Women protect forest biodiversity and resilience through indigenous knowledge

**Description of the project:**
PIFEVA - Pilier aux Femmes Vulnérables Actives, focuses on documenting and revitalizing the traditional knowledge held by indigenous communities to protect forest biodiversity in the Mwenga territory of the DRC. The project strengthened the capacities of 60 indigenous women and 60 young people in forest communities, to enhance the climate resilience of their agricultural practices. PIFEVA also promotes the identification and dissemination of ancestral seeds and plants via knowledge exchange among indigenous women and youth.

**TRANSFORMATIVE OUTCOMES**

- **Climate impact**
  - Traditional agroforestry, using indigenous seeds and plants, contributes to carbon capture
  - Indigenous agricultural practices are adapted for climate resilience and shared among communities and small farmers

- **Gender impact**
  - Women's knowledge on climate adaptation is strengthened
  - Women’s inclusion in the National Adaptation Plan’s sectoral policy

- **Scalability / replicability**
  - The project was designed and is led by indigenous women
  - Intentional programming for other indigenous women and youth, with goal to translate information in local languages

**CONTACT**

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Cool roofs for climate resilience and women’s economic empowerment in urban centers of India

**Description of the project:**
For urban poor, home is also a workplace, especially for women in Indian cities. Rising temperatures and heatwaves interfere with productivity, subsistence and home comfort. Through this project, Mahila Housing Trust provided cool roofing solutions to lower indoor temperature and enhance well-being. Pro-poor solutions in roofing, walling and housing-ventilation were devised, demonstrated and validated, with support to test prototypes. Women from community-based organisations were consulted and designs were revised according to their feedback. The lack of financial mechanisms and gender sensitive technical solutions was tackled through a women-led, community-wide approach, so that today credit cooperatives bring financial support to ensure a gender just access to cool roofs.

**TRANSFORMATIVE OUTCOMES**

- **Climate impact**
  - Simple and cost-effective solution to urban heat challenges in dwelling units.
  - Reduced indoor temperature and savings in electricity bill due to lower energy consumption.

- **Gender impact**
  - Cool roofs enhance income earning capacity of urban home-based workers in India where 40% are women.
  - Cool homes aid good health and alleviate women’s domestic workload

- **Scalability / replicability**
  - Successfully implemented in several cities in South Asia; it can easily be replicated in other cities.
  - The technology is simple, cost-effective and easy to implement.

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