Empowering rural women through integrated, climate resilient development

Description of the project:
Since 2016, UEWCA has enhanced the climate resilience and livelihoods of over 49,000 women in rural communities of Ethiopia, with an integrated approach. Their capacities have been strengthened in climate mitigation and adaptation techniques, environmental protection strategies and income diversification. By implementing integrated agroecology—crop and livestock—, efficient stoves and watershed management, women have developed climate resilient, long-term sustainable development models. Knowledge of existing climate change policies have been raised, building institutional capacities of local governments and 12 civil society organizations.

TRANSFORMATIVE OUTCOMES

Climate impact
- Awareness raising campaigns to local communities on sustainable resource management
- Use of drought tolerant seeds and small-scale irrigation to increase agricultural production
- Mainstreaming climate resilient economic development

Gender impact
- Rural women have acquired new technical skills on integrated agroecological practices
- Economic empowerment of 49,000 women and vulnerable community groups

Scalability / replicability
- Development of knowledge management system for informing best practices to policy makers
- Replicable agricultural practices for drought prone areas

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Eperara women of Ecuador claim collective health in times of COVID-19

Description of the project:
The project is carried out in the indigenous Ecuadorian community of Eperara de Santa Rosa. Women’s groups organised themselves to reclaim their ancestral medicine culture, while strengthening their climate resilience. Based on a collective decision in favor of the community’s health, they decided to take their own actions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. They carried out a mapping process to identify medicinal plants for use as a resource to protect their health and that of their families. The community thereby realised that the food production and habitat management depend on many factors such as ancestral culture, gender-responsive economy, biodiversity conservation, education and housing.

TRANSFORMATIVE OUTCOMES

Climate impact
- Establishment of a medicinal bank for the conservation and management of endemic plants
- Conservation of 70 hectares of forest
- Mapping and identification of fauna and flora with climatic and ancestral relevance

Gender impact
- Shifting gender roles in the traditionally male-dominated sector of medicine
- Promoting new leadership among girls, adolescents and women within community assemblies.
- Community task-sharing that eases women’s workloads

Scalability / replicability
- Capacity building replicated and scaled up among women in other Ecuadorian villages
- Information sharing on the stages of the process with other indigenous communities in Ecuador
- Creation of the Ceremonial Centre for Collective Health to empower the leadership of women and girls

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