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CVF FRONTLINE

WOMEN. JUSTICE. ACTION.



A woman wearing a red and white checkered headscarf and a patterned blouse is kneeling in a field, working with plants. The background is a blurred field of dry vegetation.

CVF FRONTLINE

March 2026
Special Edition No. 2

International Women's Day is celebrated in March across the globe, with several countries using the entire month to focus on women's rights and general issues. This reflective special edition of CVF Frontline celebrates the power of women in shaping climate action and features the voices of leading female advocates in the climate space.

Across the CVF-V20 nations, women are leading with courage, innovating with purpose, and delivering change where it matters most. Through compelling insights, data, and lived experiences, these pages are sending a message: Gender-responsive approaches are not just necessary; they are central to the future we must build together.

To all the women who lead, rise, and heal the Earth: You are not just shaping our collective future. You are defining it.

AT THE HELM: WOMEN LEADERS OF THE CVF-V20

When women lead, climate action is stronger, more inclusive, and more enduring. Meet the women in the highest offices of CVF-V20 nations whose vision and resolve are guiding nations—and the world—toward a more sustainable future.



**H.E. MIA AMOR
MOTTLEY**
Prime Minister
Barbados



**H.E. JUDITH
SUMINWA TULUKA**
Prime Minister
Democratic Republic
of the Congo



**H.E. LAURA
FERNÁNDEZ
DELGADO**
President-Elect
Republic of Costa Rica



**H.E. SYLVANIE
BURTON**
President
Commonwealth of Dominica



H.E. HILDA HEINE
President
Republic of Marshall Islands



**H.E. MARIA
BENVINDA LEVY**
Prime Minister
Republic of Mozambique



**H.E. NETUMBO
NANDI-NDAITWAH**
President
Republic of Namibia



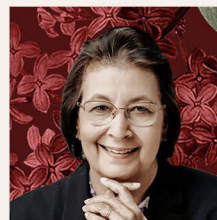
**H.E. SUSHILA
KARKI**
Interim Prime Minister
Federal Democratic
Republic of Nepal



**H.E. ROSARIO
MURILLO**
Co-President
Republic of Nicaragua



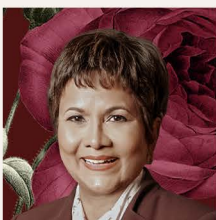
**H.E. DR. HARINI
AMARASURIYA**
Prime Minister
Democratic Socialist
Republic of Sri Lanka



**H.E. JENNIFER
GEERLINGS-SIMONS**
President
Republic of Suriname



**H.E. SAMIA
SULUHU HASSAN**
President
United Republic of Tanzania



**H.E. CHRISTINE
CARLA KANGALOO,
O.R.T.T.**
President
Republic of Trinidad
and Tobago



**KAMLA
PERSAD-BISSESSAR**
Prime Minister
Republic of Trinidad
and Tobago



**H.E. SARRA
ZAAFRANI**
Prime Minister
Republic of Tunisia



**H.E. ROBINAH
NABBANJA**
Prime Minister
Prime Minister
Republic of Uganda

WOMEN SPEAK: REDEFINING THE CLIMATE TABLE

From the frontlines to the finance ministries of CVF-V20 countries, women are the architects, innovators, and visionaries redefining the landscape of climate action.

In their own words, they reflect on the barriers women face in policy, finance, and leadership, share bold ideas for moving beyond symbolic inclusion, and reveal the sparks of hope that drive them forward. These are the voices redefining climate leadership and the planet's collective future.

It is important that we give women a space at the table where the power brokers are seated. Once there, we must support them to ensure they do not have impostor syndrome, but accept their right to be present, the value of their experiences and the legitimacy of their contributions.

What is the most significant barrier women face today in climate policy, finance, or leadership spaces?



DENISE AYEBARE
Youth Presidential Advisor on Climate Change
Uganda

One of the greatest barriers women face in climate policy, finance, and leadership is the distance between where impacts are felt and where decisions are made. Across climate-vulnerable countries, women are already leading on the frontlines, growing food on degraded land, securing water for families, and holding communities together when climate shocks hit. Yet when climate finance is negotiated, or policies are shaped, their voices are still too often missing from the rooms where power sits.

