**CONCEPT NOTE**

**Feminist Fossil Fuel Free Futures Sub-Grants for NDC Monitoring and Equity**

**Bringing Women’s Voices from Grassroots Movements of Asia and the Pacific with Feminist Participatory Action Research**

**Background**

*“The era of climate change politics has also caused the rise of big neoliberal nature conservation, whether of the ‘fortress’ type or the ‘partial incorporation type’ as in Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) or REDD+-like projects. The idea is simple: global capitalism can go on doing business as usual as long as some social classes and communities, especially in agrarian societies, can be persuaded or coerced to go into voluntary market-based carbon offsetting arrangements – which is like saying, let’s conserve here, and pollute over there”[[1]](#footnote-0).*

After the dismal negotiation outcome of COP24[[2]](#footnote-1) where developed countries have turned their back on science, human rights and equity in the implementation of the Paris Agreement, it is up to the peoples’ movements to reclaim and shape the climate action required to keep us below 1.5 degree global temperature rise. The current market solutions like reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) or bio-energy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS) that are showcased as “climate responsive” and in the pretext of “women empowerment” mostly require taking public lands, displacing already marginalised rural and indigenous peoples, deploying technology that is controlled by few companies and are financed by developed countries in the form of debts. Alternatives such as decentralized energy systems, food sovereignty through agroecology, are ignored and dismissed by governments as well as development agencies as unfeasible or “idealistic”. In some cases, these alternatives are being co-opted by some governments and corporations while they continue their business-as-usual approaches in the name of climate action.

**APWLD believes in the power of local feminist movements and global solidarity.** We believe that in order to challenge the current systems responsible for preventing stronger commitment from governments and to claim women’s human rights, strong collective action from feminist, social and environmental movements is needed. Climate justice is interconnected with social justice and distributive justice - it is important for intersectional approaches among civil society groups and frontline communities to collectively seek and frame demands in this toxic era of capitalism. To realize climate justice, we need a culture of and active solidarity. In the recent rise of increasingly macho-fascist regimes and restricted access for peoples movements as well as violence against Women Human Rights and Environment Defenders (WHRDs) of local and indigenous communities, it is complicated for movements to bring out their issue analyses and demands through political actions alone.

**Our Response: Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR)**

APWLD firmly believes that feminist movements, grounded in local struggle and experiences, are the key to making real changes. However we also wish to change the narratives around women and climate change from the problem context to a feminist-led vision.

Feminist Participatory Action Research (FPAR) is rooted in **movement building**. Through FPAR women collect evidence about the realities in their communities and countries and collectively take action. FPAR is conducted by and for women. With strong, locally produced research and documented evidence, women challenge rights violation and gendered power imbalances. Our principal purpose of doing FPAR is to change systems and structures to change the lives of women. We interpret ‘Change’ as ‘Structural Change’ or change to structures and systems of oppression particularly patriarchy and its interplay with globalisation, fundamentalisms and militarism. The FPAR sub-grant partners and their communities are not objects on whom research is conducted but rather the subjects of the inquiry who set the agenda, lead in the data collection and analysis, and control the use of the outcomes, including deciding what future actions to take or directions to go in**.**

In 2010-2011, APWLD and members conducted five research projects, utilising community based participatory research, documenting the impact of climate change on rural, indigenous, migrant, urban poor and fisher women’s rights and livelihoods, as well as their own adaptation practices. It is obvious from the research results that climate change and climate justice are not gender neutral. Patriarchal practices, coupled with global economic injustices, make women particularly vulnerable during disasters and to the consequences of land degradation and erosion. Furthermore, the research illustrates that rural, indigenous, migrant, urban poor and fisherwomen are rarely included in policy debates that determine their future despite the extensive knowledge and expertise of their own communities as well as the direct impact of climate change on them. For FPAR Climate Justice programme 2013-2014, APWLD selected nine organisations that together with the community conducted action research on:

a. The adverse loss and damage due to climate change and the impact of climate policies, practices and projects on rural, indigenous, fisher, migrant and urban poor women at the country level. Four focus areas of the research that’s illustrative of women’s development rights are:

1. Access to and control over land and resources
2. Decent work and living wage
3. Peace and Justice
4. Voice (women’s democratic participation and bodily autonomy)

b. Community-owned solutions and safeguard measures for women.

