

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



This report and research project is the result of the collective knowledge and efforts of the communities that make part of Prospera International Network of Women's and Feminist Funds, Global Greengrants Fund, Human Rights Funders Network (HRFN), and the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA). We are grateful to all the people who shared their time and wisdom as part of this research.

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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.



1. Introduction



Five years ago, we published the stark findings in ‘Our Voices, Our Environment: The state of funding for women’s environmental action’¹, that revealed just 0.2% of all foundation grant dollars reached groups working at the intersection of women and the environment. The data affirmed what many in the field already knew, that despite women’s leadership in addressing climate solutions, they were woefully ignored in environment funding.

In the years since, the world has transformed significantly – with the COVID pandemic, the onslaught of wars and genocides across the world, the rise in authoritarianism, acute polarization, and extreme changes to our climate systems, resulting in more frequent and extreme natural disasters. Nonetheless, people’s movements the world over have continued to organize in solidarity to support each other, find solutions to the world’s most pressing problems, and advocate for environmental, economic, and gender justice. The tenacity of the human spirit prevails, and drives us to constantly build community and connect with each other and the natural world.

Pablo Solón in his book *Systemic Alternatives*², states that humanity is currently facing a global, systemic crisis;

1 Global Greengrants Fund, Prospera International Network of Women’s Funds. 2018. [“Our Voices, Our Environment: The state of funding for women’s environmental action.”](#)

2 Solón, Pablo. 2017. *Systemic Alternatives*, Fundación Solón. <https://systemicalternatives.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/sa-final-ingles-pdf2.pdf>

“provoked by a set of factors among which stands out the incessant search for profit by the capitalist system at the expense of the planet and humanity. This system is leading to the extinction of species, significant biodiversity loss, the degradation of humanity and relentlessly pushing the limits of the planet.”

Although the climate crisis affects everyone, the effects are far from equal. Groups that are systematically marginalized, as a result of the colonial and patriarchal systems we live in, are the most affected, and continue to suffer the burden of unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, diverse inequalities within and between countries, and discrimination and forms of oppression linked to the root causes of the climate crisis, including capitalism and over-exploitation.

Against this backdrop, women and gender-diverse groups are among the ones driving change, developing and implementing strategies, alternatives and solutions that bravely and boldly care for people and planet – protecting communities, land, biodiversity, and natural resources. We see examples of resilience, collective care, and solidarity in the work led by women across the globe, not only caring for their families and communities, but also leading the fight for their lands and territories and standing up against 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 work.

This publication and research initiative is rooted in that hope, resilience and possibility, and commissioned by [Prospera International Network of Women’s Funds](#) (Prospera), [Global Greengrants Fund](#) , and [Human Rights Funders Network](#) (HRFN), in collaboration with the [Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action](#) (GAGGA). It complements the 2018 report, and provides an opportunity to understand how the funding landscape has shifted in support of gender, climate, and environmental justice work.

As well as providing valuable new insights, this new publication answers the critical questions; *Why fund at this intersection? And what for?* It signposts the progress made from those critical to the landscape, and through data collected by our networks, it also evidences how foundations continue to allocate such a meager share of funding and how the inter-linkages between climate and gender justice are woefully under-resourced. In analyzing the current reality of human rights funding through data analysis, case studies, and the identification of trends and opportunities, it grounds in inspirational evidence to call on the philanthropic sector to urgently move more resources to this crucial intersection.



2. Methodology and Limitations



This research gathers quantitative findings from data analysis and qualitative insights from discussions with over 20 actors in the ecosystem³—the aim, to fully comprehend the funding landscape. It examines the challenges and success stories to identify actionable lessons and practical steps for the field, and to make the case for more intersectional grantmaking in support of gender, climate, and environmental justice.

We analyzed grants data from the Advancing Human Rights dataset⁴ compiled by HRFN and [Candid](#), in partnership with Prospera and [Ariadne](#), of almost 27,000 grants made in 2019 to protect and promote human rights globally. This dataset contains data from 761 foundations in 51 countries that made at least one human rights grant. The data provided a broad overview of the state of human rights funding at the intersection of gender, climate, and the environment in 2019, setting a baseline for pre-pandemic funding of these issues.

Further analysis of grants data from 2019–2021 from Prospera and Global Greengrants Fund saw development of a joint database to identify grantmaking trends at this intersection. We aimed to identify all grants during the three years that matched the definitions used in the 2018 reporting⁵ and also include additional issues of agroecology, land rights, environmental defense,

³ See Appendix B for a full list of interviewees.

⁴ Human Rights Funders Network and Candid, 2022. [Advancing Human Rights: Annual Review of Global Foundation Grantmaking](#)

⁵ Grants must be focused on at least one of these issues: agriculture and livestock, biodiversity, climate change, disasters and emergency management, environmental education, environmental health and toxins, environmental justice and resource rights, food security, forestry, fishing and aquaculture, natural resource protection, sustainable development, waste management, or water access and sanitation. Grants must specifically support women's, girls', or gender equality; or support an organization that states it focuses on women's, girls', or gender equality in its mission.

and other work related to climate and gender, stemming from a justice-oriented framework. The analysis of grants in this report also includes those that work towards climate justice with a gender transformative intent.

Where there is difference in how Prospera and Global Greengrants Fund compile their data, this report has aimed to standardize the grants and definitions to combine datasets and assess how these two networks focused their grantmaking for gender, climate, and environmental justice. More detailed methodological information about how we coded and combined the two databases can be found under Appendix A of this report. It is important to note that when combining the databases, 18% of all grants came from Global Greengrants Fund's data as a single funder and 82% from Prospera, a network of funds.

While this report draws on data collected by our networks, it is not an all-encompassing analysis of the entire funding landscape, yet it does provide **a distinct global picture of the field of human rights philanthropy, constituting approximately \$4 Billion USD annually and represents between 2% - 7% of global philanthropic funding each year.**⁶

The following chapters focus a sharp spotlight on funding from a subset of grantmakers that fund gender, climate, and environmental justice work, allowing us to identify grants at the intersection of these themes.

6 Human Rights Funders Network and Candid, 2022. [Advancing Human Rights: Annual Review of Global Foundation Grantmaking](#)



3. The Case for Intersectional Gender, Climate, and Environment Funding



The climate crisis is one of the greatest challenges of our times, as is the centuries-old struggle for gender justice. The compounding systemic crises we face require an intersectional approach. Only then can we better address the interconnected root causes of these seemingly separate issues and have a chance of creating deeper long-lasting transformations. In the words of Kimberlé Crenshaw; *"Intersectionality is used to describe the ways that multiple systems of oppression inform each other in the experiences of those impacted by them"*.⁷

In this way, funding intersectionally is an approach that recognizes the interlinkages between several issues and populations. It has the power to center those that are most impacted by the compounding crises, and holistically support the systemic alternatives⁸ and relevant solutions that these groups and populations are developing.

⁷ Crenshaw, Kimberlé. 1991, [Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color](#), Stanford Law Review

⁸ Solón, Pablo. 2017. [Systemic Alternatives](#), Fundación Solón.

Despite its growing popularity in the last two decades, philanthropy is slow to transition towards intersectional funding. The analysis and findings of the 2022 report, *Funding for Intersectional Organizing: A Call to Action for Human Rights Philanthropy*⁹ states that, although funders know they need intersectional approaches to grantmaking, the majority of human rights grants still address just one issue and focus on just one population, and that few human rights issues are ever systematically addressed together. For example, of grants to advance environmental and resource rights, just 22% also included a health focus, and just 5% intersected with migration, despite well-established links to both issues.

According to UN Environment¹⁰, it is estimated that 80% of people displaced by climate change are women, and in a UN Women report¹¹, a youth leader and climate justice advocate from Lima, Peru, goes further;

“Those who are most impacted by gender-based violence, and by gender inequalities, are also the most impoverished and marginalized - black and brown women, Indigenous women, women in rural areas, young girls, girls living with disabilities, trans youth and gender non-conforming youth. That marginalized communities are the most impacted by natural disasters and the devastating effects of climate change is not a mere coincidence.” – Majandra Rodriguez Acha¹²

Just Associate’s Southeast Asia Regional Director, Zephanie Repollo¹³, also explains;

“The climate crisis is not only an environmental issue, but also a political issue that has bolstered and reinforced the level of catastrophes that are impacting people, especially women around the globe and those who don’t have control over their territories.”

Understanding the linkages between these issues is critical to advance gender and climate justice, and finding ways to resource work at this intersection is crucial if we are to survive the polycrisis affecting both people and the planet. With women driving change in many of their communities, advancing equality and increasing opportunities, agency and power of women and LGBTQIA+ people will, in turn, advance climate adaptation and the protection of biodiversity and natural resources.

There have been several efforts to disseminate information about this intersection and the organizing to support it. One such example, urgently needed, is gender-just climate finance - the strategic allocation of resources that prioritizes women and minoritized communities in leading climate change solutions, centering rights and justice alongside environmental integrity.¹⁴

Similarly, [Funder Learning and Action Co-Laboratory \(FLAC\)](#)¹⁵, is a collaboration of funders, intermediaries, and activists, all organizing to move more and better resources to the nexus of gender, environmental, and climate justice, along with GAGGA, the collaborator in this research, whose work is specifically focused on this intersection. Section 9 explores this further.

In 2014, Prospera and Global Greengrants Fund organized the Summit on Women and Climate¹⁶, and as a direct result, established a cross-movement funding relationship to expand support for women engaged in environmental action at the grassroots level in the Global South and East.

9 Human Rights Funders Network, 2022. [Funding for Intersectional Organizing: A Call To Action For Human Rights Philanthropy](#)

10 OHCHR, 2022. [Climate change exacerbates violence against women and girls](#)

11 UN Women, 2020. [Intersectional feminism: what it means and why it matters right now](#)

12 [I am Generation Equality: Majandra Rodriguez Acha, youth leader, climate justice believer | UN Women](#)

13 <https://justassociates.org/meet-the-teams/zeph-repollo/>

14 Alliance Magazine, March 2024. [The power of gender-just climate action and the urgent need for funding](#)

15 <https://flac-environmentgender.org>

16 <http://www.greengrants.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Climate-Justice-and-Womens-Rights-Guide1.pdf#wpcf7-f19163-p19164-o1>

They were able to leverage their extensive networks and relationships, with grantees and members, to identify opportunities to make major strides in resourcing at this intersection.

In furthering the power of these convenings, September 2024, sees the second iteration of a Climate and Gender Justice Summit in Tanzania, by Prospera, Global Greengrants Fund, and in partnership with GAGGA, to continue to organize and advance social movements and philanthropic efforts around the world.

Despite new funding and mechanisms to direct financial resources to gender-just climate action, a significant gap remains between what is available, what is urgently needed, and the philanthropic allies to make it happen.



4. Landscape Analysis: 2019 human rights funding trends



Analysis of the Advancing Human Rights dataset, which includes data reported by foundations in the HRFN, Ariadne, and Prospera networks and data collected by Candid from 1,000 of the largest private and community foundations in the United States,¹⁷ offers a landscape view of grantmaking from a significant pool of funders to help understand the subset of human rights funding specifically at the intersection of gender, climate, and environment. It includes data from Global Greengrants Fund and 41 Prospera members, enabling us to situate their grantmaking within the broader funding ecosystem.

This research classifies human rights grants as *“funding in pursuit of structural change to ensure the protection and enjoyment of the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent human rights treaties.”*¹⁸ The dataset incorporates all grants that meet this definition, even if they are not defined as human rights grants by the funder. For the purposes of this analysis, the focus was specifically on grants that cited both ‘Environmental and Resources Rights’, defined as supporting the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment (including concerns related to climate), and grants which focused on women, girls, and trans people.

¹⁷ Candid’s “Foundation 1000” dataset represents roughly half of all U.S. private and community foundation grantmaking. See pages 43-44 of HRFN’s [2019 analysis](#) for more details on the methodology.