This is not a question of capacity. Women have always been innovators,

problem-solvers, and custodians of resilience. The challenge is access to decision-making spaces and resources. Climate justice will only be real when women move from the margins of consultation to the center of leadership. Because when women lead climate action, the solutions are not only more inclusive but also stronger, more grounded, and more sustainable for entire communities.



SARA BADRAN
Research Coordinator
Lebanon

One of the most significant barriers women face in climate policy, finance, and leadership today is their limited access to decision-making spaces and financial resources.

Women, especially those from the Global South, remain underrepresented in institutions that shape climate agendas, whether in ministries, negotiation teams,

climate funds, or investment bodies. The issue goes beyond representation. It is about who has the power to set priorities, direct funding, and decide which climate areas receive support.

When women are excluded from these spaces, many critical perspectives go overlooked. Community knowledge, care-centered economies, and gender-responsive adaptation strategies tend to receive less recognition and far less funding than they deserve.



ANITA BARNIE
Forest Range Manager
Ghana

Women have long been pioneers and drivers of climate action, particularly at the community level, where the impacts of climate change are most visible. Yet, their presence and influence in global climate policy, finance, and leadership spaces remain limited. One of the most significant barriers is not a lack of commitment or lived experience, but unequal access to the institutional platforms, tools, and resources needed to translate those experiences into influence.

Even when women gain entry into these spaces, many struggle to fully participate because their institutional capacity has not been sufficiently strengthened to articulate and advocate for the realities they confront daily. Limited access to training, information, networks, and climate finance further constrains their ability to contribute meaningfully to decision-making processes.

How can institutions move beyond symbolic representation to meaningful inclusion?



HADDIJATOU CEESAY
Environmental Consultant
The Gambia

To move beyond symbolic representation, institutions must transition from passive consultation to structural integration. Meaningful inclusion requires institutionalizing intersectional data and participatory governance models that treat women and youth as technical experts, not just stakeholders.

First, policy frameworks must adopt gender-disaggregated data to identify specific climate vulnerabilities and tailor scientific solutions accordingly. Second, institutions should implement mandatory youth and gender audits for all climate budget allocations to ensure that financial flows prioritize local, women-led adaptation technologies. Finally, we must establish permanent seats with voting authority within technical committees and multilateral negotiations.

Moving from "presence" to agency means redesigning the policy cycle to include youth and women from the conceptualization phase through to implementation and monitoring. This ensures that climate strategies are scientifically robust, socially equitable, and built for long-term intergenerational resilience.



JENNELI G. EVANGELISTA
Policy Development Officer III
Department of Finance Philippines

Recognizing women's participation is a critical component to building inclusive policies for climate adaptation and resilience. To move beyond mere symbolism, organizations must shift from simply 'granting space' to actively building women's capacity to ensure collaborative participation in systemic design. Meaningful inclusion requires an organization to empower women across all levels - not just in leadership - to influence behavior and deliver real impact.



RAMSHA MALIK
Assistant Director, Ministry of Climate Change
and Environmental Coordination, Pakistan

Meaningful inclusion is not a headcount. It is a transfer of authority, resources, and accountability.

Moving from symbolic representation to meaningful inclusion requires changes at the grassroots level in terms of moving from treating women as a stakeholder to participatory governance, where voices actually matter.

Meaningful inclusion begins with a mandate, not an invitation. It requires that women, particularly those from frontline and underrepresented communities, hold decision-making roles with defined authority over resource allocation and policy design.

This means revisiting governance frameworks that concentrate power in technical committees, where women remain underrepresented, and applying gender-responsive criteria not just to project outputs but to institutional processes themselves. It demands that financing follows, and by tracking not only whether women are beneficiaries, but whether they are decision-makers in the systems that deploy capital.



