



Report of Mapping of Women's Organizations, Women-led Enterprises and Support Institutions

*FOR ASSESSING THE LANDSCAPE FOR GENDER AND CLIMATE
ADAPTATION WITH WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS AND ENTERPRISES*



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Executive Summary

Women's organizations and enterprises can and do play a catalytic role in accelerating mitigation and adaptation efforts and assuring benefits reach disadvantaged women farmers and natural resource managers, thus mitigating losses of incomes, hunger and lives. Such organizations play critical roles in increasing women's leadership, agency, voice and economic and political empowerment to improve climate outcomes, yet they are not able to access sufficient resources, including funds, technologies, or technical assistance to enable them to address needs for climate adaptive responses.

WOCAN conducted a mapping exercise to identify women's organizations and enterprises - as well as external Support Institutions and non-women organizations and enterprises- engaged in agriculture and natural resource management at the local level in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. From the 139 organizations identified, detailed information was gained from 18 to understand their climate-related activities and external and internal challenges and opportunities.

Key findings show that main activities focus on improving agriculture productivity and the sustainable use of natural resources; generating income; strengthening collective action, building entrepreneurial skills of women; and increasing access to markets; and disaster risk reduction. Specific activities include strengthening community-based sustainable forestry, providing mobile tools for monitoring impacts of climate change, developing capacities for collective action and entrepreneurial skills, restoring mangroves, providing access to renewable energy, conducting research on climate adaptive agricultural waste management, providing irrigation infrastructure, and improving soil fertility, animal husbandry, and agriculture intensification.

The main challenges identified were related to a lack of financial resources for all three categories of organizations. In some cases, challenges were linked to the lack of capacities/conditions to access existing funds; in others, they were due to the lack of their ability to self-determine the use of the resources.

Most of the organizations interviewed have some degree of interest in getting involved in carbon markets, as a way to generate revenues for their organizations, but have not done so, mostly due to a lack of information and skills on how to do so. A few interviewed are actively engaged in carbon markets and some have established channels for sharing revenues with community members.

Based on the results of the mapping exercise, WOCAN identified the following characteristics that should be considered to achieve the scaling of actions to achieve climate adaptation and women's empowerment outcomes simultaneously within the most climate-vulnerable communities:

- ✓ High degree of focus on women's empowerment (number of women beneficiaries, dedicated organizational policies, budget and staffing)
- ✓ Large network of women's groups and organizations
- ✓ High degree of focus on agriculture/climate adaptation and possibly mitigation

- ✓ Institutional structure of women's organizations that can assure good governance and provide accountability to funders and investors
- ✓ Strong organizational capacities
- ✓ Strong links to diverse set of external Support Institutions

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Background

The impacts of climate change on women engaged in agriculture are well-documented through numerous studies and testimonials. Women smallholder farmers constitute the majority of rural poor and, as a result, are more exposed to the causes of climate vulnerability and tend to be disproportionately affected by climate change. The gender gap resulting in women's lesser access to discretionary time, financial resources, natural resources, land tenure, education, health care, and decision-making power results in women's increased vulnerability and access to vital resources and opportunities, leading to less capacity to adapt or build resilience. Building adaptive capacities alters processes, practices or structures, including governance and assets, to reduce climate vulnerability. It improves people's ability to convert current and future resources (financial, physical, social and natural capital) into successful adaptation strategies for the future.

The key constraints as well as opportunities for women's livelihood strategies and adaptive capacities are linked to assets women possess and their levels of access to income and common property resources, including forests, water and crop and pasture lands. Specific to agriculture, gender differences in vulnerability to climate change impacts and adoption of climate smart agriculture (CSA) initiatives are driven by: the gender division of labor and longstanding gender disparities in access to and agency over key resources—chiefly land, labor, financial capital, and climate-relevant information. Constraints are also related to the extent to which women interact with and benefit from social support institutions, governments and NGOs.

Women's roles: Evidence suggests that women's inclusion improves the effectiveness and efficiency of technical assistance and development projects, provides social justice, alleviates poverty, increases sustainability and improves the impact of disbursed climate finance. Similarly, women's involvement in forest management results in higher adoption of sustainable resource management practices that lead to improved ecological conditions, regeneration and reduced illegal harvesting. Less acknowledged is the correlation between women's involvement in climate change **mitigation** and the reduction of greenhouse gases.

