



DARE TO TRUST

DEVELOPING A CHAIN OF TRUST
WITH TRUST-BASED FINANCE





DARE TO TRUST

CONTENT

KARIN VAN BOXTEL

Opening words

3

LEARNING JOURNEY DARE TO TRUST

Our learning journey

4

LILAK

Phillipines

8

NTFP-EP ASIA

Phillipines

10

SAMDHANA

Indonesia

12

KEBETKACHE

Nigeria

14

LUMIÈRE SYNERGIE POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT

Senegal

16

WOMIN

South Africa

18

RURAL WOMEN'S ASSEMBLY

Southern Africa

20

SENGWER WOMEN CONSERVATION GROUP

Kenya

22

FÓRUM SUAPE

Brazil

24

COLECTIVO CASA

Bolivia

26

SYSTEM OF CARE

28

INSTITUTO CORDILHEIRA

Brazil

30

DUTCH POSTCODE LOTTERY

33

COLOFON

Both ENDS, March 2025

The Dare to Trust magazine highlights the work of Both ENDS on trust-based finance with partner organisations around the world.



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Text: Maaike Hendriks, Both ENDS

Concept & text: Marjet Heins - studioeend.nl

Design: Abel Derks - studioeend.nl

Photo on cover: Milka Chepkorir, Sengwer Women Conservation Group, Kenya

DARE TO TRUST: THE POWER OF UNCONDITIONAL FUNDING



Both ENDS cherishes its long-term relationships with partners in our global network. Our relationships are based on equality and built on trust. The trust we have in each other has developed from years of strategic cooperation, including joint advocacy around common agendas, knowledge sharing, networking, and mobilising and sharing resources to advance environmental justice. With respect to the latter, Both ENDS builds upon that mutual relationship of trust when leveraging our relationships with funders to mobilise and distribute funding to partners, trusting them to make the decisions about their priorities and the use of available resources. In this sense, our way of funding can be described as 'trust-based funding', a term increasingly used within the philanthropic community.

Both ENDS has always endeavoured to make our funding procedures as simple as possible for partners, to keep requirements and conditions at a minimum. But we longed to take this principle a step further, to fully translate the relationships of trust to the financing processes. Trust to use funding with no conditions at all and, together, share what we learned from the process. In 2022, with a generous special project grant from the Dutch Postcode Lottery, we were able to do just that. With the Dare to Trust initiative, we re-granted funds to 14 partners, no strings attached, to support the work of Women Environmental Human Rights Defenders (WEHRDs).

A chain of trust was created: the Dutch Postcode Lottery put its trust in Both ENDS to spend the funding well. In turn, we trusted the long-term partners we work with and they again put full trust in the WEHRDs with whom they work to identify their most pressing challenges and implement the most suitable solutions, based on their own analysis, contexts and capacities. Within the chain of trust, each of us played our special role. Both ENDS coordinated the project, distributed the funds and is sharing the lessons learned with a wider audience to encourage others to engage in this type of funding. Partners applied their knowledge of the local context and provided direct support to WEHRDs. Finally, and most fundamentally, WEHRDs had complete ownership over their activities and the results of their work, thereby ensuring maximum effectiveness.

In the pages that follow, we showcase the expected and unexpected marvels that WEHRDs and their organisations can realise when they receive support to implement their visions and plans, whatever they may be. I was both inspired and impressed to see how parts of the funds were directed toward diverse yet often underfunded activities that WEHRDs themselves identified as priorities - including essential initiatives such as care for each other and women's mental health. You will find a summary of their stories, including links to their videos, news articles, radio shows, podcasts, photos and a scrap book. We also share important insights and lessons from the process to inspire others. We show that a chain of trust is both possible and effective, particularly for those who, like WEHRDs, face major barriers in their access to resources.

'Dare To Trust' is a call to donors, policymakers and other grant-making institutions to show more trust. More unconditional funding ensures that local actors can address their challenges, needs and opportunities in an effective way.

Karin van Boxtel

OUR VISION

Both ENDS envisions an environmentally just world in which people and ecosystems thrive and all people can live a life of dignity.

OUR MISSION

Both ENDS strengthens, connects, advocates and creates space for civil society actors globally to bring about an environmentally just world.

INTRODUCTION:

THE DARE TO TRUST INITIATIVE

LESSONS

FROM DARE TO TRUST



DARE TO TRUST



CLICK FOR SOCIALS

To make our joint work possible, Both ENDS collaborates with partners – environmental justice organisations and socio-environmental funds in Africa, Asia and Latin America – to mobilise resources. We leverage our relationships with bilateral and philanthropic donors to advocate for funding reaching local actors more effectively and equitably, and support the channeling of funding from donors to partners. Such grants often come with onerous conditions and stringent accountability measures. Ironically, even funding mechanisms that are specifically intended to support local, grassroots organisations may be loaded with administrative requirements, and fail to take into account the realities and capacities of local groups and their initiatives. Given this situation, Both ENDS plays a valuable role by taking on the administrative burden and financial responsibility for large grants.

At the same time, we facilitate connections, mutual learning exchanges and joint strategy development between organisations worldwide. Insights that evolve from this, are integrated in our work at policy level, such as advocating for funding mechanisms that put decision-making power over resources in the hands of local actors. With Dare To Trust, Both ENDS and 14 partner organisations kick-started a process of learning together: to experience, learn and communicate about unconditional funding. As part of the initiative, each partner received €25,000 for a one-year project focused on women environmental human rights defenders (WEHRDs). In turn, partners re-granted the funds to trusted WEHRDs and their organisations, who were free to decide how they would use the money. To abide by fiscal and legal requirements, a brief contract was developed before the money was transferred. But there were no further expectations: no proposal, budget, criteria or reporting framework.

A growing network of socio-environmental funds

Both ENDS collaborates with diverse partner organisations worldwide, including community-based organisations, NGOs and research institutes, as well as a growing number of socio-environmental funds based in Africa, Asia and Latin America. These funds are playing a crucial role in providing flexible funding to Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and grassroots movements, particularly women and Indigenous-led groups and communities. They trust local actors to make their own decisions and allocate their resources to what is most needed. Socio-environmental funds are closely connected to the local movements they serve, and are responsive to the complexities and long-term horizon of locally led environmental and climate action. In addition to grants, they provide invaluable non-financial support, such as organisation strengthening, facilitation of linking and learning, and advocacy.

To find out more, see: Both ENDS and DOB Ecology 'Putting People First' and Socio-environmental Funds of the Global South (Alianza Socioambiental Fondos del Sur).

FOCUS ON WOMEN ENVIRONMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

The partners in the Dare To Trust initiative are almost all part of the [Global Alliance for Green and Gender Action](#) (GAGGA). Led by the women's fund Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres (FCAM), together with Both ENDS and Mama Cash, GAGGA harnesses the collective power of women's funds, environmental justice funds, NGOs and women-led community based organisations (CBOs) to strengthen work at the nexus of gender, environmental and climate justice. A key priority of GAGGA is to support and strengthen WEHRDs, who are often leading the struggle to defend rights and protect their communities and territories, including land, air, water and ecosystems. Their work ranges from combating pollution, deforestation, climate change, and destructive projects (e.g. mining, dredging, large hydroelectric and extractive agricultural) to restoring ecosystems, protecting biodiversity and ensuring food security.

WEHRDs and their organisations are operating under extremely difficult conditions, and face significant risk to their lives and well-being, each and every day. In an extensive consultation with WEHRDs around the globe, conducted in 2021, GAGGA asked them about their understanding and experiences of structural violence, how they face it and how donors can best support them.¹ Their message was clear: they need flexible funding that eschews bureaucratic requirements and enables them to use a diversity of strategies, from advocacy and communications to alliance-building to community care and healing. We have also learned that WEHRDs often need support simply to meet their basic human needs – food and water – and strengthen their livelihoods, so they can actively engage in public life and sustain their struggles for environmental justice.

