

A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO

FUNDING WOMEN ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS





UN WOMEN/BRUNO SPADA; BACKGROUND: JOSEFIN/UNSPLASH

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This report was produced by **Global Greengrants Fund**, a public foundation that supports grassroots activists and civil society organizations around the world working to address environmental and social justice in over 160 countries. We believe solutions to environmental harm and social injustice come from people whose lives are most impacted. Every day, our global network of people on the frontlines and donors comes together to support communities to protect their ways of life and our planet. Because when local people have a say in the health of their food, water, and resources, they are forces for change.



PHOTO BY FINN THILSTED, 2012. LICENSED UNDER CREATIVE COMMONS. BACKGROUND: CHULPAN-GALLYAMOVA/UNSPLASH

1

Introduction

Across the globe, women environmental defenders* (WEDs) are risking their lives to protect their land, resources, communities, and right to exist in the face of devastating climate change. The demands on WEDs and the need to support them have never been more urgent or apparent, yet, their vital work remains chronically underfunded – and the root causes of the injustices they endure often go unrecognized. Billions of dollars in environmental funding moves through the ecosystem each year, but only a small fraction of this funding – just .05% – goes directly to support the women facing violence due to their environmental activism.

Women environmental defenders are often at the forefront of protecting biodiversity, ensuring food security and sovereignty, and advancing the rights of local communities against environmental injustices caused by extractivism. However, they bear a disproportionate burden of harm due to systems of patriarchy and entrenched gender roles. WEDs face grave risks of retaliation, including gender-based violence, physical assault, psychological abuse, kidnapping, intimidation, false legal charges, defamation, and criminalization, yet they are often working for communal wellbeing. As noted by one of Global Greengrants Fund’s advisors, “Organizations led by men often end up negotiating with corporations for material benefits, yet in the case of women, this doesn’t happen because the health and security of families and communities aren’t for sale.”

WEDs are powerful solution-holders because they recognize a holistic approach is crucial for building a better future now, and for generations to come. The climate crisis connects all of our fates, and our response as funders should likewise come from a connected and intersectional understanding. We must broadly support the WEDs who are bravely resisting the systems of oppression that created the crisis. This report compiles recommendations and practical steps for environmental justice funders to move from understanding towards action.

As funders, we have a lot to learn from WEDs about how to become more effective resource mobilizers for climate justice. Their organizing vision emerges from their lived reality at the intersection of connected systems of oppression that fuel the climate crisis, such as capitalism, patriarchy, and colonialism.

The resources available to support grassroots environmental justice movements, and particularly WEDs, remains grossly insufficient relative to the scale of the climate crisis. We have an urgent and significant opportunity to change this.

* When using the term women environmental defenders (WEDs), Global Greengrants Fund includes women, intersex, trans, and non-binary people.

Only a small fraction of this funding – just .05% – goes directly to support the women facing violence due to their environmental activism.



FOREGROUND: JONATHAN SALARIYA / FRIENDS OF THE EARTH ENGLAND WALES AND NORTHERN IRELAND; BACKGROUND: NAHIL NASEER / UNSPLASH

2 Background

This report was produced by Global Greengrants Fund with the support of Ford Foundation, as a collaboration between Global Greengrants Fund, the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA), and the SAGE Fund. The collaboration supports women environmental defenders in resisting natural resource extraction and responding to the structural violence that underpins extractive industries, with the goal of strengthening their power and resilience.

Global Greengrants Fund led a process of identifying obstacles and opportunities for resourcing by mapping funder perspectives about this critical intersection. We analyzed grantmaking data to gain deeper insights into the reasons behind the limited funder support. SAGE Fund conducted a landscape analysis of the context and drivers of structural violence and its gendered impact, and strategies for addressing it. GAGGA interviewed women environmental defenders around the world to identify needs with the goal of unlocking and mobilizing greater resources for WEDs. The report [“Women on the Frontlines of Extractivism: How funders can support women environmental defenders.”](#) draws on and synthesizes this research from GAGGA, Global Greengrants, and SAGE Fund.

Global Greengrants Fund is grateful to the Ford Foundation for supporting the development of this report, which provides strategic insights and recommendations to help funders mobilize the most effective resources for women environmental defenders.

The collaboration supports women environmental defenders in resisting natural resource extraction and responding to the structural violence that underpins extractive industries.

