigation

Enda Graf Sahel is aware that the deterioration of the Saloum Delta ecosystem not only threatens the people of Senegal with serious climate and environmental problems, but also endangers their cultural tradition, economy, and food security. Therefore, together with more than 4,800 fisher womxn, the organization has created a protection and care strategy based on knowledge transfer, advocacy, reforestation, and the use of renewable energy, which has improved the resilience of a unique UNESCO's heritage site. The community has recognized mangroves as essential to protect against coastal erosion.

Considering shellfish harvesting and seeding of clams are traditionally carried out by womxn in Senegal, this strategy trains women fishers in all their diversity about the mangrove species and their reforestation. It also encourages access and use of solar energy alternatives to cook and dry the fish and shellfish for longer preservation. These initiatives not only contribute to the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions but also ensure food security, drive autonomous economic development, and reduce womxn's workloads.

## Community-based approach

Enda Graf Sahel works with groups of women fishers and processors in all their diversity, as well as with fishers' committees, to facilitate dialogue with local and national authorities around fishing regulation and the export of fish products. In this community work, they have focused on strengthening their organizational capacities, promoting knowledge exchange between collectives and organizations in the fishing industry, and creating alliances for advocacy so decision-makers will take their demands and needs into account. The organization has set up a national network of artisanal fishing womxn (REFEPAS) with 30,000 members to engage in policy design and implementation, obtain the official recognition of their work, and offer access to training and financing opportunities. Enda Graf Sahel includes community members in all phases of this advocacy process in order to ensure transparency, respond to their needs, and dismantle macho beliefs while recognizing womxn as agents of change.

## Gender focus

The project promotes womxn’s leadership and knowledge to sustain the local economy and ensure food security in the Saloum Delta. To this end, Enda Graf Sahel strengthens the economic autonomy, self-esteem, and participation of women in all their diversity, so they have greater control over production and income. The organization also conducted in 2021 a research study on womxn’s unpaid workload and time poverty through surveys and interviews of 200 households. The results show most womxn spend 18 hours in domestic labor, daily care, and economic production without economical compensation. This conclusion was communicated through films and plays to raise awareness within the community. As a result, men –especially young men– transformed their behaviour to actively share care work within the household, a behavioural change that promoted womxn’s engagement in self-sufficient economic activities.

# Transformative contribution to the SDGs



**This climate solution has promoted and implemented alternative models to overcome barriers on the access, ownership, and control over land, new technologies, and financial services, among others**

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Although the law in Senegal gives equal rights of land property to men and womxn, land governance is decentralized, and decisions are largely made according to traditional beliefs, which exclude women in all their diversity from land inheritance or land purchase. One of the core areas of the organization’s work is to raise awareness of access to land at the local authority level. Visibility and understanding of this issue enable womxn to claim their right to land tenure and thus, to make decisions about land production and conservation. Enda Graf Sahel developed an alternative model of sustainable access and production of land and food production for womxn to reflect their key role in the region’s agricultural sector. This model consists of training womxn on the entire organic agriculture value chain, from planting and harvesting to transforming, selling, and distributing the products.

Through access to and control over land, women in all their diversity are taking ownership of the value chain and demonstrating that it is possible to create and develop economies. This model also raises awareness among men in the villages and involves them in the implementation of the model, so they understand that respecting womxn's rights is beneficial for the development of their communities.

For womxn to significantly engage in spaces for participation and advocacy within fishing committees, it is necessary for them to have free time. That is why, in addition to the work on capacity building, Enda Graf Sahel has conducted awareness-raising campaigns with womxn and men on topics such as unpaid domestic and reproductive care work to which womxn in all their diversity are subjected. The organization has used gender assessment tools to understand gender inequalities, relationships, and dynamics within and outside households, particularly regarding time available for engaging in multiple activities. A simple exercise comparing the time spent on daily chores identified that while men in the communities get up at 6:00 am to go to work and end their day at 6:00 pm by coming home or meeting friends, womxn start at 3:00 am fetching water; preparing meals and children for school; and completing agricultural, laundry and cleaning activities, not ending their day until around 9:00 pm. This gender assessment exercise resulted in important behavioural changes within the communities, with men taking over some household and care tasks so womxn could participate in other spaces.

Additionally, Enda Graf Sahel supports womxn's productive work by providing access to solar technologies, such as dryers and freezers, that allow womxn fishers to dry and process fish, or to create soaps and skin care products for additional income generation. Solar technologies have reduced womxn's working hours, thus allowing them to rest, take care of their health, and enjoy other leisure activities. As the program coordinator of the organization states: "Even if they do not earn money in their free time, this time of rest is greatly beneficial."





## Just transition through a care economy framework

From a feminist perspective, a just transition away from fossil fuels must not only be understood as a phase-out of polluting industries and unhealthy work environments, but also as a transformation to reduce economic insecurity and informal, unrecognized, and undervalued work. Within this transition, it is important to be also aware of intersectional disparities associated with gender, race, and class<sup>[37]</sup>. According to the International Labor Organization, ILO, climate action is gender-transformative when it ensures a just transition for all, including women and men in all their diversity experiencing intersectional forms of discrimination. A gender-blind approach can exacerbate existing inequalities, enhance occupational and sectoral segregation, and widen the skills and pay gap<sup>[2]</sup>. A just transition from a womxn's rights and feminist perspective does not ignore the current socially constructed roles and sectors<sup>[38]</sup>. Thus, for a gender-transformative and just transition, a key element is to talk about one of the hidden engines that subsidizes our current economic system: care work.

Care work can be understood as those activities we do to maintain, continue, and prepare our 'world' so we can live in it as well as possible<sup>[39]</sup>. Even though care work lays the foundation for a thriving society and fills the gaps when state provisions of public services are lacking or poor, this work remains underpaid, unpaid, and undervalued, leaving it fundamentally invisible to society and traditional measures of development, such as GDP. According to Oxfam, womxn and girls undertake more than three-quarters of unpaid care work in the world and make up two-thirds of the paid care workforce. They carry out 12.5 billion hours of unpaid care work every day. When valued at minimum wage this would represent a contribution to the global economy of at least \$10.8 trillion a year, more than three times the size of the global tech industry<sup>[40]</sup>.



