

VERSION 1.

Regional Gender and Climate Change Plan

Coordinator of Territorial Women Leaders of Mesoamerica



COORDINADORA DE MUJERES
LÍDERES TERRITORIALES
DE Mesoamérica



Alianza
Mesoamericana
de Pueblos y Bosques

Facilitated by: CMLT in alliance with Raíces Colectivo.
April 2023



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Table of Contents

Report RGCCP - CMLT

ACRONYMS	4
SECTION I. CONTEXT	
A. CONTEXT	6
B. SOBRE AMPB AND CMLT	7
SECTION II. REGIONAL GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN (RGCCP)	
METHODOLOGY	11
A. EXTERNAL DIMENSION: ADVOCACY AND IMPACT VISIBILITY	
AXIS 1 - GRASSROOTS EMPOWERMENT AND WOMEN'S ADVOCACY IN MESOAMERICA	14
AXIS 2 - STRENGTHENING THE PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY OF WOMEN AND THEIR COMMUNITIES	16
AXIS 3 - MANAGEMENT OF ANCESTRAL CULTURE	18
AXIS 4 - INVESTMENT AND FINANCIAL SECURITY	20
B. INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT	
AXIS 5 - NEW KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT	22
AXIS 6 - GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY	24

ACRONYMS

- **AMPB** Alianza Mesoamericana de Pueblos y Bosques
- **CMLT** Coordinadora de Mujeres Líderes Territoriales de Mesoamérica
- **PGCC** Plan Regional de Género y Cambio Climático
- **CEDAW** Comité para la Eliminación de todas las formas de discriminación contra la mujer
- **IPCC** Panel Intergubernamental de Expertos sobre Cambio Climático
- **ONU** Organización de las Naciones Unidas
- **FAO** Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura
- **PICL** Pueblos indígenas y Comunidades Locales
- **BLIMAT** Organización de Mujeres Indígenas Miskitu de Brus Laguna
- **ANOFCCG** Asociación Nacional de Organizaciones Forestales Comunitarias de Guatemala
- **FEPROAH** Federación de Productores Agroforestales de Honduras
- **ACOFOP** Asociación de Comunidades Forestales de Petén
- **AMARIE** Asociación de Mujeres Artesanas Emberá
- **RIBCA** Red Indígena Bribri y Cabecar
- **RED MOCAF** Red Mexicana De Organizaciones Campesinas Forestales
- **FOMUJER** Fondo Mesoamericano para el Fortalecimiento de Capacidades Políticas y Empresariales de las Mujeres
- **EML** Indígenas y de Comunidades Locales
Escuela Mesoamericana de Liderazgo



01.

Context

A. CONTEXT

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warned that the viability of life on earth depends on measures to be taken over the next seven years to limit the global average temperature to below 1.5°C. Likewise, the AR6 Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2023 concludes that the losses and damages caused by climate change **will disproportionately affect the poorest and most vulnerable populations. Women** in particular **represent 70% of those living in extreme poverty** worldwide.

In the case of indigenous and local women, Amnesty International reports⁶ that 15% of the world's population living in extreme poverty belong to indigenous peoples. **This same population safeguards 80% of the planet's biodiversity.** Our region, Mesoamerica, is home to more than 200 types of ecosystems, 8 thousand kilometers

6- <https://www.amnesty.org/es/what-we-do/indigenous-peoples/#:~:text=La%20discriminaci%C3%B3n%20es%20la%20raz%C3%B3n,desplazamiento%20interno%20que%20otros%20grupos.>

of coastline, 22 eco-regions and between 7% and 10% of all known forms of life on Earth.

Our territories are at the forefront in the defense of biodiversity and in the face of ??? the impact of climate change, which increases violence against women, poverty and conflicts over territory; hindering the achievement of sustainable development objectives and putting at risk our food security, traditional ways of life and even threatening the survival of our cultures.

Faced with this complex and challenging scenario, it is urgent that we create joint strategies to strengthen local empowerment, resilience and risk management processes led by territorial women leaders.

Bundorgan Women's Network, Gunayala Panama





B. ABOUT AMPB AND CMLT

About the Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests (AMPB)

The AMPB is a platform for coordination and exchange between territorial authorities that manage and care for the main forests of Mesoamerica; created with the objective of protecting the forests and rights of indigenous peoples and local communities in the region. It was founded in 2010 and is composed of 11 forestry organizations from: Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama.

