



GLOBAL GREENGRANTS FUND



2018  
Annual Report  
25<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition

Where Change Takes Root

For 25 years, Global Greengrants Fund has supported local efforts to create a world where people live in harmony with nature, in peace with one another, in dignity, and with mutual respect and equity for all. The imminent threat of climate catastrophe upends these balances, making our work more important than ever.

Photo Credit | Martin Westlake





# 25 Years and More

In October 2018, a new report published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change shared evidence that we have just 12 years to prevent climate change from becoming a total climate catastrophe. Urgent action is needed to prevent major drought, heat waves, wildfires, and flooding worldwide.

In 2018 Global Greengrants Fund celebrated our 25th anniversary. Over that time, we have awarded 12,000 grants in 168 countries worldwide totaling \$84 million. Each of these grants has supported a grassroots organization, helping those on the frontlines of environmental and social injustices implement effective solutions. Together these hundreds of groups are part of a global movement of grassroots action that represents the greatest investment in the future of our planet.

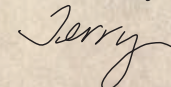
From saving hectares of rainforest in the Amazon to developing climate resilience strategies in the Pacific Islands, the wide range of projects we have supported over the past 25 years has built the foundation for a global movement of action on climate.

There is no one solution to climate change. As I see the breadth, diversity, and creativity of action being taken by local groups around the world, I have never believed more strongly in the power of grassroots solutions and the work of Global Greengrants. We are getting money into the hands of those most impacted by climate chaos, yet who are least responsible. Our support enables committed local action which inspires widespread changes across the globe. It is local solutions that will be the most successful

when government policies and international resources fail to trickle down to the frontlines. They will have greater success because communities are more invested in the solutions they develop to solve their problems as opposed to those handed to them from above.

It is clear that the work of Global Greengrants is becoming more important each and every day, and so is the support of our greater global network. It is thanks to each donor, grantee, advisor, coordinator, staff member, and board member that our work over the past 25 years has been made possible. I hope that together we can continue to mobilize resources to the frontlines and protect people and our planet.

In solidarity,



**Terry Odendahl | President & CEO**





“Being part of Global Greengrants Fund has been natural for me because all of my adult life I’ve been an environmental justice activist. It is quite clear that even the biggest environmental challenges need to be tackled from the grassroots. Small dots add up to make up the big picture, and fighting for justice at different places in the world on different issues all add up to a movement for justice globally. And this is what Global Greengrants supports.”

— Nnimmo Bassey | Co-Chair of the Board of Directors

“One of the reasons that I choose to support Global Greengrants Fund, and have for many years, is the fact that each grant, while localized, impacts each community in more than one way. I’ve seen that while working towards climate justice, a community can also protect and pass on indigenous knowledge and traditions, improve access to clean drinking water, and strengthen the role of women as leaders in preserving essential ecosystems.”

—Elizabeth Weber | Long-term Donor



# The IMPACT

## 2018 BY THE NUMBERS

934 TOTAL # OF GRANTS | TOTAL NUMBER OF COUNTRIES 99

\$7,473,269 TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED

## 5 Areas of Focus

We catalyze grassroots-level solutions by putting resources directly in the hands of the best stewards of our environment – local people. The groups we support work on every pressing environmental issue around the globe which fit broadly into five areas of focus: climate justice, right to land, water, and resources, women’s environmental action, healthy ecosystems and communities, and local livelihoods.

These areas are also interconnected, meaning that each contribution made to Global Greengrants Fund supports grassroots-led work that benefits people and planet in multiple ways. Not only does a grant support a group working to achieve climate justice, it also improves access to sustainable local livelihoods and a healthier, more resilient ecosystem.

OUR IMPACT OVER 25 Years

OVER 12,000 GRANTS | IN 168 COUNTRIES

TOTAL AMOUNT OF MONEY AWARDED \$84 MILLION

24 CURRENT ADVISORY BOARDS | WITH 145 ADVISORS

63 GOLDMAN ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE WINNERS 

## WHERE THE GRANTS WENT IN 2018

Climate Justice 51.5%

Right to Land, Water, and Resources 49%

Women’s Environmental Action 66%

Healthy Ecosystems and Communities 77%

Local Livelihoods 36%

Percents represent percent of grants by # of grants made





# Climate Justice

## HOW GRASSROOTS ACTIVISTS ARE TAKING ON THE WORLD'S MOST PRESSING CHALLENGES FROM THE BOTTOM UP.

As the world continues to warm, those with the least economic, political, and social power are the most impacted and the least responsible for the cause. Global Greengrants Fund supports locally-led environmental and social justice work around the world because we believe that local people have the best solutions to the problems they face in their backyards.