This gap arises as a result of the construction of a social idea that womxn have a greater capacity for caring than men, based on a biological difference that considers nurturing to be exclusive to women and girls. Far from being a natural ability, care work is a social construction sustained by patriarchal gender relations, which is itself sustained by cultural values reproduced by various mechanisms such as education, the content of advertising and other pieces of communication, tradition, daily domestic practices, religions, and institutions<sup>[41]</sup>. In the context of climate change, the increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters, water scarcity and disruptions to its supply, and agricultural losses, among other ecological crises, further exacerbate existing care burdens on women and girls. This reduces their time available to engage in different activities for economic autonomy, political participation, leisure, and education; at the same time, this results in poorer food choices, less exercise, and more stress<sup>[41],[2]</sup>. This lack of time based on an inequitable gender-based allocation of unpaid work is also understood as time poverty.

In response, the care economy proposes a model for the recognition, reduction, and redistribution of care work, domestic work, and unpaid work between families, the market, the state, and communities. It seeks to economically recognize the value of unpaid activities as a source of economic and social development, as well as the burdens of unpaid work. Through public policies, the care economy analyses the instruments and mechanisms that allow for the retribution and redistribution of unpaid work among the different agents of the economic and social system, since it is society as a whole that benefits from these activities<sup>[42]</sup>.



**This climate solution has promoted behavioural changes through efficient use and reduction of natural resource utilization in production and consumption**

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Historically, communities have had an abundance of resources around the Saloum Delta, whether for fishing or agriculture. According to Enda Graf Sahel’s program coordinator, people tend to make indiscriminate use of resources without considering future generations. For instance, energy needs forced people in the Saloum Delta to cut wood from mangroves. With an increase in the frequency of droughts, salinization, and deforestation, womxn noticed the scarcity of natural resources, reflecting on the need to make changes in production and consumption patterns.

One of the goals of Enda Graf Sahel has been to train the population in methods of sustainable resource management, whether in fishing, in agriculture, or in transforming products coming from the mangroves. Within the framework of these trainings, monitoring committees made up of women, men, and youth in all their diversity have been established to ensure sustainable practices are applied. With the promotion of solar energy for cooking and preparing products derived from fish and shellfish, Enda Graf Sahel hopes to contribute to the energy transition in Senegal and to transform consumption patterns. However, it has faced cultural barriers during the process, as some people fear that modifying the traditional way of cooking and drying fish changes the flavor or nutritional properties. As a solution, the organization involves local artisans in the making of solar stoves and offers tasting demonstrations, fairs, and exhibitions for people to try the products and therefore eliminate their worries. These events strengthen the links between producers and consumers, translating into platforms that support local value chains.

Advocacy, educational activities, and awareness-raising campaigns on television and radio support the efforts of womxn fishers to promote behavioral changes and an adequate policy framework.



**This solution has integrated gender perspective in the sustainable management of maritime/coastal ecosystems, supporting womxn’s initiatives to protect them**

The fishing sector in Senegal is dominated by men, and the role of womxn has traditionally been relegated to the preparation of fish and shellfish for family feeding and for sale. However, Enda Graf Sahel has worked for a cultural shift, dismantling the patriarchal prejudices that exist within the cooperatives and fishing collectives. This initiative advances the objective of enabling women in all their diversity to be elected and have decision-making power within these political structures.

Thanks to a capacity-building training program, fisherwomxn now have greater and better leadership and public speaking skills to demand a relevant role within decision-making bodies and to communicate their needs and priorities with local authorities. Likewise, womxn have also learned about reforestation, conservation of mangroves, and techniques for the reproduction of endemic marine species of the Saloum Delta. These trainings include the presence of men so they also feel responsible for the process of cultural, political, and social transformation that the Saloum Delta community must strive for in order to preserve the ecosystem and avoid an economic and food security crisis.



## Three significant moments of the solution

- 1** The gender assessment, including the comparison of daily routines in households, allowed for a change of behaviour in the community and fishing industry
- 2** The establishment of a national network of womxn in the fishing sector
- 3** The work of fisherwomxn in Senegal has been internationally recognized for their political and community advocacy for the defense of their civil, social, labor and environmental rights.

# ARUWE

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Ancestral knowledge driving decentralized and community-owned energy technologies



**Action for Rural Women’s Empowerment – ARUWE – in Uganda strengthens rural womxn’s agency to decide and control their own strategy for social-economic development from a holistic approach, which includes community participation, policy advocacy, service provision, and food security.**

The organization has promoted a model of womxn-led energy cooperatives as a pathway to a just transition that recognises womxn’s needs and priorities as key energy users, their work burdens and time poverty, as well as the importance of solidarity networks. 90% of the cooperative members are womxn farmers.

In a male-dominated energy sector, ARUWE has demonstrated that womxn’s equal participation in technology deployment is needed and brings multiple benefits to their communities. Women in all their diversity have strengthened their skills and knowledge in practical and theoretical construction, installation, operation, distribution, and maintenance of renewable and sustainable energy technologies. As energy ambassadors, they share and disseminate information regarding the opportunities and advantages of renewable energy on both the household and community level. These cooperatives work collectively with a visionary roadmap to ensure equal access to financial services and land rights, shift power structures, and achieve behavioural changes.

**45** womxn energy ambassadors acquired skills in solar technologies implementation, monitoring, and maintenance and productive use

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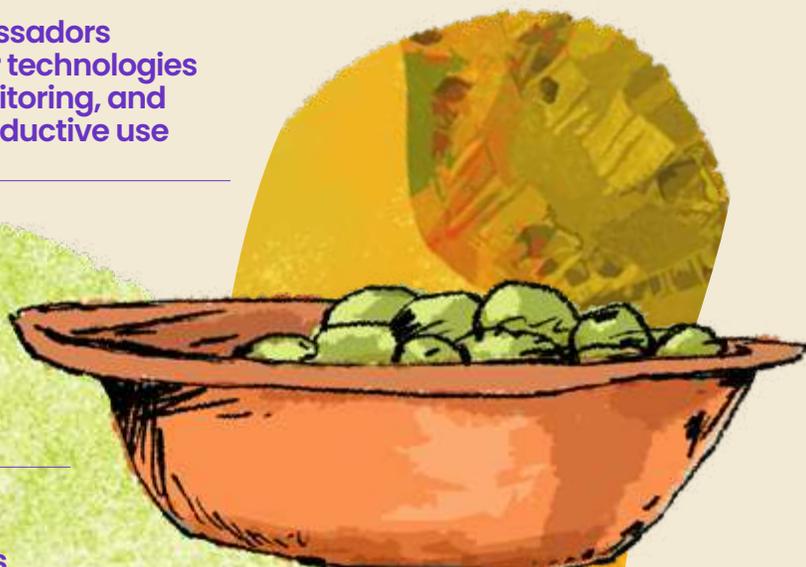
**7** cooperatives supported by ARUWE for its formation, management, and training on gender mainstreaming, advocacy, and renewable technologies

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**4** Civil Social Organizations (CSOs)-subgrantees trained in gender mainstreaming under the Women 2030 project

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**16** regional policy makers have been introduced in the concept of gender just energy communities



## Location

Uganda contains a rich variety of species and ecosystems, making it one of the most biodiverse countries in Africa. However, it is one of the most climate-vulnerable countries, not only because of its unique biophysical characteristics but also because of its high poverty rates, with 41% of the population living on less than \$1.90 per day. It also sustains one of the highest population densities in Africa (242/km<sup>2</sup>), which has generated greater land pressure, soil erosion, and deforestation. The rapidly growing population in Uganda has made evident the country's energy crisis, highlighting the fact that 78% of the rural households do not have access to the electricity grid but instead depend on the use of firewood.



