

Seeds for Harvest: Funding gender, climate, and environmental justice

Executive Summary





As agents of change, women and gender-diverse groups, as well as Indigenous peoples, are driving political change within their communities, countries, and regions. They are developing and implementing strategies, alternatives, and solutions that bravely and boldly care for people and the planet – protecting communities, land, oceans, biodiversity, and natural resources. We see examples of resilience, collective care, and solidarity in the work that is led by women and gender-diverse people across the globe. They are leading the fight for the wellbeing of their lands and territories, and standing up to governments and corporations in defense of life. Advancing gender justice and equality is paramount to increase the agency and power of women and gender-diverse groups who are at the forefront of local, regional, and global climate and environmental justice work.

Through spotlighting the funding trends of human rights-focused private and public funders, [Global Greengrants Fund](#), [Prospera International Network of Women's Funds \(Prospera\)](#), [the Human Rights Funders Network \(HRFN\)](#), and the [Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action \(GAGGA\)](#) provide in this report, a powerful understanding of the state of funding for gender, climate, and environmental justice work, and crucially, the imperative to galvanize political will and financial commitment to movements in the Global South and East.

Despite their leadership and impact in addressing environmental crises, the evidence clearly shows that women's groups are often underrepresented and underfunded. Drawing from the [Foundation Center \(now Candid\) 2014 data](#), our 2018 report, [Our Voices, Our Environment: The state of funding for women's environmental action](#), found that just 0.1% of all foundation grants and only 0.2% of all foundation grant dollars reached groups working at the intersection of 'women and the environment.' The report went further to show that among environmental funding by foundations, grants that specified women represented just 1% of all grants and less than 3% of grant dollars.

Five years on, this new report is rooted in a renewed sense of hope, resilience, and possibility, while highlighting the significant need and lack of funding. In addition to grounding in the evidence that the funding data provides, we amplify powerful stories of transformation from the activists at the forefront of this work. We aim to inspire the philanthropic sector to move more resources to this crucial intersection. Through data analysis, case studies, and the identification of trends and opportunities, we showcase the funding landscape for gender, environmental, and climate justice movements. The report reveals the potential that exists in adequately meeting our joint resourcing needs. As well as providing valuable new insights, it asks the critical questions; *Why fund at this intersection? And what for?* The answers lie in our deep commitment to resourcing these movements in the Global South and East. Without the active participation of activists, grounded in their communities and connected to feminist environmental and climate movements in their countries and regions, solutions to the climate crises and emergencies we are living in will fail.

As well as providing valuable new insights about the current funding landscape for gender, climate, and environmental justice work, this new publication signposts the progress made from those critical to the landscape, and through data collected by our networks, it evidences how foundations continue to allocate a meager share of global funding and how the inter-linkages between climate and gender justice are woefully under-resourced.

Only 1.2% (\$50.2M USD) of the \$4.1B USD in human rights funding for 2019, and just 5% (1,339) of nearly 27,000 grants, considered gender, climate, and environment.

- Funding for initiatives addressing gender, climate, and environment remained low across all regions, ranging from just 1% of human rights grant dollars for Eastern Europe and Central Asia to 6% for Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Private foundations provided the majority of human rights funding (61% of total dollars, or \$31M USD) focused on gender, climate, and environment.
- Public foundations awarded the majority of human rights grants (91% of grants, totaling \$18M USD) focused on gender, climate, and environment. Among these grants, women's and feminist funds awarded 33%, Global Greengrants Fund contributed 45%, and other public foundations provided the remaining 13%.
- Global Greengrants Fund, women's, and feminist funds contributed 78% of all human rights grants at the intersection of gender, climate, and environment in 2019.
- Global Greengrants Fund, GAGGA's channeled grants and Prospera's own data shows that their combined annual grantmaking at this intersection exceeded \$15M USD each year from 2019 to 2021, and supported over 4,000 activists, groups, and organizations fighting for gender and climate justice.

Our main findings from this research indicate needs and opportunities for increased connection and cross-pollination between feminist practices and environmental approaches among gender, climate, and environment organizations and funders, aiming to advance toward a more intersectional approach. There is an enabling environment and heightened potential for women's, feminist, environmental, climate and human rights funds to collaborate and strengthen the funding ecosystem at this intersection, develop common narratives, and advance joint political framings. This can help secure greater financial commitments and increase the impact of feminist climate justice work.

Given that the climate emergencies are most deeply experienced and ignored in the Global South and East, it is particularly important for us to collectively pay attention to and drive resources to the activists in those countries and regions directly impacted and neglected. And, as the spotlight pieces reveal, this is also the most effective, impactful and sustainable way of responding to climate collapse - building systems of resilience, accountability, and longevity from the ground up.

The collaborative ecosystem of feminist, women's rights, and environmental justice funds is capable and ready to receive at least \$100M USD annually for gender, climate and environmental justice action and leadership in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. This funding will support activists in those countries and regions that are particularly impacted and neglected.

The publication highlights the established resourcing mechanisms for systems change including GAGGA, [Socio Environmental Funds of the Global South](#), [Clima](#), and the [Funder Learning and Action Co-Laboratory](#), of which Prospera and Global Greengrants Fund are active members. Further, collaborations between public funds resourcing at this intersection include [MADRE](#), [The Fund for Global Human Rights](#), [Thousand Currents](#), and [American Jewish World Service](#).

While direct funding is a critical aspect, so too is bringing people together to generate greater opportunities for strategizing and building collective analysis that provides a multiplicity of approaches to the challenges that climate emergencies hold for us all. And central to this, is the leadership and wisdom of women, gender-diverse people and Indigenous Peoples whose approaches to giving voice and rights to nature, that is paramount to prioritize our collective purpose. This is the only way that we will be able to turn the tide. This report invites you to join us.

Recommended Actions for Funders:

- 1. Mobilize multi-year, flexible resources** to those working at the intersections of gender, environmental, and climate justice. By increasing grantmaking dollars and supporting the public foundations and networks funding feminist and environmental justice movements, private foundations can make significant contributions to ensuring local, community-owned solutions are effective in stewarding our planet.
- 2. Eradicate climate and gender justice funding silos**, and collaborate for the long-term future of our shared planet. Women's, feminist, environmental, climate, and human rights funds need to collaborate and strengthen the funding ecosystem at this intersection, develop common narratives, and advance joint political framings in order to secure greater financial commitments and increase the impact of feminist climate justice work globally.

3. **Invest in feminist climate movement infrastructure** and support the creation of spaces for mid-level organizations, groups, and activists to gather, think, research, and create agendas into the future that bring adequate analyses and strategies for us to engage fully and together. An enabling environment created by feminist, socio-environmental justice funds, and public foundations is ready to absorb millions of dollars collaboratively in order to move resources to the right places and in trust-based, legitimate ways.
4. **Convene dialogues** between activists, academics, funders, civil servants, artists, and healers who are doing the work to be able to exchange knowledge, learnings, and experiences, and to develop common strategies that can build on collective power for change.
5. **Recognize, support, and learn from and with Indigenous Peoples**, including Indigenous women, and acknowledge the diversity of approaches, perspectives, and traditional knowledge they bring in defense of their territories and biodiversity for the wellbeing of all.





 **Prospera**
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF WOMEN'S FUNDS

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