AMPB works on two clear advocacy routes: the Community Forest Management agenda and the Territorial Rights agenda. Both are based on the global Climate Change agenda, consolidating important advances towards the protection of forests, advocacy in national, regional and international climate scenarios, and promoting spaces for dialogue and coordination for the implementation of resilience strategies that appropriately integrate the rights and benefits of IPLCs.

About the Coordinator of Territorial Women Leaders of Mesoamerica (CMLT)

At the VIII Annual Assembly of the AMPB in Panama in November 2018, the women who were democratically elected as representatives of their territories, came together to create the Coordinator of Territorial Women Leaders of Mesoamerica (CMLT) with the objective of managing our own agenda.

Estanco Indígena de Trueque Virtual - Talamanca, Costa Rica. Photo: Love for Life

Our lines of work

- Capacity building for indigenous women and from local communities in Mesoamerica.
- Visibilize the impact of losses and damages on indigenous and local communities' women and their livelihoods.
- Preservation of the ancestral knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities.
- Promote the preservation of Ancestral Agriculture.

The CMLT is made up of territorial women leaders who are legitimate representatives of 13 Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) organizations⁶.

CMLT member organizations

1. Women Commission, Mexican Network of Peasant and Forestry Communities (Red MOCAF)
2. Women Commission, Association of Forestry Communities of Peten, Guatemala (ACOFOP)
3. Maya Women Commission, Association of Community Forestry of Guatemala UTZ CHE ´
4. Women's Coordinator, National Association of Forestry and Peaseant Organizations of Guatemala (ANOF CG)
5. Brus Laguna Miskitu Indigenous Women Association BLIMAT, Honduras
6. Miskitu Women Commission, IWHANKA RAYA, Honduras
7. Women Commission, Federation of Producers and Agroforestry Organizations of Honduras (FEPROAH)
8. Mayangna Women's Government, Nicaragua
9. Miskitu Women's Organization, Nicaragua
10. Women Commission, Bribri and Cabecar Indigenous Network, Costa Rica (RIBCA)
11. Kábata Kónana Women's Association, Costa Rica (Guardianas de la Montaña).
12. BUNDORGAN Guna Women's Network, Panamá.
13. Association of Embera Indigenous Women (AMARIE), Panamá.

6.- *PICL is a term used internationally to refer to individuals and communities that are, on the one hand, self-identified as indigenous and, on the other hand, local communities that maintain an intergenerational connection with the territory and natural assets through their ways of life, cultural identity and implementation of ancestral knowledge linked to agroecology. We adopt this term in this plan, recognizing the cultural diversity of our organizations and peoples.*

EXTERNAL DIMENSION:
ADVOCACY AND IMPACT VISIBILITY

Advocacy activities in their territories

Quality of life of indigenous women

Mitigation and conservation strategies for CC

Positioning in national, regional and international dialogue spaces

Implementation of strategies of the gender and climate change plan by indigenous women

