

Press kit  
Gender Just Climate Solutions Award  
COP22 - Marrakech



## Invitation

### Gender Just Climate Solutions Award Ceremony

Monday 14th November 2016

3:00 – 4:30 pm

Room Arabian – Blue Zone

In the presence of **Mrs. Amina Mohammed**, Min. Environment of Nigeria, **Mrs. Hakima El Haite** Min. Environment of Morocco and Climate Champion, **Mrs. Ségolène Royal**, Min. Environment of France and President of COP21

- Welcoming introduction by high level personalities,
- Presentation of the Women and Gender Constituency and the Gender Just Climate Solutions Award,
- Presentation of Gender Just Climate Solutions nominees and winners 2016,
- Award ceremony with organisations and winners

*Refreshments*

We know the gender just solutions to a sustainable future already exist – it is time to showcase them far and wide!



## Why an award for gender just climate solutions?

Launched in 2015, by the Women and Gender Constituency, the 'Gender Just Climate Solutions Award' honours the fundamental contribution of women in the fight against climate change and demonstrates the pertinence of integrating gender equality in all climate policies.

The Women & Gender Constituency and its organisations' members engage on the ground and at international negotiations to ensure that the world's leaders implement the Paris Agreement by securing climate justice and the resilience of ecosystems and populations.

**The Gender Just Solutions Award is comprised of three categories:**

### **Technical climate solutions**

with a women or gender perspective (e.g. in area of renewables, water-saving adaptation technologies etc.)

### **Non-technical climate solutions**

with a women or gender perspective (e.g. in area of efficiency, consumption changes etc.)

### **Transformative climate initiatives**

with a women or gender perspective (e.g. addressing governance, institutional change, planning processes etc.)

**The criteria for Gender-Just Solutions:**

- Ensures sufficiency and a low input of resources
- Contributes to climate change mitigation, emissions reduction and/or climate adaptation
- Decentralized, safe, appropriate, affordable, sustainable
- Results can be shared, spread and up scaled – not just benefitting one individual
- Shows inter-linkages to peacebuilding, resource constraints, and health – does not increase conflict potential
- Equal access to benefits/equal benefits, women in value chain
- Does not add additional burden to women's workload
- Empowers women – through e.g. reduced workload and costs, better accessibility, enhanced livelihood security, enhanced food security, improved health – as many benefits as possible, i.e. "multiple benefits"
- Ensures decision-making by local women and men, women's groups, cooperatives and communities
- Promotes women's democratic rights and participation of women in all areas of decision-making

The 3 award winners, per category, receive 1.000 Euros each, and their best practice will be showcased at the Women and Gender Constituency stand at the UNFCCC negotiations in COP 22 in Marrakech and during the award ceremony in the presence of ministers, representatives of the UNFCCC secretariat and UN agencies. The 3 winners and nominees of the award will also be published in the Gender Just Climate Solutions Publication.

## Award winners from 2015

The 2015 edition of the Gender Just Climate Solutions Award showcased, for the first time ever, in the context of the Climate Convention alongside political decision-makers from all over the world, climate mitigation and adaptation solutions carried out by local communities and women's organisations.

While women implement strategies and actions every day to ensure the resilience of territories and populations, they are still not sufficiently recognised and supported in the context of climate policies.

Women are still under-represented in consultation and decision bodies at local level, less than 20% of local committees consist of women, according to a recent study by CIFOR on 18 REDD+ sites. At the national or international level, women are still largely a minority in UNFCCC bodies and mechanisms, and in delegations.



Christine Irvine | Survival Media Agency

The Gender Just Climate Solutions Award highlights technical solutions, training or awareness-raising, and transformative solutions encouraging dissemination and sharing of best practices. It also inspires politicians and financiers to develop more effective and fairer climate strategies.

Last year's three winners were:

### Winner Technical Solutions

1

**Country:** Marshall Islands  
**Organization:** IslandECo  
**Representative:** Jerissa Fusitala  
**Email:** islandeco@gmail.com



### Training young women in the principles and installation of solar photovoltaic DC refrigeration



**Description of the project:** Young women participated in the assembly, delivery and installation of solar powered lights, refrigerators and freezers on two atolls in the Marshall Islands. The young women independently learned how to master technical elements, assembly methods, and packing and delivery of the components across oceanic distances to remote islands. They also gained competency in the off-loading, re-assembly and installation of mechanical and electrical components.

1

## Winner Non-Technical Solutions

**Country:** Southern Africa  
**Organization:** GenderCC-Southern Africa/ Mopani District, Limpopo and Western Cape in Makhaza Community  
**Representative:** Bertha Chiroro  
**Email:** [bertha@gendercc.org.za](mailto:bertha@gendercc.org.za)



### Raising awareness on gender integration in climate change adaptation and building community resilience



**Description of the project:** The project used a “learn and build methodology” of awareness training on gender integration in climate change adaptation, water management, access to sustainable energy, waste management, and sustainable farming methods in selected communities. The projects were led by women champions, government officials in Gauteng, Limpopo and the Western Cape, NGOs, and village leaders. Mostly the women farmers undertook a process of skills training and capacity building in the installation, of biogas digesters, PVC solar units and water harvesting tanks.

