

Our Voices, Our Environment

THE STATE OF FUNDING FOR WOMEN'S ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION



Made possible with generous support from the Wallace Global Fund



Women are at the frontlines of action to address climate change, and their critical contributions need to be supported. Climate action and funding can also exacerbate the challenges women face and undermine their rights if [solutions] are not responsive to women.

MARY ROBINSON,
THE MARY ROBINSON FOUNDATION — CLIMATE JUSTICE



Women around the globe are at the forefront of addressing the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation¹, designing, implementing, and scaling up their own solutions. Socially defined gender roles often position women and girls as stewards of the physical, economic, and cultural well-being of their communities. As a result, they are disproportionately impacted by climate change and the subsequent damage to water, land, and clean air. This dynamic places the responsibility for natural resource management and use squarely on women and girls.²

ONLY
0.2%
OF ALL FOUNDATION FUNDING FOCUSES EXPLICITLY ON WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The impacts of climate change and environmental degradation are not gender neutral and, thus, funding cannot be either. **Yet only 0.2 percent of all foundation funding focuses explicitly**

on women and the environment³—a missed opportunity for funders committed to ensuring a healthy environment and equitable world.

Our Voices, Our Environment: The State of Funding for Women's Environmental Action represents the first-ever benchmarking of philanthropic funding in support of women and the environment. Produced by Global Greengrants Fund and Prospera International Network of Women's Funds, in partnership with the Wallace Global Fund and the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA), *Our Community, Our Environment* offers:

- » **Mapping of funding** levels and existing initiatives in support of women and the environment
- » **Case studies illustrating the impact of women-led strategies** to address environmental challenges, from protecting ancestral lands against gold-mining contamination in Indonesia to reforestation in Kenya's Rift Valley
- » **Lessons learned and funding strategies** from peer grantmakers active at this nexus
- » **Issue-specific entry points** for funders already engaged in environmental grantmaking
- » **Opportunities and guidance** from women's rights activists for funders that want to strengthen their existing grantmaking and take further action



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The Landscape

An analysis of grantmaking by foundations, women’s funds, and other institutional donors,⁴ and interviews with 34 funders, grassroots women leaders, and international advocates revealed that:

- » **Most funders currently supporting women and the environment show limited engagement.** In 2014, 269 funders provided 825 grants focused on women and the environment, totaling \$110.2 million. However, less than one-third of these funders awarded more than one grant and only eight of these funders gave more than \$1 million for work at this intersection. The median grant amount was just \$7,000.
- » **Funders share similar challenges** when considering whether and how to fund women’s environmental action, including where limited resources can make the greatest impact.
- » **Women’s funds, environmental funds, and other local funds connect peers to grassroots groups focused on women and the environment.** More than half of all grants awarded for women and the environment in 2014 were provided by Global Greengrants Fund, Prospera members, and other local funds. These organizations both receive funding from other donors and make grants to support community-led efforts. In addition, they serve as knowledge resources for other grantmakers.
- » **Among the 12 environmental issues tracked, agriculture and food security received the most funding.** In 2014, agriculture and food security received \$64.9 million from 33 funders, or 59 percent of all of the support to women and the environment. This funding supported a range of entities, from grassroots women-led groups to agricultural research centers to international organizations focused on ending hunger.



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