



WORKING PAPER

GENDER-RESPONSIVE SYNERGIES ACROSS THE RIO CONVENTIONS:

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES



© 2025 UN Women

This work is available open access by complying with the Creative Commons license created for intergovernmental organizations, available at: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/igo/>

Publishers must delete the UN Women logo from their edition and create a new cover design. Publishers should email the file of their edition to: permissions@unwomen.org.

Photocopies and reproductions of excerpts are allowed with proper credits.

Produced by the Economic Empowerment Section of UN Women.

The views expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of UN Women, the United Nations or any of its affiliated organizations.

Acknowledgements

This publication was prepared by Rosalind Helfand and Carla Kraft with support from Bindu Bhandari and Laura Brady, under the overall supervision of Seemin Qayum, all of UN Women. UN Women would like to warmly thank all the contributors for their generous collaboration.

Contributors

Amita Pitre, Oxfam International; Anne Heloise Barbosa do Nascimento, Associação de Jovens Engajamundo / Engajamundo Youth Association; Beth Roberts, Landesa; Chiemezie Atama, Equity Watch Initiative (E-WIN); Chimguundari Navaan-Yunden, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mongolia; Esther Mwaura-Muiru, Stand for Her Land; Farzana Faruk Jhumu, Fridays for Future MAPA (Most Affected People and Areas); Fazeela Mubarak, Wild Heart Kenya; Fiana Arbab, Oxfam International; Karen Wong Pérez, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED); Lipi Rahman, Badabon Sangho; Maite Rodriguez Blandon, Fundacion Guatemala and Huairou Commission Governing Council; María Diocelinda Iza Quinatoa, Organization of Indigenous and Peasant Women Sowing Hope (OMICSE); Mavic Cabrera-Balleza, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders; Michel Ndayambaje, ActionAid Rwanda; Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITECO), Government of Spain; Myrah Nerine Butt, Oxfam International; Nasheli Noriega, Oxfam International; Natalie Cleveland, Data2X; Nesmah Mansoor, Peace Track Initiative; Nohora Alejandra Quiguntar, Tejiendo Pensamiento; Olga Djanaeva, Public Association Women's Organization Alga; Renata Koch Alvarenga, EmpoderaClima; Seblewongel Negussie, Green Climate Fund; Sharon Bhagwan-Rolls, Pacific Women Mediators Network; Victória Miguel Rampazzo, Associação de Jovens Engajamundo / Engajamundo Youth Association; Zoneziwoh Mbongdulo-Wondieh, Women for a Change Cameroon.

Editing: Andy Quan

Design and layout: Oliver Gantner

Contact: carla.kraft@unwomen.org

Cover photo: UN Women/Nicky Kuautonga

GENDER-RESPONSIVE SYNERGIES ACROSS THE RIO CONVENTIONS:

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES

Economic Empowerment Section

UN Women

New York, 2025





Acronyms

BIPOC	Black, Indigenous and People of Colour	MENA	Middle East and North Africa
CEDAW	United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women	MITECO	Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge
CICODEV	Pan-African Institute for Citizenship, Consumers and Development	NGO	Non-governmental organization
COP	Conference of Parties	ODA	Official Development Assistance
CSO	Civil society organization	OMICSE	Organization of Indigenous and Peasant Women Sowing Hope
CSW	United Nations Commission on the Status of Women	PIFA4CJ	Pacific Island Feminist Alliance for Climate Justice
DRR	Disaster risk reduction	REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries
E-WIN	Equity Watch Initiative	SDI	Slum Dwellers International
FACJ	Feminist Action for Climate Justice	S4HL	Stand for Her Land
FFF MAPA	Fridays for Future Most Affected People and Areas	SDGs	The Sustainable Development Goals
GAP	Gender Action Plan	UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
GBV	Gender-based violence	UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
GEDA	Gender and Environment Data Alliance	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
GEF	Generation Equality Forum	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
GCF	Green Climate Fund	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
GPA	Gender Plan of Action	UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
GPPAC	Global Project for the Prevention of Armed Conflict	UNSC	United Nations Security Council
IFI	International financial institutions	WEHRD	Women Environmental Human Rights Defenders
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development	WFAC	Women for a Change
ILO	International Labour Organization		
JTI	Just Transition Institute		
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean		
LGBTQIA+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual/Ally Plus		



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	4
Human Rights, Gender Equality and Environmental Sustainability	7
Women Environmental Human Rights Defenders	11
Women's Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation, Leadership and Decision-Making	15
Women's Land and Resource Rights and Tenure Security	19
Environment and Women's and Girl's Unpaid Care, Domestic and Communal Work	23
Gender-responsive Financial Mechanisms to Implement the Rio Conventions	27
Gender-responsive Just Transitions	31
Gender, Health and Environment	35
Gender and Environment Data	39
Gender and Climate Security	43
Gender-responsive Disaster Risk Reduction	47
Annex	50
References	51



Introduction

The implementation of the Rio Conventions, the treaties designed to protect life on earth—the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)—and their gender provisions and action plans depends on increasing opportunities and reducing silos between national governments, UN agencies and other stakeholders, while generating greater efficiency and capacity. Stakeholders at all levels, including Parties to the Rio Conventions and their Secretariats, are working to overcome these silos together through renewed attention to interlinkages and collaborations that build gender-responsive synergies across all processes to advance the mutual goals of the Rio Conventions.

Gender-Responsive Synergies Across the Rio Conventions: Multi-stakeholder Perspectives brings together partners and stakeholders from around the world who are working on issues at the nexus of biodiversity loss, climate change and land degradation. It is a companion to “[Advancing Gender-Responsive Synergies Across the Rio Conventions](#),” a 2024 UN Women working paper. Launched as a brief at the 29th Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP29) and a full working paper at the 16th Conference of Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP16), it illustrates how the leadership and active engagement of women and girls at all levels is necessary to advance climate and environmental action that promotes gender equality, women’s rights and resilience across the Rio Conventions.

The working paper highlights recommendations to promote gender-responsive synergies across the Rio Conventions and steps which Rio Convention Parties and Secretariats can take to effectively engage stakeholders, including to:

- Promote women’s and girls’ voices, agency, leadership and participation, including grassroots women, Indigenous women and women in rural, urban and local communities, to foreground their lived experiences across the Rio Conventions.
- Convene Parties, partners and stakeholders to review challenges and barriers to gender-responsive synergies and undertake concrete measures to overcome them.
- Secure commitments at the highest level to devote capacity, staff, communications and time for Rio Conventions Secretariat coordination and stakeholder engagement.
- Ensure integration of gender action plans with the overall implementation of the Rio Conventions.
- Increase financing and direct access to funding for women in all their diversity and their organizations at all levels.
- Fund gender and environmental constituencies to work jointly across the Rio Conventions.
- Develop a communications, outreach and advocacy platform in collaboration with civil society and other stakeholders on gender-responsive Rio Convention synergies, offering data, evidence, knowledge and tools.



Multi-stakeholder engagement is a key element of the 11 “Key Entry Points for Gender-Responsive Implementation of the Rio Conventions” as outlined in the working paper:

1. Human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability
2. Women environmental human rights defenders
3. Women’s full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership in public life and decision-making
4. Women’s land and resource rights and tenure security
5. Environment and women’s and girl’s unpaid care, domestic and communal work
6. Gender-responsive financial mechanisms to implement the Rio Conventions
7. Gender-responsive just transitions
8. Gender, health and environment
9. Gender and environment data
10. Gender and climate security
11. Disaster risk reduction

These entry points reflect the broad range of challenges for gender equality rooted in climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation.

To advance a practical understanding of these entry points, UN Women invited 22 governments and non-governmental and civil society organizations to share their perspectives on the interconnections between their work and gender-responsive synergies across the Rio Conventions. The perspectives in this working paper demonstrate diverse approaches to the gender-responsive implementation of the Rio Conventions.

These perspectives, together with the working paper, aim to enrich discussions on a gender-responsive and synergistic approach to the Rio Convention COPs, negotiations and intersessional meetings. It is hoped that the perspectives will inspire increased gender-responsive engagement and collective action when addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation and drought at all levels.



Human Rights, Gender Equality and Environmental Sustainability

The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, recognized by UN General Assembly resolution [76/300](#) in 2022, has been embedded into agreements, laws and policies by more than 150 nations. It is recognized as a “necessary enabling condition” for the enjoyment of human rights guaranteed to all without discrimination based on sex or gender. Without access to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, women and girls are disproportionately susceptible to poverty, loss of livelihoods, hunger, poor health, gender-based violence including child, early and forced marriage, displacement and conflict.

Contributing their perspectives on how human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability are linked across the Rio Conventions are Fazeela Mubarak, Co-founder of the local civil society organization Wild Heart Kenya, and Maité Rodríguez Blandón, Founder-Director of Fundación Guatemala and member of the Huairou Commission Governing Council, writing with María Diocelinda Iza Quinatoa, Co-founder of the Organization of Indigenous and Peasant Women Sowing Hope (OMICSE).



Photo: UN Women Guatemala/Oscar Leiva



Human Rights, Gender Equality and Environmental Sustainability

Fazeela Mubarak

Co-founder of Wild Heart Kenya



Wild Heart Kenya is a women-led organization that pursues gender equality and climate justice through biodiversity restoration with the aim of empowering women whose rights and wellbeing are disproportionately affected by climate change. [Women, particularly in rural Kenya, are often primary income providers](#), who must grapple with climate and environmental impacts on their livelihoods and communities, such as reduced fish catch due to coral bleaching, increased threats of violence from human-wildlife conflict and diminished crop yields because of drought.

Wild Heart Kenya focuses on advocating for women's full, equal and meaningful participation in decision-making processes, capacity development and engaging in developing, implementing and updating climate and environmental policies, plans and actions at all levels.



Planting roots of hope, restoration and gender equality. Wild Heart Kenya supporting Indigenous women. Photo: Husna Khan.