TOOLS

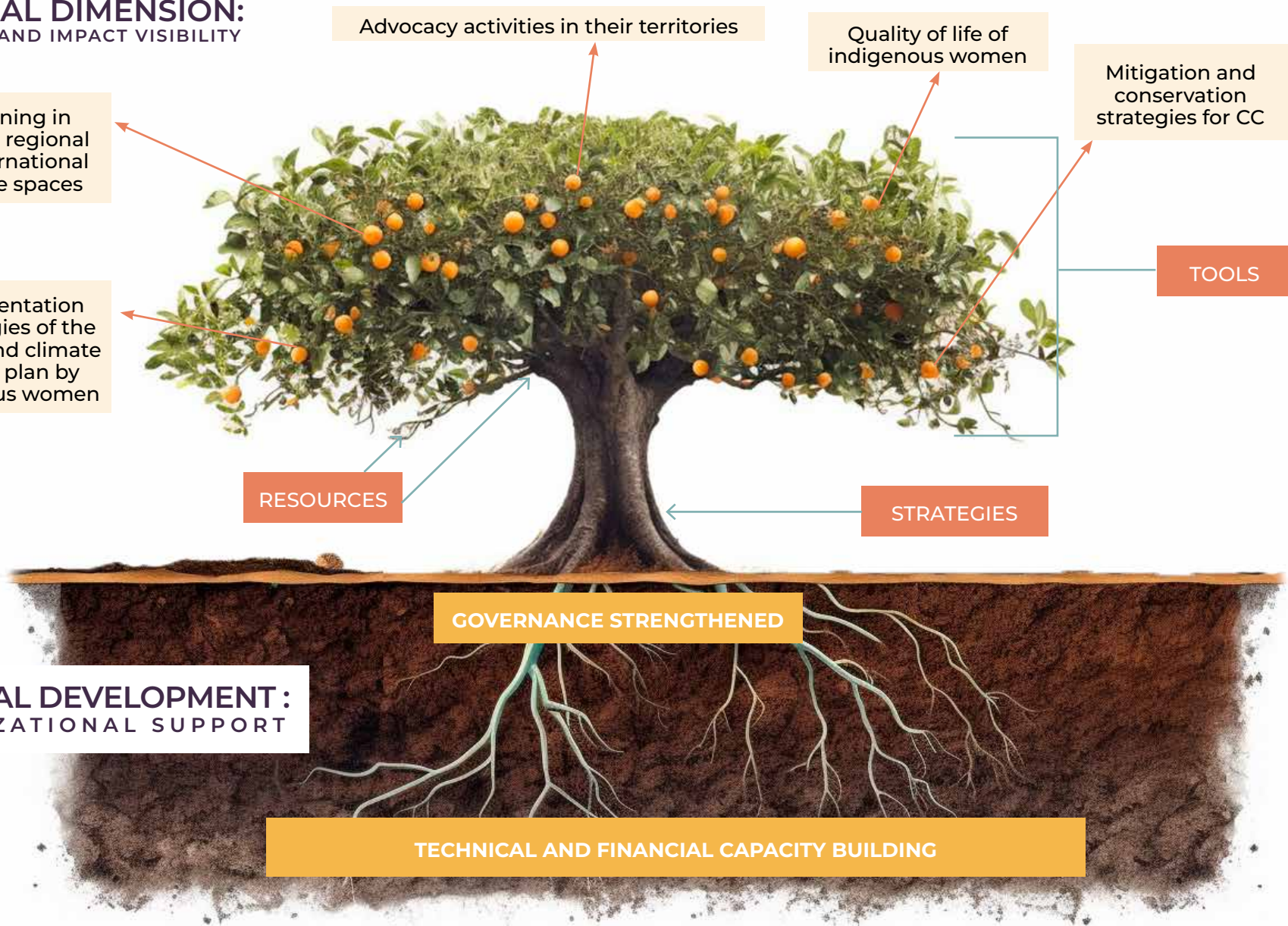
RESOURCES

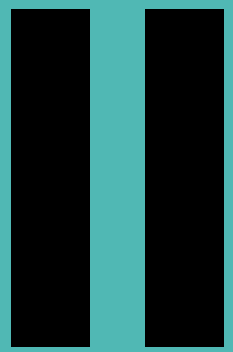
STRATEGIES

GOVERNANCE STRENGTHENED

INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT:
ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT

TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL CAPACITY BUILDING





Regional Gender and Climate Change Plan (RGCCP)

METHODOLOGY

Our Regional Gender and Climate Change Plan (PGCC) was created based on the needs and feelings of indigenous women and local communities' women in Mesoamerica, in an effort to lay the foundations for a multi-sectoral action dialogue for climate justice, focused on four cross-cutting themes: climate resilience, gender equity, cultural diversity and generational exchange.

Our lines of action were developed in a participatory manner, through face-to-face and virtual work sessions over the course of two years. To build each line of work, we began with a process of diagnosis and analysis of the situation in our territories.

In terms of impact, we defined four external axes linked to Advocacy and Visibilization. And three axes in its internal dimension, focused on Technical Strengthening. In each one we developed: strategic guidelines, intermediate and short-term results, indicators and products required for an action plan for the next five years. Our approach is aligned with specific SDG targets, especially with Gender Equality (SDG 5) and Climate Action (SDG 13).



ODS - 5 - GENDER EQUALITY

Objective: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Specific Target 5a: Undertake reforms that give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and management of land and other types of assets, including natural assets, in accordance with the law.