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH INTERNATIONAL, LICENSED UNDER CREATIVE COMMONS ; BACKGROUND: NATALIA BLAUTH/UNSPASH

Methodology 3

Global Greengrants Fund analyzed grants awarded in 2014 and 2017 by hundreds of foundations working at the nexus of the environment, women, and gender-based violence (Appendix A). We interviewed 40 individuals from 30 philanthropic institutions to gain a better understanding of their knowledge and awareness of WEDs. Our goal was to explore current perspectives on women's environmental protection and the intersection of environmental protection and gender-based violence. To achieve this, we talked to a range of funders about their institutions' perspectives on funding for women's protection of natural resources, lands, and territories. We also discussed challenges, gaps, and opportunities, as well as their engagement in funding at the intersection of women, the environment, and gender-based violence. Global Greengrants gathered concrete approaches, tools, and resources that could be most effective in supporting donors to mobilize greater resources for WEDs. A second round of interviews was conducted to identify more specific recommendations and to inform concrete, actionable next steps in mobilizing greater resources for WEDs.

Informing, equipping, and activating individuals is a crucial entry point to effecting larger systemic change within funding institutions.

This report integrates findings from all phases of the research, synthesizing key insights from funders and incorporating recommendations and suggestions from the SAGE and GAGGA research with WEDs.

Informing, equipping, and activating individuals is a crucial entry point to effecting larger systemic change within funding institutions. This report is one actionable milestone in furthering a holistic and intersectional commitment to WEDs, their safety, and their vision of a better world.

4 Definitions

Extractivism is a development model that relies heavily on the large-scale removal of natural resources and raw materials for export. It stems from a colonial mindset that appropriates these resources, primarily from the Global South, for the benefit of the industrializing Global North. This model often disregards the social and environmental impacts in the extraction locations. Notably, it refers not only to the extraction activity itself but also to the conditions under which these resources are extracted. This includes the absence of consultation or consent from local populations and the fact that this extraction often serves elite, corporate, and criminal interests rather than the public good.

Structural Violence in the context of extractivism is embedded in economic, political, legal, social, and cultural systems that enact harm on the marginalized to serve the interests of the powerful. Structural violence is also gendered, in terms of how it operates as well as who it benefits and harms.

Intersectionality is a concept coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw in 1989, highlighting the unique oppression faced by individuals with multiple, layered identities such as race, gender, sexuality, class, and ability. This interconnectedness of social identities creates distinctive experiences of oppression, particularly for those at the intersections of these identities.

FOREGROUND: ALAN LISSNER; BACKGROUND: IRA E./UNSPASH

5 The State of Funding

Despite the growing amount of environmental funding available each year, funding focused on addressing gender-based violence against WEDs is deeply insufficient both in overall dollar amount and in its largely project-based nature. There is a significant shortfall in the combined efforts of environmental funders to provide sufficient support for women environmental defenders (WEDs) who are often at the forefront of holistic and community-centered responses to the climate crisis.

- Of the \$4.3 billion in environmental funding awarded by foundations in 2017, just 1.2% (\$53.1 million), was focused on women and the environment.
- Even less - 0.05% (\$2.3 million) of that total was directed toward the intersection of women, the environment, and gender-based violence.
- Of the total \$4.3 billion in environmental funding made by foundations, 252 foundations made one grant focused on women and the environment.
- Only 12 grantmakers explicitly funded organizing that responded to gender-based violence leading to 0.05% - or merely \$2.3 million - being directed toward the intersection of women, the environment, and gender-based violence.

1.12%
(\$53.1 million)

of total environmental funding was focused on women and the environment.

0.05%

of total environmental funding went towards addressing gender-based violence against women environmental activists.

12

grantmakers only of 252 that made at least one grant focused on women and the environment directed funding toward the intersection of women, the environment, and gender-based violence.