¹⁸ In the Advancing Human Rights dataset, grants for [Environmental and Resource Rights](#) support *“the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment. This includes the rights of Indigenous, marginalized, or any other communities to the unspoiled natural resources that enable survival, including land, water, air, plants, animals, and energy; sustainable agriculture rights; the right to water and sanitation; and the right to share in and determine the distribution of lands, territories, and resources. This category captures grants to protect natural resources from overdevelopment, destruction, or adulteration, and to address climate change.”*

The data identifies 1,339 grants focused on gender, climate, and environment from a total of 26,621 grants - equating to just 5% of all human rights grants.¹⁹

These grants were made by 13% of the 761 funders in the dataset (99 foundations), and amounted to \$50.2M USD out of a total \$4.1B USD of overall funding in 2019 to support human rights.

This equates to only 1.2% of all human rights-focused grant dollars.

Percentage of Foundation Human Rights Funding Allocated to the Intersection of Gender and Climate / Environment



Among these grants, a staggering 91% were made by public funds, demonstrating their significant role in funding at this intersection.

- 45% by Global Greengrants Fund (608 grants)
- 33% by women’s and feminist funds (440 grants)
- 13% by other public foundations (177 grants)

This significant finding shows the major role of women’s and feminist funds in this space, as well as the centrality of Global Greengrants Fund and funders that work as intermediaries with a dedicated socio-environmental focus.

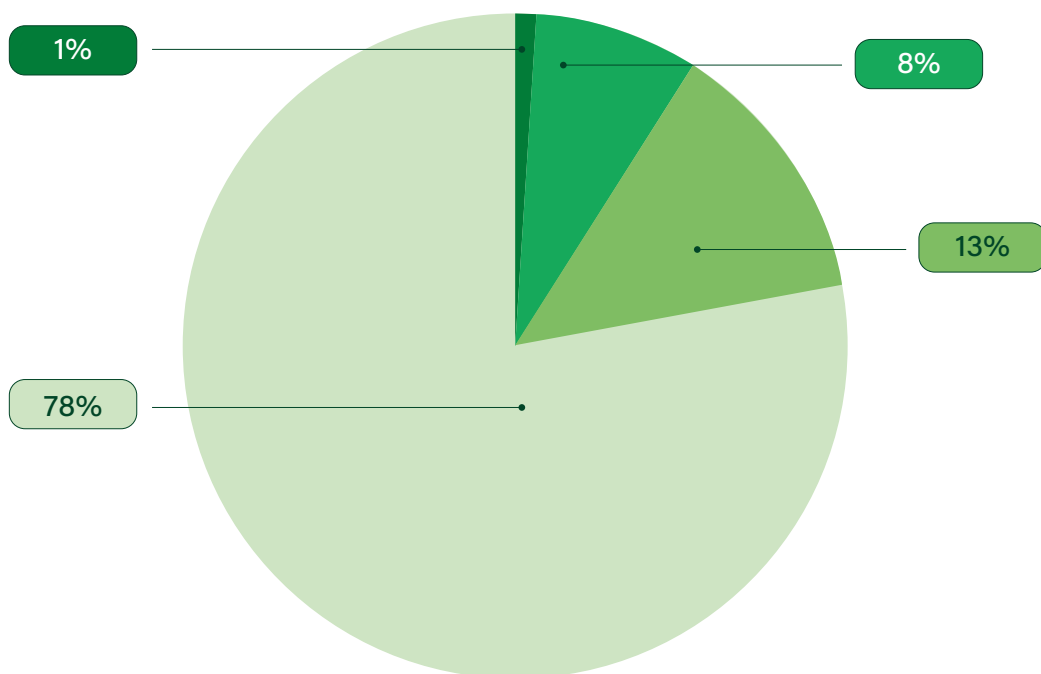
13% of these grants (<0.7% of all human rights grants) came from public foundations other than Global Greengrants Fund and women’s or feminist funds (including Prospera members). While private foundations accounted for only 8% of the grants at this intersection (<0.5% of all human rights grants), they contributed the largest share (61%) of funding, amounting to \$31M USD.

This imbalance between grant numbers and grant dollars reflects a trend identified in HRFN’s annual analysis. Private foundations tend to contribute the most money overall, while public

¹⁹ These 26,621 grants exclude 341 grants totaling \$104M USD awarded by foundations to other foundations included in the 2019 Advancing Human Rights dataset. Generally, these grants were made to either support regranting programs or build the capacity of the recipient foundations. These grants have been removed to avoid double counting of grant dollars. 22 of these grants, totaling \$54.5M USD were at the intersection of gender, climate, and environment. These include 17 grants totaling \$50.3M USD awarded by public foundations (including women’s or feminist funds), four grants totaling \$3.4M USD awarded by private foundations, and one grant totaling \$841,000 USD awarded by a donor collaborative. All 22 of these grants were awarded to public foundations.

foundations – including feminist funds – support a wider range of initiatives, particularly in the Global South and East. This is further emphasized by the average grant size for private foundations at \$281,000 USD (109 grants) compared to public foundations. Notably, grants from women’s and feminist funds average \$15,000 USD (440 grants), Global Greengrants Fund grants average \$7,500 USD (608 grants), and grants from other public foundations average \$39,000 USD (177 grants). The prominence of grants at this intersection from women’s and feminist funds and Global Greengrants Fund is striking, and leads to the deeper dive into their funding through this report.

Foundations funding at the intersection of gender and climate/environment by grant numbers



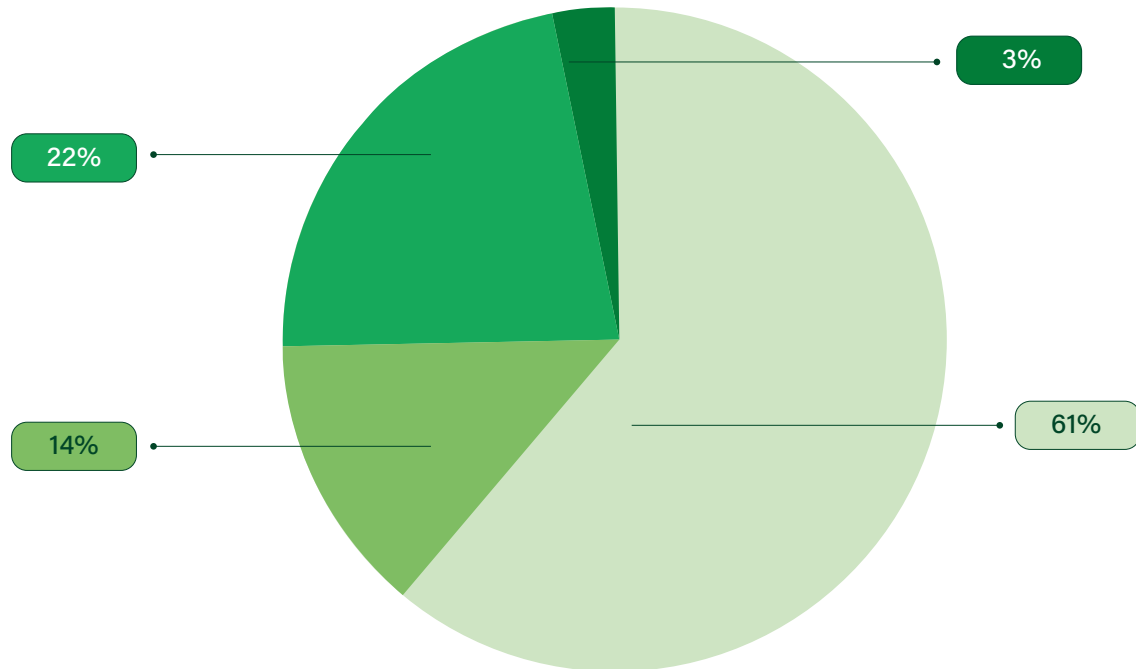
78% Women's/Feminist Funds & GGF

8% Private foundations

13% Other public foundations

1% Other

Foundations Funding at the Intersection of Gender and Climate / Environment by Grant Dollars



61% Private foundations

22% Women's/Feminist funds & GGF

14% Other public foundations

3% Other



5. Prospera and Global Greengrants Fund Trends



While overall human rights funding in 2019 reached \$4.1B USD, only the smallest fraction of grants focussed on the intersection of gender, climate, and environment, with considerable room for growth in grantmaking among private foundations and other public foundations.

Notably, a significant share of these grants (78%) came from two key sources. Global Greengrants Fund, an individual fund, contributed 45% totaling \$4.6M USD through 608 grants, and 33% was contributed from 32 women's and feminist funds, including 31 Prospera members, amounting to \$6.6M USD through 440 grants. In fact, almost three quarters (73%) of the 44 women's funds in the dataset made grants at this intersection.

The data on socio-environmental funds may actually then *understate* their role in resourcing work at the intersection of gender, climate, and environment. As one of the only socio-environmental funds included in the dataset, Global Greengrants Fund stands out for both its prolific grantmaking and its commitment to resourcing in this way, with a striking 66% of its grants comprising 52% of its funding focussed on this intersection. Analysis of the broad 2019 funding landscape indicates that Global Greengrants Fund and the Prospera network are two of the major actors in this space with their support critical to this nexus. By analyzing three years of their combined grantmaking data, this report will continue to uncover valuable insights into the state of the funding ecosystem at this intersection and how these funders are, indeed, shaping the field.

Before delving into the analysis, it's essential to acknowledge the significant impact of COVID-19 between 2020-2021, where the global pandemic altered grantmaking priorities and social needs.

Numerous philanthropic organizations pivoted to providing core funding for basic operations or emergency relief. Indications show the shift in response to the global emergency considerably affected foundations' commitments and capacity to fund at the intersection of gender, climate, and environment.

With Global Greengrants Fund and Prospera at the forefront of funding at the intersection and with their detailed grantmaking data, this research combines their data from 2019-2021 to identify and understand funding trends. When merging all of their grants in this period, the total number of grants was 16,577; of which 14,069 were from Prospera's database that came from 41 women's funds, while 2,508 of all grants were from Global Greengrants Fund's database.

Their disaggregated data at this intersection shows a Global Greengrants Fund total number of grants of 1,594, representing 64% of their total grantmaking budget in those years. It shows Prospera's network total number of grants to be 1,932, representing 14% of their total collective grantmaking budget for those years. Prospera's grants show that during this time, 37 of their 41 members in the database, funded at the intersection (six more members than the findings from the 2019 dataset) with some focusing up to 30% of their grants in this way.

Proportion of all Prospera and GGF Grants Allocated to Gender, Climate, and Environment



Analysis by number of grants

In a breakdown by year, there were a total of 4,048 grants in 2019,²⁰ 5,986 in 2020, and 6,543 in 2021. Among all grants in 2019, only 1,159 (29%) of the 4,048 grants sat at the intersection of gender, climate, and environment. The percentage of grants at this intersection decreased in 2020 and 2021 to 20% and 18% respectively, but the data shows that the decrease is due to the increase of total number of grants overall (up by 47% from 2019 to 2020, and 15% from 2020 to 2021). Of note, is that the number of grants focused on gender, climate, and environment did not change substantially (1,159 in 2019, 1,197 in 2020, and 1,170 in 2021). (See Appendix C).