Why focus on women's organizations and enterprises: Informal institutions can promote cooperation in resource management and income diversification, thereby contributing to livelihood and ecological resilience. Collective action also influences the adoption of many agricultural technologies and practices that are important for addressing climate change, such as agroforestry, rangeland management, and livestock feeding practices.

Women's organizations and enterprises can and do play a catalytic role in accelerating mitigation and adaptation efforts and assuring benefits reach disadvantaged women farmers and natural resource managers, thus mitigating losses of incomes, hunger and lives. Such organizations play critical roles in increasing women's leadership, agency, voice and economic and political empowerment to

improve climate outcomes. Women's groups are found to manage forest, land, and water resources, as well as revolving savings and loan resources in rural communities across the Global South.

Problem Statement

1. Rural women's organizations and enterprises are not able to access sufficient resources, including funds, technologies, or technical assistance to enable them to address needs for climate adaptive responses.
2. There is a dearth of grant funding for scaling up and replicating gender-responsive climate action, and few private sector funds with a specific goal of financing gender/women and climate outcomes.

What are the reasons for this? How do we close this gap? What mechanisms exist through which BMGF could help ensure rural women's voices, priorities and preferences will be included?

Objective

Under the BMGF grant for ***Assessing the Landscape for Gender and Climate Adaptation with Women's Organizations and Enterprises***, WOCAN is designing an innovative framework for providing financial and technical support to rural women's organizations to implement gender-responsive climate adaptation initiatives. The model employs a result-based financing and market-based approach using the W+ Standard to provide rural women's organizations and enterprises with revenue and technical assistance to support climate adaptation initiatives to *Scale Impact for Gender Equality and Climate Outcomes*. This program will support women's organizations and enterprises, support institutions and intermediaries to scale up gender-responsive climate mitigation and adaptation actions to achieve climate adaptation and women's empowerment outcomes simultaneously within the most climate-vulnerable communities.

Through this exercise, WOCAN seeks to answer these questions:

3. Who are the rural women's organizations and enterprises engaged in agriculture and natural resource management at the local level that could benefit from this initiative (in specific geographies in SA and SSA)?
4. how do they gain the resources and influencing capability (power) required to build the adaptive capacity and resilience for climate change?
5. Who are the support institutions that today effectively support these organizations with funds or training or services?
6. What are their external and internal challenges and opportunities?
7. What strategies are still needed to enable women's organizations and enterprises to thrive as vehicles for increasing women's climate resilience?

Methodology and Approach

To address these questions, WOCAN conducted a mapping exercise to generate insights into the ecosystem of women's organizations, women-led enterprises, non-women's organizations and enterprises and support institutions engaged in climate adaptation. The mapping provides a general overview of the specific activities that are being carried out by the key actors identified, as well as their challenges and priorities. Criteria were developed for the selection of the most appropriate entities to be selected for the W+ Standard application; the data from mapping enables the selection of two most appropriate entities in East Africa and South Asia. Two regional coordinators (WOCAN Core Associates) situated in Kenya and Nepal conducted the mapping, backstopped by the Program Manager and Executive Director.

This mapping exercise identified women's organizations and women-led enterprises that are engaged in climate adaptation and mitigation. Support institutions that interact with these organizations were also identified.¹

The mapping was conducted in two stages: 1) a desk review to identify relevant groups/enterprises. based on knowledge of these groups and internet searches and 2) follow-up one hour phone calls with those entities that seemed best fit to the objectives, to gain a deeper understanding of their activities and challenges.

The following indicators were identified:

- Capacity needs and challenges to accessing resources for climate mitigation and adaptation by rural women's organizations and enterprises
- Resource and capacity needs of Support Institutions that can offer financial and technical assistance to these organizations and enterprises

Desk review: Regional Coordinators (East Africa and South Asia) carried out a desk review as a first step to identify key organizations from in each region. The criteria of selection considered organizations focused on climate adaptation, mainly women-led organizations or organizations with a strong gender component. These were divided into two clusters:

Cluster 1:

- a. Women's organizations, groups
- b. Women-led enterprises
- c. Non-women led organizations, groups
- d. Non-women led enterprises engaged in climate projects with strong focus on women's empowerment

¹External entities that are service providers offering technologies, training, technical assistance, financing, etc. for climate related activities

Cluster 2:

- a. Support institutions: service providers from government, private sector, research institutions, investors, climate project developers.