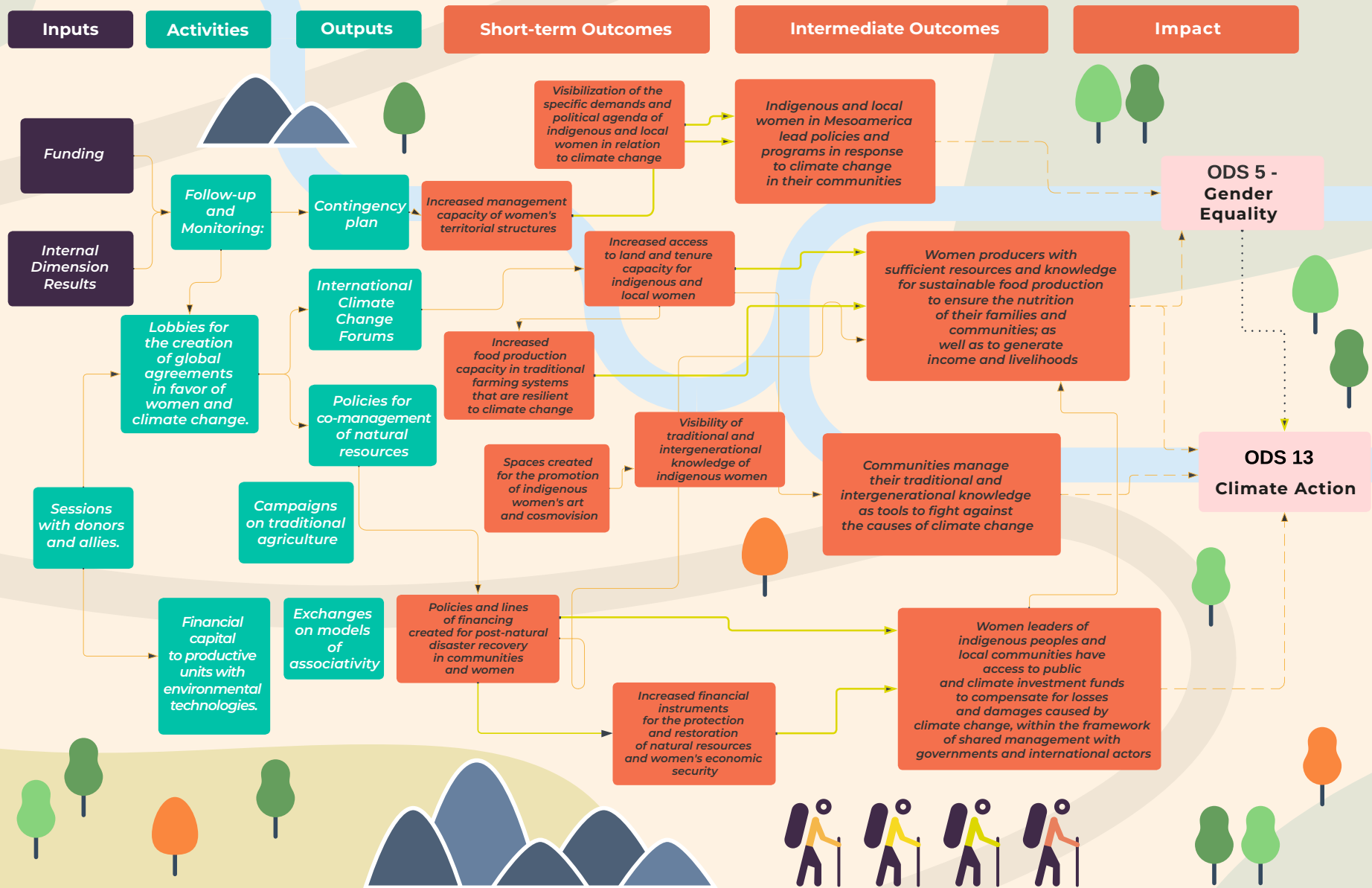


ODS - 13 - CLIMATE ACTION

Objective: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Specific Target 13 b: Promote mechanisms to increase capacity for effective climate change planning and management, with particular emphasis on women, youth, and local and marginalized communities.

OUTCOME FRAMEWORK - CMLT REGIONAL GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN



OUTCOME FRAMEWORK - CMLT REGIONAL GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN



A. EXTERNAL DIMENSION: ADVOCACY AND IMPACT VISIBILITY

“... we need both, because without political advocacy, you can’t make an impact, either socially or economically” - Florita Martínez, territorial leader Talamanca, Costa Rica, RIBCA

Axis 1 - Grassroots Empowerment and Women’s Advocacy in Mesoamerica

This axis is focused on the promotion of gender equality and empowerment as women to lead climate change in the communities; which translates into securing funds and technical resources that allow women to be part of advocacy actions or global dialogue tables, as well as social management activities within indigenous peoples and local communities.