Analysis by dollar amount

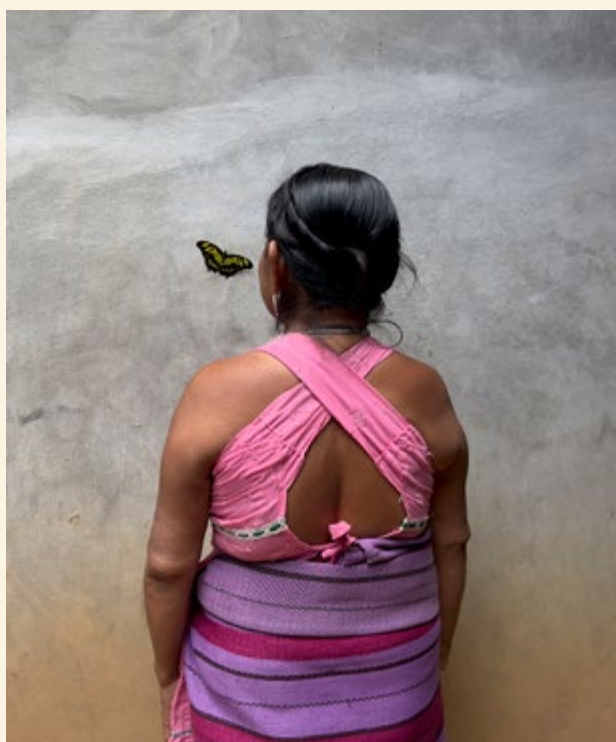
The dollar amounts allocated towards gender, climate, and environment were proportionally lower when compared to the proportion of grants dedicated to this intersection. This also suggests that the amount of funding for gender, climate, and environment is disproportionately lower than the amount allocated towards all other issues (including non-environmental and non-gender topics, as well as topics that focus solely on gender, or climate, or the environment but not the intersection). The number of grants, however, steadily increased over the three years. As indicated earlier, it's likely that the apparent decrease in dollar amounts was due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, since many organizations - especially those who have a feminist approach to their work - were quick to reorganize their grantmaking instead to offer support for core activities, self-care, and emergency relief.

In 2019, \$15,354,378 USD (24% of the total funding between Global Greengrants Fund and Prospera) was allocated towards gender, climate, and environment, while that total was \$12,284,122 USD in 2020 (17% of that year's total), and \$13,825,230 USD in 2021 (14% of the total that year). The average amount allocated to one grant was between \$10,000 USD and \$13,000 USD, depending on the year. Amounts ranged from \$71 - \$681,000 USD. (See Appendix C).

²⁰ The vast majority of which are reflected in the Advancing Human Rights 2019 dataset.



6. The Funding Ecosystem for Gender, Climate, and Environment



Private Foundations

Private foundations receive most of their funding from a single individual, family, or business. This usually allows for greater flexibility in deciding their grantmaking focus and strategy, than public foundations which fundraise for the resources they grant out. Many private foundations lead on significant work supporting gender justice, women's rights, climate justice, and environmental work, but only a few actively fund at the intersection.

Claire Poelking, Program Officer at the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation shares; *"while at the moment we do not have a program focused on gender and climate specifically, we are bringing the context of climate change to more things that we are funding. Likewise, we are trying to bring in a variety of identity perspectives, including gender, more wholly than we have in the past."*

The landscape analysis of 2019 human rights funding showed that private foundations were responsible for just 8% of all grants at the intersection of gender, climate, and environment, but in terms of dollar amounts they contributed the largest share (61%) of funding. They are making larger grants to fewer organizations, with an average grant size of \$281,000 USD (109 grants).²¹

Top 10 private foundations resourcing the gender and climate intersection

Private Foundation Name	Number of human rights grants in 2019 at the intersection of gender & climate/environment ²²	Total dollar amount ²³	Average grant size
Ford Foundation	28	\$12,471,653	\$445,416
Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, Inc.	18	\$3,923,400	\$217,966
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	1	\$2,300,000	\$2,300,000
Foundation for a Just Society	6	\$1,400,000	\$233,333
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	3	\$1,310,000	\$436,666
Anonymous Funder	2	\$1,028,071	\$514,035
Libra Foundation	3	\$900,000	\$300,000
Foundation to Promote Open Society	2	\$830,000	\$415,000
California Endowment	1	\$800,000	\$800,000
McKnight Foundation	1	\$620,000	\$620,000
King Baudouin Foundation	4	\$542,109	\$135,527

Private foundations are exploring different ways of increasing their investment at this intersection: for some, the entry points are land rights or the protection of biodiversity, for others, it's through their support of Indigenous women. Overall, it seems challenging for funders to work at the

²¹ To avoid double counting grant dollars, we omitted 22 grants totaling \$54.5M USD that were at the intersection of gender, climate, and environment from all aggregate totals cited in this report. Four of these grants totaling \$3.4M USD were awarded by private foundations to public foundations.

²² The amounts presented here and in the other top funder lists reflect the full value of each funder's grantmaking at the intersection of gender, climate, and environment, including grants to other foundations in the dataset.

²³ The Advancing Human Rights research incorporates grants data from members of HRFN, Ariadne, and Prospera, and from Candid's Foundation 1000 dataset, which includes the grantmaking of roughly half of all U.S. private and community foundations.

intersection in an intentional way, particularly within large foundation gender justice programs and environmental or conservation programs where work is easily siloed.

Kai Carter, Director of the Global Climate Initiative at The David and Lucile Packard Foundation shared that even when foundations have the desire to break silos and work more intersectionally; *"We don't have the expertise in-house to focus on gender equity or climate and environment for the opposite program and that is challenging. Staff sometimes struggle to do the work we would like to do, as we just don't have the resources or capacity."*

The conservation and environmental fields tend to have a strong rooting in development approaches that have not been permeated yet with a feminist perspective. Staff cited the lack of connection with viewing gender justice as a priority or with foundations taking the work for granted, with no disaggregated data or human rights framing. *"Some funders, who are pushing for climate solutions, are only focused on technology and science but miss the point about people, including women, gender-diverse and other identities, and their rights."*

Indicators show that foundations moving resources to the Global South and East, specifically to the grassroots, better understand the links between funding climate and women, arguably because people's lives are inherently intersectional.

→ PRIVATE
FOUNDATIONS

Spotlight On: Ford Foundation breaking internal silos



The Ford Foundation's interest in the systems and structures causing inequality across different populations has seen itself organize across nine interconnected areas of work.

Central to these is a Gender, Racial and Ethnic Justice program, a Natural Resources and Climate Change program, and a Civic Engagement and Government program, all of which support women, girls, and other gender-diverse groups around issues of violence, and one specifically resulting from environmental struggles and extractive, patriarchal, and oppressive systems. Program Officer, Ximena Saskia Warnaars, shares that although there was an increase in women's participation, decision-making and defense regarding land rights and governance, they realized they needed to grant more collectively and sharpen their gender lens.

The resulting PlusFund initiative combined three programs to launch in 2019 with \$5M USD and a specific mandate to fund and generate knowledge on the intersections between violence against women and girls and natural resource extraction issues, to provide opportunities for collective action addressing the structural violence against women manifesting in the natural resource sector and women's agency as defenders, and to harness the momentum to bring movements and activists from different sectors into dialogue and further collective action.

Led by a coordinating committee over three phases, including ecosystem mapping, learning exchanges and funding for different initiative partners

working at the intersection, the program completed in 2023 with rich insights harvested in the report; Learning from Women’s Resilience in Natural Resources,²⁴ including identifying women as agents of change rather than victims, and a key recommendation for funders to adopt a feminist power-analysis approach.

Of Ford’s shift in practice to combine programs and teams to incorporate gender justice work in climate and environmental work, Ximena shares; *“We need to go a step further in terms of gender and women’s rights. There is a lack of a power analysis. For example, who has the power to make decisions about where to put a coal mine, how to transition to renewables, who the actors are. There is not enough data yet to say why having a gendered approach matters. If you look at where power sits, how decisions are made, who benefits and who is left out, then bringing in an equity and justice lens really does matter.”*

The PlusFund initiative stands out as a powerful example of how private foundations can thoughtfully explore intersectional practices between their own programs and find ways to move more resources to the intersection of gender, climate, and environment in support of women environmental defenders and other major actors in structural, power building, and transformational work.

24 Ford Foundation’s draft report “Learning from Women’s Resilience in Natural Resources” by Genderflexion

→ PRIVATE
FOUNDATIONS

Spotlight On: Foundation for a Just Society weaving gender and climate



Organized around four region-specific portfolios and one global portfolio, focussed on feminist systems change movement building, The Foundation for a Just Society (FJS) has developed a cohort of long-term grantee partners that work at the intersection of multiple issues, grounded in the belief that the liberation of women, girls, and LGBTQI people is an essential element of just societies.

Taking the lead from their partners and learning about their needs, FJS has adopted many trust-based philanthropic practices that have allowed for more agility to support intersectional work, and between 2020-2022 they granted a total of \$28M USD to 43 partners with at least one dedicated program advancing climate justice and working at the intersection of gender and climate justice. Juliana Vélez, Global Portfolio Program Officer, shares that their current strategy names the climate and environmental crises that exacerbate existing inequalities

for women, girls and marginalized communities and the intermediaries they fund as a result, *“working across climate and economic justice, land, territory, and food sovereignty, along with funding to a technical advocacy organization with a feminist analysis that advances climate and gender justice within UN mechanisms”*.

She also stressed that many of their other partners apply an intersectional analysis to their work and so while they are not explicit environmental organizations, they are starting to pilot explicit climate justice portfolios. Examples funded include Global Greengrants Fund, [Fund for Global Human Rights](#), [Thousand Currents](#), [Women’s Environment and Development Organization \(WEDO\)](#), [Disability Rights Fund](#), [International Fund for Indigenous Women \(FIMI\)](#), the [Global Resilience Fund](#) (housed at [Purposeful](#)), and [RESURJ](#), along with others applying a climate justice lens. The work ranges from land and territory defense, holistic safety and collective care of Indigenous women in Mesoamerica and their sexual, reproductive and economic rights, to partners in South and Southeast Asia centering labor, land and natural resources, and to organizations in Francophone West Africa deepening their feminist analysis of climate justice.

The FJS multitude of funding experiences show intersectionality as the natural way in which communities and organizations approach the systemic challenges they face, and exemplify how funders should get behind their partners, adapt their grantmaking strategies to better support their partner’s needs, and learn from their knowledge and lived experience.

Juliana’s vision is for climate justice activists and collectives, especially those from marginalized communities, to have the resources to apply their knowledge, and for their solutions and advocacy to thrive. She is hopeful for increased engagement in spaces focused on climate, environmental justice and Indigenous rights, such as FLAC and [International Funders for Indigenous Peoples](#), and for the profile of this intersection in spaces including the [Association for Women’s Rights in Development \(AWID\)](#) and the [Commission on the Status of Women](#).

Public Foundations

Public foundations are public charities that rely on financial support from private foundations, corporations, governments, and the general public, as opposed to most private foundations that operate with an endowment and do not have to raise the money for grantmaking. Data analysis showed that, in 2019, public foundations provided 91% of all human rights grants at the intersection of gender, climate, and environment, totaling \$18M USD and amounting to 36% of all human rights grant dollars awarded that year.²⁵ Among these grants, 32 women's and feminist funds awarded 33%, Global Greengrants Fund contributed 45%, and other public foundations provided the remaining 13%.²⁶

It's clear then, that public foundations are a critical source of funding for projects that address gender, climate, and environment and that they reach more groups working at the intersection even if private foundation's grant sizes are much larger. Also important to note is that the funding provided by public foundations is part of a larger ecosystem, often with funds raised by private foundations. While some funding is directly attributed to gender, climate, and environment, much of it is made in grants that uphold and support the centrality of movement-connected public funds. Even where not expressly allocated at this intersection, private foundation support for women's, feminist funds and socio-environmental funds supports the intersectional work at the core of this research. This relationship is further explored in the next section.

Top 10 public foundations resourcing the gender and climate intersection (excluding GGF and WFFs)

Even though Global Greengrants Fund and all 47 women's funds who are part of the Prospera network as well as MADRE are public foundations, we have excluded them from this table because we undertook a separate and more detailed analysis of their grantmaking (given it amounted to 78% of all public foundation grantmaking and \$15.3M in the 2019 Advancing Human Rights dataset as shown in Section 4 of this report).

Public Foundation	Number of human rights grants in 2019 at the intersection of gender, climate & environment ²⁷	Total dollar amount ²⁸	Average grant size
Climate Justice Resilience Fund	6	\$1,796,000	\$299,333
American Jewish World Service, Inc.	66	\$1,688,331	\$25,580
Comic Relief	3	\$712,573	\$237,524

²⁵ To avoid double counting grant dollars, we omitted 22 grants totaling \$54.5M USD at the intersection of gender, climate, and environment from all aggregate totals cited in this report. 17 of these grants totaling \$50.3M USD were awarded by public foundations (including women's and feminist funds) to other public foundations.