The following criteria were used to determine which organizations were to be interviewed:

- degree of engagement with women's empowerment in agriculture, with specific focus on climate adaptation
- involvement (or interest) in carbon markets
- broad geographical coverage
- potential to generate W+ Credits

As part of the desk review, the regional coordinators completed an organizational profile for each of the organizations, including the following:

- name and contact information
- type of organization or support institution,
- sector of focus, specific activities related to climate adaptation,
- geographical area of coverage,
- degree to which women their main target group and number of women benefitting from their services,
- governance structure and percentage women staff
- capacities for conducting climate and women's empowerment activities
- type of support they provide to women's organizations
- additional notes

Phone Interviews: The selection of organizations to be interviewed by phone was made based on the results from the desk review. A sample set of questions was developed by the team members to be used as a base for the interviews. Special attention was made to assess their organizational structural capacities for gender equity in programming. Questions² were designed to elicit the following:

- Specific activities related to climate adaptation and women's empowerment
- Main challenges
- Support they require for increasing their impact and reach
- Involvement and interest in carbon and social impact credit markets

² The complete set of questions and template for note taking can be found in the following link: [Interview document: set of questions and note taking template](#)

Results

The mapping exercise addressed the two following questions:

1. Who are the rural women's organizations and enterprises engaged in agriculture and natural resource management at the local level that could benefit from this initiative (in specific geographies in SA and SSA)?
2. Who are the support institutions that today effectively support these organizations with funds or training or other services?

As a result of the desk review in South Asia, **81** entities were identified. 50 of these were categorized as Cluster 1³:

- Women's organizations: 12
- Women-led enterprises: 8
- Non-women-led organizations: 25
- Non-women-led enterprises: 5

31 of these were categorized as Support Institutions (Cluster 2):

- Carbon project developers: 5
- Government: 9
- I/NGO: 13
- Private sector: 4

Detailed information was gathered for the following seven organizations during one-hour interviews:

South Asia:

Cluster 1:

- CEPREAD - Nepal
- Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) Gujarat
- Swakcham Sikhshan Prayog (Self-Education for Empowerment)/ SSP - India
- Women's Business Centres (WBCs)- United Purpose – Bangladesh

Cluster 2:

- Fair Climate Fund - India
- Future Fish - India (Bengal, Orissa, Bihar)
- VNV Advisory - India

³ The full list of organizations and organizational profiles can be found in the following link: [Spreadsheet: Mapping women's organizations and support institutions](#)

The complete interview notes can be found in the following link: [Organizational Assessment](#)

Table 1: Categories of organizations in South Asia

Location	Name	Women's organization	Women-led enterprise	Non-women led org	Non-women led enterprise	Support institution
<i>Nepal</i>	CEPREAD					
<i>India</i>	Fair Climate Fund					
<i>India (Bengal, Orissa, Bihar)</i>	Future Fish					
<i>India (Gujarat)</i>	Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA)					
<i>India (Pune)</i>	Swakcham Sikhshan Prayog (Self-Education for Empowerment) SSP					
<i>India</i>	VNV Advisory					
<i>Bangladesh</i>	Women's Business Centers (WBCs) – United Purpose					

Africa

As a result of the desk review in East Africa, **59** entities were identified: **47** of these were categorized as Cluster 1:

- Women's organizations: **27**
- Women-led enterprises: **5**
- Non-women-led organizations: **11**
- Non-women-led enterprises: **4**

12 of these were categorized as Support Institutions (Cluster 2):

- Carbon project developers: **3**
- I/NGO: **5**
- Private sector: **1**
- Research Institution: **3**

The following **13** organizations were interviewed during one-hour calls:

Cluster 1:

- AWFISHNET
- African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF)

- Farm Forestry Smallholder Producers Association of Kenya (FFSPAK)
- Groots
- Katosi Women Group
- Rural Women Network
- Solar Sisters
- Trees for the Future
- Self Help Africa (United Purpose)
- Village Water

Cluster 2:

- Green Belt Movement
- Vi Agroforestry
- REFACOF

Table 2: Categories of organizations in East and Southern Africa (and Cameroon)

Location	Name	Women's organization	Women-led enterprise	Non-women led org	Non-women led enterprise	Support institution
<i>Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania – working at regional level</i>	African Women Fish Processors and Traders Network AWFISHNET					
<i>Yaounde, Cameroon</i>	African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF)					
<i>Nairobi, Kenya</i>	Farm Forestry Smallholder Producers Association of Kenya FFSPAK					
<i>Nairobi, Kenya</i>	Green Belt Movement					
<i>Nairobi, Kenya</i>	GROOTS					