**51.5%** of grantmaking  
in 2018

### FOREST PROTECTION IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

In the 1980s, the Congo government forcibly seized the Kahuzi Biega Forest, evicting the Batwa Pygmy who lived there, and sold the healthy forest land to mining and logging companies. Since evicting the pygmies from their homes, the forest cover has reduced by an astonishing 40%.

A group of community members took it upon themselves to educate locals about their rights – and the Kivu Indigenous Peoples Movement (CPAKI) was formed. With funding from Global Greengrants Fund, CPAKI has worked to support indigenous women by raising awareness about the threats to women's rights and sexual violence against women brought by mining concessions.

Emboldened by the strength of their growing movement, Indigenous Mbuti People stood up for their rights and successfully resisted eviction from their territory when the Itombwe National Park was created and now play a co-management role in the area's protection. As a result, Itombwe will be better protected, as well as sustain Mbuti livelihoods.

Protecting the forest in the Democratic Republic of the Congo from logging, allows for 850,000 gigatons of carbon emissions to be absorbed by the natural carbon sink. This is equivalent to all global emissions over FIVE years.



# Right to Land, Water, and Resources

**HOW WE HELP PEOPLE DEFEND THEIR BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS TO LAND, WATER, AND RESOURCES.**

Ongoing contributors to global carbon emissions are the mining operations, oil extraction, hydroelectric dams, and other large-scale projects. By awarding resources directly to local groups, we help activists resist harmful development projects, seek legal support, and increase awareness of the threats these projects pose to their communities and way of life.

**49%** of grantmaking  
in 2018

## **VICTORY IN CANADA**

On August 30, 2018, the Canadian Court of Appeals overturned the approval of the highly controversial Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Oil Pipeline, siding unanimously with indigenous groups who have been fighting the project for years. Citing the government's failure to consult with First Nations communities, the Court ruled to stop the expansion of the project indefinitely.

The decision is a momentous – and long-awaited – victory for activists across Canada who have been resisting the environmentally detrimental tar sands project for years. Many of these activists are Global Greengrants Fund grantees: we have awarded seven grants totaling \$220,000 to groups defending their legal rights.



# Women's Environmental Action

**WOMEN ARE ON THE FRONTLINES OF ACTION TO PROTECT THE EARTH.**

Climate change and subsequent damage to water, land, and clean air impacts women disproportionately. Global Greengrants Fund supports over 300 women-led projects per year to protect the planet, making us one of the top organizations in the world supporting women's environmental-action initiatives.

**66%** of grantmaking  
in 2018

Mariluz, of the Federation of Kukama Women Workers, on the Marañón River, which she is fighting to protect.

## PEOPLE OF THE RIVER

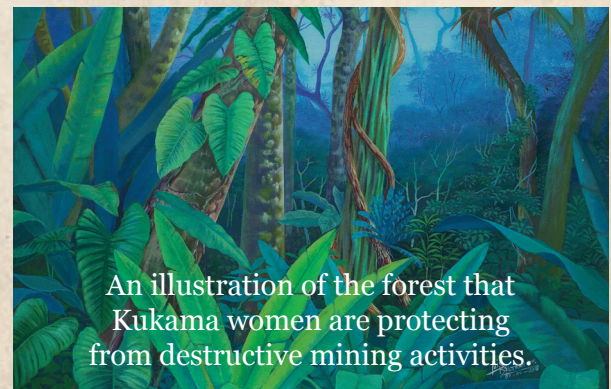
For decades, the Indigenous Kukama people, who call the banks of Peru's Marañón River home, have been fighting to protect the river, their main source of water, from extractive industries and contamination that will poison the community.

The Federation of Kukama Women Workers is a group working to promote the rights of Kukama women and Kukama culture, serving to protect the local environment. The group, using money from Global Greengrants Fund, has produced a series of audio-visual and written materials on the importance of Amazonian rivers and forests, and the role of the Kukama people as guardians of the rainforest. The group also produced a book titled, *Karuara, the People of the River* to educate others and promote environmental awareness.