²⁶ Global Greengrants Fund, women's and feminist funds, including Prospera members, fall into the public foundations category.

²⁷ The amounts presented here and in the other top funder lists reflect the full value of each funder's grantmaking at the intersection of gender, climate, and environment, including grants to other foundations in the dataset.

²⁸ The Advancing Human Rights research incorporates grants data from members of HRFN, Ariadne, and Prospera, and from Candid's Foundation 1000 dataset, which includes the grantmaking of roughly half of all U.S. private and community foundations.

Humanity United	2	\$700,000	\$350,000
UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women	2	\$508,367	\$254,183
Voice	8	\$499,592	\$62,449
Thousand Currents	27	\$449,100	\$16,633
Fund for Global Human Rights, Inc.	18	\$428,857	\$23,825
Foundation for Civil Society	1	\$364,126	\$364,126
KIOS-The Finnish NGO Foundation for Human Rights	4	\$200,478	\$50,119
TrustAfrica	3	\$118,388	\$39,462

→ PUBLIC
FOUNDATIONS

Spotlight On: Thousand Currents



For nearly four decades, Thousand Currents (TC) has invested more than \$31M USD in 1,000 grassroots and movement formations in the Global South working at the intersection of climate, food, and economy, with gender and climate justice an integral part of their work.²⁹

Positioned firmly as a public foundation known for their strong, intersectional approach, their focus is on helping to create the enabling environment for movements to bring about systemic changes that address root causes and provide long-term transformative solutions. They support the leadership

²⁹ <https://thousandcurrents.org/grantmaking-model/>

of Afro Descendant, Black and Indigenous communities, youth, women and gender non-conforming people, and the key underlying principles of feminist analysis and feminist leadership guide how they work and who they work with.

Although Thousand Currents is neither a women's fund nor a socio-environmental fund, it's working towards a shared vision with intentionally developed strong partnerships for collaboration, their work with [CLIMA Fund](#) being just one example. Solome Lemma, TC's Executive Director, explains; *"It requires all of us to work together and do our part."* and emphasizes the efforts made through their donor education and donor organizing work as well as through their \$100,000 USD, 10-year, core flexible funding practices that set them apart from other public foundations.

"The next decade is going to be critical for our movements. We are not funding grassroots movements at the scale of their vision; we are doing it from the limits of our imagination. If they are going to shift systems, we must fund them at the scale of their vision."

Looking at the philanthropic field more broadly, Salome is absolutely right - this kind of transformational work requires other foundations, donors, and peers to join in, to be in dialogue across sectors, and for women's and feminist funds, environmental funds, children's funds, and others to come together, to better understand the connections between their work and develop a common language and framework.

The Significance of Intermediary Funds

Even though there has been an interest to break the cycle of intermediation and engage in more direct funding, large private foundations lack the agility or capacity to move resources and build relationships directly with grassroots or community organizations, where some of the most important work in support of transformational change happens. Often it's the role of public foundations, nimbler in working closely with groups and communities on the ground, and willing to take more risks, who become the intermediaries, receiving funds from the large private foundations and moving those resources directly to community and grassroots organizations. This crucial role not only enables the flow of financial resources, but also builds up and strengthens the whole ecosystem.

Women's and feminist funds are cited in the crucial role of these intermediary funds, according to HRFN's Trust Gap report.

*"From 2011-2021, Prospera's members mobilized \$1.2B USD to 172 countries. Most of this funding is raised from private foundations, individuals, corporations, and governments, then re-granted. This model aims to channel resources that would not otherwise reach activists and movements directly into the hands of those leading change... Because of their affinity and proximity, funds understand local contexts and can reach groups and populations that are structurally marginalized and traditionally underfunded. In some contexts, women's and feminist funds are the main - if not the only - source of support for organizations, including groups that are often not registered."*³⁰

Public foundations and intermediary funds develop deep trust-based relationships with both donors and partners, weaving strategies and priorities and serving as catalyzers, enablers and amplifiers of the voices and perspectives of those who are most impacted by unequal, oppressive systems. Additionally, intermediaries are uniquely positioned to have a broad view of the philanthropic and social justice ecosystem and contribute critical political analyses to influence the field at large.

There is much debate around the role and origin of intermediary funds. Vanessa Purper, from [Casa Socio-Environmental Fund](#), often described as an intermediary fund, shares;

"We do not consider ourselves as intermediaries, we have a funding mechanism to fundraise to donate. We exist to deal with the needs of the territories, of the real environmental guardians of life. Funds were not getting to the right people because of intermediaries like big INGOs. This money should go directly to projects led by groups in territories. We don't see ourselves as those kinds of intermediaries, we like to be presented as an activist fund."

In a recent article published by Stanford Social Innovation Review entitled, *How Movement-Accountable Intermediaries Can Change Philanthropy*³¹, its authors share;

"In the social justice movement space, community "intermediary funds," as we understand them, are organizations that help allocate funding to people-powered activism. These organizations came to life from movements, and our ultimate aim is to reduce philanthropic infrastructure. We exist because movements have asked us to help move money more effectively; to embed more equitable grantmaking practices across the sector; and, ultimately, to work philanthropy out of existence. Our organizations were not born as tax shelters or as tools to manipulate financial markets and social status. Our organizations were born from asking community leaders "what do you need?" before deciding whether or not we should exist."

³⁰ Human Rights Funders Network, The Trust Gap Report. (p55) <https://www.hrfn.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Trust-Gap-Report-HRFN.pdf>

³¹ Childress, S., Driver, S., Gallardo, A. A., Goldfarb, J., Mallilin, A., Mease, L., Gill, Alicia Sanchez, & Vo, Angela, 2024. How Movement-Accountable Intermediaries Can Change Philanthropy. Stanford Social Innovation Review. <https://ssir.org/articles/entry/movement-accountable-intermediaries-philanthropy>

When looking at who the intermediaries are regarding gender, climate, and environment, there is no doubt that women's, feminist funds and socio-environmental funds are leading the work. According to the 2018 report, *Our Voices, Our Environment: The state of funding for women's environmental action*,³² among the grantmaking organizations that showed the strongest commitment to funding women and the environment in 2014, Global Greengrants Fund awarded the largest number of grants. Since 2015, Global Greengrants Fund has grown and strengthened that support and has increased its grantmaking at the intersection by 100% in line with their environmental and social justice approach.

From the Prospera report, *Feminist Funding Practice, 5 year trends*,³³ it's notable that, from the total grants given during this period, 62% were intersectional by theme, including the intersection between gender, climate, and environment.

In 2019, the top ranking public foundations mobilizing money to gender, climate, and environment as a percentage of their own budgets, were Global Greengrants Fund - with over half of their budget going to this intersection - and the women's and feminist fund members of Prospera, specifically [Urgent Action Fund-Africa \(UAF-Africa\)](#), [Urgent Action Fund Latin America](#), [Global Fund for Women](#), [Fondo Semillas](#), [Mama Cash](#), [FCAM](#), [FIMI](#), [Mones](#), and [Tewa](#), mobilizing about 30% of their combined budgets towards gender and climate justice work.

Women's and Feminist Funds

Women's and feminist funds across the globe are partnering with women and gender-diverse groups working to advance gender justice, and many of them also work across other intersections such as economic, racial, and climate justice. Their work is not only crucial to the populations they represent and the communities they serve, but to the world at large, given that they are often the ones centering collective care for people and planet and standing up in a myriad of ways to challenge different expressions of oppressive and extractive systems.

Prospera is a global political network of 47 intersectional, diverse, and autonomous women's and feminist funds. Coming from and serving the movements they support, members have been incorporating strategies into their grantmaking to address climate-related challenges and, alongside their grantees, advocate for more equity at the core of the action on climate change. In the three years 2019-2021, Prospera members supported more than 18,104 organizations and initiatives for a total of \$31,300,655 USD on gender-responsive climate action.

For a network of funders that has significantly consolidated in the past years, it is no surprise to see an equivalent increase in the funding analysis looking at this particular intersection. But the real expansion of their practices can be seen on a closer viewing of the grantmaking activities since the last time this network conducted quantitative analysis in 2015.

What was an annual \$6,460,502 USD of grants made for climate justice work almost doubled by 2021 to \$11,371,995 USD. What's more, from the 92 grants made by 37 women's and feminist funds of the Prospera network in support of climate justice back in 2015, 31 Prospera members made 695 grants in 2021- a growth rate of 654.35% in six years.

This more than seven-fold increase in grants underscores the effectiveness of Prospera members to further enhance gender-just climate action by optimizing resource allocation, especially when the philanthropic ecosystem does not cover the urgent needs identified. In addition to their efforts to move more and better resources towards gender-just climate action, Prospera members have

³² Global Greengrants Fund, Prospera International Network of Women's Funds. 2018. *Our Voices, Our Environment: The state of funding for women's environmental action.*

³³ https://trends.prospera-inwf.org/en/?_gl=1%2Aamu72da%2A_ga%2AMTc1MTgwODYONy4xNzA5MDY5NDMy%2A_ga_Q88DCHY8Q8%2AMTcwOTMxOTQ5NC4yLjAuMTcwOTMxOTQ5NC4wLjAuMA..

been able to work collectively to leverage a surge in the number of grants awarded. This approach ensures a more comprehensive response to movements led by women, girls, trans, intersex, and non-binary people, ultimately fostering systemic impact across the climate justice landscape.

From activities informed through eco-feminist approaches and strengthening grantee knowledge on gendered impacts of climate change, to advocacy and accountability advocacy with environmental and climate justice programs that lack an intersectional approach, women's and feminist funds keep pushing the needle in supporting movements even when financial resources are no way close to enough.

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Spotlight On: Stories of deep transformation and possibility



It is within women's and feminist funds, especially those from the Global South and East, that we find some of the most transformational work addressing gender, climate, and environment rooted in feminist practices. Moreover, women's funds like International Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI) also cut across specific intersectional identities, in their case Indigenous women. FIMI's AYNI Fund Coordinator, shared that environment and climate, due to its proximity to the issue of territory, has always been present in the agenda of Indigenous women:

"We can't separate it. Climate happens in spaces that are in dispute; territories that are in dispute due to forms of appropriation that have not recognized women's rights or leadership nor the rights of the Indigenous Peoples living in those territories"

According to the Fund Coordinator, at the beginning, FIMI did not use the concept of climate justice as such, however the issue of territory seen from the perspective of Indigenous rights is inherent to their movement, even though women's needs and perspectives have not been recognized or vindicated in their collective community struggles. Currently, over 40% of their AYNI Fund budget in Peru is allocated

towards the intersection of gender and climate, supporting women's participation in land governance, and mitigating the effect of climate change in communities through water collection, protection of forests and biodiversity, traditional food production, and revitalization of deserted or degraded lands. Guaraní women in Paraguay are working to recover water in their community - starting out alone but then growing, and with more women and men joining. Today, their practice extends to other communities where they share their experiences and learning.

Similarly, [Women's Fund Fiji](#) (WFF), the first national feminist, women's fund in the Pacific that influences and mobilizes resources to feminist and women's rights organizations and movements advancing the rights of women, girls, and gender non-conforming people, offers a powerful model of how flexible granting mechanisms can channel international funds to locally-led initiatives and work on both sides of climate and gender. Currently, five of their 23 partners work at the intersection of gender, climate, and environment, and most of their partners working on other thematic areas are finding entry points to climate justice. One of their long-time partners, [Rise Beyond the Reef](#), works with local Indigenous women and their rural communities to develop disaster recovery plans and opportunities for women to be decision-makers in their community's recovery process, building and strengthening their resilience. Their program includes craft and agriculture inputs, product development and market access support, re-establishing community gardens and food banks to address food insecurity. Overall, the organization ensures that when communities are replanting their crops for subsistence and income, they are sourcing them with climate-resilient seedlings and plants.

But WFF does not only resource local communities. Similar to other women's and feminist funds part of the Prospera network, they use their influence and agency to occupy global spaces. When identifying the challenges they face while navigating the climate space, particularly in disaster cluster spaces,³⁴ Kuini Rabo, WFF's Senior Program Officer, shares that they are regarded as experts in gender approaches but that they are often under-represented, given people in these spaces see women's roles as important but secondary.