<i>Kampala, Uganda</i>	Katosi Women Group					
<i>Kajiado, Kenya</i>	Rural Women Network					
<i>Kenya</i>	Self Help Africa (United Purpose)					
<i>Kenya and Rwanda</i>	Solar Sisters					
<i>Nairobi, Kenya</i>	Trees for the Future					
<i>Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda</i>	Vi Agroforestry					
<i>Zambia and Mozambique</i>	Village Water					

Key findings

The following section uses the interview structure to outline the main findings of the mapping. The first section A provides an overview of the main activities carried out by organization, enterprises and support institutions in relation to women’s empowerment and climate adaptation. Section highlights the main findings on the experience and/or interest of these three groups in carbon offsetting and carbon projects in general. The following two sections outline the main findings in relation to existing benefit sharing mechanisms and the challenges organizations, enterprises and support institutions are facing.

Specific activities on women’s empowerment and climate adaptation⁴

The main activities identified are focused on improving agriculture productivity and the sustainable of use natural resources; income generation; strengthening collective action, building entrepreneurial skills of women; increasing access to markets; and disaster risk reduction. Some specific activities include strengthening community-based sustainable forestry, providing mobile tools for data collection for monitoring impacts of climate change, developing capacities for collective action and entrepreneurial skills, restoring mangroves, providing access to renewable energy and supporting energy transition, conducting research on climate adaptive agricultural waste

⁴ The full list of organizations and organizational profiles can be found in the following link: [Spreadsheet: Mapping women's organizations and support institutions](#)

management, providing irrigation infrastructure, and improving soil fertility, animal husbandry, and agriculture intensification.

The following bubble charts provide an overview of the most common activities carried out by women and non-women-led organizations, enterprises and support institutions in both regions. The size of the bubbles represents how common the activity was mentioned during the interview: the bigger the bubble, the more times it was mentioned.⁵

Diagram 1: Activities in Africa

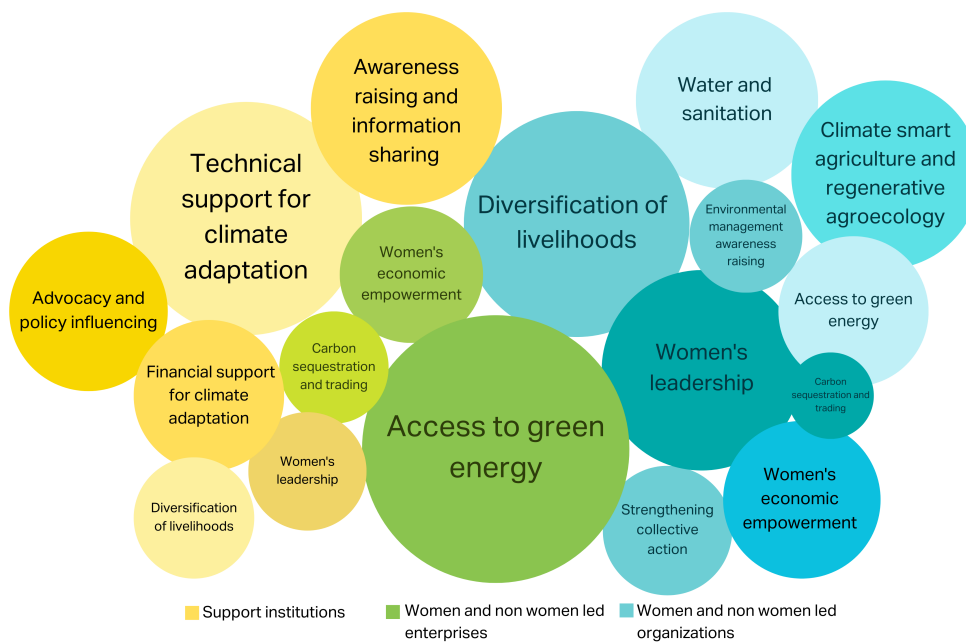
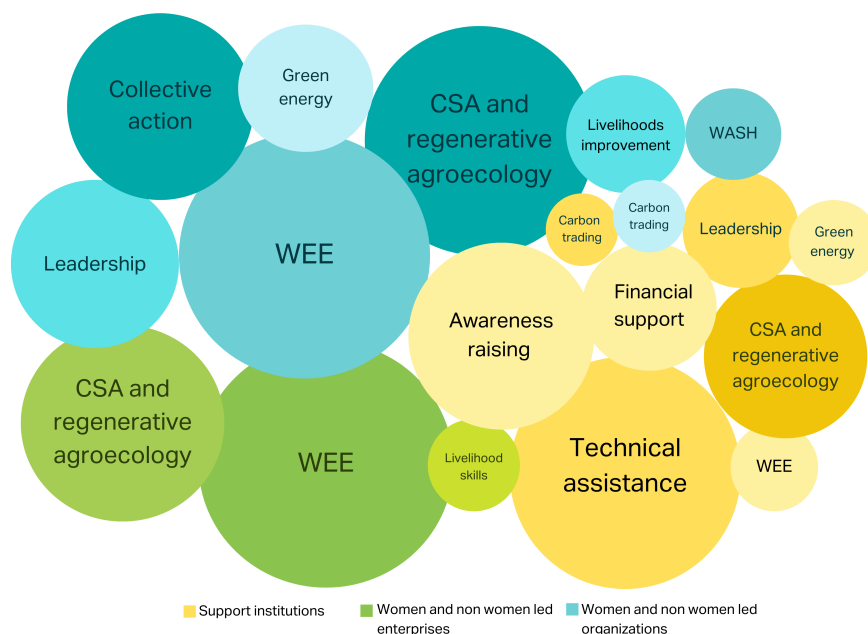