VICTORIA KINOBE NAKATUDDE
Water Officer
Uganda

Meaningful inclusion of women is clearly granting them the rights to execute roles in the different positions they are given, for example, as executive directors, ministers, among other leadership roles. It goes beyond having them present for the statistics and even having them as puppets in these roles, where their views are always suppressed during decision-making. It is ensuring their voices are heard, respected, and acted upon.

Institutions can do this by respecting their women's leadership as they do for men, considering their concerns, recognizing their efforts, and providing opportunities for their growth, coupled with mentorship in these roles. Furthermore, providing an environment where women feel confident to share their ideas and experiences without judgment, but rather positive critiquing aimed at collective success under their leadership.

Investing in women's leadership, given they are naturally nurturers, will create a shift from symbolic representation to sustainable impact for the planet and its people.

What gives you hope about the future of women in climate leadership?



TSHERING CHODEN
Program Coordinator, Ministry of Finance
Bhutan

What gives me hope is the growing recognition that effective climate action must be inclusive, equitable, and grounded in lived experience. Across vulnerable countries, I see more women stepping into spaces where decisions on climate finance, policy, and development are made. Their leadership brings a deeper understanding of community needs, social equity, and long-term resilience.

I am encouraged by the increasing role women play in shaping global negotiations, designing climate investments, and ensuring that financial resources reach those most vulnerable to climate impacts. Women are not only advocating for stronger climate ambition but are also driving practical solutions, from community-based adaptation to innovative financing mechanisms.

The future of climate leadership will depend on diverse voices guiding decisions, and the growing presence of women in these spaces signals a more just, responsive, and resilient path forward.



TAHANYAT SATTI
Climate Change and Sustainable
Development Researcher, Pakistan

There's a growing recognition that women are not only among the most affected by climate change but are also among the most effective leaders in addressing it.

Across vulnerable countries, women are driving innovative solutions—from community-based adaptation and nature-based solutions to shaping national and international climate policy. Their leadership brings inclusive decision-making, local knowledge, and long-term resilience into climate governance.

I am particularly encouraged by the increasing participation of women in global climate negotiations, climate finance institutions, and grassroots movements.

As more platforms amplify women's voices and leadership, the future of climate action will become more equitable, transformative, and responsive to the needs of communities most at risk.

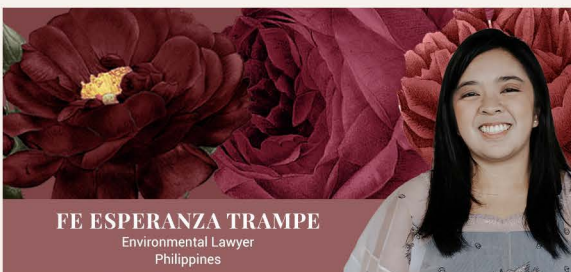


MARY OKOTH
GIS Analyst
Kenya

More women are becoming scientists, negotiators, policymakers, and community leaders working to address climate challenges. Many are using their experiences to push for practical solutions, stronger policies, and greater climate justice.

I am especially encouraged by the rise of young women who are boldly speaking up, challenging systems, and bringing fresh ideas to climate action. Women are showing that climate leadership is not only about representation, but about creating solutions that put people, communities, and nature at the center.

When women lead, climate action often becomes more inclusive, collaborative, and responsive to real community needs. This growing momentum gives me confidence that the future of climate leadership will be stronger, more innovative, and more just."



FE ESPERANZA TRAMPE
Environmental Lawyer
Philippines

Our increasingly globalized world now sees women leaders at the forefront of climate science, policy, and decision-making. Innovations brought about by the historical circumstances women faced have yielded tangible results in the past few years.

In Mexico, a former climate scientist has stepped up as president, paving the way for climate financing that allows one of the world's largest economies to shift their climate efforts away from critical insufficiency. In Barbados, it is the prime minister herself who leads the global fight against climate change, holding down the CVF Presidency for 74 of the most climate vulnerable states.

It is clear that the innate leadership skills of women are what we need to move forward. As these women illustrate, the future of women in climate leadership is a guiding light through the tunnel as wars pair themselves with the planetary crisis. Women know what to do. They just need the steering wheel.