"They don't see the key enabling role women actually play. Scientific sectors like renewable energy and climate change spaces are some where we also often feel we are secondary to them. They seem to realize when the moment passes that they should have consulted women. Our role is to support women's groups to be there not as scientists but as community experts and to be inclusive in the decision-making processes - to have a seat at the table."

"When we shift resources, we are also shifting power."—Kuini Rabo, Women's Fund Fiji

34 UNHCR Cluster Approach, 2023 <https://emergency.unhcr.org/coordination-and-communication/cluster-system/cluster-approach>

UAF-Africa also approaches its work entirely intersectionally. Even though the fund and its sister funds around the world focus on rapid response grants in support of women, it holds specific focus on environmental defenders across the Continent including fighting for water justice, land governance, and against extractive industries. When speaking about their work, Lebogang Ramasodi, Mimi Ishan, Chiamaka Uzomba, and Jean Kemitare, shared the clear intersection between gender-based violence, economic justice, health, and reproductive justice. Lebogang notes;

“We approach all our work intersectionally, so it’s all about healing justice and how defenders relate to the environment. Land justice is not just about ownership but about exercising power and protecting the ecosystem thriving on that land. We look at issues of capitalism, colonialism, patriarchy and how they come into play and affect African women.”

Mimi shares; *“Our eco-feminist vision is also about recovery, communities connecting with others using local and indigenous knowledge living in harmony with their ecosystems, humans as stewards of land, where we understand our place in these ecosystems, and we are fearless in centering this movement on wellbeing and collective care of women environmental human right defenders across the region”.*

Jean goes further; *“Feminist movements and activism have triggered most of the social justice transformations that we see in the world. Because of this, they have broad political goals for which they exist, so it is easier for them to include a climate and environmental justice lens.”*

The women’s funds and the grassroots groups they support are not only making the natural connection between women and gender diverse groups from other intersectional identities like Indigenous Peoples with the land and the natural resources around them, but they are lifting up the need for a collective wellbeing approach, publishing resources, centering collective care for people and planet and shifting the narratives so that this innate connection is better understood, especially by funders remaining siloed in their grantmaking.³⁵

³⁵ <https://www.uaf-africa.org/downloads/>

Socio-Environmental Funds

Focused on the protection, defense, and wellbeing of the environment and the people living in it, the work of socio-environmental funds is rooted in the intersection of social and environmental justice and tends to have strong ties with the communities they support. Most notable about these funds is their deeply participatory practice, recognizing and uplifting the local and traditional knowledge and experience of the people who are inhabiting the different territories and protecting the ecosystems and biodiversity. Their approach recognizes the deep knowledge held within the local communities best positioned to identify the biggest challenges and needs. These funds then serve as a bridge between localized expertise and wisdom and the broad philanthropic ecosystem.

Global Greengrants Fund is one of the first and most established socio-environmental justice funds in the world. For over 30 years, it has been a leading organization supporting grassroots-led efforts to protect the planet and people's rights. It began intentionally funding at the intersection of gender and the environment since 2015, and **to date, Global Greengrants Fund has directed over \$25M USD in grants to grassroots groups working on gender-just environmental and climate action. This represents a 100% increase in grantmaking at this intersection.** Each year, over half of the approximately 1,000 grants provided are directed to gender-just environmental and climate action.

Prior to 2015, like other environmental funders, Global Greengrants Fund had not overtly prioritized a gender-just focus in their environmental justice grantmaking. But since then, it has made huge intentional investments in capacity building, shared learning, strategies, and partnerships. In collaboration with its network of over 230 advisors, it has now built a feminist infrastructure by recruiting advisors with gender justice expertise, formed partnerships with women's funds and feminist movements, and hired a full-time Gender and Environment Program Director. It has developed trainings and learning spaces on gender justice, women's rights issues, and intersectional feminism, and notably for research, begun collecting data on women's leadership and participation in socio-environmental grants and projects.

Now firmly recognized for its leadership in funding at the intersection of gender and the environment, and evident in the partnerships with Prospera and GAGGA, Global Greengrants Fund has the philanthropic lead role in the UN Women's Feminist Action for Climate Justice Action Coalition, and the development of the FLAC - a collaboration of funders, intermediaries, and activists, all organizing to move more and better resources to this nexus.

Section 11 of this report goes further to cite the major role of Global Greengrants Fund in a groundbreaking gender-just climate action campaign with ambitious justice-oriented mobilization targets.

→ PUBLIC
FOUNDATIONS

Spotlight On: Advancing gender justice in environmental work



Rooted in the Global South, a few socio-environmental funds have emerged incorporating a strong gender-just approach. Casa Socio-Environmental Fund, is a Brazilian organization promoting environmental conservation and sustainability, democracy, respect for socio-environmental rights and social justice. By working closely with grassroots organizations and communities on the ground and leveraging the philanthropic relationships built, Casa has been able to move around \$20M USD to over 3,000 socio-environmental initiatives and community groups in South America.

The specific focus on women and gender-diverse groups has only recently been included in their strategy. Vanessa Purper, Program Officer, reflects.

“Back then, the environmental movement was not really occupied with thinking about the gender identity of those activists, but in Casa, because we had the ability to track who was leading the work we supported, we realized that more than half were led by women.”

In learning from their partners, gender justice is now an overarching theme across all their programs and a priority for all their grantmaking, especially when thinking about climate justice and the climate emergency. Vanessa shares further;

“We want to see the real guardians of the planet set their own agendas and with the means to do their work. They are so far away and so apart that their land is taken, killed and no one knows. We want to see these groups grow strong, protected, and resisting the big companies and the government.”

Similarly, in Mexico, [Fondo de Acción Solidaria \(FASOL\)](#), have reassessed their whole theory of change to embed it with a gender lens, thanks to their collaboration with GAGGA. Artemisa Castro, FASOL’s Director, emphasizes a crucial contextual understanding here;

“The experience of women from the South, the North, or of Indigenous women of the country is not the same. We must understand the differentiated experiences of the different geographies and territories.”

This important reflection underlines the fact that there is not one single gender or feminist lens, but an array of expressions and experiences depending on the environmental activist’s local contexts.

Land defense has been the articulating point for the gender and environmental movements, and Hilda Salazar, Founder and Coordinator of [Mujer y Medioambiente A.C.](#) who began consulting and collaborating with FASOL shares; *“The defense of territory continues to occur mostly in rural and non-urban spaces, the gender agenda owes a debt to that”*. Women are leading environmental defense work that crosses the productive and reproductive occupation of the territory, including projects around food sovereignty through which they are occupying the land, caring for their resources, and fighting alongside men and other community members. This type of land defense has shifted articulation of the movements from the academic, middle class feminist movement, to popular peasant movements, like the ‘eco-territorial’ approach that centers land, agriculture, and territory. For FASOL, Hilda explains;

“The most important change has been to acknowledge that inequality is systemic. It is expressed everywhere, and we must address the issue of gender, considering specific local contexts. There are places where women are invisible and just by them being able to show up is already the big change. We see that everywhere WHERE women occupy decision-making positions and fight for the land, there have been very fast transformations.”

Socio-environmental movements across the Global South have been encountering similar challenges, solutions and experiences, and after a 30-year process of structuring and articulating local funds, the [Socio-Environmental Funds of the Global South](#) launched in 2021.³⁶ This alliance promotes philanthropy in support

³⁶ Socio Environmental Funds of the Global South [Anniversary publication 2023](#)

of initiatives by community-based organizations in the Global South. It aims to strengthen the actions of local funds by providing support, collaboration and access to broader knowledge networks, by amplifying their voices and coordinating efforts to address local issues with global implications, from protecting forests and water to defending food sovereignty and territories.

When discussing where gender justice is centered in member agendas, Juliana Tinoco, Executive Coordinator, shares;

“I have observed significant progress in recent years, mainly due to women and girls’ vulnerability to the consequences of climate change, and the strengthening of women’s leadership within the climate justice movement, as well as the narrative that women are at the forefront of their communities developing local solutions. We want to influence how we can significantly increase the flow of financial resources, access and viability of life for communities living in the Global South who are bearing the brunt of the climate crisis, but who are also the ones developing local solutions and put these actors at the center.”

There is no doubt that socio-environmental funds are working hard to uplift the voices and experiences of local communities in the Global South and moving resources directly to their hands so that community activists, women, gender diverse, Indigenous youth and other social actors have more agency and a seat at the decision-making table.

“When we look at the key actors driving change, we see women. Gender needs to be part of our theories of change as we navigate the transition the world is going through with less inequality and more justice for all.”–Juliana Tinoco, Executive Director, Socio-Environmental Funds of the Global South



7. Where is the Funding Going?



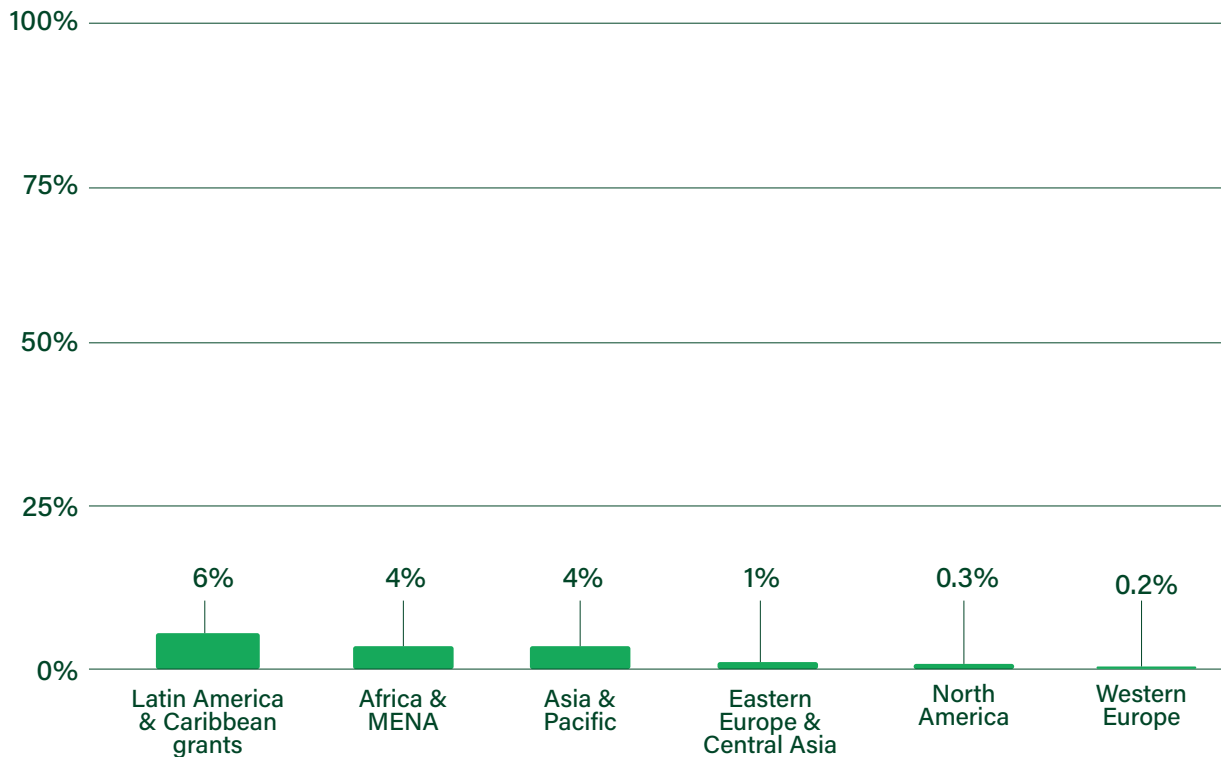
In looking regionally, the data shows Africa and the Middle East to have received the highest amount of funding allocated towards the intersection of gender, climate, and environment (\$13.4M USD, representing 4% of grant dollars for this region), closely followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (\$12.7M USD, 6%).³⁷ At the other end of the spectrum, Western Europe (\$460,000, 0.2%) and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (\$591,000, 1%) received the lowest amount of funding at this intersection. North America (\$7.4M USD, 0.3%) and Asia and the Pacific (\$7.3M USD, 4%) fall in the middle, but for North America this represents a much smaller proportion of funding.³⁸

The relatively higher proportions of funding at the intersection of gender, climate, and environment for the Global South and East is because funders who are funding this intersection the most have a specific focus and mandate to mobilize funding in this way, as shown by Global Greengrants Fund and Prospera members. Yet, across all regions, funding at this intersection comprises a strikingly small share of overall human rights grant dollars, ranging from a high of 0.3% for Africa and the Middle East to a low of 0.01% for Western Europe.