Diagram 2: Activities in South Asia

⁵ The list of main activities per country can be found in Annex I, for detailed information on the activities, please access [here](#)



External and internal challenges and opportunities

The main challenges identified were related to a lack of financial resources for all three categories of organizations. In some cases, challenges were linked to the lack of capacities/conditions to access existing funds; in others, they were due to the lack of their ability to self-determine the use of the resources. Also a lack of contacts with funders and support institutions makes it very difficult for smaller organizations to have an opportunity to even compete for resources. In most cases resources are linked to activities and technical support for climate adaptation, but there is no budget allocated for strengthening organizational capacities or for human resources

Several organizations and enterprises highlighted the need to focus on collective action and shared examples on how having stronger organizations catalyzes the impact of trainings and resources, and sets up local women’s groups to independently access additional resources. Access to information and technologies were also identified, especially in relation to accessing affordable and effective solutions for climate adaptation. Women-led enterprises highlighted the challenge of transitioning from community groups to social enterprises, mainly because of lack of technical capacities related to accounting, marketing, etc. Across the three categories, paratracheal structures and resistance from men in communities and institutions challenges were identified as significant challenges.

The following tables summarize the main challenges identified by each of the three categories:

Table 3: Main challenges faced by women’s groups and organizations

Main challenges faced by women’s groups and organizations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited financial and human resources are the main challenges of women and non-women led organizations ▪ Difficulties to access existing funds, mainly because of a lack of capacity to apply for the funds and lack of information on existing opportunities and channels

- Requirements for receiving finance are too limiting for small local women’s organizations
- Lack of understanding from donors on the importance of supporting collective action and supporting gender activities in forestry/environment projects
- Top-down approach of donors that is exacerbated with women-led organizations
- Lack of core funding, that would enable self-determination of expenditures
- Lack of awareness on climate change, including how it impacts their activities
- Lack of awareness and access to effective and affordable technologies
- Rural women’s lack of access to and use of information and technologies
- Insufficient knowledge of the carbon market

Table 4: Main challenges faced by women-led and non-women led enterprises

Main challenges faced by women -led and non-women-led enterprises
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of financing to scale up their interventions ▪ Struggle to transition from community group to enterprise, mainly because of lack of business and organizational capacities ▪ Difficult to identify an effective mechanism to deliver resources to women for self-determined activities ▪ Resistance within communities, mainly due to patriarchal structures

Table 5: Main challenges faced by Support Institutions

Main challenges faced by Support institutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of funding ▪ Men’s interference during implementation of activities that target women specifically

Strategies to enable women’s organizations and enterprises to thrive as vehicles for increasing women’s climate resilience

WOCAN believes that one way that women’s organizations and enterprises, support institutions and non-women led organizations and enterprises can gain the resources and influencing capability (power) required to build the adaptive capacity and resilience for climate change is by measuring the impact they are generating and engaging in **markets for results-based payments**. The carbon markets are one form of these, but there is also a growing market for social and gender credits.