CARLYN A. DIAZ
Director III, Department of Finance
Philippines

What gives me hope about the future of women in climate leadership is seeing more women take on active roles in climate action. As someone who is still learning and deepening my own understanding of climate issues, it is encouraging to see many women across governments, communities, and other sectors helping shape the conversation and pushing for meaningful actions. It is also encouraging to see stronger efforts to promote gender equality in climate action. This is opening more opportunities for women to contribute to areas such as climate finance and policy.

For me, seeing more women step forward reminds me that climate leadership can become more inclusive and more in touch with the real needs of communities. And when more voices are part of the conversation, we can build stronger solutions to climate change.



SADIA JAHAN ROTHİ
Board Director, Eco-Network Global
Bangladesh

What gives me hope about the future of women in climate leadership is the shift I see in how women are organizing, learning, and building leadership together. Across climate spaces, women are not only participating but also creating platforms, networks, and movements that nurture the next generation of leaders.

I am inspired by the growing culture of mentorship and solidarity among women in climate action. Experienced professionals, grassroots leaders, and young advocates are increasingly supporting one another by sharing knowledge, opening doors, and amplifying each other's voices. This collective leadership approach strengthens the climate movement and ensures that progress does not depend on individuals alone, but on strong communities of women working together.

This spirit of collaboration and mutual support gives me confidence that women's leadership in climate action will continue to grow stronger, more connected, and more transformative in the years ahead.

THE GENDERED LENS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The climate crisis is not gender-neutral. While it touches every life, women and girls bear the

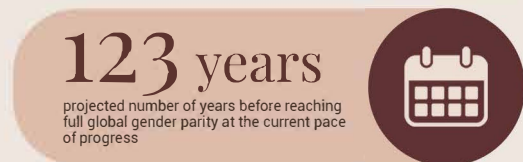
heaviest burden because of deep-rooted inequalities that limit access to resources, opportunity, and power. This snapshot brings the data into focus, revealing both the scale of inequality and the transformative power of women's leadership, and why gender-responsive climate action is essential to the future we must build together.



Disproportionate Impacts on Women and Girls


Climate change magnifies existing inequalities. With fewer resources, less access to land and finance, and limited decision-making power, women and girls face greater exposure to climate shocks. What begins as an environmental crisis quickly becomes a crisis of safety, stability, and survival.

These negatives are layered on the fact that the vast majority of the world's poor are female. The socio-economic consequences of climate-driven inequities serve to compound the plight of women and girls, pushing them to the margins of global society and economy.




¹World Economic Forum (2025): [Global Gender Gap Report 2025](#)

²UN Women (2025): [Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2025](#)




80% of people
displaced by climate change are women and girls³


Women and children are **14x more likely to die** during climate disasters⁴



+236M women pushed into food insecurity under a high-warming climate scenario, compared to 131 million more men⁵



28% rise in femicide and intimate partner for every 1°C increase in temperature⁶




Water and Food Insecurity, Energy Poverty, and Invisible Burdens

As climate pressures intensify, so do the invisible burdens carried by women and girls. Longer journeys for water, rising food insecurity, and deepening energy poverty translate into more unpaid care work and fewer opportunities for education, income, and leadership. Beyond the economic toll, the stress of a changing climate spills over into the home; what begins as a crop failure or a heatwave frequently escalates into a crisis of safety, where the risk of violence and exploitation rises alongside the temperature.



250M hours/day collective spent by women and girls collecting water⁷

2 in 3 households rely on women for water access⁸




50 hrs/week average time spent by women and girls fetching firewood, cooking, and collecting water⁹

Women-Led Solutions

Despite systemic barriers, women are driving climate solutions in communities, economies, and governments. Their leadership strengthens resilience, accelerates innovation, and delivers more sustainable outcomes for all.