³⁷ This breakdown indicates the regions meant to benefit from human rights funding at the intersection of gender and climate/environment, regardless of where the recipient was based.

³⁸ Human rights funding for North America is disproportionately reflected in the Advancing Human Rights research. See page 43-44 of HRFN's [2019 analysis](#) for more details on the methodology.

Percentage of Foundation Human Rights Funding for Each Region Allocated to the Intersection of Gender, Climate, and Environment

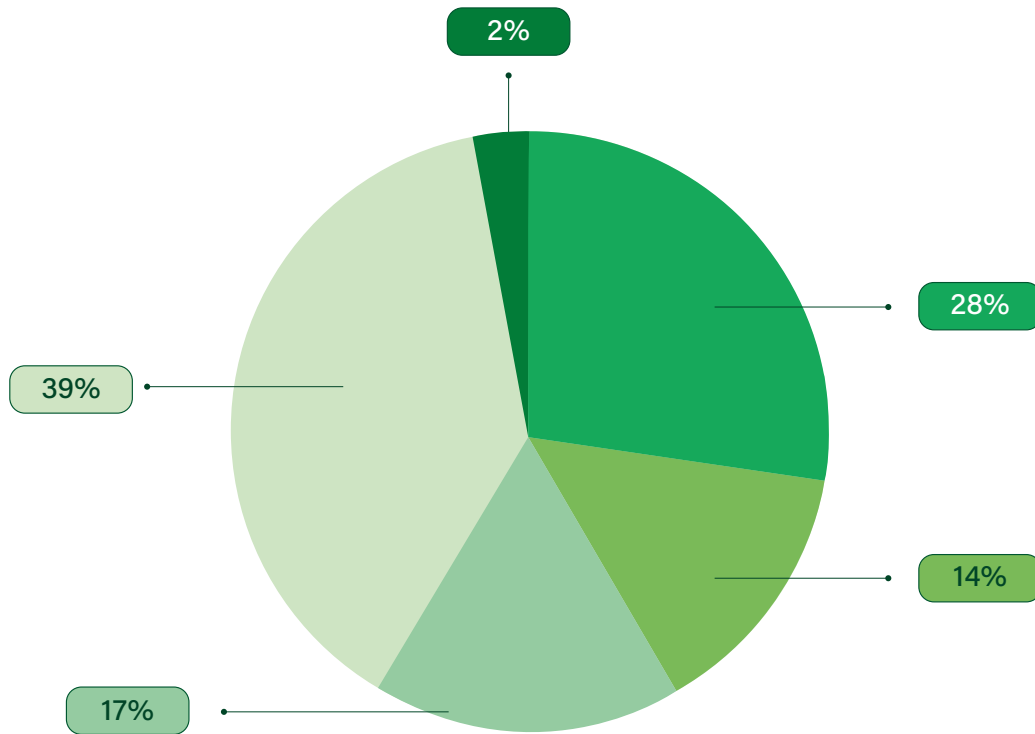


% of Funding in Each Region allocated to Gender and Environment

2019-2021 Regional Trends for Global Greengrants Fund and Prospera

As noted through this report, Global Greengrants Fund and Prospera members have a specific mandate to mobilize funding to the Global South and East. In examining the Global Greengrants Fund and Prospera combined database, among the grants from 2019-2021, the Latin America and Caribbean region received the largest allocation, and the most focused at this intersection, followed by Africa and the MENA region. Though most regions received the same amount of grants allocated overall and for the intersection, the European region received proportionally fewer grants for gender and environment as compared to the proportion they received overall, while the Latin America, Caribbean, Africa and MENA regions received slightly higher percentages of gender and environment grants. Where there was the most investment in gender and environment grants by region, Africa and the MENA region, saw allocations of 26% towards gender and environment, while Europe received 9% of this grants focus.

Percentage of all grants allocated towards each region, 2019 - 2021



28% Africa & MENA

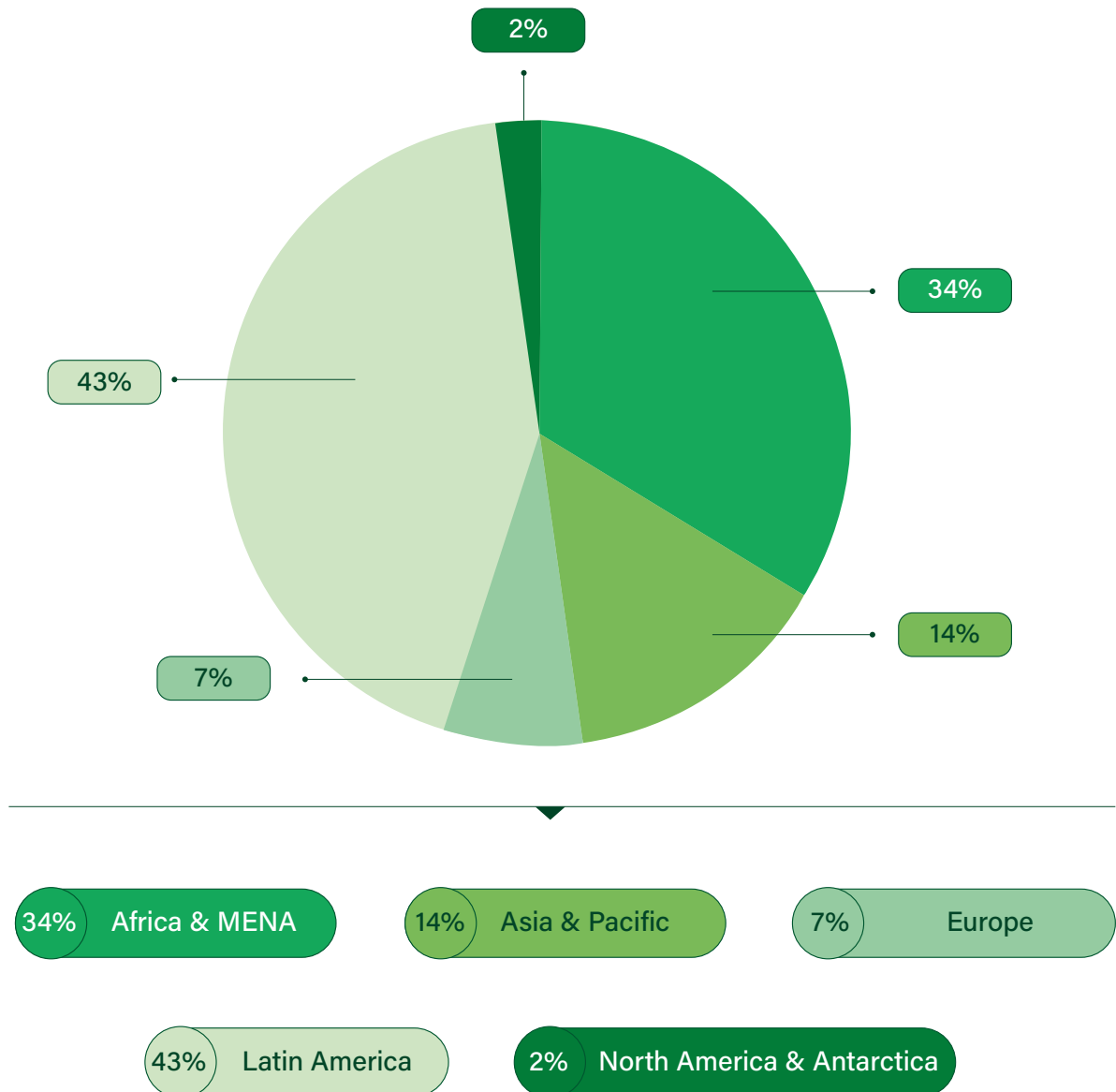
14% Asia & Pacific

17% Europe

39% Latin America

2% North America & Antarctica

Percentage of gender, climate, and environment grants allocated towards each region, 2019-2021

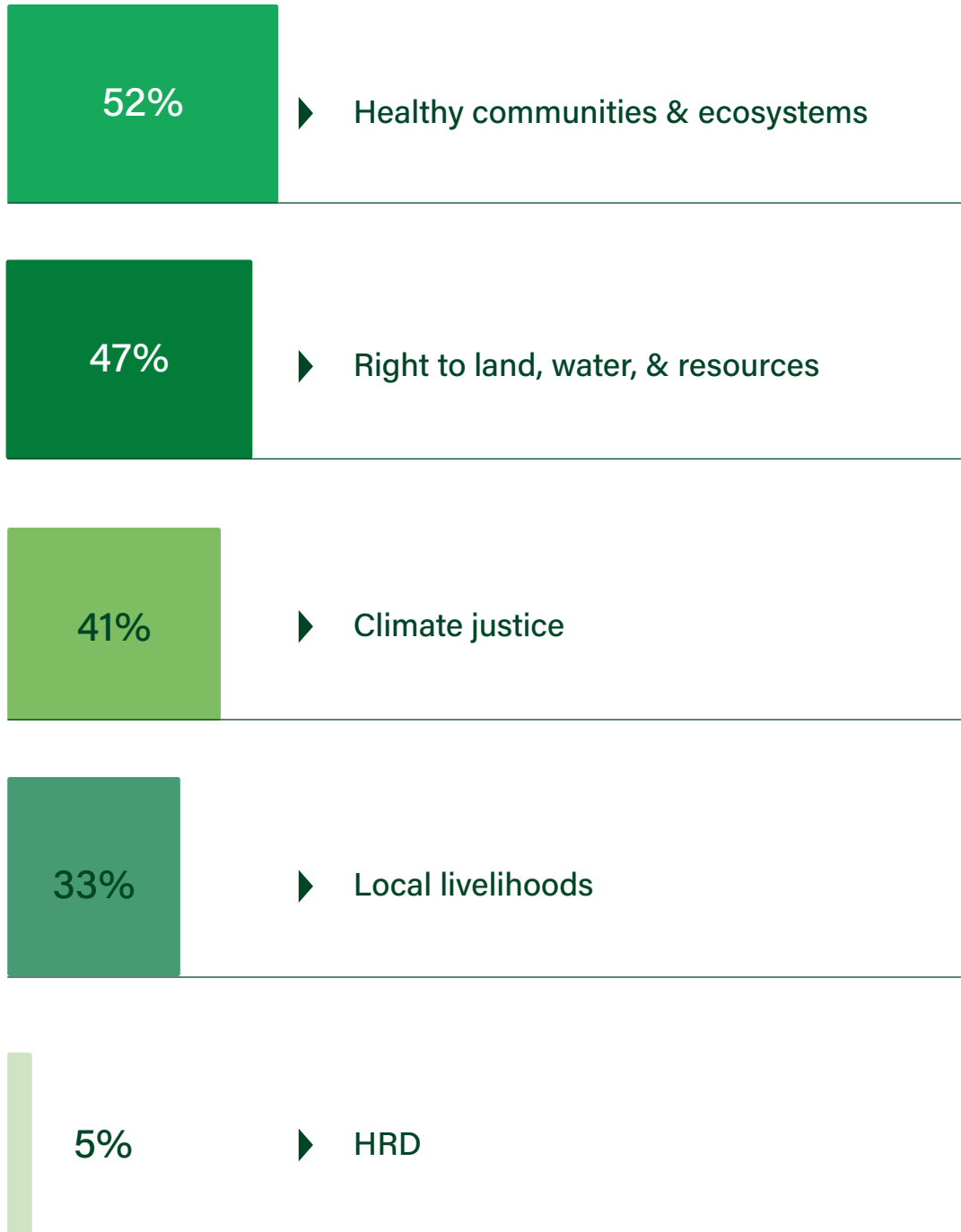


Action Areas Receiving Most Funding

In analyzing the recent 2021 data to identify the most common action areas that were funded among all grants focusing on gender, climate, and environment, the same method of Global Greengrants Fund categorization was employed.³⁹ Of the 1,170 grants focused on gender and the environment in 2021, 1,111 were able to be identified against specific action areas. Many grants focused on more than one action area. Of all these grants, 52% focused on healthy communities and ecosystems, while almost half (47%) focused on the right to land, water, and resources. One further thematic category was added to the Global Greengrants Fund definitions used - 'land and environmental defender' - for the 5% of grants found to be specifically aimed to financially support an individual or small group working on land and environmental defense who were being threatened in some way.

³⁹ Global Greengrants Fund, 2018. [Action Areas Coding Guidelines](#)

Percentage of Gender, Climate, and Environment Grants Focusing on Action Area (grants may focus on more than one action area)





8. The Need for Cross-Movement Collaboration



To truly address systemic crises, there can be no doubt that we must continue supporting women's, feminist, and socio-environmental funds while weaving and fostering larger movement-building efforts that recognize the interconnected nature of these issues. The only way to truly address the systemic crises we are facing is through a deeper understanding of the interconnected nature of its root causes, and the key is in movement building that drives the opportunity to connect local, and grassroots activists across frameworks and collective struggles. This requires investment in diverse, inclusive organizing spaces that promote cross-sector collaboration, enabling activists to connect, learn, and develop joint strategies to tackle the climate emergency.

The climate justice movements gather every year around different formations to organize towards global events of COP⁴⁰, and in climate organizing spaces like the [Climate Justice Coalition](#), and the [Pacto Ecosocial del Sur](#). There is power and opportunity for movement building in organizing spaces, like [AWID](#) or [Just Associates \(JASS\)](#), the Global South feminist movement support organization for feminist popular education with an intersectional lens.

Zephanie Repollo, JASS's Southeast Asia Regional Director, reflects on pushing for environmental justice;

40 United Nations Climate Change, Conference of the Parties <https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/supreme-bodies/conference-of-the-parties-cop>

“We shouldn’t lose sight of the important role of women and LGBTQI+ groups in taking care of the collective wellbeing. We should not think of them as beneficiaries but as actors who are already doing that work. How do we recognize their different contributions and contexts? Without a collective lens where we see everyone, there is no justice. As movements we also need to unlearn the patriarchal culture we’ve inherited and stop replicating it in our work. Cross-movement collaborations help us identify the internal changes that are needed through dialogue and the recognition of what each of us contributes.”

The South-to-South JASS exchange initiative brings women from diverse territories who are working on defending their lands to connect and share their experiences, stories, and strategies, and it’s in these gatherings and learning exchanges where the agency and capacity of the participants is increased, as well as the deep solidarity so central in movement building.

Connecting local work across regions and to global movements is challenging, given the limited resources and multiplicity of crises and issues, but the decades of work of collectives and organizations leading at the intersection of gender, climate, and environment has evidenced groundbreaking collaborations for the field.

Since the 1990’s, [BothEnds](#) has centered its work on environmental justice and human rights with a gender focus. The organization realized the importance of this intersection and were keenly aware of the limited knowledge and funding for gender and environment. Tamara Mohr, BothEnds’ Regional Coordinator for Latin America, shares;

“Our work at the intersection of environment and human rights made it difficult back then to get funds. We were considered too social for conservation funders, and too green for human rights funders”.

Yet, it was through persistence in their movement efforts, and their successful application to the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs for work led by their partners in the Global South, and subsequent collaboration with [Mama Cash](#) and [Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres \(FCAM\)](#), that the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action - [GAGGA](#) - was born.

Beyond major movement efforts like this, there is a need for a deeper and more nuanced understanding of how issues are interconnected, especially across gender and climate and across other identities, like Indigenous Peoples, who have been historically at the forefront of the climate justice struggles, defending their territories and protecting its biodiversity.⁴¹ It is crucial that the philanthropic field is able to acknowledge the important role Indigenous communities play in the defense of the natural world and its systems and prioritize funding for them and their work. Moreover, the field needs to be able to join the dots across struggles that may seem, at first glance, disconnected from gender and climate justice, such as the anti-war movement denouncing the destruction of the planet created by bombs and arms, or the myriad of groups and organizations fighting for economic justice, and demanding the reduction of consumption and mass production towards a more equitable and greener system. Inherently, these movements are working for a fairer and healthier planet.

There is a lack of spaces for social movements and activists from different struggles to connect, learn from each other, and develop joint agendas and strategies. **If we are to substantially move the needle to tackle the climate emergency in a way that recognizes everyone’s contribution, we urgently need to resource cross-movement and cross-sectoral collaborations, and invest in more and better organizing spaces open to a diversity of identities, struggles, and movements.**

⁴¹ Indigenous communities safeguard [80% of the world’s remaining biodiversity](#) and forests on their land are better maintained, with a [higher preserved biodiversity](#) than those on non-Indigenous lands. [Indigenous stewardship of the forest has become increasingly critical amid accelerating forest loss and damage World Bank, Empowering Indigenous Peoples to Protect Forests](#)



9. Organizing within Philanthropy



Of the many funder networks such as HRFN, EDGE Funders Alliance, and International Funders for Indigenous Peoples, all with an intersectional approach and a systemic change analysis, none are dedicated to the intersection of gender, climate, and environmental justice. Similarly, there are spaces devoted to organizing feminist funders such as Gender Funders CoLab, Women's Funding Network, but few of these have funding mechanisms and none center gender and climate. However, driven by socio-environmental funds and women's and feminist funds, there are two prominent spaces of opportunity in the philanthropic field that focus on this intersection: GAGGA, and FLAC.

Launched in 2016 as a consortium led by FCAM, in collaboration with Mama Cash and BothEnds, GAGGA actively supports, documents, and promotes gender-just climate solutions and aims to rally the collective power of women's rights and gender, climate, and environmental justice movements around the world. Its network comprises women-led community based organizations, national, regional, and global environmental justice and women's funds, and national, regional and global NGOs, all based in the Global South. Jeanette Sequeria, Mama Cash's Coordinator for GAGGA, shares that their partners in 2022 included over 600 community based organizations, 24 funds and a few NGOs all learning and strategizing together and working to influence climate finance towards feminist movements and organizations working at this intersection.⁴²

What is distinctive and compelling about GAGGA's work, is that not only have they developed a successful funding mechanism through which they have been able to move over €12M Euros from the Global North to the South, and directly into the hands of women's funds and community-based organizations, but that they have developed frameworks, collected stories and data to

42 GAGGA, November 2022, [Call to Action for Gender-Just Climate Finance](#)

support advocacy and learning about the intersection of gender, climate, and environment resulting in significant narrative change. Their most recent campaign Roots Rising: Growing Grassroots Gender-Just Climate Action, in collaboration with Global Greengrants Fund and WEDO, aims to mobilize at least \$100M USD of new funding for gender-just climate action by 2026, and significantly more by 2030.⁴³

Leah Moss in the GAGGA team reflects on the partnership;

“While it has been a huge success in bringing the gender and climate agenda forward, and also revealed that there are more gender-focused spaces interested in this intersection and how the climate crisis impacts gender inequalities, it’s been much more of a challenge to get the environmental and green spaces to recognize this. It’s been difficult to get the attention of these funders because they are not coming in from a gender justice approach and still do not recognize that some organizations with a feminist perspective are also working on adaptation and mitigation.”

Spaces for funders to learn, collaborate, and influence each other are indispensable to move the field. There is a clear need for data to show that investing in women leads to better conservation outcomes. Kai Carter, Director of the Global Climate Initiative at The David and Lucile Packard Foundation who participates and leads in many collaborative funder spaces such as [Climate and Land Use Alliance](#) (CLUA) and FLAC, also shares that; *“From a large donor funder perspective, what moves us generally is our peers.”*

CLIMA Fund, a collaboration between Global Greengrants Fund, [Grassroots International](#), Thousand Currents, and [Urgent Action Fund for Feminist Activism](#) describe themselves as *“a like-minded community funding grassroots movements to cool the planet and build resilience around the globe. Working together, we give influential funders a simple and effective way to invest in grassroots climate change movements.”*⁴⁴ According to Lindley Mease, CLIMA Fund Director, developing tools, information and stories is as important as moving resources if we are to strengthen work at the intersection of gender and climate.

“We can spend lots of effort and capacity to move money around but there are not going to be actual shifts in systems until we change the stories and the deeper narrative level. We need to start there if we care. We exist as a collaborative to shift the conversation about the climate crisis and for that we need to do narrative work. No one is doing narrative work well at the intersection and no one has been successful at nailing that yet.”

Reports, such as CLIMA Fund’s Soil to Sky report,⁴⁵ are powerful tools for funders to better understand the ecosystem and the issues to then be able to move more resources in a better and more thoughtful way.

Like GAGGA, FLAC is the other notable and prominent space aimed to bring together environmental, human rights and women’s rights funders to learn and strategize with each other, in collaboration with activists, around gender, environmental, and climate action. Its members have been able to collectively advance donor influencing on these topics outside the group and in the more mainstream philanthropic field. Maria Alejandra Escalante, FLAC’s Coordinator, explains;

“There is a range of differences and diversity within members’ approaches to this intersection. FLAC was created to bring together all the different visions about a seemingly straightforward nexus. We actually discovered that approaches and concepts are quite different. When we talk about the climate crisis we are talking about structures of power, economic, political, intersectional

⁴³ Alliance Magazine, March 2024 [The power of gender-just climate action and the urgent need for funding](#)

⁴⁴ <https://climasolutions.org>

⁴⁵ Clima Fund, 2023. [Soil to Sky report](#)

systems. We want to change how grantmaking is done in results, ideation, and design. We want to show there is a different way of doing grantmaking. Movements need to be embedded in any type of grantmaking, to de-center funders, center movements, share power, and break down the competitive nature of philanthropy, ownership, and distribution of wealth. Movement representatives have an equal say on allocation resources in our governance structure.”

Juliana Vélez of FJS, cites FLAC as a powerful example of a collaboration space genuinely shifting philanthropic practice;

“Our involvement is a clear example of our long-term commitment to learning, investing, and influencing more and better resources at the intersection of climate and gender. Over the past two years especially, FJS has invested significant time and some small resources to support the FLAC as it explores a potential funding mechanism. This is a result of grantee partners, Global Greengrants Fund, and Prospera encouraging us to step into this space more, and to support their collaboration.”

Beyond learning and joint funding opportunities, research and advocacy are also central to FLAC’s work. Another member of a large private foundation also shares;

“We are working with the group to collect information differently to be able to disaggregate data to see the gender justice piece and starting a gender justice working group in that space. We hope to move awareness, data collection, and to bring the lessons of our partners to bridge mainstream spaces to influence and move more resources to this intersection.”

In order to shift the whole funding ecosystem in support of gender, climate, and environmental work, the collaborative efforts of GAGGA and FLAC are forging significant strides, and this transformation in the field will require further sharp political analysis to link and make a case for this intersection. Global Greengrants Fund, Prospera, and GAGGA, continue to lead, and their hosting of their Gender and Climate Summit in September 2024 goes further to bring together grassroots movements and funders to join forces for gender and climate justice.



10. The Urgency of this Moment: Call to Action



Over the last decade, the world has been radically transformed by the climate emergency, a global pandemic, uprisings and closing of civic space, economic breakdowns, and many other interconnected crises. However, this transformation has also brought a vital and more mainstream awareness of the need for justice - racial justice, gender justice, economic justice, and climate justice, and as a result, the social justice philanthropic field has also shifted. We must draw hope and continue to be inspired by the myriad of grassroots, community, women-led, and feminist-led alternatives supporting people and the planet, and for the defense of biodiversity and the collective wellbeing of all life. Funders must seize the opportunity to be bold, and invest more robustly and intersectionally so that local and regional alternatives can thrive, connect, and replicate for the benefit of us all.

