

EDDs - PFD Concept Note

Lab Session

16 June 2021

11:50 – 12:35 CET (45' total)

Leading organisation: Policy Forum on Development (PFD)

Partner organisations: Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF) and Articulaci3n Feminista Marcosur (AFM).

Session title: Rural community-led initiatives by and for indigenous women

Subtitle: People-Centred action, debating gender-based and indigenous approaches to sustainability in Latin America and Africa

Related topics: 1) Indigenous people and local communities, 2) Forest and landscape management

Description: This lab debate would be used to discuss community-led initiatives exploring the linkages among climate justice, biodiversity conservation and gender, specifically addressing women. The debate will engage participants in understanding the aspects of a feminist approach to climate responses via case studies from Africa and Latin America.

Key questions:

- What led to the success of some forest-based communities in controlling and preserving their land?
- How can women's access to natural resources, notably land, be increased?
- How can we link ecology and feminism and encourage the adoption of gender responsive policies?
- How does strengthening communities foster environmental protection?

Outcomes:

The session will:

- Examine how a rights-based approach fosters biodiversity conservation and gender equality
- Share examples from forest communities in Africa and in Latin America
- Allow for concrete debate on the priorities and challenges of using such approaches to change policy
- Showcase gender responsive approaches and their potential replication
- Capitalise on the results of the lab debate to share knowledge on the PFD capacity4dev page
- Disseminate summary of debate results amongst PFD member and their networks around the world

Moderator: Jeanette Sequeira (Global Forest Coalition, Gender Programme Coordinator and Co-Director)

Speakers:

- Ernestine Leikeki (Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch, CAMGEW, Social and Environmental Legal Officer)
- Lilian Celiberti (Cotidiano Mujer, member of Articulaci3n Feminista Marcosur, Co-founder, and founder of DAFNIAS ecofeminist collective in 2016, Uruguay)

- Dorothée Lisenga (Coalition des Femmes Leaders pour l'Environnement et le Développement Durable, CFLEDD, Coordinator, Democratic Republic of Congo)

Lilian: Feminist activism based on experience with intercultural dialogues, on the lessons and challenges those dialogues provide about sustainability of life as a whole: putting biodiversity at the centre is crucial, not only referred to flora and fauna, but also biodiversity of peoples. In the LA region, the struggle around land and territories is pertinent. The expansion of agribusiness is pushing communities from their territories and contaminating soils and water resources. Implementing the Ascasú agreement to access information about environmental aspects that affect communities is key.

Ernestine: Ernestine works with indigenous communities in the highlands in Eastern Cameroon, living in a forest-based community with community decision making, in which women have not traditionally engaged. CAMGEW engages local and ethnic women in sustainable forest management, while enhancing their human rights and transforming patriarchal gender relations. They empower women to claim sex and reproductive services, education, set up small cooperatives, link to SMEs (example bee farming...), and promote the protection of forests as a source of income. Forests in Cameroon are under pressure from cattle expansion and farmers. Protection of natural resources and forests, requires acknowledgement and strengthening of women's rights. This in turn requires work with traditional leaders, the government and a network of all indigenous women's tribes to advocate for legal changes to allow women to remain on the land and be co-decision makers in the protection of the forest.

Dorothee: Coordinator of the Coalition of Women Leaders for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CFLEDD), an NGO that brings together indigenous women and Pygmies for women's rights. The mission of the organization is to campaign to recognize the work of women, and their participation in decision-making on land issues, the exploitation of natural resources, and the sharing of benefits. The indigenous people of the Pygmies have lived for millennia in the forests of the Congo Basins, in harmony with nature. We work for the protection of forests and biodiversity through the adoption of sustainable and inclusive practices on the exploitation of natural resources, where women are co-decision makers. CFLEDD has organised dialogues on women's inheritance rights between customary chiefs, local and indigenous women, leading to successes in women's access to land. Winners of the 2018 edition of the Gender Just Climate Solutions.

Methodology:

45' Moderated panel with two rounds of questions to each of the speakers, followed by a summary of recommendations by the moderator, and a final reaction from each speaker.

Registration and link to the event:

Link to registration: <https://eudevdays.eu/community/login>

Link to event: <https://eudevdays.eu/community/sessions/4610/rural-and-community-led-initiatives-by-and-for-indigenous-women>