Annual share of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions:

**0.01%**

Climate-vulnerable country ranking:

**10<sup>th</sup>**



Human Development Index ranking:

**#159**

Global Gender Gap ranking:

**#66**

## Contribution to national climate change policies

Massive deforestation, partly caused by the need to supply the electricity deficit in Uganda’s rural areas, pushed the government to design national climate change policies aimed to reduce the vulnerability of the rural population. These policies address topics such as agriculture, infrastructure, energy transition, institutional capacity building, and gender. As an example, in 2007, Uganda formulated the National Gender Policy with the purpose of protecting women’s rights and reducing gender inequalities. It aims to strengthen women’s agency and advocacy skills, including a gender-responsive approach in the design, implementation, and evaluation of national policies. As part of the NDC process, the government conducted a gender analysis to understand the differentiated impacts of climate change and the institutional challenges in operationalizing a gender approach in the planning and budgeting processes<sup>[43]</sup>.

ARUWE contributes to these national climate policies by fostering capacity building and leadership of rural cooperatives towards a gender and socially - just transition. In that sense, ARUWE works with the cooperatives and local leaders to raise awareness of the energy needs – especially of women in all their diversity – and the relevance of investing time and resources for the implementation of climate-resilient technologies. As a result, more villages have promoted a holistic model of sustainable development that includes agriculture, farming, production, and waste management.



Emissions reduction target by 2030:

**22%**

Tree cover loss:

**49.2kha**

(equivalent to 23.5Mt of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions)

Percentage of Uganda’s rural population that has access to electricity:

**32%**

## Contribution to climate change mitigation

ARUWE's work relies on local and ancestral knowledge for the development of sustainable and renewable technologies that adapt to the local community context. The energy cooperative model emerges as an alternative to facilitate energy access within households and for use in agricultural activities, ensuring that women in all their diversity can gain control over the decisions and management of these alternatives. Womxn farmers oversee each stage of the renewable energy value chain, from production to distribution, commercialization, and use.

Under this organizational model, womxn use existing and reliable structures and work together towards climate change mitigation, carrying out pedagogical strategies to increase understanding of alternative approaches to the traditional way of owning and managing land, as well as obtaining energy from firewood. These alternatives contribute to reducing not only CO<sub>2</sub> emissions but also deforestation levels and the time womxn must spend on household chores.

## Community-based approach

Through a community and human rights-based approach, ARUWE always considers the context, knowledge, and needs of the community when designing, executing, monitoring, and evaluating a project. For this reason, the whole process of energy transition is done in a participatory manner. Through a decolonial approach that seeks endogenous development, womxn farmers decide collectively on which technology best suits their needs and priorities, and the organization supports them with training for its installation, use, and maintenance – without imposing a pathway to follow.





**“Culture is a fundamental part of what we do. If you don’t understand or recognize the culture of the community, it is going to be difficult to implement any solution”.**

**Agnes Mirembe**

By using this cooperative model, ARUWE has built bonds of trust and self-confidence among farmers, and between men and women in all their diversity, enabling members of the community to support a solidarity economy. Additionally, this model has led to the creation of initiatives such as the Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA), which allow cooperative members to access financial resources in order to develop their agricultural activities and respond to emergencies and household obligations.

## Gender focus

The mission of ARUWE is to build the socio-economic capacity of women in all their diversity by strengthening community participation and advocacy. The organization has successfully demonstrated the benefits of using the Gender Action Learning Systems (GALS) methodology, which refers to a community-led empowerment methodology that applies principles of inclusion to improve the income, food, and nutrition security of vulnerable people in a gender-equitable way. Within this approach, the participation of men is integrated to promote a collective understanding in order to change gender inequalities that have existed for generations.

In cooperative structures, womxn play a key role as chiefs, accountants, treasurers, and managers, strengthening their skills and confidence, and gaining respect from their traditional community leaders and male counterparts. This model has allowed them to influence household and community decisions regarding the distribution of domestic work, land use, and their participation in economic activities.

# Transformative contribution to the SDGs



**This climate solution has promoted and implemented alternative models to overcome barriers to the access, ownership, and control over land, new technologies, and financial services**

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One of the main challenges in the implementation of renewable and sustainable technologies is the barriers womxn face in accessing land. Within a patriarchal system, men still control access to land and determine its use. For this reason, ARUWE has recognised land access as a priority area for action. Based on an understanding of public policies, the constitution, land laws, and womxn's human rights, ARUWE has conducted seminars and campaigns in different villages to sensitise not only men, but also women in all their diversity who are unaware of their right to access and own land. Although this is a process that is neither easy nor automatic, the organization's interventions and perseverance have borne fruit as evidenced by a change in attitudes, acceptance, and decisions on the control and ownership of resources. By creating participatory spaces with men and women in all their diversity, ARUWE has succeeded in getting men to support their partners in their vision of a just transition.

As womxn in the communities gain access to and ownership over land, they can decide how to use it, when to use it, and for what purposes. They also can decide what technologies to install and implement to improve their agricultural activities in order to achieve economic autonomy. Together they organize to enter local markets with their agricultural production, increase revenues, and distribute earnings equitably. By accessing land, womxn are able to build their confidence and self-esteem, becoming more actively involved in local development, forest conservation, and agroecology.





## Decentralized energy systems for a just energy transition

A decentralized energy system (DE) is characterized by locating energy production and distribution close to consumers (Irena). Decentralization provides an alternative to the traditional model of energy transmission, in which energy is generated in large power plants away from consumers and distributed to final users through power grids and electric companies as intermediaries. Although the traditional model helps to guarantee national energy security and therefore is used most frequently, it generates environmental and social equity problems, mainly in countries of the Global South that cannot rely on the necessary infrastructure to distribute energy to their most remote areas.