Of the organizations identified and interviewed, for this exercise, only a few are involved in carbon markets; these are mostly engaged in forestry/agroforestry or biogas projects. Organizations such as SEWA and the Fair Climate Fund have established mechanisms for benefit sharing carbon revenues with the communities. Markets for gender credits or carbon credits with women’s empowerment or gender co-benefits could bring much needed revenues to women’s organizations and enterprises.

Many of the organizations interviewed have some degree of interest in getting involved in carbon markets, but have not yet done so, mostly due to a lack of information and skills on how to do so. Each category's experience and thoughts about engaging with the carbon markets is detailed below:

A. Women and non-women-led organizations

Have limited understanding of and no experience with carbon offsetting/trading. Even those working on REDD projects like the Greenbelt Movement think it is complex. However, they expressed interest to learn and understand how to take advantage of any opportunity in the future. Both women and non-women-led NGOs view the carbon market as an opportunity to generate new money for their adaptation projects. Networks like AWFISHNET, see it as a potential new channel for funding, but still perceive it as something too complicated and don't know where to start or who to approach to learn more. In South Asia, organizations like SEWA are working on carbon trading with women groups.

A. Women and non-women-led enterprises

Very few local enterprises are engaged in in carbon markets. International carbon measuring and trading companies are seeking local organizations to partner with but these organizations are not receiving enough information on the carbon markets, resulting in a lack of trust and resistance from their side for partnering with international companies. Information Non-women led enterprises see contributions to climate mitigation as a selling point for their products. In addition, getting involved in the carbon markets is considered too expensive for local organizations, therefore limiting their entry points to partnering with international organizations, this mainly refers to carbon verification processes are too expensive and local companies may not have marching resources on their own, compared to international companies that have had exposure to information, carbon market financial and technical capacity. The Plan Vivo Foundation is one of the international organizations working in the region – Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania -to measure carbon with its own standard and sell carbon credits, returning a significant percent of the revenue to the communities.

B. Support institutions

Generally, there is very limited technical capacity on carbon measurement and engaging in the carbon markets. There is an assumption that to do so is a complicated and tedious process. INGOs like VI Agroforestry are measuring are trading carbon credits. INGOs and other support organizations are now seeing the carbon market as an opportunity to raise new money to support community adaptation projects. However, as indicated by the Fair Climate Fund, the appreciation by buyers for these 'high quality' credits is as yet not significant.

In South Asia, some NGOs such as United Purpose have interest to engage in carbon markets but are concerned about how beneficial it would be for smallholder farmers, specifically women. They emphasize that they are trying to approach the carbon market from the perspective of smallholder farmers. There is however a remarkable growing interest by both

national and INGOs to tap into the carbon market, they will require training and capacity building, including on the W+ Standard as many of them expressed interest to understand how the W+ Standard works. There is also a concern about the numerous middlemen who could take advantage if benefit sharing mechanisms are not well defined, likely to sideline women.

Existing channels and benefit sharing mechanisms

A key component of the use of carbon markets to generate a revenue model for women's organizations depends on **channels and benefit sharing mechanisms**. The mapping exercise identified some existing mechanisms, for all types of benefit sharing, that could be used for sharing revenues from carbon market.

- **Women and non-women-led organizations**

Community projects remain the most utilized channels for benefit sharing. Projects are identified and prioritized and are financed using carbon credits. Members of women's groups receive compensation depending on their contributions. Some networks, like AWFISHNET, are not yet involved in carbon markets but have a structure in place that they could use as a benefit sharing mechanism for the women's organizations within the Network.
- **Women and non-women led enterprises**

A lack of capacity for carbon measurement exists among local entrepreneurs. However, some international entities have a mechanism that allows benefits to be shared with the community through community projects based on an agreed-upon plan. For example, Wildlife Works and the Plan Vivo Foundation engage communities to identify projects to be supported under their carbon credit programs. For projects registered with the Plan Vivo Foundation, 60% of the revenue must be shared with the community.
- **Support institutions**

Community projects based on consultations with local women's groups, community groups and NGOs or networks are the main channel for benefit sharing. Vi Agroforestry has a benefit sharing mechanism that determines how much an individual farmer earns based on the number of trees, size, etc. However, the Vi Agroforestry Director has indicated that payments made to individuals are meager and not impactful.