Through nature restoration, women are also leading on climate mitigation and adaptation solutions. Wild Heart Kenya's flagship project of mangrove rehabilitation aims to restore biodiversity and reduce land degradation, create buffer zones against extreme weather conditions and simultaneously support food security, which empowers women economically. Mangroves are a vital part of marine ecosystems, absorbing carbon more effectively than terrestrial forests and serving as thriving habitats for crabs, fish, baby sharks and birds. In 2024, Wild Heart Kenya worked with Indigenous women to restore over 4,000 mangroves in Kenya's Funzi coastal area, supporting local fishing communities by sourcing seedlings and fostering a green and blue economy.

This intersectional approach to climate and environmental justice, human rights and gender equality has proven effective as rural Kenyan women gain economic independence and resilience. Wild Heart Kenya's work aligns with the UNFCCC's Gender Action Plan objective of promoting local and Indigenous women's solutions to enhance their participation in climate action and build their capacities to implement the convention and access resources. Furthermore, their work aligns with the [UNCCD's goals](#) by emphasizing rural women's economic empowerment and ability to sustainably manage land and become drought resilient, while increasing women's opportunities for quality income earning. Wild Heart Kenya also aligns with the UNCBD's [promotion of gender-responsive implementation](#) of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework's targets, including biodiversity restoration.



Maite Rodriguez Blandon

Founder-Director of Fundacion Guatemala and Member of the Huairou Commission Governing Council



María Diocelinda Iza Quinatoa

Co-founder of the Organization of Indigenous and Peasant Women Sowing Hope (OMICSE)

[Huairou Commission](#) invests in grassroots women-led community resilience initiatives in resource-poor urban and rural settlements, that respond to the devastating effects of climate change and environmental destruction on community livelihoods through bottom-up, local solutions to global environmental crises. At the same time, they promote human rights-based approaches linked to the Rio Conventions, recognizing that especially Indigenous women who act as guardians of the land and biodiversity face multiple human rights violations.



María Diocelinda Iza Quinatoa, Co-founder of the Organization of Indigenous and Peasant Women Sowing Hope (OMICSE). Photo: Maite Rodriguez Blandon.

OMICSE raises awareness of women's human rights, gender equality and the fight against gender-based violence. OMICSE creates an open and participatory space for women's voices and proposals, fostering their active participation in community, peasant and Indigenous organizations at the local, provincial, regional and national levels. OMICSE promotes a "Women's Agenda Against Climate Change," reflecting human rights and gender equality concerns, which supports grassroots women's leadership in environmental protection and the recovery of ancestral agricultural knowledge in harmony with the Pacha Mama (Mother Earth).

For example, OMICSE's work led to the approval of 2023 provincial regulations to promote agroecology, agro-biodiversity and food sovereignty in the context of the protection and recovery of the páramo wetland ecosystem of the central highlands, an important carbon sink to help limit global warming. OMICSE, now 800-women strong from 21 communities, has made a significant difference in protecting human rights, particularly the rights to land and water, and the rights of nature.

María Diocelinda Iza Quinatoa, co-founder of the Organization of Indigenous and Peasant Women Sowing Hope (OMICSE) in the Parish of Toacazo in Ecuador, is one of the grassroots women leaders whose work is enabled by the Huairou Commission. An activist for the human rights of Indigenous women and women of other ethnicities, as well as the rights of nature, in 2010 she was the first Indigenous woman elected president of the Indigenous and Peasant Movement of Cotopaxi, which brings together 32 organizations and more than 750 communities in the province.



Women Environmental Human Rights Defenders

Women and girls are frequently at the frontline of protecting land and natural resources in the midst of diminishing ecological integrity, land degradation and increasing vulnerability to the impact of climate change and related disasters. In this context, the protection of women environmental human rights defenders is indispensable to the effective gender-responsive implementation of the Rio Conventions. As of September 2025, some 4,365 social and environmental conflicts worldwide were documented, of which over one quarter involved women environmental human rights defenders. By linking gender-responsive representation and protections for women environmental human rights defenders, the Rio Conventions can lay the groundwork to formally address this intersection in all of the various implementation mechanisms, other national mechanisms and plans.

Contributing their perspectives on the linkages between the work of and protections for women environmental human rights defenders across the Rio Conventions are Nohora Alejandra Quiguanter, Indigenous territorial defender and Founder of the local Colombian organization, Tejiendo Pensamiento, and Nesmah Mansoor, Co-founder and Policy and Communication Senior Officer of Peace Track Initiative, which was founded by Yemeni women to support peace processes.



Photo: UN Women/Pedro Pio



Women Environmental Human Rights Defenders

Nohora Alejandra Quiguntar

Founder, Tejiendo Pensamiento



Nohora Alejandra is a young Indigenous woman from the Pasto people of Colombia. From an early age, she took a deep interest in environmental research, which led her to found Tejiendo Pensamiento, a movement of Indigenous women and women environmental human rights defenders that enables and makes visible their leadership for climate and environmental justice, rooted in [Indigenous knowledge systems](#).

Extraction of natural resources in indigenous territories, unequal distribution of land and resources and loss of biodiversity are contributing to the disappearance of Indigenous peoples' knowledge systems. Ancestral knowledge and practices, passed down through generations, are deeply connected to the sustainable use of land, forests, water and seeds. These techniques, based on respect for Indigenous peoples' ways of life, have yielded promising solutions for protecting biodiversity, promoting climate resilience and reducing land degradation.

[Tejiendo Pensamiento](#) is committed to fostering local solutions through participatory biodiversity monitoring. Mujeres Urdiendo en la Ciencia [Women Weaving Science], a citizen science project, seeks to strengthen the capacity of Indigenous women to generate evidence on climate change impacts, including on their roles and action. Through collaborative research, participants record the flora and fauna of their territories with the aim of informing decision-makers about the state of biodiversity.

This work connects with the objectives of the three Rio Conventions by focusing on ecosystem-based climate change adaptation measures, and highlights the role of Indigenous women as [environmental human rights defenders in support of these international frameworks](#).

It is important to recognize that Alejandra's and Indigenous women's defense of the environment is deeply connected to their peace activism arising from Colombia's armed conflict, which disproportionately impacted Indigenous and Afro-Colombian women. In a country that remains the most dangerous for human rights defenders in the world, Indigenous women persevere as the primary managers and users of natural resources, including the lands they steward, in many fragile and conflict-affected contexts. Despite the continued threats on their lives and livelihoods, they continue to play key roles in the prevention, management and resolution of tensions and conflicts related to natural resources and peacebuilding.

As a young Indigenous woman, Alejandra affirms that there can be no peace without environmental justice, nor justice without the protection of territory and those who defend it. Alejandra and Tejiendo Pensamiento make visible the knowledge systems of Indigenous women, [which are often ignored in global policy fora](#), not only recognizing their leadership and rights, but contributing to climate and environmental initiatives relevant and adapted to local contexts.



Women Weaving in Science Phase II: Field Data, a citizen science project led by Indigenous Pastos women. Photo: Tejiendo Pensamiento.



Nesmah Mansoor

Co-founder and Policy and Communication Senior Officer,
Peace Track Initiative

Just as climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation disproportionately affect women, so does conflict, further increasing the burden they face in addressing the intersecting challenges. In her briefing to the UN Security Council, Nesmah Mansoor Ali, Senior Policy and Communication Officer at the Peace Track Initiative, highlighted exactly these compounding crises of armed conflict, climate change, and its gendered impacts in Yemen.



Ola Alaghbary, founder and chairwoman at the Sheba Youth Foundation for Development meeting with the Water Committee in Taiz, as part of a 2022 mediation initiative to restore access to water wells. Photo: UN/Heba Naji.

The Rio Conventions, as frameworks to protect nature and human life and promote sustainability, should consider the devastating impacts of active conflicts on ecosystems, destroying biodiversity and rendering communities more vulnerable to climate shocks. Attacks on oil refineries and ports, widespread contamination from toxins, and indiscriminate and [proliferating placement of landmines](#) in agricultural and coastal fishing areas accelerate biodiversity loss and land degradation. This results in undermining both environmental sustainability and community resilience, while rendering future development efforts more challenging. Compounding this, climate change is deepening the crisis for conflict-affected communities. For example, in Yemen, the recurring floods are dislocating landmines, complicating demining efforts and damaging more ecosystems in the country.

Women environmental human rights defenders find themselves operating across interconnected agendas of peacebuilding, climate resilience, biodiversity conservation and land restoration. In Yemen, [Muna Luqman](#), a peace activist and founder of Food4Humanity, a women-led civil society organization that provides emergency relief, training and livelihood programmes, mediated a water conflict between two communities on the brink of violence in the city of Taiz. Through her initiative, a local peace agreement was signed, a council was formed to prevent future disputes, and a water station was repaired, providing clean water to over 10,000 people. Muna's work is an important example, which demonstrates that addressing environmental issues requires an ecosystem of action. Such a holistic approach is vital for fostering long-term resilience in conflict-affected communities.

Returning to the UNSC briefing, Nesmah underscored the urgent need for climate-responsive peacebuilding, stronger environmental governance, and the inclusion of exactly the above-mentioned initiatives by women environmental human rights defenders in all peace and political processes. She called on the Council to address environmental destruction as a war crime, ensure accountability, and support local initiatives tackling resource-based conflicts in order to contribute to long-term, sustainable peace.



Women's Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation, Leadership and Decision-Making

Women's and girls' voice, agency, leadership and participation continue to be underrepresented and undervalued in climate and environmental policies and decision-making processes. The proportion of women in COP delegations has stagnated far below parity. For example, at the UNFCCC COP29 in 2024, only 35 per cent of delegates and 24 per cent of heads of delegation were women. At the global level, the proportion of national environmental ministers who are women has increased but as of 2024 was only 28 per cent. Similarly, women and girls from civil society organizations, particularly youth or those working at the grassroots level, continue to face challenges in attending national and global decision-making forums. This creates a barrier to ensuring that their voices are not just heard but that they also have a meaningful seat at the table. The Rio Conventions provide key opportunities to increase women's leadership and meaningful participation across all areas and levels of climate and environmental action.