*Read our Regional Report from CJ FPAR partners* [*here*](http://apwld.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/CJ-FPAR-regionalreport.pdf)

In 2017, it became obvious from the research results of our previous FPAR that climate change has become a real threat to women’s peace and security, triggering displacement of communities which may trigger further conflicts. Given the increased number of climate migrants, including women, and their extreme vulnerability to experience human rights violations, the Climate Justice Feminist Participatory Action Research 2017 (CJ-FPAR) gave priority to research projects focusing on communities displaced or potentially displaced due to climate change. Climate Displacement includes (but not limited to):

* Displacement caused by natural disasters (floods, typhoons, etc.);
* Displacement caused by slow onset impacts (droughts, sea level rise, salinisation of soil, etc.);
* Displacement programmes/projects that relate to climate change (implementation of market-based mechanisms programmes such as REDD+, fossil fuel exploitation projects such as coal mining, fracking, etc.).

*Know about our 2017 FPAR partners’ work* [*here*](https://apwld.org/new-publication-climate-justice-feminist-participatory-action-research-fpar-country-briefs/)

**Rationale:**

It is becoming increasingly apparent that women of the Global South are differently and more deeply affected by climate change. As primary providers of food, water, and fuel to the household, women’s heavy reliance on natural resources as well as their limited access to information and exclusion from decision-making spaces, women are most susceptible to climate change related hardships such as increased food insecurity, loss of land and livelihood, restricted access to resources, economic insecurity, disease, violence and fatality during disasters. Despite the overwhelming evidence that we are on the precipice of catastrophic climate change, the Paris Agreement (the Agreement) failed to bind states to stated targets. The Agreement also failed to centralise human rights or gender equality in its purpose. Nevertheless, the Agreement for all states to produce Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and commit to climate funding does provide opportunities for localised advocacy. Climate change compels countries to alter existing economic and social systems for survival. Consequently it opens space to conceptualize and frame new economies, new societies, new relationships. It provides an opening to imagine a ‘[Feminist, Fossil Fuel Free Future](http://apwld.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/5Fs_briefer_v2.pdf) (5Fs)’. APWLD’s work to empower grassroots women’s movements to influence local, national, regional and international climate policies through FPAR has revealed an important opportunity to increase women’s democratic rights through the climate space.

**Focus area for the research:**

FPAR 2019-2021 recognizes that for meaningful implementation of Paris Agreement, organizations have to build capacities as national monitors, for which APWLD will support six to eight grassroots women’s rights organizations/organizations working with local communities at national/sub-national levels to conduct FPAR on **NDCs monitoring** and their respective Gender safeguards, adhere to 5Fs framework, enabling just and equitable transition from fossil fuel based economies. The sub-grant partners will identify one or more local communities to work with throughout the sub grant period that are implementing **solutions** around the areas as listed below **-**

* **Agroecological** farming practices that deliver multiple co-benefits, from retaining bio-diversity and limiting the utilisation of chemicals fertilisers, to enabling food sovereignty, increasing the ability to store carbon in the soil and improving food quality and health benefits.
* **Energy and resource** **democracy**, where local people, particularly women, are allowed to make decisions over the use of local resources and the best way to fulfil their needs.
* **Investment in commons** - public housing, public transports, community green spaces and seed banks designed to deliver both climate and gender impacts
* **Just and equitable transition** that implies a shift from jobs in carbon polluting industries to green and decent jobs in sustainable, clean and renewable industries.
* **Participatory democracy** in climate and environment related decision making for communities

In addition, APWLD will also be providing opportunities for the groups to campaign, strike or amplify their analysis and demands at inter-governmental processes mechanisms like Global Stocktake, UNFCCC intersession and COP and High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development Goals. Universal Periodic Review, Treaty Bodies, Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council or other relevant human rights mechanisms and processes will be actively sought to amplify Asia Pacific women’s demands on climate justice.