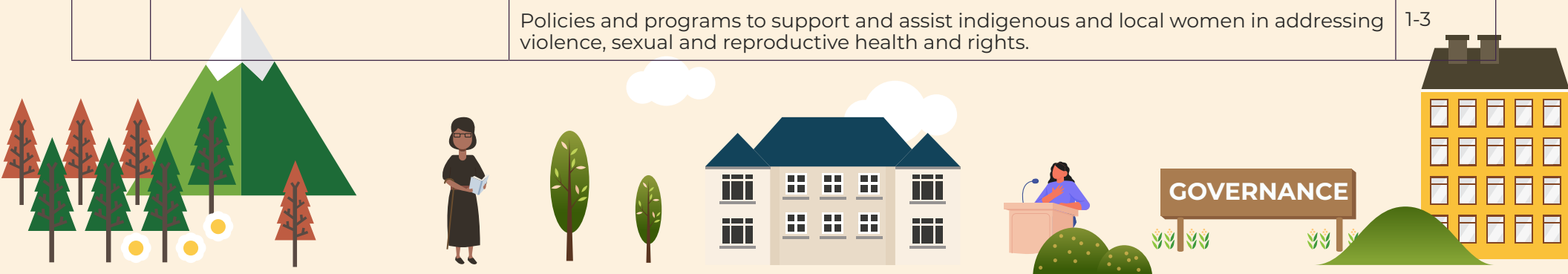
Strategic guidelines

- 🌿 To make visible the demands of indigenous and local women in the face of climate change in global spaces.
- 🌿 Promote women’s participation in decision-making, both at the community level and in broader leadership spaces.
- 🌿 To influence legal and administrative regulations in favor of women and indigenous peoples.
- 🌿 Strengthen territorial commissions in risk and disaster management for the special protection of indigenous and local women.
- 🌿 Promote and demand the human rights of indigenous and local women, mainly those in a greater state of vulnerability, and related to violence, and the health status of women.
- 🌿 Strengthen spaces and mechanisms for the integration of indigenous women leaders in the territories into governance spaces.
- 🌿 Support the articulation of local advocacy processes of indigenous and local women’s organizations.
- 🌿 Strengthen the management of natural resources by women leaders.



GRASSROOTS EMPOWERMENT AND WOMEN'S ADVOCACY IN MESOAMERICA

RI 1		Mesoamerican indigenous and local women lead policies and programs for climate change response in their communities	
Impact indicator		Proportion of women participating in decision making at community, regional and national levels (Indicator 5.5.1 SDG)	
		Proportion of women in leadership positions in local organizations and committees related to environmental and climate change management in communities (Indicator 5.5.2).	
Short Term Results		Products - Action Plan	Year
R1.1	Visibilization of the specific demands and political agenda of indigenous and local women in relation to climate change.	International climate change forums	1-7
		Political statements with donors and allies	1-7
		Global agreements in favor of women and climate change	3 y 5
		Transgenerational leadership training schools	1-7
		Mechanisms for monitoring indigenous and local women's services and livelihoods	1-7
R1.2	Increased management capacity of the territorial structures of indigenous and local women.	Dialogue and coordination with local and national governments	1-7
		Dialogue and coordination with the agricultural sector of the government and municipalities	2-7
		Policies for co-management of natural resources	2-7
		Campaigns and organization of intersectoral commissions for access to justice for indigenous and local women, women defenders and territories.	1-7
		Policies and programs to support and assist indigenous and local women in addressing violence, sexual and reproductive health and rights.	1-3





Axis 2 - Strengthening the productive capacity of women and their communities

Indigenous and local community women lead a wide variety of activities in the sustainable management of natural resources and food production; however, this contribution is not recognized⁶, nor fairly remunerated.

In this regard, during the diagnostic and priority identification sessions, the CMLT discussed that in addition to increasing access to land and resource tenure by indigenous and local women, it is necessary to increase the productive management capacity of the plots led by indigenous women and local communities, promoting models of adaptation and environmental mitigation that are already implemented from the indigenous cosmovision.

