GEDA

GENDER + ENVIRONMENT DATA ALLIANCE

Concept Note

July 2022

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Summary

The Gender and Environment Data Alliance (GEDA) aims to improve availability, accessibility, understanding, and application of quality and robust data and information at the gender and environment nexus. By compiling and amplifying existing gender data and research and identifying gaps, GEDA will support gender-just and evidence-based environment and climate action that meets the needs of all people in all their diversity. As a membership alliance, GEDA will serve as a hub for diverse organizations working on the intersection of gender and environment through a data lens.

Rationale

Gender data gaps - at all levels, across sectors - are barriers to effective policymaking and implementation. Despite a robust global framework for action (**ANNEX 1**), across environment-related sectors and spheres, pervasive gender data gaps persist, impeding progress toward meeting interlinked goals. Increasing the collection, analysis, communication, use of, and learning from cross-sector data and information at the intersection of gender and environment is critical to constructing and implementing gender-just climate plans and policies.

While some sector-specific data exists and is further emerging and increasing, no dedicated entity exists for curating or communicating this critical information. This limits the knowledge, capacity, and uptake from policymakers, programmers, funders, practitioners, and activists to apply this knowledge to achieve global climate and environment agendas and safeguard diverse peoples' lives and livelihoods.

Objectives and Activities

By leveraging the networks of its membership, the Alliance will mobilize diverse stakeholders to curate, communicate, amplify, and learn from gender and environment data. The Alliance will also engage in capacity and skills building at multiple levels, from grassroots practice to national implementation to global statistics norm-setting bodies. GEDA seeks to advance gender-just climate and environmental action by catalyzing and scaling the analysis and use of gender-disaggregated data and intersectional analysis. Formed as a Collective Commitment under the Generation Equality Forum, GEDA will improve accessibility, methods, understanding and application of robust gender data to contribute to equitable and sustainable outcomes for all.

GEDA will grow over an initial 5-year implementation phase, to serve four key functions:

1. **Compile and review** existing data and research at the nexus between gender and the environment, serving as a recognized reference hub to aggregate and analyze feminist, traditional and non-traditional data sources.

2. **Amplify and communicate** disaggregated, intersectional gender data, to scale gender-transformative policy and programming, including and beyond the traditional data establishment. The Alliance will analyze and amplify relevant and useful findings, structuring findings in accessible and clear formats such as monthly Data Bulletins and end of year syntheses focused on data updates and trends.

3. **Strengthen capacity** of statistical bureaus and other traditional data spaces and actors to catalyze best practices, and use of quality data and knowledge to promote gender-transformative environment and climate action. To inspire and instruct generation of relevant and useful data and evidence, the Alliance will design and implement capacity building modules and programs guided by feminist, participatory action research methods and citizen-generated data.

4. **Influence norms** of data generation, synthesis and analysis, including to strengthen the mandates of intergovernmental processes and redefine analytical frameworks around gender, climate, and environment, by expanding definitions and representation.

GEDA will seek to achieve these objectives through two key modalities:

a) Support a cohort of up to six international Fellows at the intersection of gender and environment data analysis, to enhance collections and synthesis of key data to inform gender-responsive policy and programming, in partnership with universities and other related institutions; and

b) Directly support enabling conditions for gender-environment data collection, analysis and application, including through the provision of small grants to support feminist participatory action research, capacity building, and other data collection and analysis initiatives.

Guiding Principles

GEDA will work to achieve its objectives, guided by the following principles in line with a feminist, intersectional approach:

Ambition: GEDA will present tools, frameworks, and approaches to advance systemic, gender-transformative shifts in policy, programming, financing, and planning.

Inclusion: GEDA will support and elevate the efforts of excluded actors, promoting and amplifying feminist participatory action research and other non-traditional practices of data and evidence collection, while adhering to accountability to

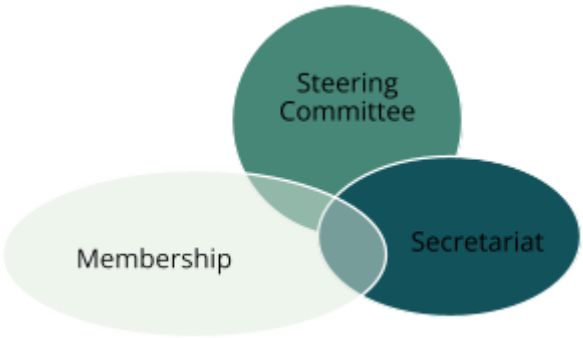
grassroots and civil society organizations through non-extractivist working methods.

Coherence: GEDA will collate and uplift existing work, convening efforts around gender and environment data to promote high quality gender-transformative data analysis, dissemination and use.

Accessibility: GEDA will encourage open and transparent collection and sharing of data, upholding our vision of data as a public good while protecting the privacy of data sources.