The community is now facing the construction of a waterway to open up a commercial transportation route between the Atlantic and the Pacific using the rivers of the Amazon. The river will be dredged to deepen it, destroying ecosystems, and the waterway will bring large, polluting commercial ships. As the river holds enormous cultural and spiritual significance in Kukama culture, the destruction of the river for the project will also mean the destruction of the Kukama culture and way of life. Global Greengrants Fund has awarded \$5,000 to the Federation of Kukama Women's Workers to create a video and spread information about the impact of the proposed project.

## SPOTLIGHT

In 2018, Global Greengrants and Prospera International Network of Women's Funds released *Our Voices, Our Environment: The State of Funding for Women's Environmental Action*. The publication is the first ever comprehensive mapping of funding in support of women's environmental action. It includes case studies and success stories of women-led environmental projects, and guidance from women's rights activists for funders that want to strengthen their existing grantmaking and take further action.



An illustration of the forest that Kukama women are protecting from destructive mining activities.



# Healthy Ecosystems and Communities

WHY WE INVEST IN LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO PROTECT AND RESTORE ECOSYSTEMS AND WAYS OF LIFE.

Water, soil, and air quality is damaged by a rise in toxins, pollutants, and extractive industries, negatively impacting indigenous and local communities. Global Greengrants Fund grantees are making an effort to restore and protect land, biodiversity, water, and the health of their families.

77% of grantmaking in 2018

Photo credit | Babawale Obayemi

“The seed cash from Global Greengrants Fund empowered us to embark on the project and this has afforded the women the opportunity to display their talents, tenacity, creativity and productivity with just a little support.”

— Martha Agbani | Executive Director of Lokiaka Community Development Centre

## WOMEN, MANGROVES, AND CLEAN WATER

Standing on the shorelines of the oil-coated creeks of Ogoniland in Nigeria’s Niger Delta, it is hard to imagine that the environment can ever be clean again. A look across the creek reveals scattered stumps of cut or burnt mangroves – all thanks to pollution from crude oil extraction activities.

In 1993, Ogoni people expelled Shell from their territory, halting oil extraction. In 2011, the United Nations Environmental Programme released a report on the gross pollution of Ogoniland. It was reported that, because of the oil extraction, all water was polluted and emergency actions should be taken to provide people with clean water. Yet seven years later, the local people continued to drink the contaminated water. It was time to take matters into their own hands.

A group of women is un-deterred by the ongoing obstacles they face. Using funding from Global Greengrants Fund, the women of Ogoni and Lokiaka Women Development Center are developing a nursery of mangrove seedlings and native fruit trees, and replanting the destroyed mangrove forests and generating incomes from the fruit. After clean up begins, the mangroves will be planted, revitalizing devastated fish populations and waterways that the locals depend on.

The women of Ogoni and Lokiaka Women Development Centre are driven by the Ogoni spirit of determination to beat gender discrimination, be economically independent and to be a part of history even before it unfolds. This is the foresight of the groups of women developing nurseries of mangrove saplings even before the long-awaited clean-up of Ogoniland begins.



# Local Livelihoods

**LOCAL LIVELIHOODS ARE NOT JUST ABOUT INCOME, BUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ECONOMY, PEOPLE, AND PLACE.**

The rapid increase in industrial development, resource extraction, and globalized markets threaten traditional ways of life and upset the balance between the environment and local economy. At Global Greengrants Fund we invest in farmers, fisherfolk, beekeepers, and artisans committed to restoring the environment.

**36%** of grantmaking in 2018

Photo Credit | Martin Westlake

## SEEDS OF CHANGE

In East Flores, Indonesia, community leader Maria Loretha spent months travelling around remote villages and talking to the elders before she eventually found the native sorghum seed varieties that used to grow prolifically in the region. The ancient crop had all but died out on the volcanic island of Flores after successive governments encouraged farmers to grow commercial white rice varieties instead, which have less nutrients than the native sorghum.

The difficulty for the communities of East Flores was that the changing weather patterns left them with little or no rain to support the growth of their rice crops. Despite tons of chemical fertilizers, successive crops failed and the local families were left hungry, in debt, and faced with the prospect of leaving to become migrant workers in order to survive.

Instead, Maria Loretha found another way. Using \$4,790 from Global Greengrants Fund, in partnership with The Samdhana Institute, our sister fund in Indonesia, she mobilized the women of her community, Likotuden, to plant 30 acres of sorghum using the old seed varieties she had collected from the elders.