Contributing their perspectives on how participation in public life and decision-making are linked across the Rio Conventions are Farzana Faruk Jhumu, a Bangladesh-based activist with Fridays for Future Most Affected People and Areas (MAPA), and Chinguundari Navaan-Yunden, Ambassador-at-Large for UNCCD COP17 under the Government of Mongolia Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Photo: UN Women/Fahad Abdullah Kaizer



Women's Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation, Leadership and Decision Making

Farzana Faruk Jhumu

Climate Justice Activist, Fridays for Future Most Affected People and Areas (FFF MAPA)



[Fridays for Future Most Affected People and Areas \(FFF MAPA\)](#) is a global grassroots movement that identifies and integrates individuals, local groups, and organizations from the Global South that lead gender-responsive climate action. FFF MAPA takes an intersectional approach to advocate for feminist climate justice and is committed to building bridges for grassroots youth-led feminist organizations to ensure their meaningful roles and leadership at all levels of governance and society.

For FFF MAPA, discussions of the climate crisis cannot ignore the social dimensions, which are complex and diverse. The global emergency affects different social groups on different scales. This is why the term MAPA—Most Affected People and Areas—arises: to make more visible the communities that are the least responsible for the climate emergency but suffer the most from its effects. [MAPA includes all territories in the Global South](#) (Africa, Latin America, Pacific Islands, etc.) as well as marginalized communities (BIPOC, women, LGBTQIA+ people, etc.) who might live anywhere in the world.

FFF MAPA has facilitated the entrance of grassroots youth leaders into local, national, and international decision-making spaces. FFF MAPA ensures that youth who have been leading local or community projects can access decision-making processes, showcase their leadership, and learn to navigate global negotiation spaces, especially the Rio Conventions, not just as observers, but as policy influencers.

Volunteers from these local groups collaborate to manage specific projects under FFF MAPA, while also contributing independently to their respective groups. Local action for FFF MAPA differs according to local demands and ranges across the Rio Conventions. Depending on the circumstances, this may involve mobilizing local communities and defending vulnerable ecosystems from extractive megaprojects, such as the Sundarbans in Bangladesh and

Lake Victoria in Uganda and Kenya. Other projects that address biodiversity and land degradation include [forest restoration in Amazonia](#) (a project of FFF Brazil) and promoting and protecting Indigenous rights and ecological knowledge, such as with the Masai community in Kenya (a project of FFF Africa and [Spring of the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands](#)).



UN Women's event, "Gender-Responsive Climate Action: Building Evidence for Change," at the UNFCCC COP28 in Dubai. FFF MAPA feminist leaders joined the event as speakers and participants to share their work on gender equality and climate policy. Photo: Marie Jackman.

FFF MAPA supports youth leaders in coordinating nationwide environmental campaigns like [#UprootTheSystem](#), engaging with national governments, and contributing to the development of national climate and environmental policies for a just energy transition, often through lobbying and media outreach, and social media presence.

As a leader of the [Feminist Action for Climate Justice \(FACJ\) Action Coalition](#), which is convened by [UN Women under Generation Equality](#), FFF MAPA also advances participation in [decision-making at the global level and in global forums](#) by providing on-the-ground training, logistical and financial support, securing media opportunities including press conferences, and ensuring that the demands and lived experiences of Indigenous, tribal peoples and communities most affected by climate change are heard. And FFF MAPA follows negotiations onsite and organizes protests in public spaces to highlight the need for decision makers to meaningfully include and align with the experiences and views of grassroots communities, especially grassroots women leaders.

Women's Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation, Leadership and Decision Making



Chinguundari Navaan-Yunden

Ambassador-at-Large for UNCCD COP17 under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Mongolia

Decision Making: Chimi – Mongolia

The COP17 Preparatory Office of Mongolia, under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, leads national coordination as Mongolia prepares to host the [17th Conference of the Parties \(COP17\) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification \(UNCCD\)](#). In Mongolia's fragile dryland ecosystems, where desertification, biodiversity loss, and climate change increasingly threaten traditional livelihoods, the Office has embedded gender equality, human rights, and environmental sustainability at the centre of its work, fully aligned with the [UNCCD Gender Action Plan](#).

This integrated approach is demonstrated in the monthly Scientists' Dialogue, where a gender-balanced group of researchers, practitioners, and policymakers collaboratively generate actionable knowledge. These inclusive dialogues document women-led land restoration models, including indigenous grass reseeding and community-based pasture rehabilitation informed by the latest rangeland research. The evidence directly informs national policies that strengthen women's land and resource rights and tenure security, while advancing land degradation neutrality and biodiversity conservation across the Rio Conventions.

To further promote women's meaningful participation, the Office convened the [National Youth Forum](#) in Mandalgovi, Dundgovi Province, on 16-17 June 2025, on the occasion of World Desertification and Drought Day. The Forum brought together diverse youth voices —young women herders, rural women teachers who established an eco-club, emerging women climate experts, and women students from the national desertification Ideathon— to contribute directly to policy dialogues. Their engagement reflects women's full and meaningful leadership in environmental decision-making, bridging ancestral knowledge and innovative climate adaptation and biodiversity solutions.



Ms Ulambayar, head of the household and a participant in the Coal-to-Solar project phase 2 by URECA, in partnership with UNDP.
Photo: URECA/Margad-Erdene Ganbaatar.

[Women-led leadership](#) within the Preparatory Office itself exemplifies this approach. Three out of four Division heads are women under the leadership of Ambassador-at-Large, Chinguundari Navaan-Yunden, Director of the COP17 Preparatory Office.

This synergized approach offers a replicable model for gender-transformative leadership that advances integrated implementation of the Rio Conventions, delivering more equitable, effective, and sustainable outcomes for people and planet.



Women's Land and Resource Rights and Tenure Security

Securing women's land and resource rights and tenure security is critical for their empowerment, livelihoods, human rights, resilience and participation in sustainable natural resource management. Securing these rights contributes to climate change mitigation and adaptation, safeguarding ecosystem health and biodiversity conservation, and the prevention and reversal of land degradation and drought impacts. Despite that approximately a quarter of employed women worldwide work in agriculture, forestry and fishing—sectors which they depend on for their livelihoods—and women comprise 38 per cent of all workers in these areas, less than 15 per cent of agricultural landholders globally are women. This systemic exclusion from decision-making on land and natural resources management not only undermines gender equality but also poses a significant barrier to achieving sustainable development.

Contributing their perspectives on how land and resource rights and tenure security are linked across the Rio Conventions are Kenya-based Esther Mwaura-Muiru, Global Advocacy Director of the Stand for Her Land (S4HL) Initiative, and Olga Djanaeva, Director of the Public Association Women's Organization Alga in Kyrgyzstan.



Photo: UN Women/Alidou Ndiaye



Women's Land and Resource Rights and Tenure Security

Esther Mwaura-Muiru

Global Advocacy Director,
Stand for Her Land (S4HL) Campaign



All over the world, [women and girls are the most affected by poverty, violence, hunger, disasters and the climate and environmental crises](#) because they lack foundational resources and services to secure livelihoods and their futures. [Stand For Her Land \(S4HL\)](#) is a global advocacy initiative committed to ensuring that women and girls live dignified lives with secure land rights and resource tenure as a fundamental pathway. In 2024, S4HL actively participated in efforts to build synergies across the three Rio Conventions: UNCBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC. These efforts highlighted and helped to elevate the role of women's land rights in achieving gender equality and sustainable development.

[Land is a foundational resource for women](#) that generates income, enables access to credit, strengthens their ability to cope with economic shocks, supports climate change mitigation and adaptation, and enables engagement in economic development. But patriarchal land tenure and governance and asset ownership and persistent gender inequality in wealth distribution must be taken into consideration when addressing climate change related disasters and damage. Insecure land tenure creates instability in women's lives instead of building long-term buffers against threats such as food insufficiency, land degradation and biodiversity loss. Secure land tenure for women enables them to [incorporate strategies that increase sustainable production as well as protect and regenerate ecosystems](#).

Rio Conventions mechanisms advancing women's land rights provide progressive standards that must be implemented synergistically to have a positive impact on the lives of women. But backlash against gender equality and unsustainable exploitation of natural resources pose threats to their successful implementation. For this reason, S4HL also advocates to bridge the gap between laws and women's realities on the ground, addressing patriarchal social norms and elevating the leadership of grassroots women as agents of change to inform programming and investments.

One example of bridging this gap is S4HL's support for a World Bank-funded project, "Improvement of the Cadastre and Land Tenure" in Senegal, which digitalizes land information and improves land governance. S4HL Senegal NGO member, CICODEV, works with CSOs and grassroots women leaders to create awareness of the project, and facilitates dialogues with local authorities to put land in the hands of women through joint tiling and land allocations. CICODEV assisted rural women to complete land applications with a simplified "How to Do" manual and trained community facilitators to provide ongoing technical support. This process has resulted in many women gaining land titles while strengthening their collective voice in shaping key national development agendas.



Women leaders in Senegal in the process of follow-up and accountability towards the Women's Land Rights commitment. Photo: Stand for Her Land.

Women's Land and Resource Rights and Tenure Security



Olga Djanaeva

Director, Public Association Women's Organization Alga

Public Association Women's Organization Alga is a women's civil society organization working to advance gender equality and climate and environmental justice in Kyrgyzstan. Its focus is on the economic empowerment of women, particularly in rural areas, for secure land and resource rights. These rights are a critical foundation for climate resilience, biodiversity protection, [food security and sustainable development](#). Alga also works closely with rural women to promote equal participation in decision-making. While laws formally guarantee equal rights to land in [Kyrgyzstan](#), patriarchal customary law/customs and local practices often prevent women from owning land or attaining tenure security. This limits their ability to adapt to climate change, take part in managing natural resources or adopt sustainable practices such as agroecology or agroforestry.

Echoing the goals of the three Rio Conventions, Alga takes a holistic and feminist approach that sees climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation as interconnected challenges that require community-driven, gender-just solutions. Alga believes that protecting biodiversity and restoring ecosystems must go hand-in-hand with protecting and promoting [women's rights](#).

Thanks to Alga's work with rural women's groups in the Chui region of Kyrgyzstan, women now share responsibility with men for managing pasturelands and protecting and sustainably using native plants, while speaking up for their rights in local decision-making. This example of collective action shows that when women have the right tools and support, they can make a difference in restoring ecosystems and building community resilience.