Usually dependent on the sun or wind, the technologies used by DE systems make them a reliable and cost-effective alternative, helping to close the access gap to sustainable and renewable energy while contributing to climate change mitigation. Due to their nature, these systems are ideal for driving community energy projects and promoting energy democracy, ensuring that the energy produced in the zone is distributed to the local population<sup>[44]</sup>.

DE systems are a means to achieve a just energy transition since they allow communities to be part of the entire energy value chain, to produce energy locally and keep the knowledge within the community. Decentralized community energy projects involve citizens and inhabitants of a small territory (villages) as producers, distributors, sellers, and consumers of electricity<sup>[45]</sup>. Therefore, a community-ownership project is characterized by redistributing the socio-economic benefits among all members of the community/cooperative. Likewise, due to their participatory and community-oriented nature, DE systems can foster gender-responsive actions. Through the planning, design, and execution of the decentralized energy model, the needs and priorities of womxn are considered as key energy users. With active participation and decision-making power, women in all their



diversity not only save time to then dedicate to personal development but also gain economic autonomy when energy is generated in a decentralized way.

In this sense, the decentralization of energy offers an alternative means to achieving an energy transition away from intensive fossil-fuel based sources in a fair and gender-responsible way. DE systems open spaces for meaningful participation and effective representation of those affected by such a transition, while also ensuring that the costs and benefits are shared equally.



**This climate solution enables access to affordable, clean, and reliable energy services with a decentralized approach**

ARUWE’s climate solution has implemented a decentralized and community-based energy model, allowing rural communities to access affordable, clean, and reliable energy services. This model consists of an informed and participatory process where the organization first executes an awareness campaign with cooperative members, so they understand the opportunities and limitations of solar technologies available. Then, womxn decide what technology to implement and receive practical training on the installation and maintenance of this renewable technology. For this model, ARUWE partners with recognized local companies dedicated to solar technologies development. The objective is to build the leadership skills of womxn so they can take a principal role in the just transition. With their practical experience, these leaders can educate the community about the ability of womxn to perform technical and manual tasks traditionally associated with men. In this way, working for clean and affordable energy has co-benefits in terms of womxn’s autonomy and the creation of training opportunities (SDG 4).

Cooperatives also implement a renewable energy alternative for households. Womxn apply their local and ancestral knowledge to make biomass blocks which are used for cooking and heating. The manufacturing process for these briquettes consists of the collection of organic waste from crops and animals (especially chickens and cows) and its combination with mud or wax. This process is supported and monitored by ARUWE to ensure the quality of the product, as these blocks are then distributed and commercialized among the community.

Based on established gender roles, womxn are responsible for collecting firewood for cooking and heating. This task generates a great physical burden along with health and well-being problems for womxn, as the extended use of firewood results in high rates of exposure to harmful substances that cause respiratory diseases. Thus, with the installation of solar panels and the use of biomass cookers and heaters, cooperatives are not only contributing to climate innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9) but also to the reduction of harmful emissions (SDG 3).

The differentiating element of this energy and income-generating model is its decentralized and gender-responsive approach. Womxn members of the cooperatives in all their diversity decide the quantities of briquettes to be produced and distributed, considering their needs and those of the community. They individually collect what is produced and sell it collectively in the local markets, equally distributing the profits afterwards. A percentage of these gains goes to a micro savings and credit fund for the womxn themselves.

Womxn engage in communication and consciousness-raising to spread this model, convincing more households to make a transition from firewood to biomass. They are recognized in their communities as ambassadors of the co-benefits of a gender-just transition, which goes beyond mitigating the consequences of deforestation.



**Members of this initiative have participated and influenced different decision-making spaces demanding the inclusion of the gender perspective in public, public-private, and civil society partnerships**

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Building alliances and advocating in new spaces and networks are steps in a process that require trust and empowerment. ARUWE's experience in different communities indicates that trust building is one of the longest and most complex processes, but also the most important for political, cultural, and economic transformation. Trust building requires knowledge as a tool for understanding, navigating, and influencing decision-making spaces. However, access to knowledge and timely

information are limited for rural womxn who live outside the centers where these spaces are located. Also, in these localities, many womxn have not had access to education and therefore do not have the skills to understand policies that are often written in other languages.

Knowing this, ARUWE raises awareness and understanding of public policies, district planning, and budgetary processes to be strategic and intentional with their advocacy activities. Womxn strengthen the knowledge of their rights and identify advocacy spaces and positions they can occupy. In this way, they also strengthen their ability to participate in a meaningful way. They begin by influencing local policy-making spaces, and as they recognize their ability to advocate successfully for their needs, rights, and priorities, they gain the confidence to advocate at the national level. Women in all their diversity have built coalitions with ecofeminist movements and social organizations and are now recognized as essential allies within the district and national networks, such as the Uganda Women Empowerment Programme and the Ugandan National Renewable Alliance.



## Three significant moments

- 1** Womxn's access to land has allowed them to engage in income-generating activities, having the opportunity to invest their savings and time into their own personal development.
- 2** Over the course of five years, ARUWE has witnessed a reduction in the cultural barriers for womxn to participate in decision-making concerning access, use, and control of land. Today men not only accept womxn's participation in these spaces but also value their work in the cooperatives.
- 3** Womxn's ancestral knowledge in the community has proven to be vital, successfully guiding the development and implementation of climate change mitigation technologies.

# CAMGEW

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Agroecology as a pathway to conflict resolution and social cohesion





**Cameroon suffers from one of the highest rates of forest loss in the world. This fact motivates CAMGEW's mission of reducing deforestation and tree cover depletion.**

CAMGEW engages ethnic womxn, particularly displaced young girls who are victims of internal conflict, in environmental protection activities by strengthening their capacities and knowledge in agroforestry and developing an inclusive and sustainable management model for forest regeneration in the Kilum-Ijim area. CAMGEW has provided training on agroecology and forest regeneration to 50,000 women in all their diversity, enabling them to participate significantly on local forest governance committees and be active decision-makers in the management of the Kilum-Ijim Forest.

CAMGEW also promotes alternative income-generating activities, such as bee farming, encouraging womxn to master sustainable techniques for the creation of good quality and diverse bioproducts derived from honey. These products have reached a sustained level of commercialization, stabilizing household revenues in the region. As part of this initiative, the organization developed a micro-credit program built with the same revenue womxn obtain from the sale of bioproducts. This plan has given more womxn access to a different and sustainable livelihood.