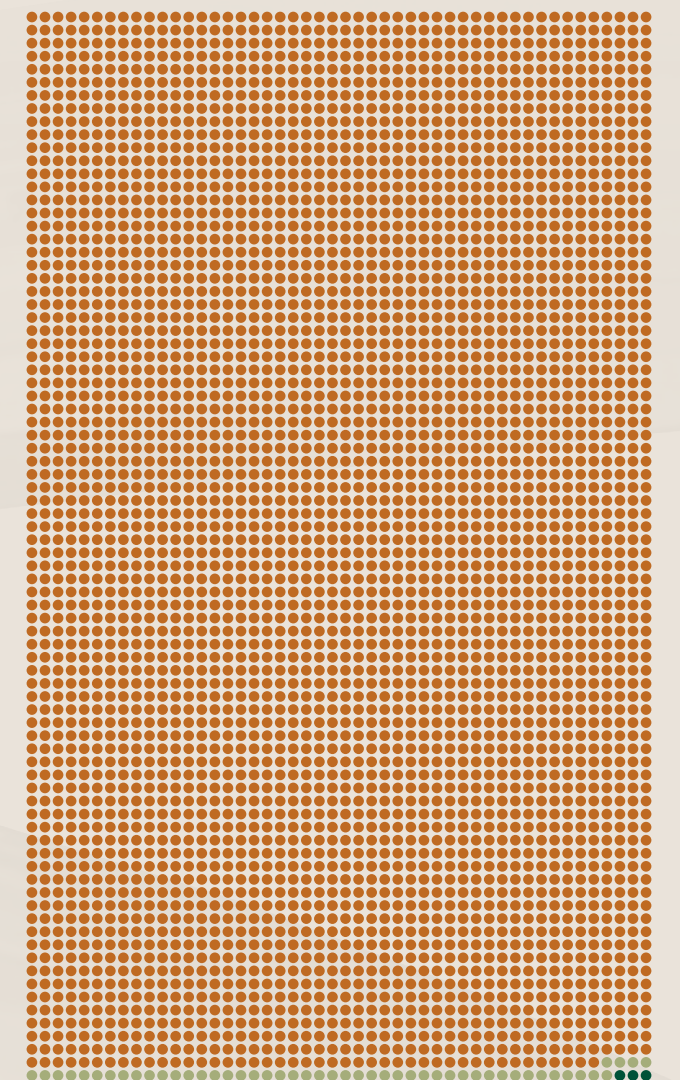
There is a significant shortfall in the combined efforts of environmental funders to provide sufficient support for women environmental defenders.

Notably, some significant funding in this area has since been discontinued and as a result, total funding at this nexus decreased to just \$765,714.

Research conducted among environmental justice collectives, organizations, and groups led by women and girls found that 81% of them felt they had insufficient funds to carry out their work, as reported by the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA).

The challenges faced by WEDs are increasingly urgent and apparent, and the need to support them has never been more pressing. Even among the funders who make grants at the broader intersection of women and the environment, very few explicitly address violence against WEDs in their funding. Most support a handful of women-led environmental organizations or environmental projects focused on women - these often include International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs), women's funds, or intermediaries, rather than WEDs directly. As funders, we must act together to robustly and measurably bridge this gap if we are going to protect our shared planet and work toward a more equitable world.

Total Environmental Funding in 2017
(Estimated \$4.3 billion)



● Everything Else
 ● Women & Environment
 ● Intersection of Women, Environment & Gender-Based Violence

6 Case Study

The National Confederation of Indigenous Women of Bolivia (CNAMIB)

"Women are the ones who put their bodies on the front line in mobilizations, even risking our lives. And that was not recognized by our [male-led...Indigenous] leadership," shared Wilma Mendoza, the president of The National Confederation of Indigenous Women of Bolivia (CNAMIB).

Founded in 2007 by Indigenous women in the Bolivian lowlands, CNAMIB, a Global Greengrants Fund grantee partner, was born out of women's grassroots organizing resisting the environmental and social impacts of extractive industries. Mining and oil concessions within Indigenous territories had led to hazardous environmental pollution, forced displacement, and loss of Indigenous lifeways and cultural practices, leading to a culture of violence.

Originally, a small collective of women who gathered under a tree because men wouldn't give them access to office space, CNAMIB has grown to become a thriving network of over 100 affiliate Indigenous women's organizations spread across the Eastern region of Bolivia and the Chaco, that are able to call on each other for support. CNAMIB works to ensure the role of Indigenous women as stewards of the land is intricately linked with their struggle for gender autonomy and liberation.

Indigenous women in Bolivia carry a disproportionate burden of harm due to colonial systems of patriarchy and entrenched gender roles. According to a 2019 survey by the Bolivian government, 70% of women in Bolivia have experienced some form of gender-based violence in their lifetime. Women environmental defenders specifically face grave risks of retaliation, including violence and physical assault.

Indigenous men often join forces with the mining corporations carrying out extractive projects, leading

Women are the ones who put their bodies on the front line in mobilizations, even risking our lives.