Rural women working together in the fields, collecting and packing crops to support their families and strengthen food security. Their joint effort builds resilience and solidarity in the face of climate and economic challenges. Photo: Jamila Kojokmatova, rural activist and specialist on land use.

Through Alga's capacity-building programmes and advocacy efforts, women are supported to claim and protect their land rights. Once women feel secure in their land use, they are more likely to adopt sustainable, agroecological practices, such as crop diversification, planting native crop species, and managing trees and pastures with agroforestry techniques that improve soil health and support biodiversity.

For Alga, rural women must be seen as key actors in environmental work and sustainable agriculture. Only with women's secure land rights and meaningful and effective participation is it possible to make progress on goals of land restoration, climate action and biodiversity protection.



Environment and Women's and Girl's Unpaid Care, Domestic and Communal Work

Women's and girls' unpaid care, domestic and communal work spans the objectives of the Rio Conventions. Integrated efforts to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work, and in the case of paid work, represent and reward it appropriately, are necessary to realize gender equality and ensure women's and girls' full and effective participation in decision-making, which is key to addressing climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation, and building climate and environmental resilience.

Contributing their perspectives on how women's and girls' unpaid care, domestic and communal work are linked across the Rio Conventions are an Oxfam International team from multiple global regions: Amita Pitre, Care Adviser, Strategy and Feminist Futures at the Oxfam International Secretariat; Nasheli Noriega Izquierdo, Coordinator for Feminisms and Gender Justice at Oxfam in Latin America; Myrah Nerine Butt, Gender Justice Policy and Advocacy Manager for the Asia Platform; and Fiana Arbab, IFI Policy Adviser on Gender Justice. Michel Ndayambaje, Regional Programme Coordinator for the Northern and Western Region of ActionAid Rwanda, has also contributed.



Photo: UN Women/Silvia Lanzarini



Environment and Women's and Girl's Unpaid Care, Domestic and Communal Work

Oxfam International contributing team



Myrah Nerine Butt
Gender Justice Policy and
Advocacy Manager for the
Asia Platform



Amita Pitre
Care Adviser, Strategy and
Feminist Futures, Oxfam
International Secretariat



Fiana Arbab
IFI Policy Adviser on
Gender Justice



Nasheli Noriega Izquierdo
Coordinator for Feminisms
and Gender Justice at Oxfam
in Latin America

Adaptation is crucial for addressing climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation and realizing human rights, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. However, tackling these crises without addressing the care crisis would be short-sighted and unjust. For a liveable planet, we must move from extractive to regenerative economies, from neoliberal and patriarchal to equitable economic models, and from profit-centred to people-centred systems.



Erlinda Nialda lives in a riverside community in the Philippines. When the water rises, community members must swim and walk for two hours to reach safety.
Photo: Oxfam/Elizabeth Stevens.

Care is critical: Care is the invisible engine driving society: caring for children, the elderly, the sick, managing households, nurturing the environment, and sustaining community and emotional wellbeing. This work—critical yet undervalued—is disproportionately carried out by marginalized, racialized, and Indigenous women living in poverty. Globally, women provide three quarters of unpaid care and domestic work and constitute two-thirds of (under)paid care workers. Their [labour sustains the productive economy and social fabric, and is critical for protection of the environment](#).

Impacts of climate and environmental crises: Contexts across Asia, Africa, the Pacific, MENA, Latin America and the Caribbean reveal how climate disasters—both slow and sudden—disproportionately increase women's and girls' unpaid care, domestic, communal and environmental work. [Climate impacts disrupt water, energy, food, health-care, education and transport systems, damage informal](#)

[and agricultural livelihoods, devastate ecosystems, increase hunger and ill health, and force migrations](#). This results in heightened vulnerability and precarity, including increased gender-based violence, school dropouts, and early marriages. Women bridge the care gaps, coping with declining incomes and reduced support networks. Care-blind climate solutions risk reinforcing patriarchal norms and deepening gender inequalities.

A transformative approach: A [care-centred feminist approach](#)—one that is decolonial, gender-just, and reduces inequality—is imperative. This means reimagining and rebuilding the social organization of care around the sustenance of life, not profit. Feminist movements across LAC and Asia are pushing for the Human Right to Care, universal public services including care and gender-responsive social protection, and climate-responsive, non-polluting, gender-just jobs which cut across the goals of the Rio Convention. Countries like Uruguay and Colombia are building integrated care systems while local governments in the Philippines are legislating for climate-responsive care infrastructure, including water, childcare, and time- and labour-reducing devices. As such, policy-makers worldwide should [integrate women's time poverty and care considerations into climate and environment action plans](#); ensure active participation of community actors, especially Indigenous and rural women; secure women's rights to land, forests, water, and commons; implement CEDAW and its general observations, particularly on Indigenous women's rights; promote sustainable agriculture and circular economies; build evidence on the care–climate nexus and prioritize rebuilding care systems post-disasters. It is crucial to also implement the ILO 5 'Rs' framework for care, including additional Rs of adequate 'Resourcing' and care-integrated 'Resilience' building.

Acknowledgements: This draft has been enriched with feedback from Anjela Taneja, Public Services Policy and Advocacy Lead and Leah Mugehera, Gender, Rights and Justice Policy and Advocacy Lead, Oxfam International Secretariat.

Environment and Women's and Girl's Unpaid Care, Domestic and Communal Work



Michel Ndayambaje

Regional Programme Coordinator for the Northern
and Western Region, ActionAid Rwanda

In Rwanda, climate change is a daily reality for rural women whose unpaid care and domestic work, farming duties, and household responsibilities are compounded by droughts, soil degradation, and energy scarcity. ActionAid Rwanda recognizes that climate resilience must be built from the ground up, and women must be at the heart of that transformation. Their [2024-2028 Strategic Plan](#) champions a gender-transformative approach, where environmental restoration and women's empowerment move hand-in-hand.



Philomene-Hugukirwa, the Cooperative President, in the nursery bed in Muko supported by Actionaid. Photo: ActionAid Rwanda/Paul Ndagijimana.

At the core of this strategy is agroecology. Women small-holder farmers are trained in techniques that conserve soil, protect water sources, and reduce dependence on chemical inputs. Time, labour and ecosystem-saving technologies like energy efficient cookstoves and rainwater harvesting free up time previously spent gathering firewood, collecting water and preparing meals. These tools not only ease unpaid care and domestic work but also conserve water, sustainably manage natural resources and reduce deforestation, enabling the natural regeneration of tree cover and biodiversity.

Such technological innovations create space for women to engage in leadership whether in farmer cooperatives, advocacy platforms, or climate and environmental planning dialogues. The [Fund Our Future](#) campaign amplifies these voices, mobilizing communities to demand climate-smart budgeting, agroforestry investment, and sustainable energy access. These community-led priorities echo Rwanda's commitment to inclusive development, placing women as architects of local climate adaptation strategies.

Beyond agriculture, [ActionAid Rwanda](#) takes a systems-level approach to redistributing care responsibilities. Water-harvesting infrastructure, childcare centres, and energy-saving community tools help reduce care and domestic labour and increase women's freedom to engage in civic, economic, and environmental initiatives. These investments not only build household resilience but unlock the transformative leadership potential of women long sidelined in climate and environmental decision-making.

These efforts live up to the promise of the Rio Conventions with justice, inclusion, and transformation — a matter of dignity. By honoring care work, restoring land, and amplifying women's leadership, ActionAid Rwanda shows that climate and environmental justice begins in kitchens, fields, and village meetings, where women take action not only for their families, but for the future of the planet.

This approach offers lessons well beyond Rwanda's borders. It reveals how recognizing and alleviating women's and girls' unpaid care and domestic work advances sustainability, equity, and innovation in their communities. The transformation underway is not just environmental, it's social, economic, and deeply political.



Gender-responsive Financial Mechanisms to Implement the Rio Conventions

Major climate and environmental finance mechanisms integrate gender equality considerations, often requiring gender action plans when deciding on funding. However, performance indicators and assessment of benefits for women and girls remain insufficient. In 2022, out of the US\$2.4 billion of climate official development assistance (ODA) channelled via civil society organizations, mostly in donor countries, only US\$43 million went to feminist and women's organizations and movements. Gender-responsive implementation of the goals and targets of the Rio Conventions requires that more public finance and resources are channelled to gender and environment initiatives, as well as mainstreaming gender considerations in new and existing climate, biodiversity and land degradation funds. Equally important is increasing direct funding to women's rights and grassroots organizations with their participation in decision-making processes.

Contributing their perspectives on the importance of gender-responsive financial mechanisms to implement the Rio Conventions are Seblewongel Negussie, Gender and Social Specialist at the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and Beth Roberts, Center for Women's Land Rights Director at Landesa.



Photo: UN Women El Salvador



Gender-responsive Financial Mechanisms to implement the Rio Conventions

Seblewongel Negussie

Gender and Social Specialist at the Green Climate Fund (GCF)



The Green Climate Fund (GCF) prioritizes gender-responsive climate finance throughout its portfolio, ensuring women's inclusion, leadership, and equitable access to opportunities and resources. A key pillar of GCF's approach is advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in climate action. The GCF gender policy underscores that women's active engagement from project inception, monitoring, through implementation is essential for the sustainability of investments.

The GCF aims to embed gender equality in climate governance and foster inclusive, sustainable development, for example, through initiatives such as [Ecuador REDD+](#) (Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries plus additional forest-related activities that protect the climate) Results-based Payments projects. The projects create opportunities for women to engage in consultative processes and skills development. Importantly, the projects do not focus solely on women—they actively ensure the involvement of all stakeholders, including men, fostering a more inclusive approach to gender equality. In addition to capacity development, the projects leverage women's existing competencies while recognizing them as custodians of ancestral ecological knowledge, ensuring the conservation of forests and biodiversity within sustainable land management.

