

# Equality fund

WHEN WE MOVE TOGETHER, WE MOVE THE WORLD

## Climate Finance for Feminist Activism: SHOWCASING SUCCESSES, IMAGINING POSSIBILITIES

### SHOWCASES

#### Wapichan Women's Movement – Immaculata Casimero

The Wapichan Women's Movement is the Women's Arm of the South Rupununi District Council. With support from the Women Voice and Leadership – Caribbean program, the Wapichan Women's Movement has implemented a three-year project to train women across the Wapichan Territory on human rights law; rights to justice; to build the capacity of women in confidence, self-esteem and leadership skills; and to raise awareness on the social issues that affect our communities.

Immaculata Casimero is an Indigenous woman who belongs to the Wapichan nation in Guyana. She is the communications officer at South Rupununi District Council and the co-founder of Wapichan Women's Movement. Her journey as a village leader began in 2015, where she served as secretary of the Aishalton Village Council for three years. She helped organize the first Rupununi Indigenous Women's Conference, which brought together over 80 women to discuss gender, leadership, environmental issues, and empowerment.

#### Integrated Health Outreach Inc. – Nicola Bird

Under the Women Voice and Leadership – Caribbean program, Integrated Health Outreach Inc. is implementing the "Empowering Women Economically Through Climate Smart Sustainable Livelihoods" in Antigua and Barbuda. The project focuses on empowering women through sustainable livelihoods, specifically beekeeping, a predominantly male industry. As a result of the project, the Beekeeper Cooperative has grown from seven to 66 women members. A feminist approach was integrated into the program with training on a collaborative, cooperative approach to beekeeping with the encouragement to create a women's brand in the next phases of the project.

Nicola Bird, PhD has worked in the field of empowering vulnerable women and communities first as a mental health specialist and now through her role as Executive Director of Integrated Health Outreach in Antigua and Barbuda. Her accomplishments include developing, managing, contributing, and procuring projects funded by international donor agencies. She has worked with public-sector institutions, NGOs, academia, and civil society groups in Antigua and Barbuda and the Caribbean region. Nicola received a PhD from the University of Toronto, Canada.

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## SHOWCASES

### **Forest Action Nepal – Kanchan Lama**

Forest Action Nepal's "Economic Empowerment of Women through Forest Solutions," is a 30-months' action research project funded by the International Development Research Centre. The project is a response to the deep-rooted patriarchal society that restricts women's access to resources and opportunities, leading to women's secondary role in economic decisions. The project aims to develop business models and scalable solutions to increase women's access to and control over forest resources and forest-based enterprises, enabling them to make economic decisions for themselves and their households.

Principal Investigator Kanchan Lama has worked for more than 29 years with major INGOs and bilateral and multilateral agencies. Currently she provides advisory services for efforts to strengthen gender and inclusion in public policy and strategy development toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. She is also Chairperson of Community Evaluators Nepal, a member of the Gender Evaluators Network in South Asia, and a Board member for Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management.

### **Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense (AIDA) – Florencia Ortúzar**

AIDA is a regional organization with more than 20 years of experience working for the protection of the environment in Latin America and the Caribbean. Attorneys and scientific advisors from Latin America provide legal expertise and scientific support that bridges the gaps between communities, local movements, national organizations, governments, and international authorities. As the regional node for [GCF Watch](#), AIDA acts as a link between organizations and local communities from Latin America and civil society supervising the Green Climate Fund at the board level.

Legal consultant for AIDA Florencia Ortúzar is a Chilean attorney currently based in Santiago de Chile. She studied law at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and holds a Master's Degree on Environmental and Policy Regulation from the London School of Economics.

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## HOST

### **Laura García, President and CEO, Global Greengrants Fund**

Laura García is a Mexican feminist who has advocated for human rights, social justice, and civil society throughout her career. Before joining Global Greengrants Fund, Laura served for seven years as Director of Fondo Semillas, a Mexican nonprofit organization that finances grassroots organizations to achieve gender equality. Laura has vast experience in grassroots philanthropy, human rights, and movements for social justice. She currently serves on the boards of Oxfam Mexico, Justicia Transicional MX, El Día Después, and the Global Fund for Community Foundations.

## RESPONDENTS

### **University of Toronto Munk School of Global Affairs – Carolina Canepari, Mycala Gill, Divya Rajagopal Sarkar, and Dorottya Szekely**

Munk School of Global Affairs Masters' students are conducting research that investigates the finance gap at the intersection of climate action and gender equality. Women-led climate organizations and movements at the local level face many barriers to accessing climate finance, and between 2013-2016 only 3% of climate aid targeted gender equality as a principal objective. Their research analyzes how women's organizations in the Global South can work within the Rio Markers system and will provide recommendations for how to best ensure funds reach local women-led climate movements moving forward.

- Before joining Munk, Divya Rajagopal Sarkar was a journalist with The Economic Times, Asia's largest-read financial daily.
- Dorottya Szekely's main interests include global migration governance, sustainable development, and addressing climate change.
- Given Mycala Gill's passion for gender equality, food security, and sustainable development, she is currently seeking work that achieves social impact and inclusive economic growth.
- Prior to enrolling at Munk, Carolina Canepari worked in international law firms in Milan, mainly focusing on international commercial law.

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## RESPONDENTS

### **Inclusive Green Growth, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands - René van Hell**

The Inclusive Green Growth Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Netherlands is committed to the international policy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the fields of climate, water, food security, energy, raw materials and the polar regions. Through its work in these fields, the Department contributes to a safe, just and prosperous world by promoting sustainable and inclusive access to international public goods. The Ministry is committed to the implementation of public climate finance and contributing to implementation of climate mitigation and adaptation.

René van Hell is director for Inclusive Green Growth, Ambassador for Sustainable Development, and Arctic Ambassador at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands since August 2021. Previously, he was the Netherlands Ambassador to Hungary. René has a Masters in Economics, Business Administration and studied at the University of Amsterdam.

## FURTHER RESOURCES ON GENDER-JUST CLIMATE FINANCE

Event organized by WEDO (March 17, 2022 10 am ET) [Gender-Just Climate Solutions: Envisioning feminist climate finance](#)

Equality Fund (2021) [From Global South Feminists to COP26 Decision-Makers: Radical Change for Climate Justice.](#)

GAGGA, Global Greengrants Fund, and WEDO (2021) [Call to Action for Gender-Just Climate Finance.](#)

[Gender Just Climate Solutions](#) website and its [2021 publication.](#)

WEDO (2021) [Gender Just Climate Solutions Scale Fund.](#)

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## CO-ORGANIZERS

The Equality Fund is transforming the way that resources – and power – flow into the hands of girls, women, and worldwide. Designed by feminists for feminists, we are a new model for sustainably resourcing feminist movements everywhere.

The Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA) is a network of 14 women's funds, five environmental justice funds, 44 NGOs, and 400+ grassroots groups across more than 30 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Funded by the Government of the Netherlands, GAGGA rallies the collective power of women's rights and environmental justice movements around the world.

Since 1993, the Global Greengrants Fund has been one of the leading organizations in the world supporting grassroots-led efforts to protect the planet and the rights of people. The Fund trusts local people to advance solutions and strategies that will best fit their needs, providing them the resources to make their ideas a reality.

Established in 1991, the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) is a global advocacy organization and a trailblazer in the international women's rights movement. WEDO facilitates and connects diverse movements to global processes, ensuring that women's voices are heard and women's leadership is advanced in these spheres.