CAMGEW's programme of work on gender and environmental justice in the Kilum-Ijim forest area has shown that the entire country would benefit from empowering womxn to build local, sustainable, climate resilient models that contribute to a socially just economy and a safe natural environment.

**70,000**

beneficiaries of forest conservation education

**7**

community forest institutions with gender parity achieved on their executive board, institutions where women were previously excluded

**700**

womxn farmers trained on agroforestry practices



## Location

Cameroon is one of the world's largest biodiversity hotspots, often referred to as "Africa in miniature" as it preserves the continent's diversity in its coastal areas, mountains, savannas, and rainforests. The 22 million hectares of tropical forest spread across Cameroon are a vital part of the Congo Basin Forest ecosystem and the habitat of 9,000 plant species; 9,000 bird species; and 320 mammals. Due to the country's geographical location and ecological diversity, reforestation and forest conservation in Cameroon are central goals in mitigation actions to tackle climate change.



Annual share of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions:

**0.02%**

Climate-vulnerable country ranking:

**59<sup>th</sup>**

Human Development Index ranking:

**#153**

Global gender gap ranking:

**#96**



## Contribution to national climate change policies

According to Cameroon’s NDC<sup>[46]</sup>, two of the major challenges of the country is forest restoration and the recuperation of degraded plant formation, given that the majority of the rural population’s livelihoods depend on agriculture and pastoralism – two activities already severely affected by rising temperatures, droughts, and land acidification. CAMGEW counters these challenges by enhancing the adoption of agroecology as a pathway for sustainable forest conservation, bushfire prevention, soil erosion prevention, and protection against overexploitation.

Emissions reduction target by 2030:

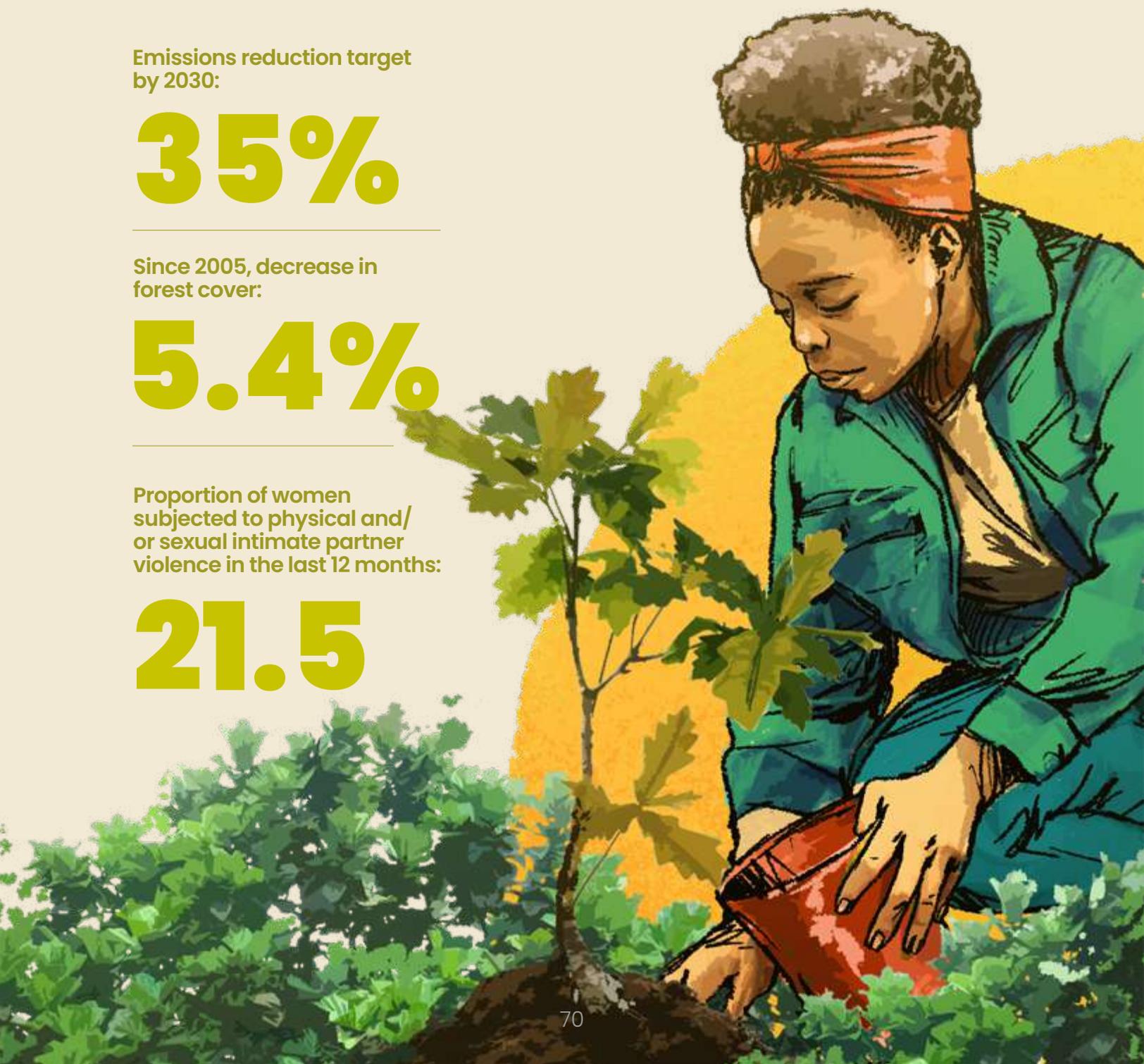
**35%**

Since 2005, decrease in forest cover:

**5.4%**

Proportion of women subjected to physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence in the last 12 months:

**21.5**



## Contribution to climate change mitigation

One of the priorities for CAMGEW is to preserve the Kilum-Ijim forest ecosystem, which is not only important for its biodiversity but also because it is the primary source of water, firewood, medicinal plants, and food for most of the area's population. Additionally, this forest is a meaningful part of the culture of regional ethnic groups. The organization encourages indigenous knowledge, practices, and technologies to promote an understanding and implementation of local solutions that respond to local needs and available resources. As the organization states, there are challenges in the territory modern science has not been able to understand but which ancestral knowledge has been able to solve. Agroecology brings this knowledge together in practices such as tree nurseries, germination techniques, tree planting, bee farming, and solidarity economy.

