
GLOBAL GREENGRANTS FUND



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Addressing climate change by supporting women's environmental action

Founded in 1993, Global Greengrants Fund is a global network of activists and donors supporting communities to protect their way of life and our planet.

Too often, international funders approach grantmaking from the top down, either by only funding well-established organizations or by only funding those community projects that fit a specific goal or preconception about effective strategy. Technical solutions to climate change often take years before they help reduce emissions, and can reinforce inequitable systems and unsustainable development.

Alternatively, grassroots organizations are developing and implementing equitable solutions for mitigating and adapting to climate change every day. We believe that when local people truly have a say in the health of their food, water, and resources, they are forces for change. We therefore support grassroots movements and solutions led by indigenous peoples, youth, women, and people with disabilities.

We work with a network of about 145 advisors around the world who act as our eyes and ears on the ground. Our advisors are activists, experts in their fields, and respected environmental justice leaders who have strong ties to local grassroots organizations and a deep understanding of the context in their region. Because of their local knowledge, we are able to connect to promising solutions and groups, channel funds to where they are needed most, and to assist our grantees after they have received a grant by providing them with other resources and connections.

The majority of our grants are small, between USD 1,000 and USD 5,000, but these sums can make a great difference for the groups we work with. In June 2018, for example, we awarded a small grant to an indigenous community in Ecuador that allowed them to replace the engine in their dugout canoe. They needed the canoe to monitor about 70 cases of illegal mining, fishing

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and hunting on their ancestral land. Thanks to their documentation and evidence, a provincial court in Ecuador stopped 52 gold-mining projects along the river where the community lived.

Our experience shows that movements, if truly built from the grassroots, are the most important force to counter environmental degradation and injustice and to bring about lasting change in our societies and institutions. Local investment of time, resources, and knowledge lies at the heart of every successful movement, and often small amounts of money can encourage this investment by helping communities get noticed, voice their concerns, and propose their own solutions.

In the last five years, Global Greengrants Fund has focused on supporting women's environmental action. We know that women are disproportionately affected by climate change, especially in rural communities, and we also know they play a key role in defending planetary health. More and more strategies to tackle the climate crisis are led by women, but their role as agents of change is often overlooked and they are hugely underfunded.

Now more than ever, and in the current context of COVID-19, strategies and solutions have to be built by communities who know what is best for them and their environments, which will then have a ripple effect throughout the world. The following are some starting points funders can use for immediate action.

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Recommendations for funders

- Work with and support grassroots funders like Global Greengrants Fund. Partnering with grassroots women's and environmental funders is a way for foundations based in the Global North to channel resources directly to people and communities most impacted by climate change, and to support their decision-making power.
- Examine grantmaking portfolios and identify gaps and opportunities to develop a gender and environmental lens, and work in partnership with grantee partners to understand how to build and act on this analysis.
- Initiate and support opportunities for environment and gender justice program officers within and among foundations to meet and understand one another's approaches, and seek to build common investment agendas.