– **Wilma Mendoza**,
president of The National
Confederation of Indigenous
Women of Bolivia

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Number of women
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CNAMIB has grown to become a thriving network of over 100 affiliate Indigenous women's organizations spread across the Eastern region of Bolivia and the Chaco.

to conflicts within local communities and further harassment, threats, and violent actions against women land defenders. Furthermore, the state's increased criminalization of male environmental defenders has resulted in more men being jailed, leading to more women assuming leadership roles. This increased visibility makes them more susceptible to aggression and intimidation.

Today, CNAMIB has increased women's leadership in the region, training women leaders on the laws concerning the rights of Indigenous Peoples and on the basic tools for advocacy and political participation. Yet, the wins are bittersweet; with increased access to land and human rights comes increased risk of violence and danger. While CNAMIB's work is crucial for environmental justice, gender equality, and Indigenous sovereignty in Bolivia, their fight for safety, self-determination, and land also places their lives at risk. This is a reality for many women environmental defenders worldwide, highlighting the need for increased support and a more holistic approach to funding for women environmental defenders who are responding to multiple and interconnected forms of systemic violence.



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7 Recommendations For Funders

1

Bridge the gap in funding to WEDs.

Funding focused on addressing gender-based violence against WEDs is deeply insufficient both in overall dollar amount and in its largely project-based nature. Research conducted among environmental justice collectives, organizations, and groups led by women and girls found that 81% of them felt they had insufficient funds to carry out their work, as reported by the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA). **Funding focused on addressing gender-based violence against women environmental activists represents just .05% of overall foundation funding for the environment.** In 2017, foundations awarded approximately \$4.3 billion in environmental funding. Of this, 252 foundations made only one grant focused on women and the environment, totaling \$53.1 million, less than 1.2%. Only 12 grantmakers explicitly funded organizing that responded to gender-based violence leading to 0.05%, or merely \$2.3 million – being directed toward the intersection of women, the environment, and gender-based violence. Notably, the largest funder in this area has since discontinued its Ending Violence Against Girls and Women program, and as a result, total funding at this nexus decreased to just \$765,714.

The challenges faced by WEDs are increasingly urgent and apparent, and the need to support them has never been more pressing. Even among the funders who make grants at the broader intersection of women and the environment, very few explicitly address violence against WEDs in their funding. Most support a handful of women-led environmental organizations or environmental projects focused on women – these often include International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs), women's funds, or intermediaries, rather than WEDs directly.

81%

Percentage of environmental justice collectives, organizations, and groups led by women and girls that have insufficient funding to carry out their work

Even among the funders who make grants at the broader intersection of women and the environment, very few explicitly address violence against WEDs in their funding.

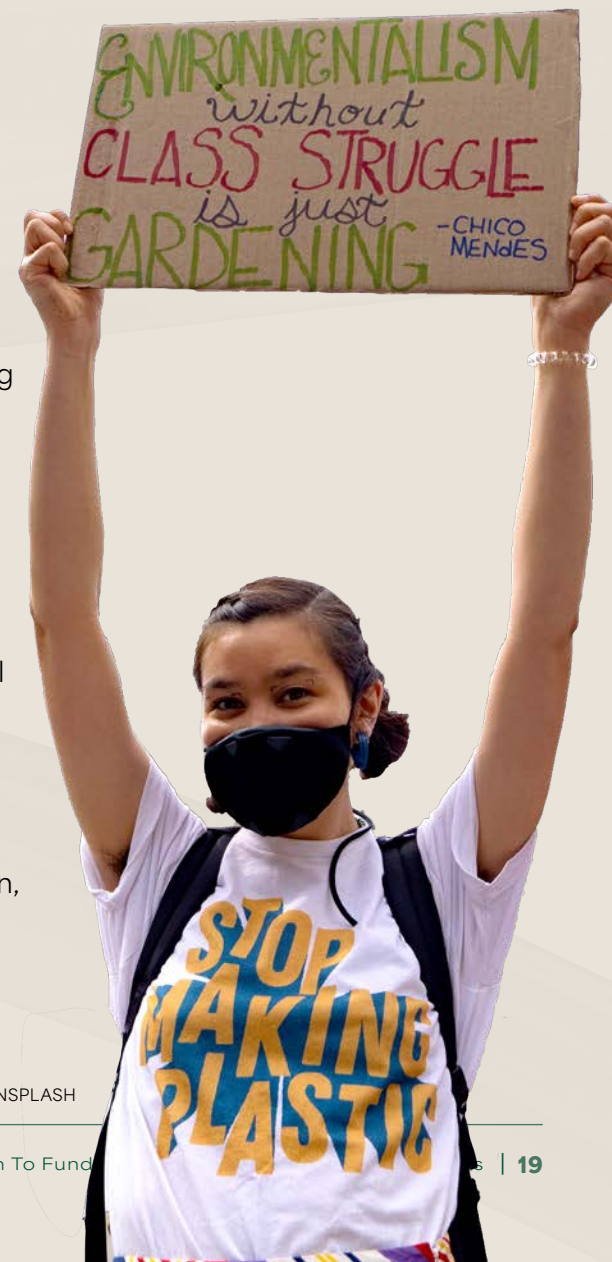
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Recognize the importance of an intersectional approach and fund systemic change.