## Community-based

The model of environmental protection designed by CAMGEW is centered in the community. All of the activities and interventions are participatory and inclusive, fostering decision-making spaces where women and youth in all their diversity can strengthen their agency and leadership skills. More than 80 community members have led tree planting sessions. After the trees have finished their nursery process, womxn farmers plant them on their farms in order to improve soil fertility and reduce erosion. To promote income-generating activities, the organization has engaged with and educated 2000 womxn farmers on forest conservation and beehive farming for the transformation of honey into different products. These activities support the setting-up of five cooperatives, creating bonds of trust and solidarity that encourage the creation of new and dignified livelihoods.

## Gender focus

Womxn in the region, often disproportionately poor and marginalized, are not traditionally given the opportunity to participate in conservation efforts. The patriarchal society dictates unequal gender roles, entrenched by current armed conflicts and political tensions, and womxn's rights are not respected socially, economically, or culturally. CAMGEW addresses prevailing gender inequalities currently exacerbated by conflicts in the area by training internally displaced girls on personal development, gender-based violence (GBV) mitigation, and womxn's rights. Through the development of a small micro-credit programme, womxn farmers gain financial support in order to start their own enterprises based on the transformation of honey, medicinal plants or recycled materials to fashion designs. This project, together with the practical knowledge of agroecology, provide womxn in the region an opportunity to flourish through self-recognition as agents of change in the fight for equal rights. CAMGEW also works toward gender parity in the executive boards of community institutions and the enhancement of the leadership and advocacy skills of women and girls in all their diversity.



# Transformative contribution to the SDGs



**Together with the community, this climate solution promotes and implements sustainable and resilient agricultural practices**

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With a vision of reducing the poverty, gender inequality, and environmental vulnerability of the Kilum-Ijim community in Cameroon, CAMGEW has implemented a series of sustainable and resilient agricultural practices that aim to protect and conserve biodiversity. The organization fosters a community-based and gender-sensitive model to increase vegetation cover, prevent bushfire and deforestation, and improve soil quality. It distributes trees and seeds of endemic species to womxn farmers to plant them in their gardens and farms. With this initiative, ethnic womxn can apply their ancestral knowledge to promote the use of medicinal plants that have curative properties for common diseases in Cameroon, expertise vitally important during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Even though the community has been aware of the modern technologies available for bee farming and forest regeneration, these have never been fully utilized by the farmers. In contrast, communities are empowered and confident when encouraged to use their indigenous knowledge, which highlights real and effective responses to their needs and the resources available to them. For instance, local farmers practice organic agriculture to avoid the use of chemical fertilizers, which are costly and harmful to health. These agricultural customs also promote the construction of

solidarity networks in which farmers exchange animal manure with animal grazers for plant residues that can be consumed by these animals. This cooperation generates value chains within the community and reduces land use conflicts.

Through bee farming and apiculture, women in all their diversity not only protect the forest and its ecosystem but also gain economic benefits. To make these practices sustainable, CAMGEW motivates and supports community ownership through the construction, settling, and mounting of beehives. They also subsidize the cost of tools and machinery to produce honey and its derivatives. This process increases the community's commitment to defending and preserving the Kilum-Ijim Forest, as it becomes their livelihood.

In the rural area of Cameroon, many sexist prejudices against the leadership of women in all their diversity still exist. CAMGEW has succeeded in making both women and men recognize gender equality as an opportunity for economic development and environmental protection. The organization has organized meetings with the community to demonstrate - with facts and data - that women's empowerment is transformative, not only for women but also for their families and villages.

**"When we talk about gender equality, we talk about building partnerships for collective well-being".**

**Sevidzem Ernestine Leikeki**





## Nature-based solutions or nature-based seductions? <sup>[48]</sup>

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) is a term that has increasingly seduced governments, corporations, intergovernmental institutions, and large international non-governmental organizations. This term, coined by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), was introduced as “actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural and modified ecosystems in ways that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits”. This vague definition has allowed its interpretation to be twisted by vested interests to falsely brand highly questionable practices as “green”<sup>[47]</sup>. The phrase often appears as part of a political or corporate agenda related to biodiversity, climate change adaptation, or mitigation.

As a term, Nature-based Solutions commodifies nature by allowing a corporation or government to compensate for their carbon emissions by funding projects meant to absorb those emissions and then claiming the carbon removal resulting from these projects can balance out their continued high levels of emissions<sup>[1]</sup>. The idea of promoting large scale plantations, carbon storage, and conservation projects as an “offset” for continued fossil fuel use is a particularly dangerous method for limiting the global temperature increase to 1.5°C.



Most of these initiatives rely heavily on monoculture, non-native and commercial tree plantations which have negative impacts on women, girls, and non-binary persons in all their diversity, as well as local communities, particularly Black, Indigenous, and people of color<sup>[47]</sup>. These projects involve land grabbing, assaults on human rights, and livelihood impacts. Therefore, key questions must be addressed: Whose land and forests? Whose emissions? Whose responsibility? Whose problems are being solved? Carbon colonialism is another term used to describe this problematic practice of seeking “solutions” to one’s own emissions in someone else’s lands and forests<sup>[48]</sup>.

To move ahead in addressing the current crises, it is necessary, through a feminist decolonial approach, for national climate policies to separate deftly genuine nature-based solutions from nature-based seductions that seek to perpetuate profits from fossil-fuel industries<sup>[3]</sup>.

In contrast, ecosystem-based approaches promote the conservation, sustainable management, and restoration of ecosystems to help people adapt to the impacts of climate change. These methods embrace community-governed forest conservation schemes, secure land and tenure rights for indigenous peoples and local communities and put people above markets. One clear example is agroecology, which offers new possibilities for socio-ecological transformation and can contribute to tackling climate change in a safe way<sup>[13]</sup>. This approach can also help to guarantee food and nutrition security and sovereignty, and to build a path toward conflict resolution.



**This climate solution has provided training opportunities and raised awareness in the community for adopting sustainable lifestyles**

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CAMGEW's commitment to conserving biodiversity through sustainable and resilient agricultural practices is carried out through a strong foundation of education. To ensure that the practices are sustainable over time, the organization provides capacity building workshops to support not only agricultural production but also the strengthening of attitudes, actions, and skills in the community to enable transformational change. Within the framework of the workshops, solidarity groups have been formed to organize sessions in which knowledge is transferred orally in the local languages, integrating even the youngest generations. Indigenous and local experts foster an understanding of organic farming, toxic-free fertilization alternatives, and the nutritional and medicinal properties of endemic plants. These educational sessions have resulted in a breakthrough for CAMGEW because they have created bonds of trust between the population, highlighting their ancestral values and moving away from a colonial approach.