Governance

GEDA is driven by and accountable to the priorities of diverse women's movements and gender and climate constituencies. Drawn from the original 17 founding members of GEDA, governance of the Alliance will include civil society, international organizations, and United Nations entities. It will build community and shared purpose across different actors, with clear and accessible mechanisms for engagement and influence from grassroots and feminist organizations at the heart of GEDA's evolving program of work.



GEDA's governance will include three distinct, potentially overlapping groups (as outlined in the image above).

1. **Steering Committee:** GEDA will be governed by a Steering Committee (SC) of maximum eight institutional representatives, composed of a range of stakeholder areas with a preponderance of women's rights and grassroots organizations. Steering Committee members will be drawn from UN agencies, academic institutions, international organizations, and civil society organizations, with equitable representation across these categories. Membership in the Steering Committee will rotate (half every two years) to ensure the opportunity for new members to take leadership in the Alliance while guaranteeing some continuity

amongst the governance. The initial group will be comprised of representatives of GEDA's initial 17 founding members, with space for additional institutions to join during subsequent rotations. The Steering Committee will be functioning by early 2023, and will replace the current Governance Working Group.

2. **Membership/Network Partners:** GEDA network members participate in relevant Working Groups and undertake work in support of GEDA's mission. All members of the Alliance (including and beyond the SC) will meet on a quarterly basis and communicate via a dedicated (closed) Google group. Additional organizations or institutions expressing an interest in joining GEDA will be considered through a basic process carried out by the Steering Committee quarterly, with published criteria proposed by GEDA's Governance Working Group and agreed by GEDA's 17 founding members. These criteria and process for adding new members to GEDA will be set up by the end of 2022, and information will be published on GEDA's webpage and shared with its mailing list mentioned below.

3. **Secretariat:** GEDA's initial round of fundraising will enable the hiring of core staff and coordination support for the Alliance. These will include:
   - *Coordinator:* Manages the overall function of GEDA, including direct engagement with the GEDA Steering Committee as well as the GEDA Fellows, and future fundraising.
   - *Partnerships and Data Fund Manager*: Liaises with the GEDA partners including managing the bi-annual sub-granting process & reporting
   - *Communications Manager*: Oversees monthly newsletters & creation of infographics, data visualizations and training materials, etc.
   - *Data Fund Associate*: Liaises with the GEDA partners including managing the bi-annual small grants process & reporting
   - *Finance Support*: Financial oversight of the project plus project Auditor.
   - *5-6 Fellows*: 1-2 year Fellowships to support the review of data & creation of content for monthly newsletters and inputs to the GEF accountability process to track implementation.

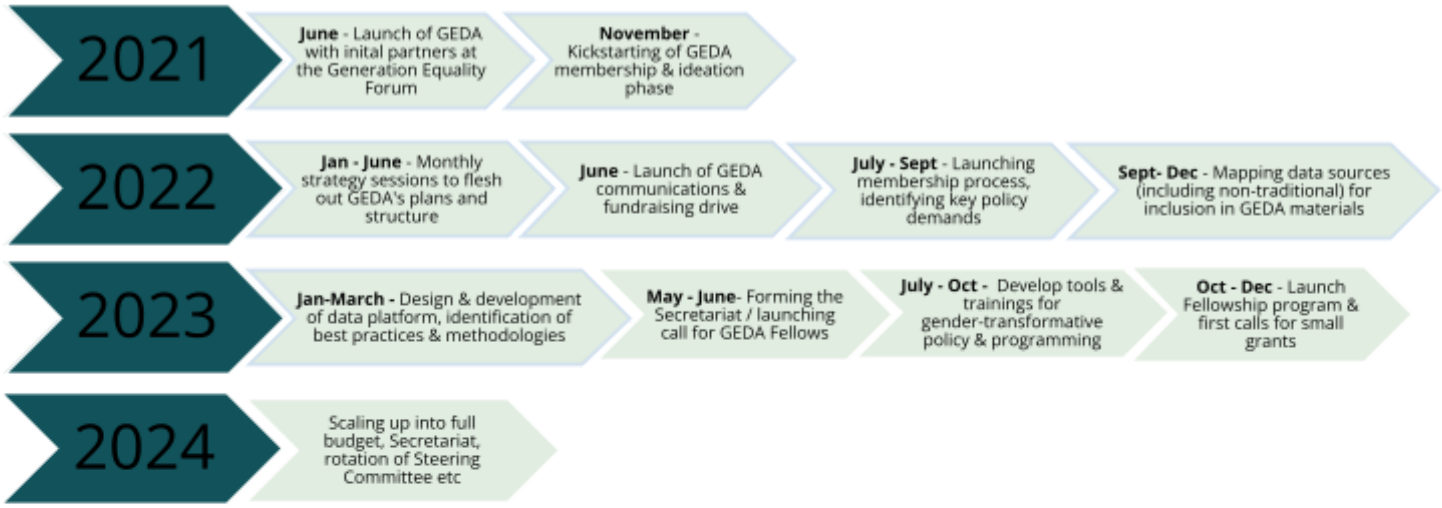
   An initial round of fundraising will enable hiring in at least two phases, with the Coordinator, Partnerships and Data Fund Manager, and Communications Manager as priority, followed by additional support on the data fund and financial oversight and the launch of GEDA's fellowship program.