Support initiatives that seek to shift current systems of oppression and inequality to transform the context that creates gender-based violence and other harms. An interconnected, systemic approach recognizes structural injustice is perpetuated through different forms of discrimination, rooted in histories of colonialism and capitalism, such as racism, sexism, homophobia, and transphobia. These systems intersect and create specific experiences of oppression and violence for WEDs, and those who experience other axes of oppression in addition to gender, face increased risk and violence.

Funders are often aware that WEDs endure violence as a result of their activism, but many do not fully understand the scope, breadth, and severity of this violence. Often gender-based violence is interpreted exclusively as physical or sexual intimate partner violence, and disconnected from systemic oppression or WEDs' involvement in environmental activism. As a result, there is very little funding specifically directed at women facing violence due to their environmental activism. Conservation funders noted the topic of gender “rarely, if ever” arose with grantees, contributing to the (mis)perception that gender is not relevant to the environmental work they are doing, and that intersectional work is not occurring. However several other funders noted that intersectional climate justice work does seem to be emerging as a priority among grantees, which raises its visibility among donors. One funder gave an example of a reproductive justice grantee who, after collaborating with an environmental group, began to work more intersectionally on environmental justice, and in turn highlighted that as a need for funding.

Funders can commit to finding ways to increase opportunities to fund work at the intersection of women, the environment, and gender-based violence, and actively seek insights into women's lived realities to understand the intersectional and systemic issues that impact them.



MARK DIXON; BACKGROUND: NATALIA BLAUTH/UNSPLASH

3

Broaden the definition of violence.

Funders should update calls for proposals to include a broader frame that recognizes the wide-reaching nature of violence. Narrow definitions of violence are misaligned with how most WEDs define and experience violence, which is structural and includes historical oppression, current state practices, socio-economic and political exclusion, land dispossession, defamation, personal attacks, intimidation, and patriarchal domination in their communities. The misalignment in definitions of violence contributes to the challenges and barriers for WEDs in applying for funding resources. Priority funding areas or calls for proposals, most often project-based, rarely reflect the complexities of their lives and work.

The misalignment in definitions of violence contributes to the challenges and barriers for WEDs in applying for funding resources.

4

Shift from project-based to core, multi-year grants.

Project-based funding reflects a historical approach to environmental philanthropy that lacks trust in local communities and focuses on achieving specific outputs – e.g., preserving a watershed – as compared to supporting systemic solutions that are conceived, designed, and implemented by the people who have firsthand knowledge about the climate crisis and environmental stewardship and defense.

In contrast, flexible long-term or multi-year support enables WEDs to account for the time horizon and dynamic nature of social change. It also allows them to adapt and respond to their communities' needs outside of stringent metrics and requirements. General support enables them to be intersectional and address root causes of oppression and environmental degradation that don't always fit neatly into funder metrics.

WEDs use a range of strategies to protect their bodies, lands, territories, and resources. These methods often fall outside the scope of mainstream environmental funders' strategies. Such strategies could involve funding training for women to run for political office, thereby improving community access to decision-making about their land and resources, or purchasing a vehicle for WEDs to use when public transportation poses too great a risk. By investing more deeply in multi-year, cross-movement alliance building, funders will be more effective in responding to the magnitude of challenges activists face.

General support enables them to be intersectional and address root causes of oppression and environmental degradation.



NAOMI LANOI LELETO; BACKGROUND: NATALIA BLAUTH/UNSPLASH

5

Proactively work to create a greater sense of safety and trust with grantee partners.