'We noticed that the women want to spend part of the small grants on lobby and advocacy, but also part for their basic needs, for livelihoods. For some time now the women are telling us "advocacy is not food". Maybe only in the long-term, as result of the advocacy, but not in the short-term' – Lumiere Synergie pour le Développement, Senegal

Dare to Trust aims to provide WEHRDs the kind of funding they want (unconditional), in the way they want it (without burdensome requirements). We did not ask for formal reports about how the money was spent. But we did want to share the stories of what Dare To Trust achieved. To that end, each partner organisation received a budget for collective storytelling about the project, which they could interpret in whatever way they chose. Taken together, their stories make a powerful case for donors, policymakers and other grant-making institutions to have more trust in those who are leading social change, and rethink their funding strategies accordingly.

¹ See ['Structural violence: Learning from women and girl environmental defenders'](#) >

1. WOMEN ENVIRONMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS ARE EXPERTS OF THEIR OWN REALITY, THEY KNOW BEST WHAT IS NEEDED AND HOW TO CREATE IMPACT

The Dare To Trust partner organisations work in very different regions, circumstances and contexts. This diversity was reflected in the selection of the groups and collectives they supported, and the nature of the projects. Their choices fully depended on the contexts and the needs of the women who are fighting daily against harmful projects, patriarchy and racism, all of which threaten their (land and water) rights, food security and ways of life. The number of WEHRD groups supported varied from partner to partner, from one to as many as fifteen. Some partners chose to support individual WEHRDs by providing them cash.

'We decided to support four or five groups with this grant. The reason is that the Indigenous women (living in very remote areas) in our network are living under great distress. We do not want to put pressure on them. They need to build their confidence first and ... feel comfortable. We prefer to keep the use of the money flexible, dependent on the capacity of the women, and support many small things (small local level activities). The women are not at the stage that they can use large amounts'. – Anonymous

In terms of the selection process, some partners directly channelled support to local WEHRD communities from their networks. Others, like Rural Women's Alliance in Southern Africa, which spans several countries, used a democratic process involving its members to decide which group to support. The local WEHRD collectives who received the funds used participatory processes to consider and decide collectively how to use the money.

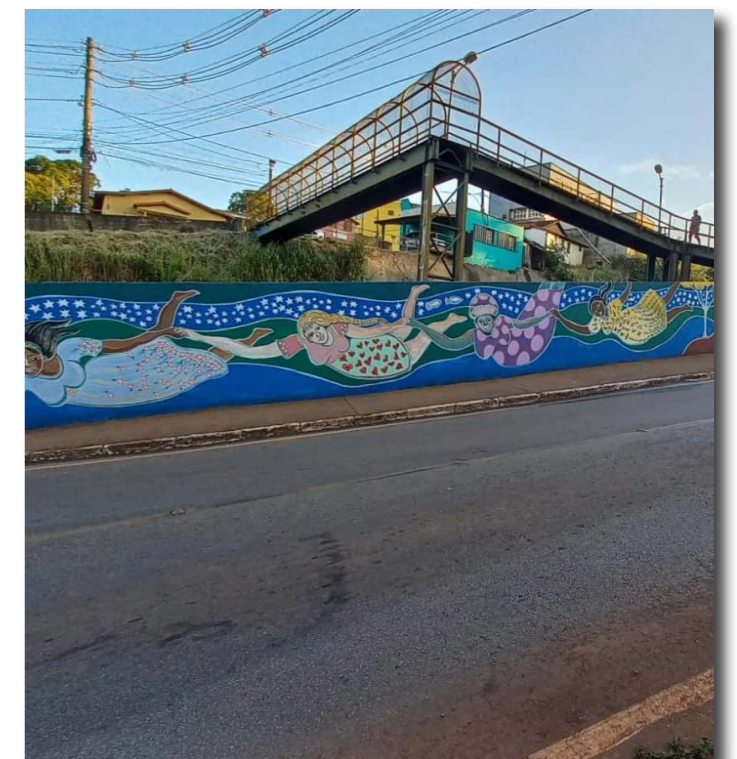
'What was challenging for us was very easy for the women defenders. They are administrators of the home and quickly formed a plan to improve their life conditions, or, like they say, a 'Plan to Live Good', which encompasses health, economy, empowerment and production/food. We are left with the valuable experience that we don't need to do everything so planned with projects, but that there is knowledge of the defenders that we have to trust. They will not think of the individual good but of the collective good. May the chain of trust multiply!!!' – Colectivo CASA, Bolivia

In the learning journey of Dare To Trust, Both ENDS set out to learn about the key priorities and choices of WEHRDs when they have the freedom to use their resources as they wish. What stands out is the enormous variety of initiatives and activities that were supported with the Dare To Trust grants, all selected by the women themselves. The initiatives range from investments in water and food security (e.g. in an agroecology demonstration centre, the processing and selling of non-timber forest products, community gardens, community kitchens, a community-based enterprise for coffee and tea, the conservation

and sale of Indigenous trees, pig farming, etc.) to other livelihood activities, such as a small neighbourhood store run by and for Indigenous women, a bio-ethanol project, ovens for home food production and a food laboratory. More detailed descriptions of these initiatives can be found below.

Almost always the women's livelihood initiatives went hand-in-hand with other activities, such as workshops to strengthen their organisational capacities or advocacy against policies and projects that threaten their environmental rights, food sovereignty or climate justice.

For Both ENDS, one unexpected outcome of Dare to Trust was that some partners decided to support individual women with cash. However, after reading their stories, it is clear that this was what the WEHRDs wanted and needed. For example, the women in Dakar, Senegal, supported by Lumiere Synergie pour le Développement (LSD), have been severely affected by a railroad project and a severe earthquake. After their tiresome fight against the project they were forced to relocate and have struggled to make a living. In response to this need, LSD supported 63 women with individual grants. The WEHRDs used their money for a variety of purposes, including basic necessities, small businesses, schooling for their children and medical fees. Some needed to pay off debts they had incurred during the months following their forced relocation, so they could invest in a small business and start earning an income again (see page 16).





DARE TO TRUST

2. WHEN WOMEN DEFENDERS HAVE CONTROL OVER THE DECISIONS AFFECTING THEIR LIVES, THEIR LEADERSHIP AND CONFIDENCE GROWS – AN IMPORTANT BUT OFTEN OVERLOOKED LONG-TERM IMPACT

The stories that the WEHRDs shared reveal that, in response to the unconditional funding, they were able to use their freedom to dream and think collectively about how to spend the money and how to deal with the trust put in them. They collectively made choices about the projects they wanted to start, but also made use of the space to reconsider those choices and make changes, based on local obstacles or new insights.

In their stories, the women describe how Dare to Trust gave them confidence and strengthened their leadership. In some cases, it freed them from the control of influential men. Many WEHRDs shared that the project not only provided them with income or food, it allowed them to increase their capacities for organising, resource mobilisation and political advocacy, and, most of all, consolidated their group. For many of the WEHRDs, who have lived in difficult conditions for years, the project and the trust put in them gave them hope.

‘The support received from Both ENDS through “Dare to Trust” inflicted many feelings, emotions and challenges both for the Colectivo CASA team, as for the women defenders of the territories. It has meant working from the personal and collective dreams and strengthening trust, which is why we call the project Sowing Dreams, watering with drops of hope’ – Colectivo CASA, Bolivia

3. WOMEN DEFENDERS PRIORITIZED SAFETY, STABLE LIVELIHOODS AND THE SPACE TO BREATHE AND HEAL FROM HARM

The projects involving livelihoods were frequently accompanied by activities for health and collective care. In conversations with all WEHRD groups, one common concern stood out: women’s mental health.² The women, especially the leaders, often feel tired, depleted and overwhelmed by the enormity of their struggles, the continuous threats they face, and their concern for the future of their families and communities. Their need for care and healing was taken up in their Dare To Trust plans.

The WEHRDs of Forum Suape, in Brazil, have for years been fighting and campaigning against multiple dredging projects. Many have lost their fishing grounds and livelihoods because of the dredging, and are afraid for their lives. The group set up community kitchens as a safe space for women to share their personal struggles and provide mutual support. The women organised a number

² To address these challenges, Both ENDS has been developing a comprehensive **System of Care**, exploring and piloting the ways in which partners facing threats as a result of their environmental and human rights work can be supported in their efforts to build protection, strengthen practices of care and sustain their work.

of activities focused on collective care, including meetings to exchange experiences, leisure activities, and safe spaces for cultural exchange and interaction (see page 24). In another example, a group organised a workshop with 50 women defenders on self-care and health. The group also provided the members with medical plants, as well as money for psychological support (see page 26).