**Overall objective:**

Climate policies at national, regional and international levels incorporate the voice and demands of Asia-Pacific women’s climate justice movements and are designed to advance both sustainability and women’s human rights.

**Specific Objectives:**

a) Build capacity of women’s rights organisations and movements to understand and document the practices and needs of women in relation to climate change and to understand policy frameworks and the impact on women;

b) Increase knowledge and evidence base on A. the impact of climate change policies and practices on women at the local level and B. autonomous safeguard measures that could promote women’s human rights;

c) Increase advocacy opportunities for women’s movements and allies to advocate for climate policies that advance both women’s human rights and sustainable development;

d) Strengthen feminist climate movements and cross movement collaboration to advance shared strategies for both gender and climate justice.

**Participants**

* Six to eight (women) grassroots women’s rights organisations in Asia Pacific.
* Two participants from each organisation/country will form a team to conduct FPAR on evidence-based advocacy using the skill they learn from the training.
* The team should consist of one young woman researcher and one mentor – **one of them must be from the migrants community involved in the research**.
* Organisation participants should have experience in organisational work and advocacy for women’s human rights and commitment to women’s movements.

**Programme Activities:**

**1st Regional Feminist Participatory Action Research Training** *Year 1*

Through the training, participants will gain skills and knowledge on the framework of Feminist Fossil Fuel Free Future, Human Rights and Feminist Participatory Action Research. The training will use simple, clear and participatory methodologies, to ensure that participants to be comfortable in new concepts and issues.

**Expected Outputs**

1. Participants understand about the objective, approach, and time frame of FPAR based program for 2019-2020.
2. Tools to aid young women researchers work with local women to understand their collective strengths and weaknesses, in feminist participatory and human rights based approach.
3. Community women understand their contenders and the framework outline to contest them for equity through tools like Theory of Change, Power Mapping and Critical Pathway, and thematic module[[3]](#footnote-2) for their Action Plan.
4. Mentors from partner organizations will provide review of NDCs, GAP to provide context to young women researchers on understanding climate change governance, policies and solutions (this is expected to be done prior to training).

**Pre-Research Consultation**

After the 1st regional training, young women researchers and mentors will go to their communities for consultation. All FPAR projects should start with community consultations before the program is designed and commenced. **There may need to be a series of consultations with various stakeholders.** FPAR almost always includes consultations with women in women only space to ensure that discussions of gendered power relations and of issues that may not be easy to speak about in front of men are explored.

The objectives of pre-research community consultations should include:

* Gaining the support, collaboration and ownership of the community/stakeholders
* Forming a women’s collective that will work as community researchers with the young women researchers
* Documenting impact of climate change on the community and women’s access to livelihoods as well as identifying the community led solution that is within the 5F framework and documenting it.
* Designing methods for the research, questions and objectives for the research design
* Developing monitoring plans for long term impacts (ongoing throughout research process)

Based on the consultations, the team is expected to prepare the Research Design with timelines and submit to APWLD before the 2nd training.

**2nd Regional Training on Data and Analysis**

Research team will present the research design formulated together with the community and will gain inputs from facilitators and other participants. This training will provide skill building and capacity on the FPAR framework and methodology, feminist data collection and analysis and innovative ways of reporting. The training will also build the skill on participatory monitoring and evaluation with the community.

**Expected Outputs**

1. Participants gain skills and capacity on the framework and methodology on feminist participatory action research – including research designs, methods to gather data and participatory data analysis, as well as feminist analysis.
2. Women at the forefront of data collection and field work are able to assimilate their findings, create an agenda for presentation at the national and international levels, particularly to highlight the pros and cons of current project interventions in climate and environment, and amplify the need for women’s voice and democratic participation.