In Cameroon, agriculture is still a male-dominated practice with many established barriers for womxn's access to, use of, and conservation of land. For CAMGEW, therefore, education is vitally important, as it is not enough to supply womxn with seeds and tools to work the gardens; they must also be aware of their right to access and use land, as well as the benefits agroforestry brings for their personal development and for their families.



**This climate solution creates spaces to strategize about conflict reduction in the communities or close areas and enriches the leadership skills of women in all their diversity in order to participate in decision-making spaces**

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According to CAMGEW, integrating womxn in the process of peace is challenging, as women and girls in all their diversity are the most affected emotionally, physically, and mentally by internal conflicts. As a result, CAMGEW introduced counselling support as a strategy; it provides a space for womxn to transform their attitudes into actions that enable them to rebuild their livelihoods. Together with targeted training, this process provides new opportunities, among them income generation through microbusinesses, scholarship programs to continue education, and access to natural

resource management expertise. In this way, agroecology promotes the social reconstruction and cohesion of conflict-affected womxn and girls.

CAMGEW believes that environmental rights and actions cannot be complete or sustainable without addressing issues related to gender-based violence (GBV) and land tenure rights. Through sensitization and workshops addressing GBV, women and men in all their diversity have come to realize that household chores should not be limited to womxn. This belief has been accepted by many men, who now assist in various domestic chores, including supplying water, child-rearing, and cooking. The organization also has worked with cultural leaders who are custodians of land at the grassroots level in the Kilum-Ijim forest area. Through workshops, debates, lobbying, and advocacy, there has been a marked shift in practices on land ownership. In addition, CAMGEW contributes to SDG 17 by working in partnership with government administration at the ministerial level. They engage multiple stakeholders during roundtables and communication campaigns to promote the recognition of women's rights, land ownership, forest governance, and best practices for biodiversity conservation with the goal of influencing laws, regulations, and policies at the local, regional, and national level.



## Three significant moments of the solution:

- 1** The community has recognized that women in all their diversity must be heard and acknowledged as leaders in forest conservation. Womxn have gained the confidence to raise their voices against deforestation and to increase awareness of the importance of agroecology for food security and conflict resolution.
- 2** Farmers and grazers now understand that agroecology is a win-win scenario helping to solve their differences about land management.
- 3** For the past several years, bushfires in the Kilum-Ijim area have decreased, thanks to the CAMGEW's holistic approach to ecological conservation. Today womxn can undertake environmental protection and conservation actions without the help of CAMGEW or the permission or validation of men.

Gender-just climate solutions are community-based, democratic initiatives that contribute to climate change mitigation while proposing equitable models for a good living. This illustration highlights how climate actions (SDG13) with a strong gender transformative component (SDG5) contribute with cross-cutting benefits to advance different efforts of the Agenda 2030 from an intersectional, decolonial, and degrowth perspective.

**No poverty**  
Removing barriers and redistributing power to access, use, and control resources and services

**Quality education**  
Adoption of sustainable lifestyles by promoting ancestral and local knowledge and womxn's rights

**Zero hunger**  
Equal opportunities for womxn to decide and implement sustainable and resilient agricultural practices

**Decent work and just economic models**  
Alternative approaches to the current economic model based on care, solidarity, autonomy, and socio-ecological well-being

**Reduce inequalities**  
Intersectionality at the core of planning and implementation of initiatives through gender assessments

**Life of land**  
Enable significant participation of womxn in local decision-making spaces to ensure biodiversity conservation

**Partnerships for the goals**  
Adoption of a gender-responsive approach to foster local partnerships

**Good health and well-being**  
Reduce womxn's exposure to pollutants/contaminants through renewable and sustainable climate technologies

**Clean water and sanitation**  
Raise awareness about the inequality in the division of labour for water supply

**Affordable and clean energy**  
Promote the implementation of affordable, sustainable, and reliable renewable energy services with a decentralized approach

**Industry, innovation, and infrastructure**  
Offer support and training for developing climate-resilient and sustainable infrastructure

**Sustainable cities and communities**  
Community-based territorial planning to enhance public services provision

**Life below water**  
Recognition of womxn as agents of change for the protection of marine/coastal ecosystems

**Responsible consumption and production**  
Efficient use of natural resources, as well as the reduction of natural resource utilization in production and consumption

**Peace, justice, and strong institutions**  
Create spaces to strategize on conflict resolution



# LESSONS LEARNED



**Alternatives to development exist, are possible, and show transformative results.** These alternative models follow the principles of unity, equality, inclusion, dignity, freedom, solidarity, respect, and social and gender equity in participation as opposed to capital accumulation interests. **Womxn-led initiatives around the world are making one point abundantly clear: forging a path towards a safe, clean, and healthy environment requires us to integrate diverse forms of knowledge, foster respect for cultural and spiritual identity, and eliminate multiple forms of oppression.**



**Community-based and locally owned initiatives and technologies foster a decolonial and participatory approach to democratizing power.** Transformative outcomes of community-based initiatives imply changes in behaviours, patriarchal norms, cultural patterns, and the overall mindset of the population. These changes, which are crucial to the well-being of communities, are often not captured in quantitative indicators or in the understanding of what is meant by the impact or outcomes of a project.



**The climate crisis is a global human rights threat that exposes how intersecting forms of inequality often operate together and exacerbate each other.** The climate crisis is widening and worsening the inequality gap and unpaid workloads, particularly for peasant, Black, and Indigenous, and womxn of colour. **The recognition of womxn as agents of change facilitates the formulation and implementation of climate change policies that respond to different realities.** The work that the organizations in this publication have conducted with women and men in all their diversity around the topics of masculinities and patriarchy has raised awareness in their communities. This work facilitates **the integration of different forms of local and ancestral knowledge, methods, practices, and technologies**

**that guarantee the success of its implementation in rural communities and do not increase workloads, particularly for womxn and girls.**



**Empowerment is a political and emancipatory process that is not – and cannot be – imposed from “outside.”** In the climate context, this process ultimately means strengthening the capacities of civil society actors to develop and implement gender-responsive climate policies and programmes and to participate proactively and actively in climate-related decision-making processes at the national level. Recognition, self-esteem, and autonomy are vital so womxn can transition from their private spheres to public spaces without fear. **Agency is at the core of empowerment, attributing the capacity to define their personal life choices and to pursue their own goals towards a systematic change for themselves and their communities.** From the experiences presented in this publication, strengthening agency among womxn in the communities includes a process of counselling and self-recognition of womxn’s human rights, especially for those who have been victims of conflict.