Funders acknowledge that grantees are one of the most important sources for insights into the lived reality of communities and frontline activists, and the important work that deserves funding. However, the interviews revealed that most have not received specific requests to fund work at the nexus of women, the environment, and gender-based violence. There are several reasons for this:

- Violence can be difficult and/or dangerous to discuss with funders.
- Onerous proposals and reporting requirements often serve as a barrier.
- There may be challenges in connecting directly with funders due to women's historic experience (rooted in patriarchy) of being excluded from access to information, technology, or critical connections.
- Grantees' decisions about what information they share with donors is often informed by what they perceive donors are interested in or are likely to fund, which may result in the relatively narrow or skewed scope of information shared.
- There may be language barriers, and grantees may not know how to find funding or which funders to approach for support.
- Terminology related to gender and environmental justice can serve as a significant barrier to growing funder knowledge and engagement. Among activists and funders alike, certain terms such as "feminism" and "women environmental defender" can evoke a wide range of opinions. Terms such as "women environmental defender," "structural violence," "feminist," and "decolonization" can be dense and loaded, and may repel or alienate those who are not steeped in social justice philanthropy. When asked about language, one funder responded, "...we need to change the language just enough so that the blinders come off." Many funders expressed the desire to reduce the barrier to entry and develop ways to bridge current knowledge silos and ideological divisions.

We must build deep, trusting relationships with grantees and actively ask questions about what they are experiencing, if we hope to hear about the complexities and nuances in the work and the circumstances that impact it. Using inclusive terminology is just one way to create a sense of safety and understanding, and ensure that our own words don't become a barrier. Actively

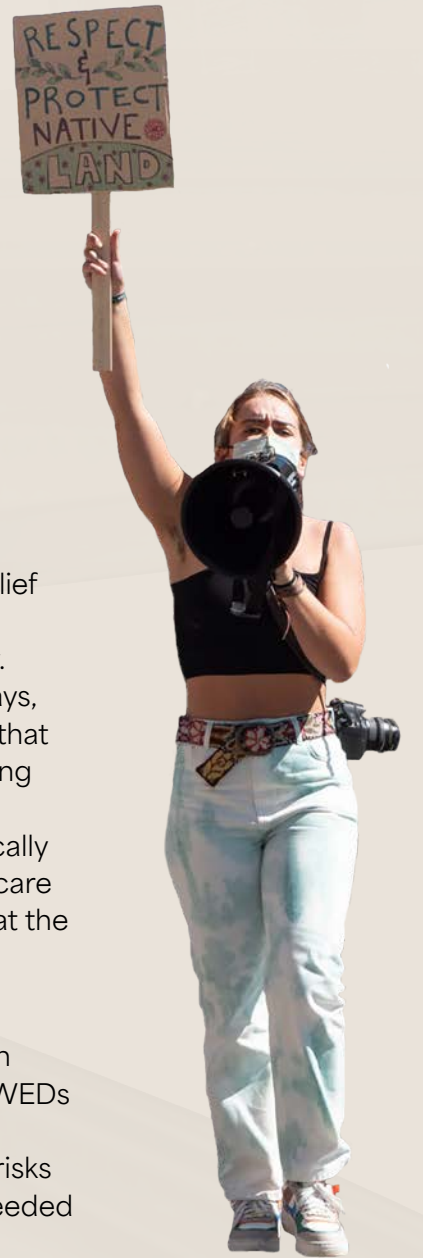
6

Provide holistic security grants to support collective care.

Collective care and holistic security are a critical priority for many activists. They are especially critical when considering the ongoing impact of violence WEDs face and the need for intergenerational healing, security, and collective care. For funders only able to provide short-term project grants, collective care and holistic security may offer both a way to provide needed flexible support for the security and well-being of activists, while also serving as an entry point for deeper consideration of more holistic, intersectional approaches.

Supporting collective care work acknowledges the systemic nature of violence and the necessity for strategies of care and safety that address intergenerational trauma and harm resulting from systemic violence and oppression. This is founded on the belief that we are all interconnected and that healing is interdependent. Women defenders face an ongoing and constant battle for safety. Activists define collective care and holistic security in different ways, including providing access to networks and communities of care that can serve as resources for activism and security, or simply providing breaks from work to relieve stress and avoid burnout. Research conducted by GAGGA and SAGE noted that grantees are specifically requesting support for security (physical, digital, legal), collective care (psychosocial support and safe spaces), and women's leadership at the community level.