4. **Mailing list:** In addition to the three modes of engagement above, an informational newsletter will be open to anyone interested in GEDA's work, and will serve an external outreach function. Regular emails and notifications will be sent to all on this listserv, including information on how to become an official GEDA

member/network partner. The current signup form is available at https://bit.ly/GEDAinfo.

An initial concept budget can be found in **ANNEX 2**.

Timeline



ANNEX 1. Policy Landscape underpinning GEDA

There is a robust policy landscape that calls for the collection and use of gender and environment data that underpins the need for an alliance like GEDA.

Beijing Platform for Action

Recognizing the need, over 25 years ago, for robust data and information at the intersection of gender and environment, Chapter K of the BPfA, has a strategic objective to *"Strengthen or establish mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels to assess the impact of development and environmental policies on women."* In particular it calls for action to:

(b) Develop gender-sensitive databases, information and monitoring systems and participatory action-oriented research, methodologies and policy analyses, with the collaboration of academic institutions and local women researchers, on the following:

(i) Knowledge and experience on the part of women concerning the management and conservation of natural resources for incorporation in the databases and information systems for sustainable development;

(ii) The impact on women of environmental and natural resource degradation, deriving from, inter alia, unsustainable production and consumption patterns, drought, poor quality water, global warming, desertification, sea level rise, hazardous waste, natural disasters, toxic chemicals and pesticide residues, radioactive waste, armed conflicts and its consequences;

(iii) Analysis of the structural links between gender relations, environment and development, with special emphasis on particular sectors, such as agriculture, industry, fisheries, forestry, environmental health, biological diversity, climate, water resources and sanitation;

(iv) Measures to develop and include environmental, economic, cultural, social and gender-sensitive analyses as an essential step in the development and monitoring of programmes and policies;

UNFCCC

Under the UNFCCC, over 80 Decisions call for the integration of gender considerations in national climate planning, including specific mandates for the collection and use of sex and gender disaggregated date and analysis.

The recently adopted Gender Action Plan specifically calls for actions "*Enhance capacity-building for governments and other relevant stakeholders to collect, analyse and apply sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis in the context of climate change*" as well as to "*Enhance the availability of sex-disaggregated data for gender analysis, taking into consideration multidimensional factors, to better inform gender responsive climate policies, plans, strategies and action, as appropriate.*"

It also calls for actions to *"Support the collection and consolidation of information and expertise on gender and climate change in sectors and thematic areas as well as identifying*

experts on gender and climate change, as needed, and enhance knowledge platforms on gender and climate change."

Climate Finance

Each of the climate finance mechanisms serving the UNFCCC, as well as the Climate Investment Funds (CIFs), has a gender policy or plan that calls for the collection of sex and gender data and analysis.

Convention on Biological Diversity

The 2015-2020 Gender Plan of Action invites all Parties to "Include sex/gender-disaggregated data collection and/or gender-specific indicators for national biodiversity targets."

UN Convention to Combat Desertification

The UNCCD Gender Action Plan aims to develop a baseline on gender-related issues in land degradation and desertification, and monitor, report and regularly review progress in the implementation and achievement of objectives.

Sustainable Development Goals

SDG13 on climate action has a target to "Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities."

ANNEX 2. Annual Budget

Initial Budget (2022 and 2023)

Description	Amount
Salaries & Fringe	$300,000
Consultants (i.e. Translation, Website Maintenance, Publication Design)	$100,000
Sub-Grants	$200,000
Travel	$48,000
Meals & Meetings	$40,000
Printing & Misc.	$10,000
TOTAL	**$698,000**

Scaled-Up Budget (2024 and 2025)

Description	Amount
Salaries & Fringe (incl. Fellows)	$1,103,000
Consultants (i.e. Translation, Trainers, Website Maintenance, Publication Design)	$300,000
Subscriptions / Software (i.e. Dropbox, Slack, Finance management, etc.)	$25,000
Sub-Grants	$1,000,000
Travel	$82,000
Meals & Meetings	$100,000
Printing & Misc.	$100,000
TOTAL	**$2,710,000**

ANNEX 3. Founding Members of GEDA

ALGA (Rural Women's Association)
Data2X
Diverse Voices and Action (DIVA) for Equality
GenderCC: Women for Climate Justice
Global Futures Laboratory at Arizona State University
Global Greengrants Fund
Heinrich Böll Foundation Washington, DC
International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
International Institute for Sustainable Development) (IISD)
International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) **co-convener**
International Women's Development Agency (IWDA)
UN Women (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women)
UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)
UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund)
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) **co-convener**
Women's Working Group on Financing for Development (WWG on FfD)
Women Environmental Programme (WEP)
Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN)