How Women’s Funds strengthen environmental justice

Women’s Funds are in a distinctive and strategic position to get money to the ground, especially to women otherwise overlooked. They are addressing both the climate crisis and women’s rights around the world.

Women’s Funds are foundations that raise money, provide flexible funding, and apply inclusive practices to support the collective and organised power of grassroots women, girls, and trans and intersex people around the world. The following table highlights learning from a series of interviews commissioned by Mama Cash on the environmental funding strategies of Women’s Funds. Through the Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action (GAGGA) programme, women’s funds have been building and adapting their portfolios and funding approaches, and developing new partnerships to address the climate crisis.

They operate knowing that there is no single solution to the climate crisis in the diverse geographies and contexts in which they work. Therefore they directly find and fund a diversity of women environmental defenders, guided by their vision, values, mandate, and political analyses.

Women’s Funds can address the differentiated impacts of the climate crisis on women and other groups marginalised by gender, race, ethnicity, age, class, sexual orientation, etc. Given the scope, scale, and geographic specificity of the climate crisis, this is crucial.

Fondo de Mujeres del Sur (FMS) provides financial support and training to strengthen the capacities of more than 100 groups and organisations of women and LGBTI people annually.

Together with other women’s funds in the region, FMS launched a World Water Day awareness campaign in 2017 called #LasMujeresSomosAgua (We Women Are Water) focused on raising awareness about women’s role in searching for and distributing water in their communities across Latin America. This annual campaign is ongoing.
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They provide support and care with a deep understanding of the unique experiences of women, girls, and trans and intersex people’s lived realities in the face of climate change.

They offer spaces for learning exchanges, fora, or convenings for grassroots women’s groups to come together to learn from one another and join forces.

They broker connections to promote women’s visibility, to ensure local partners are linked with needed resources.

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Despite these powerful and effective examples, less than 1% of all international philanthropic funding goes to women’s environmental action.*

To learn more, see: gaggaalliance.org


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