**Field Research within the Community**

After the 2nd regional training, the team will work with women in the community and other stakeholders to gather data/information needed for implementing their research design, conduct participatory data analysis as well as conduct capacity building and women organising works in relation with their thematic focus. At the end of this stage, first draft of research report with preliminary findings and analysis need to be submitted before the 3rd regional training on advocacy and ways forwards.

**3rd Regional Training on Strategic Advocacy** *Year 2*

The 3rd regional training will be a mutual learning process where participants’ can share their understanding and experiences on qualitative data analysis, identifying the gaps and challenges, and further improving their research reports. The training will discuss on the success stories, best practices, the lessons learnt, the threat and challenges and ways to address these challenges.

Furthermore, the 3rd training will an important venue to discuss the ways forward, including advocacy strategy, be it in local, national, regional and international level; and also identifying ways to work together sustainably – cross issues, cross countries – to strengthen feminist movement building in the region based on partners identified priorities for action.

**Expected Outputs**

1. Participants able to share their experience on their research, analysing the data, identifying the challenges and ways to address the challenges.
2. Participants meet regional/global monitors (constituency focal persons, observers) to exchange this analysis and work together on report/submission targeted based on their chosen sector.
3. Participants are able to refine their evidence-based advocacy plans and strategy, in particular to work with the community to advocate their rights in the local and national levels; and also have a concrete plan with APWLD for advocacy in the regional and international levels; this will be used to apply for additional sub grant.

**Advocacy and Campaign Phase (Additional Sub-Grant)**

APWLD will also provide modest amount of additional sub-grants to FPAR partner organisations that submit advocacy and campaign proposal. The 6-months advocacy period after completion of FPAR will focus on their advocacy work in local and national levels, while APWLD will continuously support advocacy opportunities in regional and international forum (UN and civil society) throughout the programme period and beyond based on their identified priorities for action. This can include digital storytelling and media campaigns, policy advocacy, feminist legal strategising through documentation (fact-finding missions), witnessing (trial observations) and litigation that act as ways for partners to translate their FPAR into action at national policy/legislation level.

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| **Timeline** (tentative)   1. Call for applications: 8 April 2019 2. Selection and finalizing partners: 1-8 June 2019 3. Organizational assessments and agreements: by 30 July 2019 4. 1st Regional Training: by 3rd week of August 2019 5. Transfer of first instalment: August 2019 6. Pre research consultation: September - November 2019 7. Research design submission: by 3rd week November 2019 8. 2nd Regional Training: by 1st week of December 2019 9. Transfer of second instalment: by 3rd week of December 2019 10. Interim financial report submission: by 2nd week of February 2020 11. Implementation of research design completed and zero draft submission of research report: by end June 2020 12. 3rd Regional Training: by 2nd/3rd week July 2020 13. Final research report submission: by 1st week November 2020 14. Final financial report submission: by 1st week of November 2020 15. Additional sub grant for campaign and advocacy: January 2021 to June 2021 |

**Research and Reporting**

The team will conduct research on their specific focus. Based on the data and information collected, the team will make a draft report and submit to APWLD for review. The country report can be written in any language but English version is expected to be sent to the APWLD secretariat. The final programme narrative and financial report along with financial receipts will need to be submitted at the latest 3 months after the FPAR programme ends in January 2021 for partners to be eligible for additional sub grant.

**4th Regional Reflection Meeting: From Personal to Structural Change**

This meeting will provide a chance for young women researchers and mentors, to showcase their research and advocacy result, and also to reflect, self-assess, evaluate and appreciate our journey of FPAR, documenting the changes they have experienced and seen, be it in the personal, organisational, community or structural level. This will take place after completion of additional sub grant phase.

1. Saturnino M. Borras Jr., Tsegaye Moreda, Alberto Alonso-Fradejas & Zoe W.Brent (2018) Converging social justice issues and movements: implications for political actions and research, Third World Quarterly, 39:7, 1227-1246, DOI: 10.1080/01436597.2018.1491301 [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. https://apwld.org/blog-our-feminist-demands-for-cop24/ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. To be designed by Programme team and OC [↑](#footnote-ref-2)