The experiment in Likotuden was so successful that it has now expanded to other parts of Indonesia. For the women of Likotuden, sorghum has become a route to independence, allowing them to break free from a reliance on chemical fertilizers and pesticides, from the devastating impact of drought, and the cycle of poverty.







# Safety and Security

Berta Caceres, an environmental defender from Honduras, and Greengrants grant recipient, was murdered in 2016 for her efforts to protect the rights and land of the Lenca people.

Photo Credit | Goldman Environmental Prize

The human rights of environmental activists throughout the world remain at risk. The stories of these human rights violations often follow the same pattern -land and natural resources are taken from local communities by governments or private interests looking to make a profit.

We remain committed to making flexible funding available to those in our network who are under threat. Along with the Funders' Initiative for Civil Society, Global Greengrants Fund co-founded a working group for environmental defenders to address safety and security issues. Last year, Global Greengrants provided over \$120,000 in grants supporting activists under threat for protecting their environments. Examples of the types of support provided include:

- ◎ Improving the transportation of activists under threat as they travel to hearings to protect territorial rights.
- ◎ Bolstering security measures for a local organization fighting a crackdown on environmental activism by the national government.
- ◎ Holding meetings among community members divided by mining interests that are seeking control over collective land.



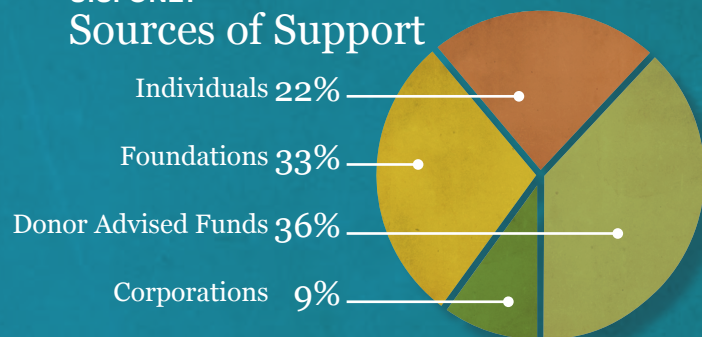
# FINANCIALS

audited

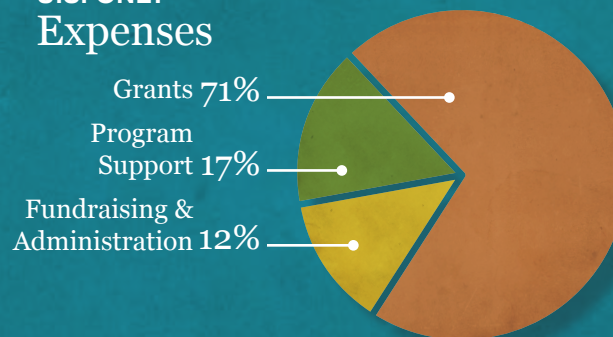
For U.S. and European operations in  
fiscal year ending June 30, 2018.

	FY2017	FY2018	U.S. ONLY FY2017	U.S. ONLY FY2018
<b>Revenue &amp; Support</b>	\$9,246,296	\$11,886,570	\$8,337,343	\$11,058,116
<b>Expenses</b>				
Grants	\$7,962,273	\$7,459,668	\$7,394,224	\$6,921,479
Program support & services	\$2,215,312	\$2,123,373	\$1,857,537	\$1,622,432
Total program expenses	\$10,177,585	\$9,583,041	\$9,251,761	\$8,543,911
Fundraising & Administration	\$1,293,035	\$1,035,807	\$1,225,313	\$1,150,293
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$11,470,620	\$10,618,848	\$10,477,074	\$9,694,204
<b>Total Assets</b>	\$8,700,888	\$9,991,945	\$8,294,355	\$9,509,822
Liabilities	\$164,484	\$178,613	\$129,209	\$58,706
Unrestricted net assets	\$4,260,933	\$4,967,460	\$4,103,308	\$4,792,723
Temporarily restricted net assets	\$4,275,471	\$4,845,872	\$4,061,838	\$4,658,393
Net Assets	\$8,536,404	\$9,813,332	\$8,165,146	\$9,451,116
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	\$8,700,888	\$9,991,945	\$8,294,355	\$9,509,822

## U.S. ONLY Sources of Support



## U.S. ONLY Expenses



We are grateful for the generous support of our donors.  
Please visit [greengrants.org](http://greengrants.org) for a list of individuals, foundations,  
and corporations that sponsored our work in 2018.



**GLOBAL GREENGRANTS FUND**

Where change takes root

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