While decision-making roles remain difficult for women to access, the projects have actively invested in strengthening women's leadership in governance, working with communities to facilitate their appointment to climate decision-making positions. Community acceptance of women's leadership plays a crucial role in ensuring sustainability, not only for women but for society as a whole. These shifts are critical for advancing gender equity in governance. Additionally, access to and ownership of land remain significant challenges for women. Acknowledging this, the projects are actively working to reinforce equitable

land access through gender-disaggregated tenure data collection while promoting inclusive land-use planning.

Benefit-sharing plans have attracted diverse community actors to submit forestry-related proposals, with women's applications increasing significantly compared to previous years. This underscores the importance of inclusive engagement and participatory processes, as women demonstrate both interest and capability in contributing to and benefiting from investments in their communities.



ECORES Nursery, August 2021, Talca, Maule Region. The nursery Chile supplies native plants to the pilot projects of the +Bosques Project, together against climate change, in the Maule Region. Ecores was founded in 2015 out of a need to address reforestation projects with a strong focus on forest restoration and biodiversity conservation. It manages and plants 13 native species from the Mediterranean and temperate forests of south-central Chile. Only women work in the nursery. Photo: FAO/Max Valencia.

Gender inequality remains a significant barrier to effective climate governance and sustainable development. The Green Climate Fund's efforts in bridging this gap through women's inclusive participation, strengthened leadership, and equitable land access can unlock new pathways for resilience and innovation. Recognizing and providing continuous support to women as custodians of ancestral ecological knowledge and as agents of change should expedite biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management. A commitment to gender-responsive climate finance is meant to drive meaningful change, ensuring that sustainability efforts are equitable and aligned with global ambitions.

Gender-responsive Financial Mechanisms to implement the Rio Conventions



Beth Roberts

Director, Landesa Center for Women's Land Rights

Recognition is growing globally, including through the Rio Conventions, that [gender-just land and resource tenure rights](#) are crucial for achieving an ecologically sustainable and equitable future. Vibrant movements for women's land rights have existed for many years, though they are lacking the resources, cohesion, and visibility needed to marshal political will and seek justice for millions of women and their families and communities. As Director of Landesa's Center for Women's Land Rights and lead for the global advocacy initiative Stand for Her Land (S4HL), Beth Roberts has worked with the S4HL Steering Committee, national Coalitions, and key partners to address a core question: how do we increase the funding that reaches grassroots women leaders and organizations working to secure gender-just land and natural resource rights?



In March 2024, the S4HL Bangladesh Coalition held a women's mass assembly on "Zero Landlessness" and women's land rights in Dinajpur, Bangladesh. Photo: Association for Land Reform and Development.

Answers to this question can chart a crucial path to establishing cross-cutting gender-responsive financial mechanisms to implement and monitor the Rio Conventions. Acknowledgement of land rights as a basis for action across the Rio Conventions reflects the advocacy and contributions of primary land stewards to addressing and reversing the impacts of climate change, [land degradation](#) and biodiversity loss, particularly women in rural and Indigenous communities. The financing that does reach grassroots and women-led organizations is woefully insufficient. Adequate and equitable support for grassroots women in securing land tenure and resource rights provides a firm foundation for their leadership as ecosystem stewards.

Landesa and S4HL are committed to partnership and practice for increasing availability and equal access to finance for strengthening women's land rights. They approach this in a few key ways. First, they track the amount of funding that directly supports grassroots, women-led organizations in S4HL National Coalitions. Second, they are collectively developing criteria for funding to support S4HL grassroots leadership, and direct access to funding for member organizations. Third, together with UN Women and S4HL Steering Committee members, such as the Huairou Commission and the International Land Coalition, they are collaborating to increase funding available for grassroots organizations and leaders promoting women's land rights. Finally, they are a member of the [Women's Land Rights Initiative](#), a global collective effort to leverage synergies across the Rio Conventions for effective action on women's land rights.



Gender-responsive Just Transitions

At least 1.2 billion jobs worldwide are dependent on environments at risk from human activities, and women are at risk due to their high dependence on sectors especially vulnerable to climate change—related disasters, land degradation and biodiversity loss—like agriculture and care work. At the same time, the World Economic Forum reports that, between 2022 and 2023, there was a 12 per cent increase globally in workers gaining green skills. Just transitions can rectify gender inequalities in the labour market through the creation of decent jobs for women in the green, blue and care economies more broadly, accompanied by gender-responsive social protection to support climate and environmental resilience. The Rio Convention gender action plans call for women and girls at all levels to have access to finance and resources to participate in and shape just transitions.

Contributing their perspectives on implementing gender-responsive just transitions are the Government of Spain Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITECO), and Lipi Rahman, Executive Director of Badabon Sangho, a local grassroots organization in Bangladesh.



Photo: UN Women/Reza Shariar Rahman



Gender-responsive Just Transitions

Government of Spain

Ministry for the Ecological Transition
and the Demographic Challenge
(MITECO)



The Government of Spain has implemented a set of policy instruments and strategic action plans to achieve an ecological transition towards a green, sustainable, decarbonized and resilient economy by 2030. Education, training and professional skills development are necessary to create new jobs and transform existing ones, reduce inequality and promote social, gender and territorial cohesion.

In this context, the [Biodiversity Foundation](#) of the [Spanish Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge \(MITECO\)](#), through its Empleaverde+ (Green Employment) Programme has supported the growth of green and resilient jobs since 2007, with open calls for proposals.

Additionally, the MITECO [Just Transition Institute \(JTI\)](#) focuses on the just transition concept as recognized in the [preamble of the Paris Agreement](#), which acknowledges that climate action must be accompanied by protection for workers and affected communities, so that the decarbonization process does not leave anyone behind.

In this sense, JTI has launched a [training programme in green jobs for professional reskilling](#) in areas affected by the closure of coal-fired thermal power plants. The training courses lead to professional certification in subjects related to renewable energy and energy efficiency, which contribute to both mitigating and adapting to climate change.



The Sierra Norte de Sevilla Natural Park (Spain) was one of the areas where the Empleaverde project "Guide to geotourism in UNESCO global geoparks in Spain" was developed, managed by Natures Sociedad Cooperativa Andaluza, which trained 120 participants, 83 of whom were women, as interpretive guides for natural heritage in geoparks. Photo: Natures Sociedad Cooperativa Andaluza.

The programme contributes to reducing gender inequality in the labour market with measures such as:

- prioritizing women's participation in projects (an evaluation criterion)
- requiring a mandatory gender-equality module in training activities
- requiring gender-disaggregated data for project reporting.

As a result, the average share of women's participation in these projects has risen to 51 percent and, in some cases, even exceeded 75 percent.

The objective of these courses is to improve the employability of unemployed individuals in just transitions, with a special focus on gender equality which requires that at least 30 percent of participants in each course must be women. This threshold was greatly exceeded in the 2024 courses as 48 percent of the trainees were women.

Both the Biodiversity Foundation and [JTI mainstream gender](#) in their activities. For example, MITECO launched in 2025 a new biennial publication on [Women in the Ecological Transition](#), addressing different dimensions such as climate change, energy or biodiversity, forests, and management of protected natural areas.



Lipi Rahman

Executive Director of Badabon Sangho

The Rio Conventions provide a framework for connecting women's rights to climate change and environmental degradation solutions in Bangladesh. By incorporating gender-responsive action plans and promoting women's leadership and participation, implementing the conventions can help ensure that climate and environment policies and initiatives effectively address [women's unique challenges and priorities](#), while enhancing climate resilience.



Women of Mongla, Bagerhat spend 10 to 12 hours a day fishing in saline water.
Photo: Turjo.

Bangladesh is one of the countries most affected by climate change. Saltwater intrusion into freshwater due to climate change, which has worsened events such as stormwater surges in the coastal belt region, has women's unique challenges and priorities. In coastal Mongla, near the mangrove swamps and forests of the Sundarbans, drinking water salinity forces reliance on pond water, which is only safe during the monsoon season, and bottled water, which is costly. Women also spend 8 to 12 hours a day fishing, bathing, and washing clothes in saline water, exposing them to skin diseases and gynecological infections affecting their sexual and reproductive health.

To address these issues, [Badabon Sangho](#), a grassroots women-led rights organization, advocates for gender equality, [climate justice](#) and women's land rights. To help women and girls and their communities adapt to climate change and cope with land degradation, Badabon Sangho supports women farmers and fishers to build their leadership capacity to address these issues at the local, national and global levels, and supports alternative livelihoods, such as agroecology where women farmers protect and restore local ecosystems and produce saline-tolerant crops. Badabon Sangho also provides legal aid to address gender-based violence, which often increases in contexts of climate change and environmental degradation, and promotes women's and girls' health rights.

As a Just Transition Bangladesh national platform member, Badabon Sangho promotes women's rights to and at work, including in sustainable agriculture and fisheries. Badabon Sangho's support for community mobilization has resulted in a total of 351 groups with a total of 6,236 women farmers, fishers, migrant women workers, and Indigenous women, as well as 5 cooperatives of women fishers, women and farmers registered with the government, involved in climate and environmental action.



Gender, Health and Environment

Well-functioning ecosystems provide goods, services and food essential for human health. Practices which are increasingly unsustainable are having disproportionate impacts on women's and girls' health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as extreme heat-related illnesses and potential death, increased exposure to unsafe water and infectious diseases, poor mental and physical health associated with lack of access to green and blue spaces, exposure to hazardous substances and unhealthier diets. Ambient outdoor pollution and household air pollution together lead to 8.1 million premature deaths annually. Every year 3.2 million deaths, disproportionately women and children, are attributable to household air pollution produced by inefficient and polluting fuels and technologies. Concerted efforts are needed across the Rio Conventions to strengthen collaborative, cross-sectoral research, policies and programmatic action to address the impacts of the environmental crisis on women's and girls' health.

Contributing their perspectives on gender, health and environment are Chiemezie Atama, Executive Director of the local organization Equity Watch Initiative (E-WIN) in Nigeria, and Anne Heloise Barbosa do Nascimento and Victoria Miguel Rampazzo, National Articuladores in Associação de Jovens Engajamundoor (Engajamundo Youth Association) in Brazil.



Photo: UN Women/Mona Elfateh



Chiemezie Atama

PhD, Executive Director, Equity Watch Initiative (E-WIN)



Equity Watch Initiative (E-WIN) is a non-profit organization in Nigeria that promotes gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment. E-WIN focuses on the many intersections of gender, health and the environment.