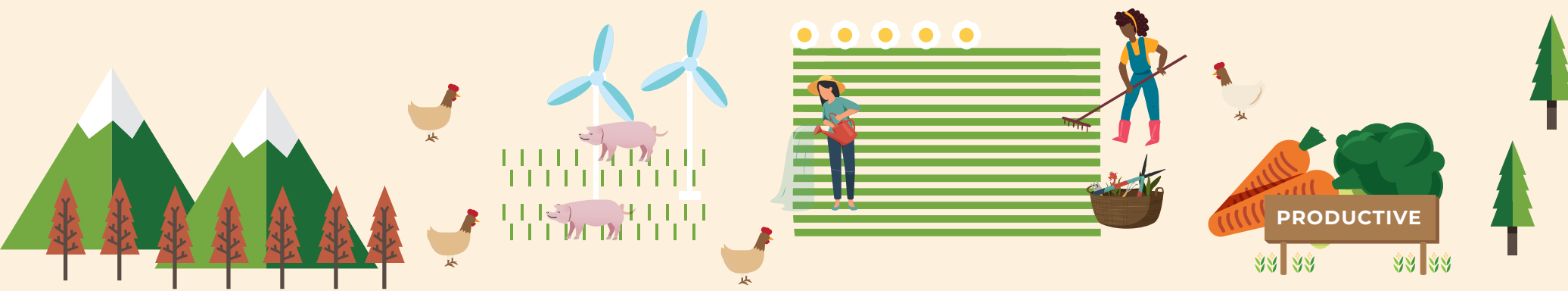
Strategic guidelines

- 🌿 Strengthen knowledge of organizational and productive processes led by indigenous and local women.
- 🌿 To make traditional and cultural knowledge about production and adaptation to climate change more visible.
- 🌿 Strengthen productive and community mitigation actions for the environmental resilience of women and their families.
- 🌿 Promote models of associativity and organized collective production mechanisms for women and families in the territories.
- 🌿 Support the articulation of programs and projects for access to livelihoods and food production.
- 🌿 Facilitate connections for access to environmentally sustainable technologies for vulnerable groups.

6.- Women own only 13% of the world's land, despite the fact that we make up approximately 43% of the agricultural labor force.

STRENGTHENING THE PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY OF WOMEN AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

RI 2 Women producers with sufficient resources and knowledge for the production of their own, family and community food and the generation of income and sustainable livelihoods.			
Impact indicator		Indicator 5.a.1) - Proportion of women who own land and property over other assets, including natural resources, and their capacity to make decisions about them. (Indicator 13.3.2) - Proportion of women participating in projects and programs related to climate change mitigation and adaptation in communities.	
Short-term results		Products - Action Plan	Year
R2.1	Increased access to land and land tenure capacity for indigenous and local women	Exchanges on associativity models	1-3
		Legal training on indigenous rights and territories and access for women	1-3
		Demarcation and legalization of productive land under women's management	3-7
		Watershed management and biodiversity	3-7
R2.2	Increased food production capacity in traditional farming systems adapted to climate change	Training under the peasant-to-peasant apprenticeship model	1-7
		Community livelihoods-based climate change mitigation plans	1-5
		Production of crop varieties resistant to climate change	1-3
		Campaigns on traditional agriculture	1-2
		Community campaigns on healthy and environmental practices	1-5
		Demonstration plots in restorative and traditional agriculture by indigenous and local women	1-2



Axis 3 - Management of ancestral culture

Indigenous and local women play a fundamental role in the rescue and preservation of cultural identity in Mesoamerica ⁶. The management of ancestral culture by indigenous and local women is crucial for the preservation of knowledge about ancestral practices of planting, conservation and management of natural resources, as well as botanical knowledge about medicinal plants.

The plan recognizes and values women's traditional knowledge and know-how and defines a strategic axis aimed not only at recovering indigenous identity but also the need to access modern knowledge and technologies that can also be useful in meeting the challenges of climate change. It therefore seeks to promote a dialogue between different knowledge and technologies in order to find adapted and sustainable solutions.