‘This is a space for social transformation, especially for Black women and children; it’s a welcoming space for the whole community. It has helped us to keep growing, thriving and embracing more and more people, more women and more children.’ – WEHRD from Forum Suape, Brazil

One of the goals of Lilak - Purple Action for Indigenous Women’s Rights, based in the Philippines, is to strengthen and sustain their partner community’s ‘Web of Care’, emphasising support and solidarity within the community, particularly for Indigenous WEHRDs who are facing significant risks and challenges. They used part of their Dare the Trust funds to create a safe space in their city office for WEHRDs to come together, discuss and dream. The space also serves as a sanctuary, a home away from home, for at-risk Indigenous WEHRD (see page 8).

4. GIVEN THE FREEDOM TO TELL THEIR OWN STORIES IN THEIR OWN WAY, PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS AND WEHRDS DESCRIBED THEIR CHALLENGES, NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES AS WELL AS THE IMPACTS IN EFFECTIVE AND CREATIVE WAYS

An important goal of Dare To Trust was to learn how organisations, when they can decide for themselves, wish to tell their stories. What we discovered, and you will see in the pages that follow, is that partners used incredible creativity to tell their stories. Some commissioned local journalists and film-makers to make videos. Others trained local youth in film-making and photo journalism. Others wrote their reflections, along with photos and drawings. We received news articles by local journalists, a podcast, a recording of a radio show featuring the Dare To Trust project and the work of the local women who took part in it, as well as a scrapbook that features a colourful tour of a space for women seeking connection and empowerment. (Links to these items are included in the stories below).

With the freedom to tell their own stories, partners and WEHRDs were able to strengthen themselves as part of the process. Rather than forcing their work and results into a set of rigid indicators, they were able to highlight what they found to be the most important results, thus enhancing the effectiveness and value of their reporting. As a consequence, the funder and other potential audiences get a much better picture of the real story on the ground, which puts everyone in a better position to learn from and build on these experiences.³

³ For more on the value of stories for accountability and learning, see Karine Godthelp (Both ENDS), *Liever een goed verhaal* (in Dutch).

‘Trust breeds trust. Flexible trust based funding has a good potential to reciprocate trust and a more accountable use of the funds. A culture of sharing accountability is created. Women try to ensure that they put the resources to good use, to share these resources equitably amongst peer women. It results to a stronger sense of “women helping each other” - NTFF-EP Asia

5. BUILDING LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIPS WITH PARTNERS AND DARING TO TRUST THEM IS EFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

Donors often worry about the risk of fraud, indefinite delays and unaccounted money. These risks may never be eliminated, but our experience, confirmed by the Dare to Trust initiative, is that such risks can be avoided by building long-term relationships with partners. Also from an efficiency point of view, the costs of a trust-based approach outweighs the costs of a large infrastructure of accountability systems with assessments, proposals, indicators, reporting, monitoring and evaluation.

Granting trusted partners and the WEHRDs they work with unconditional funds is both efficient and sustainable. It avoids costly procedures and, what’s more, it strengthens hope and confidence.⁴ We did not require financial reports, but we can clearly see in the

stories below how far WEHRDs got with the limited amounts of money they received. At Both ENDS we don’t stop to be amazed by this. As one member of the Movement for the Mountains and Waters of Santo Antônio do Itambé, Brazil said:

‘Trust and faith are what keeps us going. Trust in life, in our conscience, in our work, in our partners. It’s something that almost has no explanation in the face of such an adverse scenario. An action like “Dare to Trust” has the power to reinforce this belief that we are not alone, that when extreme and almost unbearable tiredness hits, some miracle happens, a gift, unexpected support, it’s like life saying: go ahead, we’re with you!’

⁴ This was also a key finding of an external evaluation of GAGGA’s Autonomy and Resilience Fund (ARF), a funding initiative launched at the beginning of the pandemic, in 2020, to address the urgent needs of women environmental defenders and their communities. The structure of the GAGGA network – and the relationships and trust it facilitates – proved crucial to the success of the ARF, which rapidly moved vital resources to women environmental defenders and their communities. In a period of just six weeks, GAGGA was able to distribute €255,000 to 41 community-based organisations and seven NGOs in 21 countries around the world. According to the evaluators, ‘GAGGA and its partner funds created a basis of trust and allowed for flexibility and a rapid response to the needs of community-based organisations, NGOs and communities in a pertinent way. The ARF was not only easily accessible to eligible applicants, it was also strategic for strengthening communities’ resilience and autonomy systems and addressing urgent issues. The ARF was able to reach local groups with strong and recognised female leadership and with very limited access to mainstream sources of funding.’ See: [The Autonomy and Resilience Fund – Transforming Fear into Hope](#).

Examining power

Both ENDS supports organisations and movements that are transforming power relations so that people everywhere can influence and share in the benefits of political and economic processes. To effectively create a sustainable, fair and inclusive world, we realise that it’s crucial to analyse power – to examine who holds what kind of power and how they use it – and to work to re-calibrate power as needed. We recognise that power – including its positive forms, such as the ‘power with’ and ‘power to’ bring about social change – is a crucial factor in the world around us, as well as in our own relationships, especially with partners.

Both ENDS is committed to cooperating with partner organisations as equal partners. We recognise, however, that by taking up a re-granting role, our position of power in relation to partners changes. Reflecting on this position, in 2023 we embarked on an Examination of Power process. The purpose was to better understand how Both ENDS holds power and how partners experience equity and power in their relationship with Both ENDS, as well as to learn how we can better share power towards fair and equitable partnerships. More information and the results of the process can be found [here](#).



LILAK

PHILIPPINES

LILAK Purple Action for Indigenous Women's Rights is a collective of feminists, activists, indigenous women and advocates putting our hearts, minds, and energies together to support and act in solidarity with the struggle of the indigenous women. LILAK empowers indigenous women by raising awareness of their rights, enhancing their skills, and deepening analysis of their situations and influencing factor.



PHILIPPINES



DARE TO TRUST

LILAK has worked alongside indigenous women communities for over a decade, focusing on building capacity and advocating for rights to land, the environment, and bodily autonomy. Despite gaining recognition and trust from allies, the journey was challenging. Starting with limited resources, LILAK faced resistance, particularly from patriarchal leaders and the state, which often labeled them as adversaries. Nevertheless, they adapted and continued their work, grounded in solidarity and sisterhood.

Funding partners have gradually supported LILAK's programs, recognizing their transparency and accountability. However, the formal reporting and compliance requirements often hinder indigenous women from accessing funds, as these involve technical skills and systems that can be challenging given language barriers and their daily struggles. These administrative burdens add to their marginalization, highlighting a broader lack of trust.

Strengthen community and a sustainable livelihood

The Dare to Trust Project, launched in 2023, aimed to address these challenges. It provided LILAK and its community partners the flexibility to allocate funds in ways that directly benefit indigenous women, particularly those who are human rights defenders. The project's primary goal was to strengthen community support networks, offering sustainable livelihood opportunities and long-term economic stability for members.

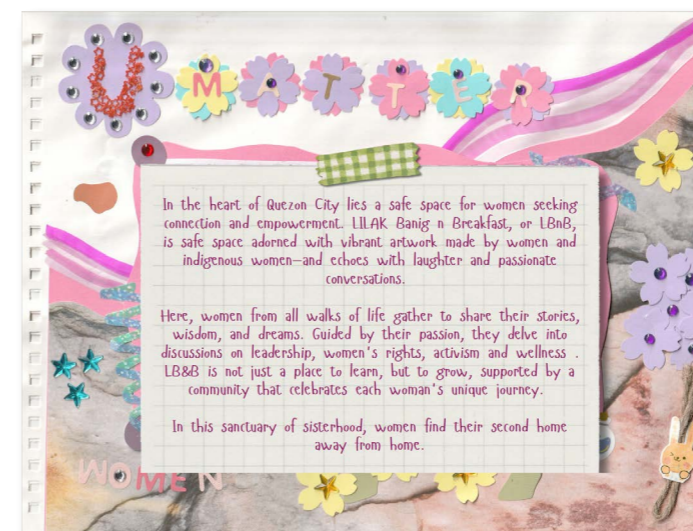
Dreams transformed into actions

Through the project, dreams transformed into concrete actions. For example, a feature story highlighted young indigenous women managing a sari-sari store, contributing to their community's well-being. LILAK's Banig and Breakfast initiative provided a space for connection and empowerment, serving as a sanctuary for women human rights defenders. The project also supported agricultural initiatives, allowing communities to sustain themselves while continuing their fight for land and rights.