Considerations for scaling impact

Based on the results of the mapping exercise, WOCAN identified the following characteristics that should be considered to achieve the scaling of actions to achieve climate adaptation and women's empowerment outcomes simultaneously within the most climate-vulnerable communities:

Characteristics of organizations with the highest potential for success:

- ✓ High degree of focus on women’s empowerment (number of women beneficiaries, dedicated organizational policies, budget and staffing)
- ✓ Large network of women’s groups and organizations across geographical regions/countries
- ✓ High degree of focus on agriculture/climate adaptation and possibly mitigation
- ✓ Institutional structure of women’s organizations: to give accountability to funders and investors (i.e. cooperative)
- ✓ Strong organizational capacities
- ✓ Strong links to diverse set of external Support Institutions
- ✓ Potential to obtain skills for measurement of carbon, biodiversity, and women’s empowerment to generate revenue streams

Criteria for W+ applications

Based on an analysis of the mapping results and a consideration of the model that WOCAN is developing for the use of the W+ Standard that suits market demand and factors relevant for financial intermediaries, the WOCAN team has determined the following additional criteria are important for the selection of two organizations to apply the W+ Standard to:

- ✓ Able to generate large numbers of W+ credits
- ✓ Benefit sharing mechanism(s) in place
- ✓ Possibility to generate carbon credits
- ✓ Collective action and leadership
- ✓ Diversity of impacts, as expressed in use of more than two W+ domains
- ✓ Interest in measuring results for women’s empowerment

Summaries of these characteristics for the organizations interviewed is summarized in the tables below.

Degree to which they comply with the criteria	
★	Low – Very basic, but potential to improve
★ ★	Medium – already in place and has the potential to increase
★ ★ ★	High – in place and working successfully

Table 3: Organizational characteristics: South Asia

Name of org	High degree of focus on women's empowerment ⁶	Large network of women's groups and organizations	Sector	Key activities	Capacity needs	Benefit Sharing Mechanism	Strong links to diverse set of support Institutions
CEPREAD	★ ★	★ ★	Agriculture	-builds technical capacities for climate smart agriculture in rural agriculture and value chains	-Funding and strategy to scale up -Decreased dependence on donors	★ ★	★ ★ ★
Fair Climate Fund	★ ★	★	Carbon trading, clean cooking	-develops carbon projects with focus on community development	- -Increase capacities of communities for price negotiation	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★
Future Fish	★	★	Aquaculture	- mentors promising business ventures to impact at scale	-	★	★ ★
Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA)	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	Agriculture, energy, carbon trading	-Piloting biogas digesters and precision irrigation systems -promoting energy, natural and regenerative farming, and community-owned biogas plants	-Increased awareness about climate change -Increased information on existing tech solutions (effective and affordable) -Finance to access technological solutions	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★

⁶ Number of women beneficiaries, dedicated organizational policies, budget and staffing

				-Carbon credits from the digesters traded through Sewa's Grassroot Trading Network			
Swakcham Sikhshan Prayog (SSP)	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	Agriculture, WASH, clean energy	-Promotes sustainable community development by repositioning over 3000 women as change makers and fostering collective leadership	-Increase mobilization to identify early adopters – face resistance within communities	★ ★	★ ★ ★
United Purpose Women's Business Centers (WBCs)	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	Agriculture, WASH, health	-establishes over 450 Women Business centers for agriculture and value chains– including health, nutrition and WASH	-Funding to scale up, hire more staff -Inc technical capacities to support the transition to enterprises	★ ★	★ ★ ★
VNV Advisory	★ ★	★ ★	Carbon trading	- carbon project developer, with many activities that benefit women: Energy access-rural electrification; clean cooking and biogas, solar; e-cooking, coastal communities; agroforestry	-Facing a lot of resistance from men within communities	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★

Table 4: Organizational characteristics: East and Southern Africa (and Cameroon)

Name	High degree of focus on women's empowerment ⁷	Large network of women's groups and org	Sector	Key activities	Capacity needs	Benefit Sharing Mechanism	Strong links to diverse set of support Institutions
AWFISHNET	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	Aquaculture	-Improves working environment for women in fish trading - Facilitates access to fishing resources, funds, licenses, access to markets, information a provides a networking platform between women fish processors and traders	- Funding, inc funding for staff and organizational strengthening	★ ★	★ ★
Farm Forestry	★ ★ ★	★ ★	agroforestry	- builds awareness and skills of	-Financial and technical	★ ★	★ ★ ★