Strategic guidelines

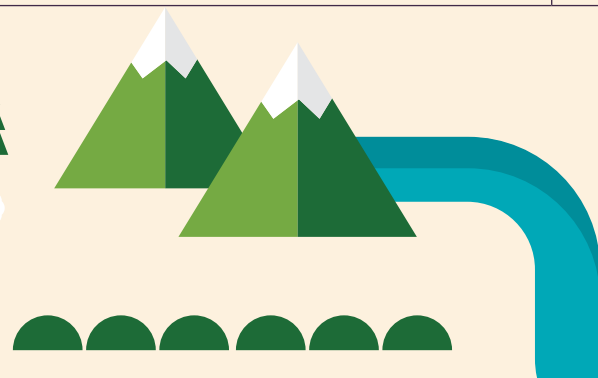
- 🌿 Promote the rescue of traditional medicine and ancestral wisdom in the face of pandemics.
- 🌿 Mobilize spaces for art and promotion of Mesoamerican indigenous identity and culture.
- 🌿 Facilitate spaces for knowledge and dissemination of indigenous languages and intergenerational exchange.
- 🌿 Promote ancestral cultural practices in the preservation and safeguarding of seeds.
- 🌿 Reduce migration through the empowerment of cultural roots at the territorial level.
- 🌿 Visibilize biodiversity conservation and women's care as part of the indigenous culture.
- 🌿 Promote the exchange of knowledge between indigenous and local Mesoamerican women, both intergenerationally and between ethnic groups.

6.- According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in Mesoamerica, it is estimated that there are around 50 million indigenous people and more than 300 languages in danger of disappearing following the Hispanization of the territories. According to UNESCO, 90% of the world's indigenous languages are at risk of extinction.



ANCESTRAL CULTURE MANAGEMENT

RI 3		Local communities manage their cultural identity and intergenerational exchange in the fight against the causes aggravating the effects of climate change	
Impact indicator		<p>Indicator 4.7.2: Proportion of schools with relevant and culturally appropriate curricula and teaching materials that address indigenous and local peoples' knowledge, values, and practices.</p> <p>Indicator 5.a.2: Proportion of women who have access to information and technology related to sustainable agriculture, fisheries and forestry.</p>	
Short Term Results		Products - Action Plan	Year
R3.1	Spaces created for the promotion of art and the cosmovision of indigenous and local women	Cultural schools, fairs, community radio	1-5
		Case studies and research on the cultural value of indigenous and local women's identities	1-2
		Campaigns to promote the life histories of women leaders and ancestors	1-5
		Communication products for the value of art, indigenous language, songs, costumes, stories, etc.	1-7
R3.2	Visibility of traditional and intergenerational knowledge of indigenous and local women.	Pharmacies and traditional medicine enterprises	1-7
		Seed banks safeguarding	1-7
		Care centers with indigenous midwives and healers	1-7
		Mesoamerican intergenerational congresses between indigenous and local women	1-7
		Talks and information on soil and water conservation and management in vulnerable areas	1-7



Axis 4 - Investment and financial security

The study “Indigenous women and access to financial services in Latin America and the Caribbean”⁶ reports that indigenous and local women face significant barriers in accessing formal financial services, such as banks and credit unions; the situation is similar when it comes to green funds and funds for risk prevention and management.

To transcend this historical gap, we aim to build bridges for climate funds to include indigenous and local women. And, at the same time, create actions to empower women and improve their financial well-being at the grassroots and territorial levels.

Strategic guidelines

- 🌿 Promote financial policies for the protection and restoration of natural resources.
- 🌿 Demand financial instruments dedicated to capacity building and job creation for women affected by Climate Change.
- 🌿 To make visible the impact of losses and damages to women and their livelihoods, for indigenous peoples and local communities in Mesoamerica due to climate change.
- 🌿 Facilitate access to empowerment and economic security initiatives aimed at indigenous and local women.
- 🌿 Visibilization of the economic contributions of indigenous and local women to production and macroeconomic systems.

6.- UN Women and the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2016.



INVESTMENT AND FINANCIAL SECURITY

RI 4		Women leaders of indigenous peoples and local communities access public and climate investment funds to compensate for losses and damages caused by Climate Change in the framework of shared management between governments and international actors.	
Indicator Impact		13.a.1 - Amount of financial resources mobilized by developed countries in relation to the pledge of USD 100 billion per year. 13.b.1 - Number of countries that have implemented measures to strengthen the adaptive capacity and resilience of local and indigenous communities in the context of climate change.	
Short Term Results		Products - Action Plan	Year
R4.1	Increased financial instruments for the protection, restoration of natural resources and women's economic security	Dialogue and consultation to influence the creation of incentives and payment for environmental services for the communities.	1-5
		Financial capital to productive units with environmental technologies	1-5
		Sessions on environmental capitalization mechanisms	1-5
		Economic security initiatives	1-7
R4.2	Policies and lines of financing created for post-natural disaster recovery for communities and women (losses and damages).	Mapping of allies and stakeholders	1
		Diagnostics and monitoring of risk areas	1
		Regional financing policy proposals	1-2
		Global monitoring of the status of funding lines for indigenous and local women in Mesoamerica	1
		Financing roadmap for territories and community resilience projects with a gender perspective	1-5



B. INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT



... “if I am a leader I would like to fully and effectively exercise what I think, what I believe is necessary for women both personally and collectively... to open these doors to the territories” - Sara Omi, President CMLT.