Fight for justice

The Dare to Trust Project emphasized mutual trust and collective progress, showing that with trust, indigenous women and their communities can thrive, pursue their dreams, and continue their fight for justice.

LILAK supported three activities with three communities of women in the Philippines. They shared their results with us in this



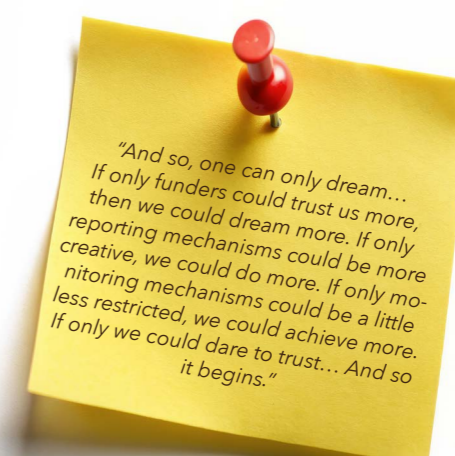
Scrapbook about the safe space



Video on the agricultural project



Short report on the sari-sari store



NTFP-EP ASIA

PHILIPPINES

Non-timber Forest Products - Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP) Asia, headquartered in the Philippines, is a network promoting sustainable, culturally-appropriate NTFP-based forest management, empowering indigenous communities to govern forests and contribute to biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation.



PHILIPPINES



DARE TO TRUST



NTFP-EP selected two grassroots women's organisations in the Philippines and Cambodia for their Dare to Trust project. What is a recurring theme among the two pilot communities is that they are both recognizing the necessity of involving their youth and the importance of women in balance with their communities. The Dare to Trust project provided them with the independence to utilize the resources they have and thus handed to them the agency for more grounded and better judgment. By giving more liberty to the communities we are moving them away from bureaucratic processes and power structures, and towards more empowered decision making capabilities.

From handicraft to farming

The organisation "Asosasyon sang Tumandok-Bukidnon sa Barangay Balicotoc" (ATBBB, Asociation of Tumandok-Bukidnon of Balicotoc village) is mainly composed of indigenous Tumandok women in Ilog, Negros Occidental, Philippines. The community has faced several development-related aggressions in the form of immense land conversions of forest areas into agricultural and settlement areas. The community has recognized how detrimental these developments are to the forest and biodiversity, their water table, and the health of their ecosystem. The main livelihood of community members is now linked to livestock, poultry raising, and farming agricultural crops. Before this, the community, and especially the women, partook in handicraft production using natural non-timber materials sourced from their forests. Due to years of denudation and plunder, which threatens their ecosystem, the communities have stopped their craft-making.

A coffee production center

The resources that the ATBBB hoped to utilize for their D2T project development were lemongrass, turmeric and sambong, but the community found these to be ineffective and time consuming. Based on their own judgment of the accessibility and availability of resources, therefore, they decided to move forward with growing, processing and selling what they have at their disposal: coffee. They created a production center for their community based enterprise.



Watch the video on ATBBB



The power of the young generation

The young generation have been recognized by both Taing Se Malu and ATBBB to be entitled with the preservation for their communities knowledge. This is why it is believed that the youth should be capacitated and equipped with adequate knowledge to play a significant role in generational knowledge transfer. Through the video storytelling workshops that were conducted by NTFP-EP Asia, the Taing Se Malu and the ATBBB were able to produce a video for each of their communities. The process of making a storytelling video is a process that yields results not only in the form of having the youth participate, but also in terms of them becoming more well-informed about their own communities.

Watch the collective movie
on Dare to Trust by NTFP



Raising live stock and capacity building

The Taing Se Malu village in Cambodia, home to Jarai indigenous groups, has historically faced a set of threats since the 1960s and struggled to retain their resilience amid multiple crises during the recent decades. Logging concessionaires and mining companies entered the community in the guise of development, but ultimately became an adversary to their beliefs that is woven in the spiritual forest mountains. Today, years later, the community finds themselves more capable of farming and cultivating fruit-bearing trees, such as cashew and root crops (e.g. cassava), collecting non-timber forest products such as bamboo shoots, mushrooms, and wild vegetables. While the women of the community are participating in the livelihood activities of raising livestock, buffalo, poultry and pigs, they are still the ones expected to maintain their domestic life. This shows that the Taing Se Malu village still has ingrained and archaic gender dynamics, such as women being unable to represent themselves, being less informed of managing economic life and being disempowered to step outside of their village. With the D2Tgrant, they were able to explore more about traditional agricultural practices and other livelihood knowledge. The Taing Se Malu organization decided to purchase pigs that can be raised and increased in quantities by the women members of their organization. More importantly, through the grant, they formed a women's group and a youth group to empower them in their pursuit of a more gender-just community.

Watch the short movie on the work
of the Taing Se Malu village



Thean
President of the Jarai women's
group

"The project has been effective in empowering and encouraging us women to be brave and strong. We truly hope this project wouldn't end. For me I really want to transmit to our youth and women to discuss with each other. We must work together, encourage one another and strengthen our group together."

SAMDHANA

INDONESIA

The **Samdhana Institute** collaborates with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Southeast Asia to promote social and environmental justice, mentoring the next generation through a community of committed practitioners and activists. Yasoresh, is a social and humanitarian organization engaged in education, community empowerment, entrepreneurial development, and climate change. It strives to become a learning organization for the restoration of local sorghum conditions in order to support progressive and sustainable food sovereignty.



INDONESIA



DARE TO TRUST



The Lamaholot tribal community of East Flores and Lembata Regency, inhabiting islands such as Adonara, Solor, and Lembata, has a rich cultural heritage shaped by unique agricultural, fishing, and food traditions. However, these traditions are under threat from modernization, social shifts and climate change, leading to a loss of local food knowledge and cultural practices.

To address these challenges, the Dare to Trust project by Samdhana supports the local organization Yasoresh in promoting food security and preserving Lamaholot culture, particularly through empowering youth and women on Adonara and Lembata Islands. The project involves 225 participants (108 men and 117 women) and includes community training, organizational development, and activities designed to reinforce local food systems and cultural preservation.

Key project activities include:

- 1. Documenting Local Cultural Practices:** Data collection efforts to preserve Lamaholot's food traditions, agricultural methods, and nature-linked rites, providing a cultural and educational foundation for future generations.
- 2. Empowering Youth and Women in Ecological Advocacy:** Young people and women are capacitated to advocate for sustainable food practices, raise awareness about local food diversity and promote environmental stewardship.
- 3. Developing Agricultural Innovations:** The project encourages cultivating sorghum, sticky corn, and barley using modern techniques, fostering sustainable practices while respecting traditional agricultural knowledge.
- 4. Establishing a Food Laboratory:** The lab facilitates collaboration across generations, focusing on knowledge sharing and technological integration to boost food security, economic opportunities, and ecological harmony.



Support from Dare to Trust enhances these initiatives, aligning with Sustainable Development Goals by promoting sustainability, cultural preservation, and community resilience. Through documentation, education, and agricultural innovation, the project builds a foundation for sustainable local development that aligns with Lamaholot traditions and supports food security.