Up to 30% increase in yields when women farmers have equal access to resources, potentially lifting 100–150 million people out of hunger¹⁰


More women in parliaments result in a greater likelihood of ratifying environmental treaties¹¹



More women in corporate leadership (30% or more) correlates with significantly greater transparency and more aggressive climate mitigation strategies¹²



More women in local community forest groups show significantly better forest conservation and regeneration outcomes¹³



³UN Climate Change (2024/2025): Why Women are Key to Climate Action

⁴Ibid.

⁵UNICEF (2023/2024): The Burden of Water Collection

⁶Ibid.

⁷World Bank (2025): Unleashing opportunities for women in Africa with access to energy

⁸UN Women (2025): Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2025

⁹The Lancet Planetary Health (2024–2025 studies): Climate Change and Gender-Based Violence

¹⁰FAO (2024): The Status of Women in Agrifood Systems

¹¹UN Women (2025): The Gender Snapshot 2025

¹²BloombergNEF & Sasakawa Peace Foundation (2020): Gender Diversity and Climate Innovation

¹³Bina Agarwal (2009): Gender and forest conservation: The impact of women's participation in community forest governance

REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Gender-Responsive Climate Action in Bangladesh and Kenya

The worsening impacts of climate change are exposing gaps in financial and social systems while reshaping societies, with women often on the frontlines—managing households, securing resources, and caring for families under growing stress. The crisis exacerbates existing gender inequalities, yet women’s voices are largely missing from the policies meant to protect them. Without a gender-focused approach, millions of women and girls risk being pushed into extreme poverty, amplifying social and economic disparities worldwide.

A gender snapshot published by UN Women showed that failure to take a gender-just and rights-based approach to climate change will push up to 158.3 million more women and girls into extreme poverty. Less than one percent of gender-specific allocable overseas development assistance from the Development Assistance Committee was committed to women’s rights organizations in 2022-2023. The snapshot also reported that national climate plans lack women’s perspectives, with only 39 percent of countries having created gender-specific coordination mechanisms and task forces. Among these nations are Bangladesh and Kenya.

Women’s inclusion in climate initiatives across Bangladesh gained momentum back in 2013 when the Climate Change and Gender Action Plan was first released. This broadened the space in which women could interject their perspectives on climate and the environment, providing them with equal access and participation in discussions of social issues as men.

To date, Bangladesh’s commitment to gender inclusion remains steadfast, as exemplified in its submission of the updated Climate Change and Gender Action Plan. This new document identified six sector-specific issues shaped by gender dynamics: natural resources, livelihood, infrastructure and settlement, women’s leadership, gender-response implementation, and capacity building. The updated plan also proposed cross-cutting priority actions to promote gender balance and women’s participation in the country’s climate change solutions.

For Kenya, its National Gender and Climate Change Action Plan was the country’s first stand-alone blueprint on gender and climate change in response to the inadequate implementation of gender-responsive policies. The plan intends to strengthen the capacity of vulnerable groups, especially women, in climate actions across disaster risk management, food and nutrition security, water, fisheries and the blue economy, forestry, wildlife and tourism, health and human settlements, manufacturing, energy, and transport.





The Kenya government also established a Climate Change Unit under the State Department for Gender Affairs and Affirmative Action to ensure gender lens inclusion in climate-related initiatives and innovations.

The climate change and gender action plans from Bangladesh and Kenya prove that gender inclusion and climate can mutually co-exist. Discourse on gender equality is not isolated from climate talks, but rather a reinforcing pillar that elevates the situation of vulnerable populations in developing nations.

Women at the Core of Cambodia's Green Economy Revolution

Cambodia recognizes women's leadership as a robust accelerator of green economic development as the country approaches graduation from Least Developed Country status in 2029, seeking higher productivity, diversified growth, and greater uptake of green digitalization. Women are rising beyond perceptions of vulnerability, positioning themselves as champions of climate prosperity and sustainable development.

Today, women in the country hold 14.6 percent of parliamentary seats, 42 percent of the civil service workforce, and 28 percent of the civil service decision-making bodies. This represents progress in Cambodia's gender inclusion undertaking.