1

## Winner Transformational Solutions

**Country:** Papua New Guinea  
**Organization:** Tulele Peisa  
**Representative:** Ursula Rakova  
**Email:** [rakovaursula@gmail.com](mailto:rakovaursula@gmail.com)



### Community-led relocation effort by the Carteret Islanders who face extinction from climate change impacts and extreme weather events



**Description of the project:** This project aims to prepare and work with three host communities on Bougainville to ensure that there is adequate land, infrastructure and economic opportunities to include Carterets people – work with 1700 Carterets people to prepare them for voluntary relocation on Bougainville through counselling, agriculture, income generation, education, health and community development training programmes – establish a conservation and marine management area for sustainable use of marine resources for Carterets Islanders - and increase awareness about the plight of Carterets people and the complexities surrounding their relocation to new communities.

## Is gender equality fundamental for the climate?

Nobody can ignore the effects of climate change nor the urgency to act at all levels (individual, collective, economic, political, local and global) but what kind of contribution can women provide? And why are women still « ignored » by climate policies? Indeed, many efficient solutions implemented by women are often overlooked by decision-makers who prioritise technical solutions and expensive projects that leave a big impression and are supposed to maintain global growth and economic activity.

Strengthening the resilience of territories and of populations confronted with climate change is crucial. Women are often the ones preserving traditional knowledge, whether it is regarding resilient agriculture, sustainable water management and/or biodiversity conservation.

Women also contribute to adaptation and mitigation strategies, especially linked to their communities' and territories' needs: women initiate renewable energy cooperatives in Georgia, construct energy efficiency stoves in Senegal or Nigeria, fight against deforestation in Malaysia, push for innovate agriculture by improving soil fertility. Their local success stories could be up scaled and replicated if they were correctly honoured, taken into account by international orientations and were financed by climate funds.



## The role of women in the climate negotiations? – A brief history

It was in fact in Marrakech in 2001 when Parties adopted the first decisions relating to gender equality and participation of women. Nine years later, in Bali in 2010, the Parties adopted several decisions integrating the gender dimension in finance, adaptation and capacity building – sending out a strong sign to ensure that gender equality and the participation of women would be recognized as necessary for effective climate action in all areas.

Since then, the Parties supported by civil society organisations as well as by United Nations agencies have included gender equality considerations in adopted decisions in nearly all thematic areas of the UNFCCC. This includes notably the decision 23/CP.18 adopted at Doha in 2012 linked to parity and participation for women, then the launch of the Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG) and of course the preamble of the Paris Agreement and its articles 7 and 11 on adaptation and capacity building.



Despite all these decisions, gender inequalities, often reinforced by the impact of climate change, are rarely and poorly evaluated and the specific needs of women remain to be considered insufficiently in the elaboration, the planning and the financing of climate policies.

## The role of the Women and Gender Constituency and its NGO members

The WGC promotes human rights and gender equality and the full participation of women at all decision making levels as well as the integration of gender in all climate policies and measures in the fight against climate change. The WGC gives women a voice to formalise and unify the perspectives of the civil society organisations working on women's rights and participation in UNFCCC processes. We provide a space where members of the Constituency can present their concerns, propose priority actions and formulate common democratic positions which we expand and promote. The WGC aims at enlarging its scope and engagement together with different groups and to unify a global movement for climate justice. We opt for global engagements that integrate gender equality and women's rights, in particular in link with climate at the UNFCCC and the 2030 Agenda with its Sustainable Development Goals.



## Marrakech: an opportunity to be seized

Will the Conference of the Parties, which takes place in Marrakech in November, 15 years after the first official recognition, put forward a real integration of gender in the climate policies emerging out the Paris Agreement? In 2015 the Paris Agreement renewed this decision by integration in its preamble the responsibility of states to respect and promote human rights, gender equality, women's empowerment, rights of indigenous peoples and food security while combating climate change. But do the national policies really integrate these responsibilities? Do they integrate systematically gender equality and womens' empowerment?

The return to Marrakech for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Climate Conference offers for the Parties the opportunity to propose a new decision allowing enlarging the fields of application of the Lima Work Programme on Gender<sup>1</sup> adopted in 2014, which has strengthened the conscience of states concerning the pertinence of the gender dimension for fairer and more efficient climate policies.

The Women and Gender Constituency<sup>2</sup>, founded and co-animated by WECF<sup>3</sup> and women's NGOs from all over the world, proposes to elaborate and adopt in 2017 a new long-term and detailed Gender Action Plan (GAP) ensuring the follow-up of the Lima Work Programme on Gender and the implementation of the Paris Agreement by integrating gender.