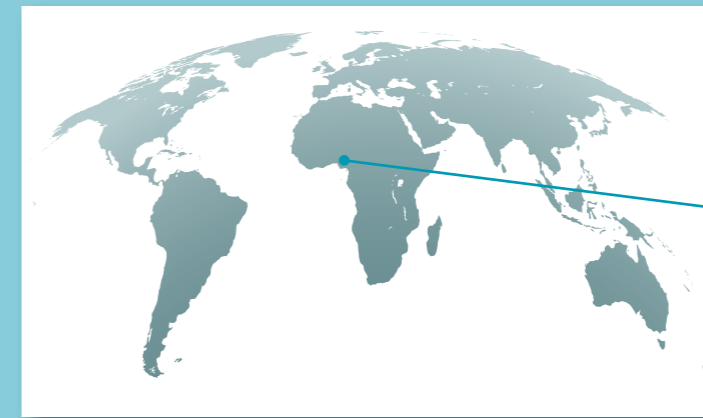
Read the full story of Mama Sorghum from the East Flores and her work for the Peace Movement that works to maintain biodiversity



KEBETKACHE

NIGERIA

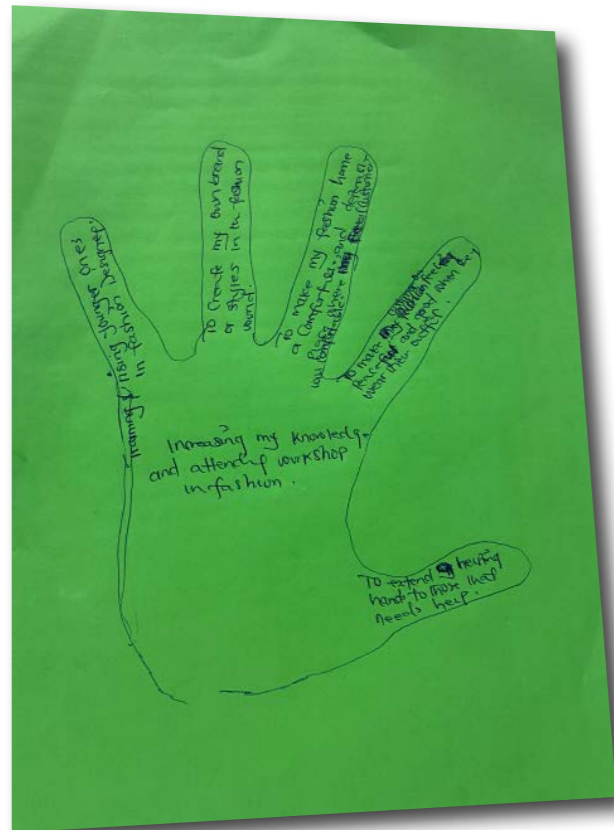
Kebetskache Women Development & Resource Centre advocates for women's rights and social justice in Nigeria, focusing on leadership development across four areas: Women's Human Rights, Democracy, Conflict Management, and Environment.



NIGERIA



DARE TO TRUST



The Dare to Trust initiative, led by Kebetskache Women Development & Resource Centre with support from Both ENDS, empowers individuals with business potential who face financial constraints. The program has successfully supported 40 beneficiaries, enabling them to grow their businesses and skills without the need for formal proposals. Kebetskache used its discretion to identify those most in need to start and expand small businesses. The initiative has significantly empowered the recipients primarily low-income earners and individuals from impoverished households allowing them to improve their financial situations and establish sustainable sources of income.

The importance of long-term sustainability

The initiative operates on a model of trust, allowing Kebetskache to disburse funds based on assessed needs. The beneficiaries utilized the support to start new businesses or enhance existing ones, leading to numerous success stories. Kebetskache emphasized the importance of expanding these businesses for long-term sustainability, stressing that the funds are not loans but are accessible through a cooperative for repayment.

Kick-off for new enterprises

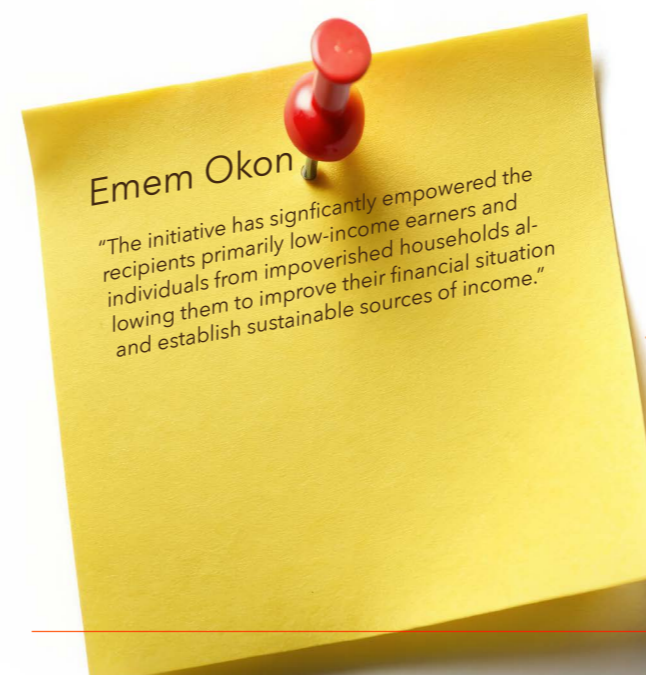
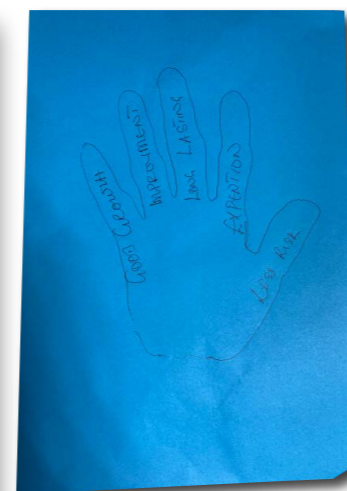
During an interactive session, beneficiaries shared their experiences, expressing gratitude for the funds, which allowed them to start various enterprises, from fashion to agriculture. One beneficiary in Akwa Ibom State opened a pig farm and a shop, while another established a climate-smart agriculture group in Bayelsa, utilizing the funds for farming and fishing.

Strategies for improvement

Challenges faced included pests in farming and the high cost of animal feeds. However, beneficiaries identified strategies for improvement, such as expanding their businesses, mentoring others, and participating in workshops. They emphasized the need for customer relations and branding to attract a wider clientele. Overall, the Dare to Trust initiative has proven to be a timely and impactful support system for the beneficiaries, fostering entrepreneurial spirit and community development.



Radio item Kebetskache



Emem Okon

"The initiative has significantly empowered the recipients primarily low-income earners and individuals from impoverished households allowing them to improve their financial situation and establish sustainable sources of income."