Climate change, for example, exacerbates existing gender inequalities and increases the risk of gender-based violence (GBV). [Extreme weather events](#), including floods, disrupt social norms and increase women's and girls' vulnerability to sexual violence, to domestic violence and to human trafficking. In the absence of access to sustainable energy and clean cooking solutions, [women's and children's health is adversely affected by exposure to household air pollution](#) produced by cooking with biomass fuel and rudimentary cook stoves, especially in rural and peri-urban communities, as well as by climate change-induced water scarcity and heat stress. Climate and environmental changes also disrupt food systems and livelihoods leading to increased food insecurity, malnutrition and poverty, with disproportionate impacts on women and girls.

E-WIN believes that women's participation is essential as their unique perspectives and experiences contribute to more effective and equitable solutions. This is why

E-WIN [promotes women's participation in environmental decision-making](#) processes and community-based interventions that increase equity, fairness and equality.

E-WIN's work at the intersection of women's health, climate change and environmental degradation includes GBV prevention programmes and improved access to essential health services, particularly sexual and reproductive health services such as access to menstrual products. E-WIN also promotes women's health outcomes by supporting women to produce healthy vegetables and plant fruit trees, as well as campaigning for improved clean cook stoves to reduce indoor air pollution.

Finally, E-WIN supports women's climate resilience in tandem with their economic empowerment through initiatives such as vocational training, access to finance and sustainable livelihood opportunities. E-WIN's programmatic, strategic and advocacy work also helps to ensure that Nigeria's climate and environmental policies and actions, including as they relate to national implementation of the Rio Conventions, are gender-responsive and equitable.



Equity Watch Initiative training for women in vegetable farming that was supported by Fondation RAJA-Danièle Marcovici. Photo: Equity Watch Initiative.



Anne Heloise Barbosa do Nascimento

National Articulador, Engajamundo Youth Association



Victoria Miguel Rampazzo

National Articulador, Engajamundo Youth Association

As national leaders of the Brazilian youth-led organization, [Engajamundo Youth Association](#), Victória Rampazzo and Anne Heloise view gender, environment and health as highly interconnected.



Engajamundo National Articulador Anne Heloise speaks on a Health and Climate Panel at the 2023 Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) Brazil, which was co-organized by Engajamundo. Photo: Marlon Diego.

Engajamundo's local experience and research has revealed how women and girls, especially those from marginalized communities, are suffering the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation. Engajamundo works to empower young women and girls in different territories and biomes across Brazil through initiatives closely aligned with the goals of the three Rio Conventions.

An example of this was featured in a commentary co-authored by Anne and Victória in [The Lancet Planetary Health](#), highlighting the linkages between climate change and sexual and reproductive health and rights, a key intersection addressed by Engajamundo. [A cross-sectional study](#), based on a census of three Mundurucu Indigenous villages located in Sawré Muybu Indigenous Land, found that mercury exposure due to mining is associated with high blood pressure and impaired lactation for women of childbearing age, and developmental issues for infants.

The impacts of mining and mercury pollution are addressed across the Rio Conventions as they threaten biodiversity, exacerbate pollution and increase greenhouse gas emissions due to deforestation.

Engajamundo has also drawn attention to how rural women remain amongst the most marginalized groups in society and susceptible to current and future impacts of climate change and land degradation in the form of [increasing food insecurity](#), [gender-based violence](#) and [heat stress](#) affecting the mental and physical health of women and girls. In moments of crisis, such as the devastating Rio Grande do Sul floods in 2024, which affected over 90 per cent of the State, the gendered health issues were evident. [Health facilities were destroyed](#), to the detriment of women's sexual and reproductive health and rights, including women's antenatal and postnatal care and reduction in stocks of contraceptive and menstrual products. Access to health services was severely reduced and the floods created conditions for the [propagation of mosquito-borne diseases such as Zika, Chikungunya, and Dengue](#), which have differential impacts on [women's health](#), especially pregnant women who can pass on the virus to the fetus and adolescent girls who can experience severe menstrual bleeding complications.

Engajamundo addresses these climate, environmental and health intersections by providing capacity development for Brazilian youth and engaging in activism and advocacy at local, national, regional, and international levels. Anne, Victoria, and other young women representing Engajamundo work with the Brazilian government and global partnerships to tackle gender and other inequalities in global processes, including engagement with the development of the new UNFCCC gender action plan and other Rio Convention gender platforms.



Gender and Environment Data

Gender and environment data are needed to understand the impacts and contributions of women and girls to addressing gender inequalities in the context of climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation. This is especially evident in issues such as food system sustainability, which is closely related to women's limited land rights and tenure security. Yet there is insufficient investment in producing and collecting gender and environment data. For example, as of 2023, the majority of environment-related indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are closely tied to the Rio Conventions implementation, did not include any gender-related information. Gender and environment data, information and statistics are key for gender-responsive implementation and reporting of the Rio Conventions.

Contributing their perspectives on gender and environment data are Natalie Cleveland, Senior Policy and Advocacy Manager of Data2X, and Karen Wong Pérez, Senior Researcher with the Climate Change Group at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED).



Photo: UN Women/Center of Excellence for Gender Equality



Gender and Environment Data

Natalie Cleveland

Senior Policy and Advocacy Manager, Data2X



In her role leading global policy engagements at Data2X, Natalie champions gender-responsive climate and environmental action—and has seen firsthand that high-quality [gender-environment data](#) can be a powerful tool for change. Robust gender-environment data enables feminist and intersectional analysis, reflects women's and gender-diverse people's unique experiences of climate change and spotlights their contributions to adaptation, mitigation and resilience. Data can also help to expose and correct imbalances in decision-making power, inform global commitments and the design and implementation of more effective national policies targeting the groups most vulnerable to climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation.

Yet, only 20 per cent of gender-related environment indicators for the SDGs have any data available at all. [Per existing evidence](#), women and girls are critical actors in safeguarding land and promoting conservation—but data tracking women's equal rights to land and natural resource management are particularly scarce. Where countries do collect data, surveys typically occur sporadically or at wide intervals and often use proxy respondents known to result in inaccurate gender estimates. These gaps in knowledge prevent a full understanding of the

gendered impacts of climate change and environmental degradation and mean that the outcomes of climate and environmental programmes and policies on women and gender-diverse people cannot be adequately measured.

In other words, without data, it is impossible to realize feminist climate and environmental justice.

To address this challenge, Natalie and Data2X are part of the [Gender and Environment Data Alliance \(GEDA\)](#), a partnership of over 90 institutions, serving on the Steering Committee and a Data Advisory Group to promote the collection, analysis, and use of gender-environment data across the Rio Conventions. In collaboration with GEDA, Natalie advocates for Parties to elevate gender-environment data as a political priority, from mobilizing greater financing to strengthening national statistical capacities to championing data to influence national policies and support international commitments. Perhaps most crucially, Parties to all three Rio Conventions must also meaningfully include and engage women, girls, and gender-diverse people in data collection processes—not only demonstrating accountability to the communities they serve but also accelerating progress toward gender-responsive climate and environmental action.



Partners in the Gender and Environment Data Alliance at the UN Commission on the Status of Women, March 2025. Photo: Natalie Cleveland



Karen Wong Pérez

Senior Researcher, Climate Change Group,
International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)

Through its Gender-Environment Team, the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) is working to advance gender-just climate and environmental action. This involves centering gender-environment data that is generated, used, and owned by those most affected by climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation to strengthen a whole-of-society approach to gender-environment synergies. Because fragmented and inequitable data systems perpetuate the invisibility of women, Indigenous Peoples, and frontline communities, the disproportionate impacts of the intertwined crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation, and the strategies employed by those most affected to respond to them, remain overlooked. The legitimacy and validity of data is shaped by dominant knowledge systems, which often exclude Indigenous and Local Knowledges. As with resources, data is power, and data gaps are power gaps. Data is not just about numbers, facts, and figures. It is also about voice, agency, and power. Data shapes policies, guides funding, and determines which experiences are considered in decision-making processes. Shifting who collects, controls, and uses data is an act of distributing power.

In response to these challenges, IIED is advancing three interconnected workstreams across the Rio Conventions: generating and making accessible gender-environment data through IIED's [Gender Environment Hub](#), an online platform that aims to elevate community-led efforts through advocating for the recognition and use of grassroots data in global policy spaces, such as the UN Commission on the Status of Women ([CSW](#)) and opening mutual learning spaces for the collection of gender-environment data grounded in data sovereignty principles. For IIED, the Hub not only helps to break down internal sectoral silos, but also showcases the interconnections between gender,

climate and environment. Advocating for the recognition and use of grassroots data in global policy spaces is a form of collective action that invites us to rethink how we approach data.

One example of opening mutual learning spaces is IIED's collaboration with Slum Dwellers International (SDI). Marcelle Mardon (IIED) is leading work with SDI to strengthen the collection and use of gender-disaggregated heat data in informal settlements in Tanzania, Kenya, and Zimbabwe. This work with grassroots partners involves exchanging learning on how best to capture gendered vulnerabilities and support the co-design of locally-led and replicable adaptation strategies.



PPHPZ (Peoples process on housing and poverty in Zambia). Photo: IIED.

IIED advocates a whole-of-society approach to data: an inclusive and participatory strategy that ensures data is equitably collected, managed, shared, and used across all sectors, including governments, civil society, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, academia, and the private sector. This approach recognizes the value of community-led approaches and prioritizes the meaningful engagement of those most affected, ensuring their diverse knowledge and perspectives shape climate and environmental decision making.



Gender and Climate Security

Climate change and environmental degradation are a “threat multiplier” for women and girls in conflict-affected areas, as issues such as resource scarcity exacerbate existing strains on communities and create new stressors. UN Security Council Resolution 2242 recognized in 2015 the threat to peace and security posed by climate change and environmental degradation and the particular impact on women. Systematic discrimination towards women further decreases their environmental and climate resilience during times of conflict and crisis and increases their vulnerability to gender-based violence. But when women contribute to climate-resilient communities, they also foster peace and security.