⁷ Number of women beneficiaries, dedicated organizational policies, budget and staffing

Smallholder Producers Association of Kenya (FFSPAK)				smallholder farmers on carbon measuring Strong focus on collective action, value addition on forest products	assistance to scale up implementation -Increased donors awareness on the need for alternative livelihoods - more staff		
Green Belt Movement	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	agroforestry	-builds technical capacities on diversified livelihoods, empowering women organizations and participation in decision-making and leadership	-Access to technology -Funds for women-specific activities	★ ★	★ ★ ★
GROOTS	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	Agriculture and clean energy	Promotes collective action, strengthens linkages to climate information, markets and clean energy Promotes land rights for women		★ ★	★ ★ ★

				- works with SEWA on clean energy and agriculture			
Katosi Women Group	★ ★ ★	★ ★	Agriculture, aquaculture, water, clean energy	-provides microfinancing, access to water, clean energy and leadership building to diversify sources of income for fishing community	-Better access to funding -Change investors perception of women's groups	★	★ ★
REFACOF African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	Agroforestry	Support for rural women's forestry entrepreneurship and climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives Institutional, organisational, technical and technological strengthening of the network and exchange of experiences	Funds for women-specific activities and staffing -Cultural barriers that perpetuate gender inequality and lack of land ownership	★	★ ★ ★

Rural Women Network	★ ★ ★	★ ★	Agriculture, economic empowerment	Supports collective action through establishment of women learning centers on environmental conservation, climate smart agriculture and economic empowerment	-Organizational strengthening -Funds for staff -Shifting donor's perception of women orgs	★	★ ★ ★
Self Help Africa (United Purpose)	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	WASH	- Women-led social enterprise model for sustainable development: Using the Women Business Centers model in an innovative way to go beyond ag and value chain – incl. health, nutrition and WASH.	-Increase consultations for use of resources -Ensure middlemen are not highjacking benefits for women and communities	★ ★	★ ★ ★
Solar Sisters	★ ★	★ ★ ★	Clean energy	-Recruits, trains and supports women and mentors them to kick-start a clean energy business, also provides spaces to	-Financing to scale up	★ ★	★ ★ ★

				strengthen women's groups			
Trees for the Future	★ ★	★ ★ ★	Carbon trading, policy advocacy	Revitalizing degraded lands using Forest Garden Approach Diversifying farms with multiple food crops and cropping system	-Prefinancing for carbon projects -Improve government regulations on carbon trading for smaller orgs	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★
Vi Agroforestry	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	Agroforestry	- capacity building for smallholder farmers on climate smart agriculture	- Funds for organizational strengthening -Continue demystifying land ownership	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★
Village Water	★ ★	★ ★	Water	-Training and mentoring to operate and maintain water services, or start enterprises on water supply services	-Funding -Access to technology to simplify data collection	★ ★	★ ★ ★

Considerations for the future:

- In terms of the methodology, it is very difficult to have a clear understanding of the organizational capacities only through a desk review and one round of interviews. In this case, most of the organizations that have been shortlisted are well-known organizations, with which the Regional Coordinators in Kenya and Nepal are also familiar. If a financial intermediary is foreseen for future application of the W+ Standard among a pipeline of organizations, it is advised to consider budget for either a second and third round of interviews, or field visits, this will allow to have a better understanding of the capacities of the organization to oversee a benefit sharing mechanisms and provide accountability to investors. This adjustment in the methodology could provide an opportunity to select organizations beyond the 'donor darlings' or those known to WOCAN.
- Further information should be collected on the size of the organization, its budget and budget allocation for gender and women's empowerment activities and internal policies on gender. Some organizations might have strong internal capacities, but might not be able to oversee a benefit sharing mechanism, for example. The benefit sharing with women's organizations and groups will depend on the organization's' capacities or linkages to other organizations or services that can provide this functionality.
- The process highlighted the importance of having regional coordinators who can provide insights on key organizations and ongoing processes in countries/region.
- This research established the very dire need for women's organizations working in land use sectors for funding to carry out and scale up their impact. It also drew attention to the ways in which donors may not be stepping up to fulfill this gap, either due to their lack of awareness of the links between women's empowerment and climate change mitigation/adaptation, or to their own limited mechanisms for providing indirect (core) support that could be used by women's organizations and Support Institutions to conduct activities such as building collective action, that they know are critical to their success.