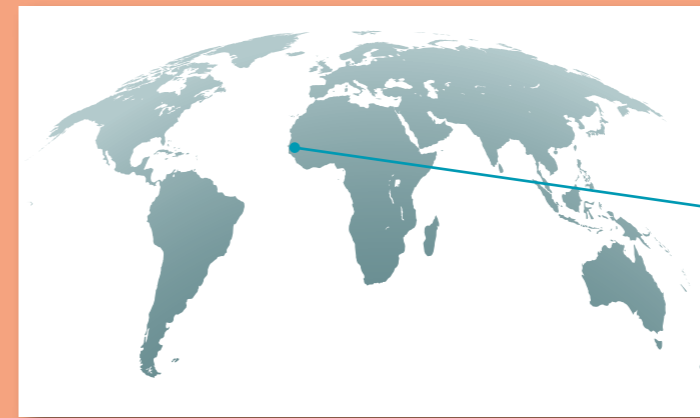
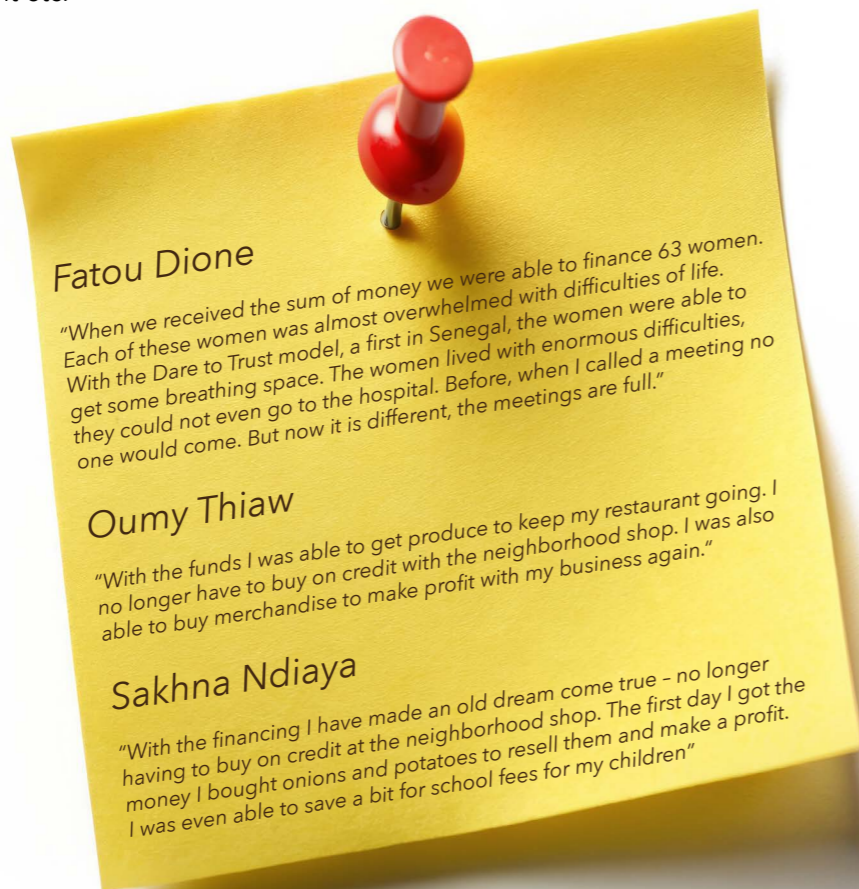
LSD

SENEGAL

Lumière Synergie pour le Développement (LSD) is a Senegalese NGO founded in 2008, focusing on human rights in development projects, offering capacity-building, supporting community complaints, and advocating for transparency in financial institutions.

Lumière Synergie pour le Développement (LSD) has helped 63 individual women who all have had problems due to the development of a controversial train project (TER) in Senegal and a recent big earthquake. These communities are displaced by the train project, involuntarily resettled, their property has been destroyed and they have been harassed. Moreover, they have never been consulted and are still waiting to receive fair compensation.

LSD has for years supported the women in these communities. LSD has selected 63 most vulnerable women whose life due to the project and the big Dakar earthquake had spiraled down in a negative way. Their problems were critical, with debts to pay rent, food, no possibility to get medical aid or education for their children. LSD's support gave them the chance to kickstart their own businesses selling food, as a restaurant etc.



SENEGAL



DARE TO TRUST

Both ENDS
 Connecting people for change



RESTITUTION DU PROJET DARE TO TRUST

Les bénéficiaires se prononcent un an après

Le projet Train Express (TER), une infrastructure visant à accroître la mobilité dans la région de Dakar ; il a engendré le déplacement de 14465 et affecté négativement près de 2000 familles dans le Département de Dakar et sa banlieue. Des femmes qui ont vu leurs biens partir en fumée malgré de nombreuses tentatives de plaintes au sein des autorités.

Fort de ce constat, Both Ends et ses partenaires pensent qu'il faudrait faire confiance à ces femmes de terrain et à leurs organisations, en leur accordant des fonds directement et de façon flexible, pour investir comme bon leur semble dans l'amélioration de leur existence. D'où la naissance du projet Dare to trust 1 (Osez faire confiance) dont l'objectif consiste à allouer des subventions à des Femmes Défenseurs de l'Environnement et des Droits de l'Homme (WHERD) au niveau local et leurs communautés pour améliorer leurs moyens de subsistance et leur résilience de façon durable.

Ainsi, Both ENDS a sélectionné 15 organisations partenaires dans son réseau sur 3 continents qui devaient redistribuer les subventions à l'un de leurs partenaires ou communautés de confiance. A leur tour, ces partenaires devaient allouer la subvention à un projet de subsistance pour une communauté partenaire dirigée par des femmes, au nom de cette communauté. Ainsi au Sénégal, LSD a alloué une subvention de 10 millions 500 milles FCFA aux femmes impactées du TER de Dakar. Soixante trois femmes en ont bénéficiées. Des femmes qui étaient devenues des sans abris pour certaines et d'autres ont vu leurs économies s'envoler car étant asphyxiées par des locations impayées et des frais de scolarité de leurs enfants. Des élèves ont abandonné leurs études vu les contraintes pour regagner les écoles sises en centre ville.

Un an après, elles se vivent

Du haut de ses 50ans Maria Diao détenait un restaurant. / Elle a vu son lieu de commerce détruit car il était sur les emprises du Ter/ c'est le début du calvaire : Maria enchaîne les recherches pour un



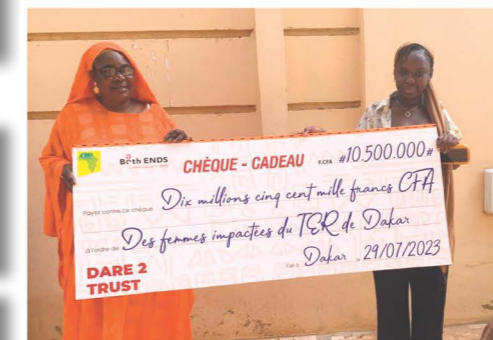
trouver local ou loger et en même temps y exercer son travail ; les arriérés de location s'invitent à sa mésaventure. Au mois juillet 2023 elle fait parti des bénéficiaires du Projet Dare To Trust avec la somme reçue elle régularise avec son bailleur et s'active à nouveau dans la restauration. Ce modèle de financement est une première en Afrique. Il visait à Promouvoir et améliorer de façon durable les moyens de subsistance et de résilience d'au moins une communauté de Femmes Défenseurs de l'Environnement et des Droits de l'Homme. Les histoires se suivent mais ne se ressemblent pas, Fatou Ndiolle Thiaw était vendeuse de couscous. Elle prenait des sacs de mil à crédit chez son fournisseur, une céréale locale qu'elle transformait en couscous : avec les déguerpissements, elle se retrouve dans une promiscuité dans un populaire quartier à Niary Tally. Elle payait un appartement à 250milles franc CFA. Étranglée par le coût de la vie, elle finit par déménager dans le même quartier mais cette fois si dans un studio à 100milles F Cfa. Après avoir bénéficié du projet elle a payé ses dettes et être à jour avec son fournisseur et continuait son commerce avec toute tranquillité. La BAD et l'AFD, principaux bailleurs du projet disposent de politiques de sauvegarde environnementales et sociales destinées à protéger les populations riveraines de ses projets. Cependant, ces derniers ont failli à leurs responsabilités et n'ont pas pu faire respecter leurs propres poli-

tiques. Et en résultante, plus de 2 000 personnes et de milliers de familles n'ont pas été correctement réinstallées ce qui accroît le risque d'une paupérisation des PAPs. Le 28 novembre 2023 la Banque a finalement rendu public le rapport de vérification de conformité du projet. L'aveu de la Direction de la Banque illustre parfaitement la hauteur des préjudices. « Si le TER est fonctionnel et très utile aux populations sur le tronçon Dakar-Diarmadio, c'est au prix d'une perte de moyens de subsistance, de pertes socio-économiques, de relogements inadéquats, d'une paupérisation, d'une détérioration du niveau de vie, de troubles, de phénomènes de stress psychologiques et d'anxiétés pour les PAP du projet TER 1. Certaines femmes impactées du projet du Train Express Régional ne parvenaient plus à assurer correctement les 3 repas quotidiens. En recevant leur pactole sur le financement Dare to trust certaines ont acheté de la nourriture à savoir du riz du lait, du sucre et de l'huile c'est le cas de Marie Faye ; Yacine Mbaye et Amy Thiaw toutes les trois ont la même histoire. Elles se ravitaillaient dans la boutique du quartier à crédit ; chose qui était devenue quasi impossible vu les dettes qu'elles avaient accumulées pendant des mois. Après avoir reçu leurs enveloppes, elles ont remboursé et ont débuté de petits commerces pour soutenir leurs maris dans la dépense quotidienne.

En 2023 ; Both Ends a canalisé 3,2 millions d'euros directement vers 221 OSC et 1.1millions de dollars aux fonds de petites subventions dans les pays du sud.

Avec ce projet Both Ends voulait montrer qu'une chaîne de confiance est possible du donateur arrière à l'intermédiaire en passant par le partenaire local mais aussi tirer davantage d'enseignements des principales priorités des femmes leaders. Les subventions Osez faire confiance soutiennent les groupes de femmes dans la mise en œuvre de toutes les actions qu'ils jugent nécessaires pour améliorer leur vie, leur communauté et leur environnement. Il n'y a aucune restriction ni obligation formelle de déclaration. Ces femmes impactées du TER ont décidé elles mêmes de la manière dont elles partagent leur travail et l'utilisation des fonds. Trois jeunes filles ayant abandonné leurs études font partie des bénéficiaires, il s'agit de Marie Mina Diatta, Ndéye Fatou Mbengue et Fatou Mbacké. Elles se sont investies dans la vente de parfum dans leurs quartiers précisément à Keur Massar pour ensuite utiliser leurs bénéfices plus tard dans des formations professionnelles. Pour le cas de Ndéye Fatou Mbengue, elle précise qu'une partie de son pactole a servi à assurer les frais médicaux de son père. Un père tombé malade depuis les déguerpissements occasionnant la destruction de sa bâtisse pour les travaux du TER. Sa famille n'a pas reçu de dédommagements et depuis 2017 elle réclame justice.

Tous ces témoignages permettent de reprendre l'avis de Maaike Hendriks à savoir « Le cœur du projet Dare to Trust est de laisser tomber le contrôle.



Titre du Projet : **DARE TO TRUST**
 Date du présent rapport : **31/07/2024**
 Consultant- **Salimata Aw - Journaliste**

Watch video



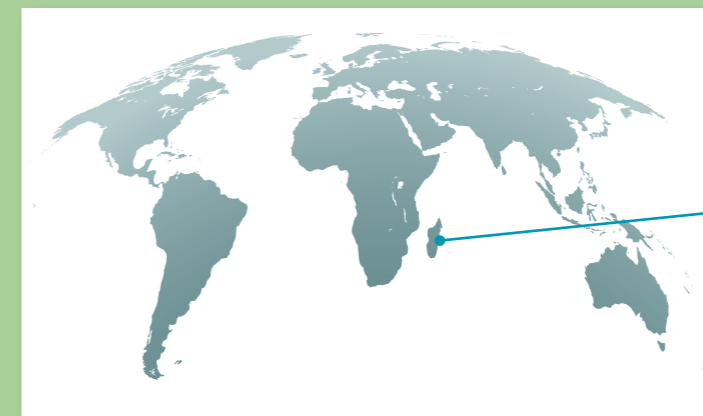
Article (French)



WoMin

SOUTH AFRICA

WoMin is an African alliance advocating for women-centered development and climate justice, challenging extractivism in 11 countries through a radical ecofeminist agenda against corporations and complicit governments globally.



MADAGASKAR



DARE TO TRUST

In the Dare to Trust project, **WoMin** has worked with local women's, youth and farmer groups in Madagascar. The Malagasy government has revised investment and mining codes to attract investors, providing favorable conditions for companies but offering limited protections for affected communities. These changes coincide with global crises—climate, food, health, energy, and economic—that have heightened land issues in development debates, leading to increased resource grabbing. In response, the local organizations have shifted their focus to community land and food sovereignty projects. Over the past decade, Madagascar's official rural development narrative has shifted from resisting land grabbing to embracing foreign investment, viewing it as a solution to chronic poverty and hunger caused by a perceived investment shortage.

1. Strengthen the capacities of regional and local branches by organizing specific strategic training sessions and workshops. The main topic was how to monitor projects and process environmental rights, food sovereignty and climate justice.

2. Support the implementation of sustainable development initiatives :

11 community gardens

2 farming wells

1 ethanol still for energy

45 women trained in soap producing

3. A pilot project in Madagascar's Diana region to promote community land sovereignty, addressing land access and control issues amid new legal frameworks and increasing land grabbing. The project supports community mobilization and awareness campaigns to defend land rights, especially against irregularities in infrastructure projects like freeway construction.

4. To build the capacities of young network members, a practical training workshop on food sovereignty, peasants rights, climate and ecological justice was organized. Over 30 young participants from 10 different regions attended. In five different regions farmers were also trained on this topic. Rural women were mobilized and research was conducted on this topic to combat policies and practices that run counter to these topics.



A new source of energy: the ethanol project

Studies predict that Madagascar could lose all its forests in 40 years if deforestation continues at the current rate. 95% of households rely on wood for cooking, contributing significantly to health risks. According to the World Bank, 12,000 annual deaths in Madagascar, including over 10,000 children under 5, result from respiratory issues due to household air pollution from biomass cooking.

CRAAD-OI supports rural women in the Toliara II district by constructing boreholes in Ranobe, Benetse, and Ankililoaka, reducing their daily water collection time by 4-6 hours. This frees up time for income-generating activities, such as operating a micro-distillery in Ankililoaka that produces ethanol fuel from local sugarcane to be used in stoves. The initiative provides health and environmental benefits by reducing firewood collection and indoor air pollution, which contributes to 37 deaths daily in Madagascar. It creates new jobs, improves women's income, and promotes alternative local development over extractivist projects, integrating marginalized women into the local economy and supporting subsistence agriculture during droughts.

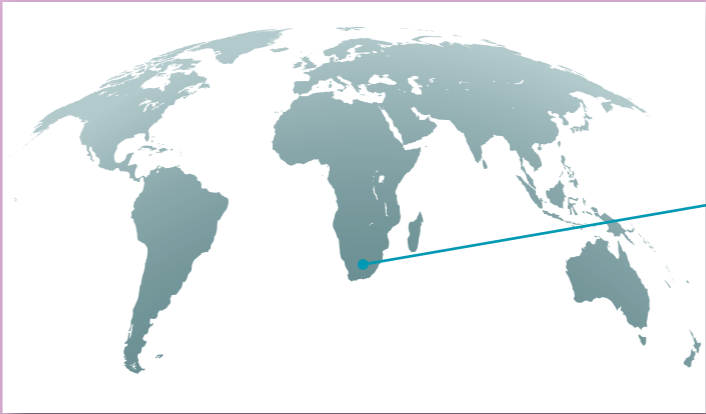
Read the success story in addressing women's time, energy and income in Toliara



RURAL WOMEN'S ASSEMBLY

SOUTHERN AFRICA

The Rural Women's Assembly (RWA) is a regional network in Southern Africa, a rural women's movement based on values of feminism, solidarity and hope. RWA empowers rural women on land rights in 11 countries, advocating for food sovereignty, environmental justice and sustainable livelihoods across nine countries.

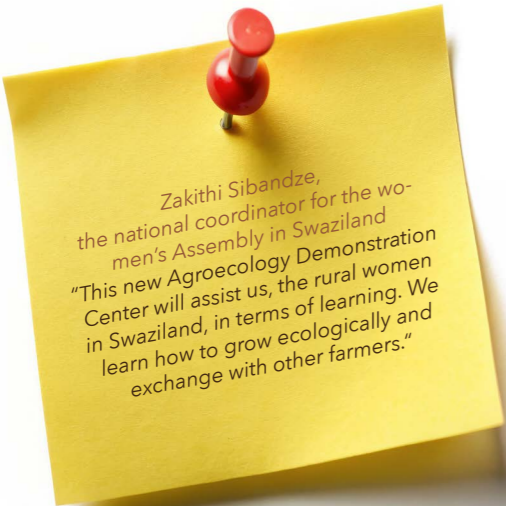


SWAZILAND



DARE TO TRUST

In the Kingdom of Eswatini, rural women have been the custodians of local and indigenous seeds and preserving biodiversity for generations. Officially founded in 2011, the Swaziland Rural Women's Assembly (SRWA) has brought together over 20.000 women across the country to reclaim their traditional knowledge of seed sharing. In the Dare to Trust project, the SRWA has developed a new Agroecology Demonstration Center as a learning facility for rural farmers and produced a seed bank to help the 20.000 seed savers in their community.