Contributing their perspectives on gender and climate security in the context of Rio Conventions synergies are Mavic Cabrera-Balleza, CEO of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, and Sharon Bhagwan-Rolls, Political Engagement Coordinator of the Pacific Women Mediators Network, a programme of the Global Project for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) Pacific network.



Photo: UN Women/Pathumporn Thongking



Gender and Climate Security

Mavic Cabrera-Balleza

CEO of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders



The Global Network of Women Peacebuilders works in conflict-affected countries where local women are often the most affected by climate change due to their reliance on natural resources for food, water, and livelihoods. Climate change is a risk and threat multiplier that could aggravate existing conflicts or create new tensions.

In refugee-hosting communities in Uganda, for example, climate change has intensified competition for natural resources between hosts and refugees, especially for water and firewood. These are typically gathered by women and girls, increasing their vulnerability to gender-based violence.



Women and men working together (in Uganda and elsewhere) to support women's unique roles and contributions towards more inclusive and sustainable environmental solutions.
Photo: Climate Action Initiatives by Amani Communities, Kenya.

Similarly, biodiversity loss affects local women's ancestral knowledge systems and food security, especially in Indigenous communities where women are primary custodians of seeds and medicinal plants. [Indigenous Guatemalan women face worsening poverty as the quality of land](#)

[deteriorates](#), which translates into livelihood losses and decreased income. Women need to be equally and actively involved in processes to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity because they play [critical roles as land managers and resource users](#), and they face disproportionate impacts both from biodiversity loss and gender-blind conservation measures.

Unsustainable farming and deforestation result in land degradation, further threatening the security and well-being of local women who depend on land for subsistence agriculture. Massive deforestation in the Philippines means trees are no longer present to act as natural barriers, slowing down wind speeds and reducing the force of typhoon winds. The areas often hit by typhoons are also the poorest communities, resulting in worsening poverty and exacerbating one of the root causes of violent conflicts.

Yet, local women are often not represented in decision-making in environmental governance, natural resource management or policy-making bodies on climate security.

It is essential to recognize and support women's unique roles and contributions. Gender-responsive policies can drive transformative change across environmental sectors. Programs that invest in women's leadership, education, and economic participation foster more inclusive and sustainable environmental solutions. Gender equality is not only a human rights issue. It is a strategic imperative for achieving climate security, preserving biodiversity, and combating land degradation. When women are recognized, valued, and supported as agents of change, the path toward a more sustainable and equitable future becomes clearer and more attainable.



Sharon Bhagwan-Rolls

Political Engagement Coordinator of the Pacific Women Mediators Network, a programme of the Global Project for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) Pacific

Pacific Island women peacebuilders are crucial in advocating for human rights, peace and climate justice amid the climate crisis.

The [Pacific Women Mediators Network](#), established in June 2023, uses an intersectional leadership strategy to address gender equality, human rights, and climate justice through education and advocacy. As reminded by the co-founder of the network, Noelene Nabulivou, Pacific feminist peacebuilders know there has never been a separation between humans and vanua, or whenua, the land that connects the individual, communal, and liminal. We are manifestations of the ecosystems—the soil, air, ocean, river, and mountains—of which we are an integral part. It is the false separation that brings conflict, waste and war, including extractivism and ecocide. Activists like Danity Laukon emphasize the importance of concepts such as ‘lejmaan-juri’, or Peacemaker, to recognize women as peacebuilders in their communities.

This worldview was reflected in Pacific Island women peacebuilders’ advocacy for the [inclusion of climate change in the Women, Peace and Security agenda in 2015](#). They promoted an inclusive and transformative peace that shifts from traditional and hard security notions of peace and security to a peacebuilding approach that recognizes

protracted climate and water crises in small island states, such as Kiribati and Tuvalu and the northern Pacific, as drivers of conflicts in families, perpetuating and exacerbating gender-based inequalities and intensifying women’s and girls’ disproportionate responsibilities for unpaid care and domestic work.

Collaborations with the Pacific Island Feminist Alliance for Climate Justice (PIFA4CJ) are challenging the status quo by supporting Pacific Island feminist-led decision-making and decolonizing funding that ensures [gender-just funds](#) directly reach women peacebuilders, mediators and community leaders.

It also means challenging the growing global military budget and advocating for the need to reverse the upward trajectory in military spending towards locally-led peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

The members of the Pacific Women Mediators Network are re-weaving local, national, regional and global political processes to draw together the strands of work for [gender justice and climate justice](#) across movements for self-determination and decolonization. The resultant dense and rich mat that is woven is beautiful, unique and useful beyond measure.



The energy of feminist solidarity was echoed earlier this year at the Conference of Pacific Feminists Defending the Living Planet, held in Nadi, Fiji, in April 2025, which was organized by DIVA for Equality and the Pacific Islands Feminist Alliance for Climate Justice (#PIFA4CJ). Photo: DIVA for Equality.



Gender-responsive Disaster Risk Reduction

Disasters related to climate change and the environment disproportionately affect women and girls, from their life expectancy to their education, health and nutrition. As disasters become steadily more devastating due to worsening climate change and environmental degradation, women and girls are more likely to lose their livelihoods and suffer from income loss and gender-based violence, impeding their participation in adaptation efforts and building disaster resilience. Women are more likely to be underrepresented in decision-making spaces to shape disaster risk reduction policies and programmes to respond to their needs and preferences. Leveraging Rio Convention synergies and aligning policy objectives by implementing their gender action plans, as well as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, can improve women’s participation, leadership and resilience to disasters.

Contributing their perspectives on gender and disaster risk reduction are Renata Koch Alvarenga, Founder and Executive Director of the grassroots organization EmpoderaClima in Brazil, and Zoneziwoh Mbongdulo-Wondieh, Executive Director of Women for a Change in Cameroon.



Photo: UN Women/Nicky Kiatonga



Gender-responsive Disaster Risk Reduction

Renata Koch Alvarenga

Founder and Executive Director of EmpoderaClima



Renata Koch Alvarenga is the Founder and Executive Director of EmpoderaClima, a pioneering Brazilian youth-led organization advancing education and advocacy on gender equality in climate action. EmpoderaClima's work demonstrates that the climate and environmental crises and disaster risk reduction efforts must be approached with a gender perspective.

Following the [catastrophic May 2024 floods in Rio Grande do Sul](#), Renata's home state, the disproportionate impacts of extreme weather events on women and children became strikingly clear: 96 per cent of the state was inundated, affecting over two million people and displacing 600,000. A study documenting gendered vulnerabilities found that [women faced heightened sexual violence and harassment in evacuation shelters](#), prompting the creation of improvised women-only emergency shelters. This disaster is one of many recent examples showing why disaster preparedness and risk reduction must be gender-responsive, further inspiring EmpoderaClima's mission to advocate for gender-just disaster management and climate adaptation policies.

As a leading rice producer, accounting for around [70 per cent of Brazil's national production](#), Rio Grande do Sul saw its paddies submerged, threatening livelihoods, local food security, and exacerbating land degradation through soil erosion. Floodwaters also devastated forests and wetlands, leading to biodiversity loss and weakening natural barriers critical for disaster mitigation. In an environment already marked by systemic gender-based violence and inequality,

the effects of climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation disproportionately impact women, especially those from the most marginalized communities.

In response, EmpoderaClima launched its flagship initiative *Women for Climate Resilience*, to engage local women leaders around Brazil in building gender-responsive disaster risk reduction strategies. Through community training on disaster preparedness, gender-focused mapping of disaster impacts, and local and national-level advocacy for systemic change focused on disaster risk reduction, EmpoderaClima's work centres women's lived experiences and leadership, advancing resilience, restoring ecosystems, and empowering the communities most affected, including women and girls.



Women for Climate Resilience workshop at EmpoderaClima.
Photo: Bruno Koch.



Zoneziwoh Mbongulo-Wondieh

Executive Director of Women for a Change in Cameroon

Women for a Change (Wfac), based in Cameroon, works across 11 countries in the Central Africa region through an ecofeminist approach to gender advocacy, community awareness-raising and inclusive development actions in close alignment with the Rio Conventions, including on disaster risk reduction in communities and neighbourhoods. Wfac's work is grounded in its teams working where they live. Wfac team members are not exempt from climate and environmental disaster impacts, especially those living by shores where they farm, fish and rely on local economies and ecosystems for subsistence and livelihoods.



Women for a Change volunteers collecting plastic bottles as part of the Flood Free Neighborhood programme. Photo: Women for a Change.

In 2021, Wfac launched the Flood Free Neighbourhood campaign in Cameroon to mobilize neighbourhoods, traditional leaders, women and young people to pick up plastic and other non-biodegradable objects, such as bottles and bags. These objects pollute community water and land, suffocate marine animals, dirty rivers and block drainage systems which serve as mosquito-breeding grounds, leading to the spread of mosquito-borne illnesses,

including malaria that accounts for [30 to 35 per cent of the general mortality and 67 per cent of childhood mortality per year](#) in Cameroon. In 2025, [WHO reported](#) that progress on malaria control has stalled due to a convergence of climate and environmental challenges linked to increasing extreme weather events, including floods, and poor waste management, which have also led to the spread of water-borne infectious diseases, such as cholera and typhoid.

In July 2023, [climate change-related flooding caused devastation](#) in Limbe, Cameroon, compounded by blocked drainage systems and poor waste management, resulting in thousands of displaced persons, loss of property and many deaths. The results of a survey Wfac conducted with partners indicated that those who suffered most from the catastrophe were women and girls. Many of these women work near their homes as roadside vendors, running small trade businesses, such as selling fish and food. With flood waters everywhere, they could no longer trade. But when talks were held by state officials on an evacuation plan to support flood victims, these women were not consulted nor at the decision-making table on how the plan could address their immediate needs and loss of livelihoods.

It is because of situations like these that Wfac advocates for disaster risk reduction strategies with climate adaptation, while centring the voices of women and girls on the ground so that they are heard. Participating in disaster risk reduction efforts helps to build more climate-resilient communities and protect ecosystems, while amplifying the voices of women and young people in climate governance and disaster risk management.



