

## Ensuring women's access to climate finance: a pilot in Indonesia

### Introduction

The Board of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) has adopted policies over the last two years for the fund to strive to a funding allocation balance between mitigation and adaptation, to promoting environmental, social, economic and development co-benefits and to take a gender-sensitive approach.



While gender equity and local access are principles of the GCF, the challenge is to assure that local actors and women-led groups are facilitated to access climate financing. Therefore it is of crucial importance that intermediaries begin to be accredited: organisations who can propose small-grants programmes to the GCF with the aim to serve local and women-led groups that work on women rights and environmental issues. Strong fiduciary standards, a good track record and nomination by the national government are needed in order to get accreditation. However, the application process for accreditation by the GCF is still a black box for the women's rights movement and for small grants funds all over the world.

### Project objectives



The Samdhana Institute and Both ENDS are working together to pilot a project showing what are the practical steps for applying for GCF direct access accreditation, in order to propose a programme to the GCF, aiming at small grants to strengthen women's resilience to climate change. This project also aims to disseminate learning's to other intermediaries able to facilitate grassroots women's and environmental groups participation in climate finance.

### About Samdhana Institute

The Samdhana Institute is a South-East Asian small grants organization with strong connections to Indonesian grassroots environmental and women's groups, with national offices in Indonesia and the Philippines. Its vision is for a region where natural, cultural and spiritual diversity are valued and environmental conflicts are resolved peacefully,

with justice and equity for all parties. Achieving this requires that communities who directly manage their local natural resources, local and indigenous peoples have clear rights, have ready recourse to justice, have strong and skilled leadership, as well as stable financial resources and access to appropriate technical support.

### The Samdhana Institute

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In 2014, Samdhana disbursed 70 grants to CBOs and CSOs in Indonesia, 20 of those aiming to strengthen resilience to climate change (grants ranging from \$5000 to \$10 000). The grants supported a wide range of activities, efforts on furthering, securing and (re) gaining community rights over natural resources (forest, and coastal areas), using evidence like participatory maps as well as aid on legal issues. Grants also helped show models for effective and sustained ecosystem management and rehabilitation efforts, useful for climate change mitigation/adaptation, with local CBOs and CSOs working collaboratively with local government officials and local universities/academicians.

Being a recipient of grants from large philanthropic donors such as Ford Foundation, Climate Land Use Alliance, NORAD, IUCN and UNDP, Samdhana has a solid track record and good fiduciary standards. It also has good relations with climate change policy makers in Indonesia.

Samdhana has recently been selected as the National Executing Agency (NEA) by the National Steering Committee (NSC) for the Dedicated Grant Mechanism (DGM) program in Indonesia. The DGM was created in 2011 under World Bank's Forest Investment Program/FIP, and is to provide grants to indigenous peoples and other local communities in pilot countries including Indonesia. Samdhana is working with the NSC to ensure that Samdhana's standard operating procedures and the DGM-I Project Operation Manual (POM) comply with the World Bank standards.

### **About Both ENDS**

Both ENDS is an independent Dutch-based NGO founded in 1986 to support the environmental justice movement in developing countries, amongst others by initiating and supporting small grants facilities. Since GCF's inception in August 2012, Both ENDS and her Southern partners have actively participated in the Board Meetings of the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Together with Southern practitioners we advocate for strong policies on local access, gender, country ownership and multi-stakeholder engagement in the overall GCF-negotiations.

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