Grants can be provided to support WEDs in minimizing their risk, staying safe, and responding to threats. This can include training in security, self-defense, risk assessment, and legal defense to help WEDs defend their rights and hold those who harm them accountable. Funders can also help raise awareness within philanthropy of the risks faced by WEDs, in order to galvanize the solidarity and support needed to stay safe and continue their work.



MARK DIXON; BACKGROUND: NATALIA BLAETH/UNSPLASH

7

Facilitate and resource more direct connection, community, and experiential learning.

Become engaged in communities of practice that uplift and amplify key voices at the intersection of women, the environment, and gender-based violence. These voices should include WEDs, who already play powerful roles in catalyzing funder learning and engagement – and are critical to mobilizing additional resources. Climate-specific funders may find it vital to connect with women’s funds, environmental funds, and intermediaries, which are often more directly engaged with local communities and activists and more attuned to the many forms of structural violence, its root causes, and the very real threats WEDs are experiencing.

Continue nurturing relationships between funders and activists in a way that doesn’t constitute a burden on activists, but allows for reciprocal learning. Feminist public foundations and intermediaries who are connected to grassroots gender-just movements have an important facilitation role here. Learning communities that include activists who can provide information and guidance on effective strategies and funding practices are especially effective. One example is the [Funder Learning and Action Co-Laboratory](#) created by Global Greengrants Fund and Prospera, specifically focused on gender, environmental, and climate justice. In this community, private foundations, local women’s and environmental funds, and activists are learning and organizing together to move more and better resources to movements, groups, and collectives working at the nexus of gender, environmental, and climate justice.

Climate-specific funders may find it vital to connect with women’s funds, environmental funds, and intermediaries.

8

Become a philanthropic catalyst and leader.

In many large environmental funding spaces, the topics of “gender” or “violence” still do not receive adequate attention. Funders have the opportunity to leverage their influence, bridge the gap in funding for WED projects, and highlight the importance of intersectional funding for climate justice. We can do this by:

- Increasing the number and size of grants supporting work at the nexus of women, the environment, and gender-based violence.
- Actively participating in multiple funder learning spaces, affinity groups, and meetings across the environmental field.
- Building a rationale for intersectional funding and lending validation to those who may view this as high-risk. This is especially true for larger or influencer funders who are visible about how what they fund can catalyze others to do the same.
- Emphasizing the value of a “cautionary tale”, particularly from foundations that have funded in siloed ways and subsequently observed the unintentional consequences.
- Co-funding as a strategic entry point that can reduce a funder’s perceived or actual risk when entering into a new funding area.
- Creating opportunities for other funders to connect with grantees and when applicable.
- Collaborating or offering support to grantees to develop proposals that align with their lived reality and movement priorities, while also responding to the funder’s request.

In many large environmental funding spaces, the topics of “gender” or “violence” still do not receive adequate attention.

BABAWALE OBAYANJU-2463; NATALIA BLAETH/UNSPLASH

9

Fund intermediaries, and develop shared ‘due diligence’ guidelines.

Many WEDs cannot legally incorporate their organizations, as this would increase state surveillance of their work. This prevents many grassroots groups from receiving vital funding from institutions that require incorporation in order to financially support work.

Funding through intermediaries can bridge this gap, playing an important role in reducing the complexity of the due diligence process, while still meeting foundations’ need to conduct equivalency determinations. Intermediary services remove operational barriers and long waits for community activists or unregistered groups and enable more channels of potential funding to flow directly to grassroots-based WEDs. They alleviate institutional barriers for funders who do not fund these processes themselves, or may find it too high-risk to even consider funding incorporated groups. Additionally, intermediaries play a critical role in connecting larger funders with thousands of grassroots groups around the world. They specialize in making small, flexible grants; providing groups with meaningful movement building support, and often have strong trust-based relationships with activists and hold extensive expertise in supporting grassroots movements.

Funders could also collaborate to develop a “common due diligence” process that reduces administrative burdens on both grantees and especially supports those who may need to remain unregistered for safety reasons; this would be even more effective in navigating legislative constraints and making funding more accessible.

10

Pursue alternative creative financing mechanisms to address barriers and alleviate obstacles for WEDs.