Annex

Key Messages from the Working Paper on “Advancing Gender-responsive Synergies Across the Rio Conventions.”

Recognizing the interlinkages and synergies across the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the promotion of gender equality and women’s human rights, UN Women calls upon Parties to the Rio Conventions and the Conferences of their Parties to:

1. Address the disproportionate impacts on the rights, resources and resilience of women and girls in all their diversity caused by the interlinked crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation.
2. Take coordinated, holistic measures to address the acceleration and intensification of climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation, which are exacerbating poverty and inequalities, including gender inequalities, putting at risk all human and non-human life on earth.
3. Take a human rights-based and gender-responsive approach in decisions and their implementation across the Rio Conventions, including advancing and applying relevant Human Rights Council and UN General Assembly recommendations on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.
4. Guarantee the human rights and security of women environmental human rights defenders whose actions cut across the impacts of and solutions to climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation.
5. Realize women’s land and resource rights and tenure security as fundamental for achieving the goals and targets of the Rio Conventions.
6. Collaborate across the Rio Conventions to ensure women’s and girls’ full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership at decision-making tables to determine and implement decisions. Grassroots women, Indigenous women, women from local communities and youth are central to climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation challenges and solutions.
7. Protect Indigenous women’s human rights in biodiversity and climate action, promote their full and effective participation in policy development, project design, and natural resource management, guarantee the tenure and governance of their territories, and support their practices to conserve, protect and restore biodiversity and build climate resilience.
8. Promote gender-responsive just transitions away from economies based on the exploitation and extraction of fossil fuels and natural resources to mitigate climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation.
9. Increase gender-responsive finance for the comprehensive and durable implementation of goals, targets, agreed plans and strategies to address climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation.
10. Strengthen coordination among Secretariats, Parties and stakeholders of the Rio Conventions to harmonize relevant guidance and recommendations, including in negotiations processes, for gender-responsive implementation.



References

- ActionAid. n.d. [Fund Our Future – About](#).
- . 2017. [Action for Global Justice Strategy 2028](#).
- Ali, NM. 2025. [Peace Track Initiative Continues to Amplify Women’s Voices at the UN Security Council](#). Peace Track Initiative. New York. Walker, K. 2020. [On The Frontline Of War, Yemeni Women Are Building Peace](#). Equal Times. Reyes, M. and Calderón, A. n.d. [What Is MAPA and Why Should We Pay Attention To It?](#). *Fridays for Future Newsletter*.
- Asia Feminist Coalition. 2023. [Towards a Feminist Just Energy Transition in Asia: Key Principles and Barriers](#).
- Asian Development Bank. 2025. [Rising Above the Heat: Strengthening Women’s Resilience to Heat Stress](#).
- Basta, PC. et al. 2021. [Mercury Exposure in Munduru ku Indigenous Communities from Brazilian Amazon: Methodological Background and an Overview of the Principal Results](#). *Int J Environ Res Public Health* 18.
- BBC News. 2020. [We Will ‘Fight To The Death’ To Save The Amazon Rainforest](#).
- Borges, P. and Gilio, L. 2024. [The Impacts of the Tragedy in Rio Grande do Sul on Food Production and Prices](#). Insper Agro Global.
- Center for Disaster Philanthropy. 2024. [2024 Rio Grande do Sul Brazil Floods](#).
- Christofaro, B. 2022. [How Fridays For Future Keeps The Spotlight On The Climate](#). DW.
- Data2X and FemDev. 2023. [Mapping Gender Data Gaps in the Environment and Climate Change: A 2023 Update](#).
- Data2X. 2025. [Data2X Submission to the UNFCCC: Designing the Next Gender Action Plan](#).
- de Freitas Sampaio, J. 2025. [Gendered Vulnerabilities and Sexual Violence: Intersecting Inequalities During the 2024 Floods in Porto Alegre, Brazil](#).
- Ecologic Development Fund. 2023. [Indigenous Women Face the Triple Threat of Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss, and Gender Inequality](#).
- European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). 2024a. [Biodiversity Foundation Spearheads Gender Mainstreaming in Spain’s Ecological Transition](#).
- . 2024b. [Good Practices on Gender Mainstreaming in the European Green Deal: Towards a more gender equal and greener Europe](#). Publications Office of the European Union. Luxembourg
- Feminist Action for Climate Justice Action Coalition. 2021. [Collective Commitments](#).
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). 2023. [Country Gender Spotlight – Kyrgyzstan](#). Rome.
- Front Line Defenders. 2024. [Global Analysis 2024/25](#).
- Gaffney, S. 2023. [‘Let Lake Victoria Breathe Again’: The Activist Helping Clean Up Africa’s Largest Lake](#). France 24.
- Gender and Environment Data Alliance. 2025. [Addressing the Gender-Environment Data Gap](#).
- Gender Climate Tracker. n.d. [Women’s Participation on Party Delegations](#).
- Geneva Environment Network. 2025. [Gender and the Environment](#).
- Globo. 2024. [Cheias no RS afetaram mais de 3 mil estabelecimentos de saúde, afirma Fiocruz](#).
- Gobierno de España. 2025. [Programa de Formación y Recolocación – Transición Justa](#).
- Green Climate Fund. 2023. [Annual Performance Report for FP110: Ecuador REDD-plus RBP for results period 2014](#).
- Huenchuan Navarro, S. 2005. [Mujeres Indígenas, Conocimientos y Derechos Intelectuales](#). *Revista Austral de Ciencias Sociales* 9. Universidad Austral de Chile.
- International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). n.d. [Gender and Environment Hub](#).
- . 2025. [IIED at the 69th Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW69\)](#).
- International Land Coalition. n.d. [ActionAid Rwanda – Our Network](#).
- Landesa. 2024. [Women’s Land Tenure Security as a Pathway to Climate Change and Mitigation](#).
- MacGregor, S. et al. 2022. [Caring In A Changing Climate: Centering Care Work In Climate Action](#). Oxfam Research Backgrounder Series. Oxfam.
- Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto Demográfico (MITECO). 2025. [Mujeres en la Transición Ecológica 2025](#). Madrid.
- Montsame. 2025. [Олон улсын ган, цөлжилттэй тэмцэх өдрийг тохиолдуулан “Нээлттэй өдөрлөг” зохион байгуулав](#).
- Nascimento, MPS. et al. 2024. [O Aumento Das Doenças Infecciosas Pós Enchente E Seu Impacto Na Saúde Pública Do Rio Grande Do Sul](#). Universidade Federal de Pelotas.
- Nduka, E. and Jimoh, M. 2024. [Cooking Energy, Health, and Happiness of Women in Nigeria](#). *The Energy Journal* 45.
- Norwegian Human Rights Fund (NHRF). 2023. [Indigenous Women, Essential in the Defense of Ethnic, Environmental, and Territorial Rights](#).
- Oxfam. 2022. [Justicia Climática y de Género Para la Sostenibilidad de la Vida y la Resiliencia Climática](#).
- Palsodkar, J. et al. n.d. [Uproot the System!](#). *Fridays for Future* 5.
- Paşca Palmer, C. 2018. [The Role, Influence and Impact of Women in Biodiversity Conservation](#). International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED).
- Stand for Her Land. 2024. [Women’s Land Rights in Ethiopia: Supporting Land Degradation Neutrality](#).
- Stanley, V. and Lisher, J. 2024. [What Will It Take For Women To Gain Equal Rights To Housing, Land, And Property?](#). World Bank Blogs.
- Tewari, N. et al. 2023. [Gendered Dimension of Loss and Damage in Asia](#). Oxfam International.
- The Lancet*. 2023. [Youth Activists’ Perspectives on Climate, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, and Gender Inequality](#).
- The New York Times*. 2024. [Images of a Brazilian City Underwater](#).
- TMG Think Tank. n.d. [The Women’s Land Rights Initiative](#).
- UN Women. 2023. [Case Study: Meaningful Engagement of Young People in Generation Equality](#). New York.
- . 2023. [UNDP Kyrgyzstan Gender Equality Strategy 2023–2027](#). Bishkek.



Gender-Responsive Synergies across the Rio Conventions

- _____. 2024. [Beijing +30: Progress, Gaps and Challenges: Report of the Expert Group](#).
- _____. 2024. [Women Political Leaders 2024](#).
- _____. 2024. [For Women Environmental Defenders in Colombia, Standing Down is Not an Option](#). 16 October.
- United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), n.d. [Gender and Biodiversity](#).
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). n.d. [Gender Mainstreaming](#).
- _____. 2024. [Gender Equality Policy and Plan 2024 to 2030](#).
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). 2016. [Gender, Climate Change and Food Security](#).
- _____. 2025. [Integration Of Gender Aspects Into The National Adaptation Plan In The Kyrgyz Republic](#).
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). 2015. [Paris Agreement](#), Preamble.
- van Daalen KR. et al. 2022. [Extreme Events and Gender-based Violence: a Mixed-methods Systematic Review](#). *Lancet Planet Health* 6.
- Vimefall, E. and Levin, J. 2023. [Income Diversification Among Farming Households Headed by Women in Rural Kenya](#). *Feminist Economics* 29(2).
- Wright ML. et al. 2023. [Climate Change and the Adverse Impact on the Health and Well-being of Women and Girls from the Women's Health Expert Panel of the American Academy of Nursing](#). *Nurs Outlook* 71.





Photo: UN Women/Oscar Leiva

UN WOMEN EXISTS TO ADVANCE WOMEN'S RIGHTS, GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS.

As the lead UN entity on gender equality and secretariat of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, we shift laws, institutions, social behaviours and services to close the gender gap and build an equal world for all women and girls. Our partnerships with governments, women's movements and the private sector coupled with our coordination of the broader United Nations translate progress into lasting changes. We make strides forward for women and girls in four areas: leadership, economic empowerment, freedom from violence, and women, peace and security as well as humanitarian action.

UN Women keeps the rights of women and girls at the centre of global progress – always, everywhere. Because gender equality is not just what we do. It is who we are.



220 East 42nd Street
New York, New York 10017, USA

unwomen.org
facebook.com/unwomen
x.com/un_women
youtube.com/unwomen
flickr.com/unwomen