For Cambodia, empowering women goes beyond participation. It is about creating more

spaces for innovation and leadership. Women comprise more than half of the country's population, making them crucial to Cambodia's future economic progress. Women-owned enterprises account for 70% of firms in the country, many of which are classified as microenterprises—the backbone of economies. However, a report by the Asian Development Bank revealed that limited access to information, skills and knowledge gaps, uncertain economic benefits, financial constraints, and owners' mindsets are key barriers to digital and green adoption in the sector. Recommendations include structural analysis and reinforced policy implementation to address gendered barriers—provisions that Neary Rattanak VI seeks to achieve.

As a dedicated national gender strategy, Neary Rattanak VI focuses on women in leadership and climate change. It aims to strengthen policy support and innovative programs to promote women's leadership capacity in schools, communities, and workplaces. The plan encourages national and sub-national investments in boosting women's productivity by scaling up digital skills and technical capacity, as well as promoting gender-just social cohesion and human capital.

Neary Rattanak VI also aligns gender and sustainability together, mainstreaming the critical role of women in advancing sustainable development and green industrialization. With the increasing number of women-owned enterprises in the country, their environmental awareness and ecological consciousness are vital to revolutionizing Cambodia's green economy and industry.

The country intends to unfold its full economic and social potential by upholding gender equality across all its sectors, creating favorable conditions for Cambodia's development and prosperity.

Ni-Vanuatu Women Lead Disaster Response and Climate Action

Vanuatu is among the nations most vulnerable to the climate crisis. These environmental shifts often worsen existing socioeconomic gaps, disproportionately pushing women toward poverty and marginalization. Despite these challenges, Ni-Vanuatu women have emerged as resilient leaders, transforming how their communities prepare for and recover from disasters.

The roots of this leadership began in 2015, following the devastation of Cyclone Pam. The Vanuatu Department of Women's Affairs, supported by ActionAid, established "knowledge centers" to provide a safe space for ni-Vanuatu women and girls, including those with disabilities, to identify their protection needs and find short- and long-term solutions to ensure self-resilience. This initiative evolved into Women I TokTok Tugeta (WITTT), a locally-led network of over 9,000 women across five islands.

One of the most successful innovations of this movement is the Women Wetem Weta (Women

Weather Watch) system. Recognizing that traditional disaster warnings often failed to reach the most isolated community members, WITTT members took charge of the communication chain. Using SMS, VHF radio, and phone trees, women provide local, real-time weather updates to their communities. They ensure that warnings reach the elderly, people with disabilities, and those in remote areas who are often overlooked by conventional systems. Beyond communication, the network has audited and improved evacuation centers to ensure they are safe, accessible, and gender-responsive.

Climate resilience is inseparable from economic security. The intensifying impacts of climate change have also prompted the network to expand into sustainable energy solutions.

In the community of Lawital, WITTT spearheaded a solar energy project that now powers 115 households and 10 public spaces. By training local women to install and maintain these solar systems, the project has provided clean energy to 800 people while creating new technical roles for women, effectively dismantling local gender stereotypes.

The strength of movements like WITTT lies in women's lived experiences, woven into the broader fabric of social cohesion and resilience. Today, the network continues to break barriers, transforming societal stereotypes into opportunities—for themselves and their communities.



Pacific Women and the Call for Climate Justice

This Women's Month, we honor the pivotal role Pacific women played in bringing climate justice to the world's highest court.

When island nations and regional allies presented their case before the International Court of Justice, women leaders, lawyers, and youth advocates were instrumental in building arguments that led to a landmark 2025 [Advisory Opinion](#) affirming states' obligations to protect the climate and human rights.

The campaign began years earlier with a call from the Government of Vanuatu and the youth movement [Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change \(PISFCC\)](#). Over time, the initiative evolved into a coordinated regional campaign. Governments, regional organizations, civil society groups, faith leaders, feminist movements, and youth advocates worked together to present climate change as a question of international law and human rights.

Pacific women were central to this effort. Women leaders, lawyers, advocates, and young activists helped shape legal submissions and amplify the realities of climate change across Pacific communities. According to the [Pacific Women Lead \(PWL\)](#), gender perspectives were a prominent feature of the Pacific's contributions to the Court. Of the 14 Pacific Island countries and territories, eleven submitted written statements and thirteen presented oral arguments. More than half included gender analysis, with several submissions highlighting

the disproportionate impacts of climate change on women and girls.