There is no time to waste. There is much to be done.

- 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.

“When you visit communities, you witness that it is there where the alternatives for life are being developed, models of understanding nature. This gives us hope that transformation is there, systemic change happens from the ground up and it is visible. That is what is going to turn things around if the world crises don’t catch up with us first. Alternatives are growing from the ground up, and that is our chance. Let us bet on that because that is where change resides. People don’t give up... it’s about ways of understanding life and of putting life first.” –Hilda Salazar, Founder and Coordinator, Mujer y Medioambiente A.C.

While funding mechanisms directly 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 Indigenous Peoples and their approaches to giving voice and rights to nature, that is paramount to prioritize our collective purpose.

The rallying cry to us all is the urgent need for an enabling environment and heightened potential for women’s, feminist, environmental, and human rights funds to collaborate and strengthen the funding ecosystem at this intersection, and to develop a common narrative to advance political framings. Only then will we secure greater financial commitments and increase the impact of feminist climate justice. Only then will we turn the tide.

Acknowledgements

The Networks Behind This Report

Prospera International Network of Women's Funds is a global political network of 48 bold, intersectional, diverse, and autonomous women's and feminist funds that nurture transformation by resourcing, supporting, and accompanying movements led by women, girls, trans, intersex, and non-binary people, and collectives primarily in the Global South and East.

Global Greengrants Fund is one of the leading grassroots environmental justice grantmakers in the world, with a grantmaking network of 27 advisory boards comprising over 230 activists supporting grassroots-led efforts to protect the planet and the rights of people.

Human Rights Funders Network is a network of funders in the Global South, East, and North dedicated to resourcing human rights action around the world. Its members boldly support movements leading us toward a more just future.

The Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action rallies the collective power of gender, climate and environmental justice movements around the world. It is a diverse network of women's funds, environmental justice funds, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and women-led community-based organizations (CBOs) that join forces to secure women's rights to water, food security, and to a clean, healthy, and safe environment.

Appendices

A - Methodology Note

First, we analyzed grants data from the Advancing Human Rights dataset compiled by HRFN and Candid, in partnership with Prospera and Ariadne, of almost 27,000 grants made in 2019 to protect and promote human rights globally. The research uses a combination of machine learning techniques, rules-based search strategies, funder coding, and extensive data review to identify human rights grants and categorize them based on its taxonomy, which includes categories related to gender and climate/environment.⁴⁶ This dataset contains data from 761 foundations in 51 countries that made at least one human rights grant in 2019.⁴⁷ The data provided a broad overview of the state of human rights funding at the intersection of gender and climate and the environment in 2019, setting a baseline for pre-pandemic funding of these topics.

Second, we analyzed grants data from 2019-2021 from Prospera and Global Greengrants Fund to develop a joint database and identify grantmaking trends at this intersection. We aimed to identify all grants during those three years that met the definition used in the 2018 Our Voices, Our Environment report and also included additional issues such as agroecology, land rights, environmental defense, and other work related to climate and gender stemming from a justice-oriented framework. The analysis of grants also includes those that work towards climate justice and include a gender transformative intent.

To create a baseline for the human rights funding field globally, we used the most recent available full dataset (2019) from Advancing Human Rights global research led by HRFN and Candid. We assessed the number of grants and total grant dollars going towards the intersection of gender and climate/environment by the type of foundation making the grants (public vs. private) and by the region meant to benefit from the funding. We compared the level of funding going towards the intersection of gender and climate/environment for each region as a percent of the overall funding meant to benefit each region. We also analyzed the number of grants and total grant dollars going towards the intersection of gender and climate/environment among public and private foundations and segregated those data points to see what percentage of grants corresponded to Global Greengrants Fund and women's and feminist funds (mostly comprized of Prospera members).⁴⁸

Global Greengrants Fund Database

The Global Greengrants Fund database, which contained grants that were all focused on social and environmental justice work, had previously been coded by the Global Greengrants Fund team to identify grants that also had a gender focus. These grants included the following categories:

- Women-focused (WOMF): Projects focused on or working with women, women group
- Women-led initiative (WOML): Groups or projects specifically led by women
- GENV- projects that take women and men's specific needs and roles related to the environment

⁴⁶ In the Advancing Human Rights dataset, grants for "Environmental and Resource Rights" support "the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment. This includes the rights of Indigenous, marginalized, or any other communities to the unspoiled natural resources that enable survival, including land, water, air, plants, animals, and energy; sustainable agriculture rights; the right to water and sanitation; and the right to share in and determine the distribution of lands, territories, and resources. This category captures grants to protect natural resources from overdevelopment, destruction, or adulteration and to address climate change."

⁴⁷ "Advancing Human Rights: Annual Review of Global Foundation Grantmaking (2019 Key Findings)". Human Rights Funders Network and Candid. 2022.

⁴⁸ The Advancing Human Rights research uses this definition of women's funds, cited from [Mama Cash](#): "Women's funds are public foundations that aim to support and fund women-led solutions to the root causes of social injustice." 41 of the 44 women's funds included in the 2019 Advancing Human Rights dataset were Prospera members.

into consideration and are moving the needle in the community toward a more just society in which women have equal access to rights, resources, goods, decision making, political sphere, and leadership. Projects that promote women's access to resource rights, economic rights, decision-making processes and political and/or; promote women's environmental leadership within their cultural context and/or; address entrenched discriminatory stereotypes and inequalities and/or; seek to change structures and systems of oppression (legal systems, community perceptions).

These grants were defined as *“projects increasing or supporting women's participation in addressing environmental issues, when women are leading projects addressing environmental issues, and when increasing women's participation in decision making spaces and advocacy are a focus of the grant.”*⁴⁹ There were a total of 2,508 Global Greengrants Fund grants analyzed; 937 from 2019, 831 from 2020 and 740 from 2021. This amounted to a total of \$17,837,051 USD in grantmaking, with \$10,163,075 USD going towards the intersection of gender, climate, and environment.

Prospera Database Construction

For Prospera grants, we defined grants as focusing on gender, climate, and environment using the definition from the same 2018 report, which is defined as *“grants focused on an inclusive list of environmental-related topics and specifically supporting women's, girls, or gender equality”*⁵⁰ These grants were not previously coded in the Prospera database, so in order to identify these grants, we conducted a thorough automated search of all 14,069 grants from 2019, 2020 and 2021 to identify those that met our gender, climate, and environment definition as described.

We began this process using a variable titled 'theme names' in the database which reflected the themes that the grant fit into. We created a list of all theme names in the database, and then identified those theme names that were related to climate and the environment. For any theme names that were broader than environment but might have included climate- and environment-related grants, we manually reviewed the grants within that theme to decide whether the theme was related to the environment.

Not all grants had theme names assigned, thus we also chose to use keywords in both English and Spanish that would identify the grants related to the environment, including grants that were designated as responding to climate-related disasters (see Keywords List in the appendix).

Once a thorough list of search terms was defined, we used the software R to search the database and assign grants as focused on 'environment' using the following process:

1. All grants that contained a theme name identified as related to 'climate/environment' were coded as such. For theme names encompassing environment and non-environment topics (i.e. 'right to a healthy environment') we manually reviewed all grants in that theme name to identify those related to the environment.
2. All other grants (with and without theme names) were searched for the keywords we defined as related to 'climate/environment'. If that keyword appeared in any part of the grant entry, we coded it as 'climate/environment'.
3. In some cases, keywords may have a double meaning that could mean it was related to the environment, or another topic (for example, the word 'territory' which is related to indigenous frameworks of land stewardship but is also used sometimes to talk about bodily autonomy). In those cases, the words were not included in the original keyword list used to search in step #2. Instead, after steps #1 and #2 were complete, we extracted all grants that had words with double meanings and may be related to 'climate/environment'. We manually reviewed the descriptions of these grants, and if they appeared to be related to the environment by our definition, we manually coded them as 'climate/environment'.

⁴⁹ [Action Areas Coding Guidelines](#), Global Greengrants Fund, 2018

⁵⁰ [“Our Voices, Our Environment: The state of funding for women's environmental action”](#), Global Greengrants Fund; Prospera International Network of Women's Funds; Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action; 2014.

After testing this process with one list of keywords and theme names, two team members reviewed a subset of the grant entries and the coding for 'environment/climate' grants to determine whether the process was producing the desired results. This led us to slightly adjust the keywords and manual review process to ensure accuracy.

Finally, in order to determine which topics were most commonly funded amongst the grants focused on gender, climate, and environment, we reviewed all 2021 grants with this focus. We chose to categorize these grants using the same definitions as Global Greengrants Fund used in coding their grants, named 'Action Areas' by Global Greengrants Fund. We used the themes applied in the Prospera database, if the grant was assigned a theme, and coded it according to the Global Greengrants Fund Action Areas. For all grants that had more than one theme, or did not have a theme, we reviewed the grant description and hand coded the grants according to topic area.⁵¹

Combined database analysis

After coding all grants according to the process above, we combined the two databases from Prospera and Global Greengrants Fund in one final database containing all grants from 2019, 2020 and 2021. We analyzed the data to assess the number of grants and the amount of funding that were dedicated to gender, climate, and environment among the entire database. We also assessed how grants were allocated by region, using the same regional classifications as Prospera uses.⁵² We conducted two sub analyses of these data: First, we assessed the regional origin of funding for grants through Prospera's network, analyzing the number and amount of grants awarded by women's funds by region. Finally, we analyzed which were the most commonly funded action areas related to gender, climate, and environment in 2021.

⁵¹ [Action Areas Coding Guidelines](#), Global Greengrants Fund, 2018

⁵² [Prospera IWF List of countries and impact regions](#)

B - Interviewees

Artemisa Castro, Hilda Salazar & Carmen Genis

Christine Kandie

Claire Poelking

Gaby Oré & Daniela Pedraza

Jeanette Sequeira & Leah Moss

Juliana Tinoco & Clara Daré

Juliana Velez

Kai Carter

Kuini Rabo

Lebongang Ramasodi, Mimi Chan

Chiamaka Uzomb, Jean Kemitare

Lindley Mease

Margarita Antonio

Maria Alejandra Escalante

Solomé Lemma

Tamara Mohr

Vanessa Purper

Ximena Warnars

Zephanie Repollo

Fondo de Acción Solidaria

Endorois Indigenous Women Network

MacArthur Foundation

Wellspring Philanthropic Fund

Global Alliance for Green & Gender Action

Alianza Socioambiental Fondos del Sur

Foundation for a Just Society

Packard Foundation

Women's Fund Fiji

Urgent Action Fund Africa

CLIMA Fund

Fondo Internacional de Mujeres Indígenas

Funding Learning and Action Co-Laboratory

Thousand Currents

Both ENDS

Fundo CASA

Ford Foundation

Just Associates

C - Combined Prospera and Global Greengrants Fund Database

Table 1. Trends in funding for Gender, Climate and Environment 2019-2021 from Prospera-INWF and Global Greengrants Fund

	2019*	2020*	2021*	TOTAL
Total number of grants	4,048	5,986	6,543	16,577
Number of grants going towards Gender, Climate and Environment	1,159	1,197	1,170	3,526
Percentage of all grants going towards Gender, Climate and Environment	29%	20%	18%	21%
Total US dollars towards all funding	\$63,619,035	\$70,979,178	\$95,797,641	\$230,395,854
Total US dollars towards all Gender, Climate and Environment grants	\$15,354,378	\$12,284,122	\$13,825,230	\$41,463,730
Mean grant amount focused on Gender, Climate and Environment grants	\$13,248	\$10,262	\$11,816	
Range of amounts that were focused on Gender, Climate and Environment per year	from 132 to 681180	from 71.6 to 509000	from 234 to 401106	
% of all funding focused on Gender, Climate & Environment	24%	17%	14%	18%
	*937 grants from GGF, 3111 from Prospera	*831 grants from GGF, 5155 from Prospera	*740 grants from GGF, 5803 from Prospera	



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