Funders who cannot make multi-year or unrestricted grants, can consider multiple and diverse methods of shifting resources to WEDs – for example, an insurance fund underwritten by donors who can provide multi-year unrestricted funds, and accepting restricted funds from donors who are interested in learning along the way. This could possibly offer new, more risk-averse funders an up-close opportunity to see and understand the impact of such multi-year funding which might, in turn, help influence internal processes around less restricted funding in the future. There are many possibilities to explore, as we have just begun to scratch the surface of creative funding mechanisms and approaches in the philanthropy space.

11

Cultivate collective, bold, creative communications strategies.

Several funders noted the overall lack of visibility around the intersection of climate and gender justice. “Climate change,” “climate justice,” and the “climate crisis” remain dense and obscure terms. There is an opportunity for funders to partner and think collectively and expansively about multi-pronged, global communication strategies. These campaigns could complement existing tactics in funder engagement and further buoy momentum to mobilize funds at this intersection, while remaining cognisant and sensitive to the lived reality of WEDs. A global communications strategy could encompass efforts that:

- Build awareness of the wide range of environmental issues that WEDs are responding to, as well as the challenges of structural violence they face.
- Amplify stories that illustrate complex and academic concepts like intersectionality and structural violence in powerful, personal ways.
- Develop concise foundational documents about the nexus of women, the environment, and gender-based violence written specifically to engage both newer funders entering the space and more traditional environmental funders.

UN WOMEN/MICHAEL GOIMA; BACKGROUND: NATALIA BLAUTH/UNSPLASH



UN WOMEN/RYAN BROWN; BACKGROUND: REN RAN/UNSPLASH

8

Conclusion

The resources available to support grassroots environmental justice movements, and particularly WEDs, remain grossly insufficient relative to the scale of the climate crisis. We have an urgent and significant opportunity to change this.

Through research and analysis, we surfaced persistent challenges and barriers to supporting those most impacted by environmental injustice and climate change, and to bringing about lasting change by addressing the root causes of environmental degradation and injustice. We also uncovered innovative and actionable ways to tackle the problem. We hope to spark concrete and practical next steps that will inspire other funders to reflect deeply on our own role and the opportunity for leadership we have to support women in environmental protection with responsive and effective funding practices that are designed to ensure that they can continue their critical work in a context free from violence.

Grassroots environmental justice movements around the world are building power around the collective wisdom, energy, and solutions of those most impacted by the climate crisis, and courageous women environmental defenders are leading the way. We have the urgent responsibility to build our collective understanding of how to best support them, instead of perpetuating the barriers that stand in their way.

Appendix

Research Data

To document funding that explicitly addresses the violence women experience in defending their lands, resources, and territories, Global Greengrants conducted an analysis of data on funding for women and the environment identified through a partnership between Global Greengrants and Prospera International Network of Women's Funds for the report *Our Voices, Our Environment*.

The data sets for 2014 and 2017 contain grants awarded by private and public foundations (including women's funds) primarily headquartered in North America, but also in Europe, Latin America, and Sub-Saharan Africa. For North America funders, the sets include most of the largest U.S. foundations and represent 75-80% of international giving by U.S. funders. Data for funders in other regions come primarily from Prospera, Ariadne: European Network for Social Change and Human Rights, and Human Rights Funders Network members that voluntarily shared their data as part of the Advancing Human Rights initiative. While not reflective of all private philanthropy globally, these data offer the most comprehensive resource available for analysis. Finally, the data sets do not include government funders and private organizations that may provide funds but for which grantmaking is not a primary focus.

For grants to be included in the women and environment data set, they had to meet the definition of "environmental" funding developed by *Our Voices, Our Environment* project advisors and also include an explicit focus on women. Having a rights-based strategy was not a prerequisite for the inclusion of grants. In addition, because several funders in the analysis both make and receive grants, grants made between these funders have been excluded to avoid double-counting grant dollars.

To develop the subset of grants for women and the environment explicitly focused on gender-based violence (GBV) for this analysis, grants had to explicitly reference women environmental "activists" or violence being experienced by women as a result of their efforts to defend their lands, resources, and territories.

Given the limited number of funders who fund at the nexus of women and the environment, Global Greengrants made the decision to examine all of these grants to identify those that explicitly addressed GBV. Global Greengrants did exclude from this analysis grants focused on violence that result exclusively from natural disasters, as well as environmental grants that may reference violence but that do not make a sufficiently clear link to women activists.