Women were also highly visible in court. Seven delegations featured women presenters, three were entirely female, and video testimonies brought Pacific women's lived experiences into the proceedings.

Cynthia Houniuihi, PISFCC President, [took the stage](#) to speak on behalf of the youth, "Those who stand to lose are the future generations. Their future is uncertain, reliant upon the decision-making of a handful of large-emitting States which, as my colleagues explained, are responsible for climate change. These States have not only enabled but proactively encouraged the production and consumption of fossil fuels and continue to do so today."

Margaretha Wewerinke-Singh, legal counsel for Vanuatu and the Melanesian spearhead group, demanded that the Court also establish the legal consequences of harming other states. She [argued](#) that polluting nations should cease that conduct: "This means not only stopping actions that fuel the fire—such as expanding, and providing subsidies for fossil fuels—but also dismantling the systemic structures that drive emissions."

For Pacific women, climate change is not an abstract legal issue. Women are often at the forefront of sustaining families, safeguarding food systems, and preserving cultural knowledge while also facing heightened risks from climate-related displacement and resource scarcity.

The ruling is a milestone for accountability, climate finance, and support for vulnerable communities. At its heart, however, are the Pacific women whose vision, courage, and leadership turned a regional campaign into a global movement. Moving forward, their voices and advocacy will continue to shape the fight for climate justice, safeguarding both the environment and the future of generations to come.

Costa Rica's "Más Mujer, Más Natura"

A transformative initiative from the heart of Central America proves that environmental conservation and gender equality are two sides of the same coin.

Costa Rica's Más Mujer, Más Natura (More Women, More Nature) program is rewriting the script for rural empowerment. Launched in 2020 as a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAIE), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Office of the First Vice President, the program addresses a long-standing paradox: while women are often the primary stewards of local biodiversity, they frequently lack the land titles and capital to access traditional conservation incentives.

Historically, many environmental incentives in Costa Rica, such as the Payment for Environmental Services (PES), were tied strictly to land ownership. Since women in rural areas are less likely to hold formal titles, they were

often excluded from the very funds designed to reward forest protection.

Más Mujer, Más Natura changes this through three strategic financial pillars:

- **FONAFIFO Credit:** A specialized credit line for rural women with fixed low interest rates, specifically designed for forestry projects, sustainable agriculture, and equipment.
- **Mujeres Natura Credit:** A financing mechanism offered by Fundecooperación that provides up to CRC 10 million with flexible guarantees, aimed at ecotourism, natural cosmetics, and waste management.
- **Prioritization in PES:** For the first time, the state has adjusted its scoring system to prioritize women-led applications for forest protection payments, effectively "fast-tracking" their participation in the national carbon-neutrality goal.

The program is more than just a financial tool; it is a recognition of expertise. By supporting ventures such as organic honey production, indigenous textile weaving, and sustainable "nature-based" tourism, Costa Rica is ensuring that women are not just beneficiaries of development but also its architects.

As of early 2026, the program has evolved into the +Natura +Rural initiative, which is currently expanding its reach into the Brunca Region. With a projected investment of over 2 billion colones through 2030, the government aims to benefit



hundreds more women, particularly those in vulnerable and Afro-descendant communities.

By bridging the gap between gender and climate finance, Costa Rica has become a global reference point. The program demonstrates that when you invest in a woman's "green" business, you aren't just protecting a forest but also strengthening a family, diversifying the local economy, and securing the planet's future.



As we close this edition, we extend our sincere appreciation to the countries, partners, and the countless women and men whose dedication, leadership, and everyday actions are advancing a more just and inclusive future.

Your efforts are helping ensure that the skills, talents, and voices of all people are recognized and fully utilized in the fight against climate change.

Together, by working across communities, sectors, and generations, we move closer to a world where every person can live with dignity, opportunity, and resilience.