Axis 5 - New Knowledge Management

Strengthening the capacities of indigenous and local women in Mesoamerica is crucial⁶ to effectively address gender and climate change in the region, and to achieve effective climate action outcomes. By strengthening the capacities of indigenous and local women in the region, their leadership, knowledge and skills to implement climate-smart and sustainable approaches could be enhanced, which in turn would contribute to the resilience of their communities and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Strategic guidelines

- 🌿 Strengthen the technical knowledge of women leaders in project formulation, project management and budget monitoring.
- 🌿 Manage resources for technical training on gender and climate change.
- 🌿 Integrate into the knowledge management spaces exchanges between leaders from different peoples and countries of CMLT member organizations.
- 🌿 Strengthen training and knowledge management spaces with the AMPB's Mesoamerican Leadership School (EML).
- 🌿 Multiply the technical and organizational knowledge of experienced women leaders with new young leaders.

6.- A report by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) estimates that if women had the same access to agricultural resources as men, world agricultural production would increase **by 2.5% to 4%**.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

RI 5		Women leaders of CMLT member organizations with local advocacy, management, spokesperson and social mobilization capacities in their territories.	
Indicator Impact		C1 - Number of people exposed to knowledge transfer and application mechanisms led by the CMLT. C2 - Number of indigenous and local women members of CMLT accessing training, capacity building and knowledge management resources.	
Short Term Results		Products - Action Plan	Year
R5.1	Created internal mechanisms aimed at strengthening the technical capacities of women territorial leaders who are members of the CMLT.	CMLT Capacity Building Strategy	2-7
		Technical support to grassroots organizations	2-7
		Training in new technologies and risk management	3-5
		Financial education training and program management	1-3
R5.2	Knowledge management spaces created for women territorial leaders who are members of CMLT	Diagnosis of the specific capabilities of the women leaders that make up the CMLT.	1
		Leadership multiplication pilots	2-4
		Academic programs with EML	1-7
		Technical support for the creation of storytelling, speeches and lobbying in political spaces.	1-7
		Thematic and cross-cultural exchanges on the impact of the PGCC axes	1,2,4,6



Axis 6 - Governance and Sustainability

In terms of governance, we intend to advocate for the inclusion of women in local, regional and global decision-making and resource management spaces, ensuring that the voices of indigenous and local women are heard and that their knowledge and experiences are respected. It also involves promoting transparency, accountability and responsibility in the management of available resources.

Strategic guidelines

- 🌿 Maintain representation of the WCLT in the governance structures of the WBPA.
- 🌿 Define the technical and organizational support structures of the CMLT.
- 🌿 Activate legal and financial mechanisms for the administration of semi-autonomous funds.
- 🌿 Co-invest in spaces and infrastructures that allow women to exercise their freedom of assembly and association in a safe manner.
- 🌿 Facilitate spaces for reflection on the implications and types of leadership of organized women.
- 🌿 Promote the integration of indigenous and young local women as a mechanism for internal sustainability.



SUSTAINABILITY AND GOVERNANCE

RI 6		CMLT is a Mesoamerican platform with technical and financial resources, for social mobilization in the territories and capacity for integral transfer to its partner organizations.	
Impact indicator		Percentage of approved funding for the WCLT Gender and Climate Change Plan Number of indigenous and local women actively participating in the platform's decision making process	
Short Term Results		Products - Action Plan	Year
R6.1	Technical, financial, and logistical resources mobilized for sustainability of the gender and climate change plan	Strategic Plan	1
		Funding pathway for the gender and climate change plan	1
		Monitoring, Evaluation and Transparency System	2
		Legal considerations and legal personality.	2
R6.2	Strengthened mechanisms for governance and political and strategic decision making within CMLT	CMLT and grassroots organizations generational relay strategy	1-3
		Special protection policies for women, girls and boys	1-2
		Statutes for the selection and representation of CMLT governance structures	1-2
		Reflections on the political role of CMLT in its relationship with AMPB	1-3



THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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<https://mujeresmesoamericanas.org>



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