A just transition goes beyond relocating the workforce from one male-dominated sector to a new male-dominated sector. **For a transition to be considered just, it must be grounded in the principles of the care economy.** These principles foster the recognition, reduction, and redistribution of unpaid care work, and reward paid care work by promoting decent conditions and guaranteeing the representation of care workers in all their diversity<sup>[49]</sup>. **In this way, the subsidy to economic growth generated by a colonial outsourcing of labour along gender and geographical lines can be addressed.** Time poverty is still a structural barrier that hinders womxn from enjoying their autonomy and participating in power spaces. Although now there is much more community awareness of the rights of womxn to enjoy the public sphere, their integration into those spaces is often difficult because there is no infrastructure to support care work, such as recreational centers for children and older persons or night nurseries.



## LESSONS LEARNED



**Access to and the full exercise of guarantees for womxn's land tenure rights are vital in moving towards a sustainable present and future.**

As womxn in the communities gain access to and ownership over land, they have a say in how to use it, when to use it, and for what purposes, responding to and representing their needs, knowledge, and solutions. They also can decide which technologies to implement for the promotion of ecosystem conservation and alternative income-generating activities, as well as build collective networks of trust to advocate in decision-making spaces.



**Systematic gender analyses are necessary for the planning and implementation of any project and public policy.**

The experience acquired by the organizations through the inclusion of a gender approach in environmental planning tools has been recognized by local authorities as a benchmark. The methodologies of gender assessments are necessary not only to quantify the project outcomes but to understand the transformative impacts for dismantling patriarchal beliefs and attitudes prevailing in society while also tackling climate change.



**Keeping economic and industrial growth as crucial elements for achieving human development poses a contradiction in the Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement.**

Continued and infinite economic growth through an increase in energy and material use will in turn require rising levels of extractivism and accelerate inequality in poorer nations. **Plans conceptualized in the NDCs and the SDGs are insufficient to mitigate climate change if there is no structural change in production and consumption patterns. A degrowth and feminist decolonial vision of a well-being economy aims at a systemic transformation of our economic system** away from the fixation on GDP growth and material extraction and towards the goal of social and ecological justice and well-being<sup>[10]</sup>.



## Dear Policymakers,

This publication has shown that another world is possible. The models showcased here are just a few of the many examples that are currently advancing the systemic transformation we so desperately need at a time of multiple intersecting crises. Below are outlined some recommendations to guide the design, implementation, and monitoring of your national gender-transformative climate policies. They are the result of the systematization of grassroots experiences executing alternatives to multiple drivers of the climate crisis:

- **Governments should strive for systemic transformation, which requires institutional arrangements and a political agenda that transversally position gender equality within each of the ministries, productive sectors, and financial mechanisms.** This revision moves away from the idea that gender is an isolated issue of concern to only a few governmental teams or committees since womxn's rights are human rights. To this end, the designation of both financial and human resources for implementing activities set out in the Gender Action Plan is vital – at the intergovernmental or national level. Similarly, it is essential to provide training in each of the ministries for officials to understand the gender nexus and to apply tools, such as gender assessments, for policy formulation.
- **Governments should strengthen their efforts to collect and use disaggregated data, adopting an intersectional approach that considers multiple differences based on income, age, gender, (dis)abilities, and other demographic and identity factors.**

Countries need to close the global gender data financing gap by securing the budgetary funds to (1) support capacity building of national statistical offices to monitor the gendered impact of current crises and help prepare for future ones and (2) promote the participation of womxn and girls in data collection efforts to ensure their perspectives, experiences, and contributions are captured. An intersectional approach helps to guarantee data is available to inform response and recovery efforts when a crisis strikes so that no one is left behind.

- **Governments should guarantee people-centred and gender-responsive climate funding allocations.** Climate finance cannot be a reproduction of traditional financial mechanisms, which subject marginalized populations to high-interest rates. The shift in focus to small-scale and community-based actions requires a critical analysis of traditional performance objectives and results measurement frameworks and an evaluation of funding options. For instance, explicit gender criteria that consider the principles of a care economy to avoid placing an extra burden on womxn is a priority. Some of the targets

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

proposed in this publication serve as inspiration for better understanding the priority objectives to be achieved by communities and reframing such results-oriented frameworks accordingly.

- **Governments should create mechanisms to effectively protect the exercise of land tenure rights by women in all their diversity and to avoid dispossession, eviction, or forced displacement.** Ensuring womxn’s right to land is a major step toward gender equality and is essential for mitigating and adapting to climate change. Rural, peasant, BIPOC womxn must be included in the design, planning, development, and evaluation of public policies with the power to vote and decide on land and natural resources use, land tenure regularization programs, and adequate productive support programs.
- **For participation to be effective, governments should work not only to remove institutional and legal barriers but also to fight time poverty.** Countries must strengthen public services and care infrastructure to ensure womxn’s social security and reduce and redistribute care workloads by increasing investments in education, health, childcare, transportation, and protection against gender-based violence.

Global discussions on the various pathways to mitigate climate change have indicated there is particular interest in engaging and investing in risky, unproven technologies rather than local, decentralized solutions, which are always more beneficial in the end. The science is clear, and so are the voices of the communities. The clock is ticking, each minute working against us, and in the face of such urgency, we must act, you must act, with real solutions that do not result in further damage or exacerbation of inequality.



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# ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AFOLU</b>	Agriculture, forestry, and other land-use
<b>BECCS</b>	Bioenergy and Carbon Capture and Storage
<b>BIPOC</b>	Black, Indigenous and People of Colour
<b>BMZ</b>	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany
<b>CBDR</b>	Common But Differentiated Responsibilities
<b>CCS</b>	Carbon Capture and Storage
<b>CDR</b>	Carbon Dioxide Removal
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>DE</b>	Decentralized Energy
<b>GALS</b>	Gender Action Learning Systems
<b>GAP</b>	Gender Action Plan
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-based violence
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>GHG</b>	Greenhouse gas
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IPCC</b>	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
<b>IMP</b>	Illustrative Mitigation Pathways
<b>INDC</b>	Intended National Determined Contribution
<b>LGBTIQ+</b>	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer, Other
<b>LWPG</b>	Lima Work Programme on Gender
<b>NbS</b>	Nature-based Solutions
<b>NDC</b>	Nationally Determined Contributions
<b>NGCCFP</b>	National Gender and Climate Change Focal Point
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>ToT</b>	Training-of-Trainers
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>WGC</b>	Women and Gender Constituency