This action plan should respect some essential guiding principles, like the policy coherence with international obligations regarding human rights and gender equality (Social, Economic and Cultural Rights, CEDAW, Beijing Declaration); the cross-cutting dimension of equality objectives in all climate actions, supporting civil society participation in all decision-making process; and acknowledging traditional knowledge as an essential tool for climate resilience as well as supporting the effective participation of indigenous women in designing and implementing climate policies, including the application of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).

Above and beyond these principles, the Gender Action Plan should include concrete processes, such as capacity building for Parties to the UNFCCC to ensure the planning and implementation of national climate policies that integrate gender, with gender responsive budgeting as well as control mechanisms and regular evaluation, notably in view of the Global Stocktake assessment. Reporting and analysis can only be properly conducted if quantitative and qualitative sex disaggregated data are available and if gender and climate experts are integrated into the IPCC panel.

Finally, it is necessary to provide adequate resources in order to implement the mentioned activities and develop the GAP. To ensure full participation of women and a significant impact, the GAP ought to be developed and implemented by UN agencies in close partnership with the Women and Gender Constituency, other civil society actors.



<sup>1</sup> Lima Work Program on Gender: [www.unfccc.org](http://www.unfccc.org)

<sup>2</sup> Women and Gender Constituency, observer to the UNFCCC: [www.womengenderclimate.org](http://www.womengenderclimate.org)

<sup>3</sup> WECF: Women Engage for a Common Future: [www.wecf.eu](http://www.wecf.eu)



## Organizers and partners of the Gender Just Climate Solutions Award:

**Women and Gender Constituency :** (<http://womengenderclimate.org/>)



The Women and Gender Constituency is a coalition of NGOs established in 2009 and recognised as official observer by the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2011. The WGC is composed of 16 NGOs which work for women's rights, gender justice and environmental protection, and defending women's rights in all processes of the UNFCCC to ensure that gender equality will be recognised as fundamental for combating climate change.



**WECF – Women Engage for a Common Future :** (<http://www.wecf.eu/>)

Founded in the dynamics of the “Earth Summit” in Rio 1992, WECF is today an international network of over 150 women's and civil society organisations implementing projects in 50 countries and advocating globally for shaping a just and sustainable world. WECF strengthens the capacity of women through projects on the ground while advocating at national and international level for women's rights and gender equality. WECF is a founding member of the Women and Gender Constituency.

**AFD :** ([www.afd.fr](http://www.afd.fr))



L'Agence Française de Développement, a public financial institution at the heart of French development cooperation, works since seventy years to fight poverty and promote sustainable development in the Global South. Active in four continents through a network of 75 offices and subventions, lending, guarantee funds or contracts for debt relief, the AFD finances and accompanies projects which improve living conditions of populations and support economic growth and preserve the planet. In 2015, the AFD dedicated 8.3 billion Euros for financing projects in developing countries. 53% of its funding has also contributed to fight against climate change.

**Fondation RAJA :** (<http://www.fondation-raja-marcovici.com/accueil.html>)



Since its establishments in 2006, the Fondation RAJA-Danièle Marcovici, under the aegis of Fondation de France is engaging for the improvement of living conditions of women from all over the world through the support of association projects benefitting women, around 3 principal axes: women's rights and the fights against violence, training and professional integration, education and social action. Since 10 years the Foundation contributed to improve the living conditions of more than 55 000 women in quarantine countries. More than 4 million Euros have been allocated to accompany nearly 350 projects.

**Foundation Heinrich Böll :** ([www.boell.de/en](http://www.boell.de/en))



The Foundation Heinrich Böll is a political foundation affiliated with the German green party. The foundation acts as a catalyst of ecological visions and projects, as a think-tank of political reforms and as an international network. The foundation aims at the advancement of democracy and human rights, protection of the environment and climate, and the peaceful resolution of conflicts. The foundation focuses in particular on gender democracy: social emancipation and equal rights for women and LGBTI individuals. Their antenna in North America, based in Washington DC, promotes the political dialogue through publications, public seminars, conferences and workshops.

## Contacts:

<b>WECF</b>	Anne Barre : <a href="mailto:anne.barre@wecf.eu">anne.barre@wecf.eu</a> Tel : +49 15123575122 @BarreAnn
	Hanna Gunnarsson : <a href="mailto:hanna.gunnarsson@wecf.eu">hanna.gunnarsson@wecf.eu</a> Tel : +4915204058573 @WECF_INT
<b>AFD</b>	Magali Mévellec : <a href="mailto:mevellec@afd.fr">mevellec@afd.fr</a> Tel : +33 153444031/0637392607 @Presse_AFD
<b>Fondation RAJA</b>	Marion Revault / Stéphanie Piere : <a href="mailto:raja@wellcom.fr">raja@wellcom.fr</a> Tel : +33 146346060 @FondationRaja