Zakithi Sibandze,
the national coordinator for the wo-
men's Assembly in Swaziland
"This new Agroecology Demonstration
Center will assist us, the rural women
in Swaziland, in terms of learning. We
learn how to grow ecologically and
exchange with other farmers."



Water harvesting



Dry toilets

The seed bank with 20.000 members

Indigenous and local seeds hold immense importance for rural women in Eswatini, as they are central to food sovereignty, biodiversity and cultural heritage. These seeds are adapted to local environments, making them resilient to the effects of climate change, drought, and pests ensuring a sustainable source of food for families. The seeds in the seed bank are used for making breakfast and beverages, food for the poultry, other life stock, etc.



Organic gardens



Car Park Area

Watch the tour of the Demonstration Center



Fish pond and herb garden



Recycling

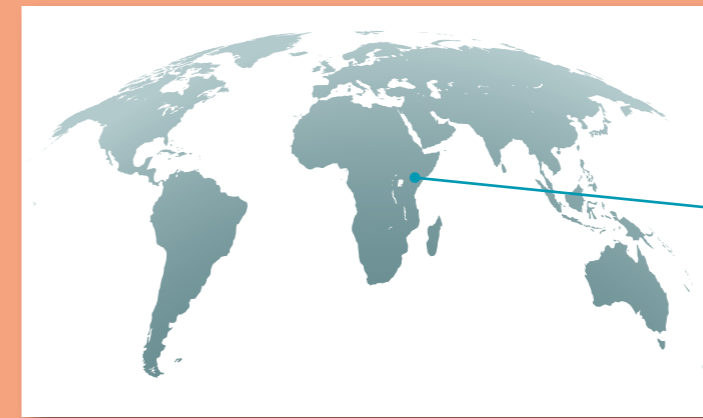


Seeds Exchange

SENGWER WOMEN CONSERVATION GROUP

KENYA

The **Sengwer Indigenous People** live in the forests of Cherang'any Hills in Kenya, they are a hunter-gatherer community whose livelihoods have been greatly impacted by laws and policies prohibiting traditional access and use of the forest and its resources. As a result, the community has been made to live on specific areas with great pressure on the limited resources available.



KENYA



DARE TO TRUST



Historically, the **Sengwer** community has lived in harmony with their environment, relying on forest resources for sustenance and integrating conservation into their daily lives. However, recent government policies aimed at forest protection have limited their access to these ancestral lands. Although these regulations intend to protect the environment, they often disregard the traditional conservation practices of indigenous communities like the Sengwer, who have been natural stewards of these lands for generations. Faced with these restrictions, the Segerger Women's Conservation Group intensified their conservation efforts, viewing it as both a cultural duty and a means to safeguard their heritage. Initially part of a mixed-gender group focused on conservation projects such as cultivating and selling native tree seedlings, the women

felt marginalized as men often dominated decision-making without consulting them. This experience led the women to form their own group, allowing them to reclaim their voices and directly influence conservation work impacting their community. With support from Dare to Trust, the women began re-establishing their projects independently. Today, their conservation efforts have grown significantly, with nurseries for indigenous tree species flourishing under their care. They have started planting these trees on family lands, no less than 500 trees per household, and they plan to expand with more native trees and fruit-bearing plants to increase biodiversity and indigenous food security. Their progress is evident, as the women actively shape an environmental future that aligns with their cultural heritage and sustains their land.



Leader of Segerger Women's group:
 "As we continue to grow, the Segerger Women's Conservation Group remains committed to both environmental sustainability and the empowerment of women in our community. Our work is about more than planting trees; it is about preserving our culture, our land, and ensuring that the next generation has a voice in the stewardship of our natural resources. We look forward to fostering more productive projects that blend conservation with women's empowerment, as we work to safeguard our ancestral lands from external pressures."

Read all about the Segerger Women Conservation Group and their Journey of Culture, Renewal and Empowerment



The youth participated in a video and photography training, guided by a young indigenous journalist. Afterwards they filmed the attached video, which captures the women's tree project.



FÓRUM SUAPE

BRAZIL

Fórum Suape | Espaço Socioambiental supports communities affected by the Suape Industrial Port Complex in Pernambuco, Brazil, through education, legal aid and advocacy, aiming to strengthen their organizational and political capacities. Fórum Suape coaches and trains the residents of the Suape port area, so that they can participate in discussions on more socially and environmentally friendly developments in the region. The Fórum also monitors the violence and brings it to public attention in the media.



BRAZIL



DARE TO TRUST



Empowering by making jam

The women of Quilombo Ilha de Mercês built a small kitchen to produce all kinds of food, for instance guava jam and banana caramelada (a caramel banana cake). A quilombo is a Brazilian settlement established by escaped enslaved people. They share recipes, produce the fruits in their own gardens, sell the food and meet each other in a safe place. Making jam together is also a form of therapy. They invite women to join and turn themselves into entrepreneurs.

"When someone might ask, are you going to empower yourself by selling a jar of jam? Yes, I'm going to empower myself by selling a jar of sweets. I made it, I produced it, I'm selling it, I'm meeting new people, I'm making new friends. I want to inspire other women to be strong."

Watch the full movie ▶ (in Portuguese)

Surfing and building bridges

In this town the women group Associação Todas Para o Mar invested in their community centre, where they focus on strengthening women and children through joint sport events. Their many activities are aimed at social transformation and it serves as a welcoming space for everyone-children, women, and the community in general. They upgraded the place with a vegetable garden, musical instruments, sewing machines, educational material like land charts and a classroom where activities can take place such as yoga, capoeira and workshops. They have reached out to 85 children, 120 women and 250 families in the community. They are very passionate about surfing together on the beach while bridging the gap between cultures and skin color.

"This space for us is a cosy, caring, supportive space and a space for us to share our daily lives."

"This is a space for social transformation, especially for black women and children; it's a welcoming space for the whole community. It's helped us to keep growing, thriving and embracing more and more people, more women and more children."

Watch the full movie ▶ (in Portuguese)

A together space for the women

In this village there was no communal space for women to come together. The men ruled the communal areas and women had no place. With the donation from Dare to Trust, the women from Raízes da Resistência built their collective community kitchen where they produce jams, jellies, cakes and breads. They saw the potential to create traditional sweets, using artisanal methods such as wood-fired cooking, going against the traditional idea of development. Additionally, they agreed to invest part of the resources in a garden to plant food products. They created a community kitchen called Roots of Resistance, which is not only a production space but also a place for gathering, sharing, and learning among the women participating.

"It was an old dream to have our own kitchen. And every cent has been invested in improving this collective, this space. We believe that it has only strengthened our group even more. We welcome others to come and join us too."

Women meet and work together

The fisherwomen of Mangue Mulher in the town of Itapojuca, state of Pernambuco, have seen a rapid decline of fish in their fishing waters. Large scale dredging for a port in the area has diminished the fish stock enormously and left the women without income. With the donation from Dare to Trust, they rented a community room where the women can meet, share experiences and work together. The goal was combating environmental racism and social exclusion-issues already present in their daily lives. This process, in addition to fostering autonomy and collective strength, was also important for the group's safety in a region marked by territorial conflicts. As a result of the Dare to Trust project, they increased their capacity for organizing, resource mobilization and political advocacy.



Watch the full movie ▶ (in Portuguese)

COLECTIVO CASA

BOLIVIA

Colectivo CASA supports social organizations advocating for environmental justice and women's rights, focusing on leadership training, research, and social advocacy for indigenous and peasant women affected by mining operations.



BOLIVIA



DARE TO TRUST



Colectivo CASA in Bolivia, with support from Both Ends and Dare to Trust, found great satisfaction in assisting women defenders with personal and economic needs. This support allowed the women to express their needs and develop a shared vision for their improvement. Although managing funds sustainably posed challenges, the women defenders demonstrated their skills by quickly creating a "Plan to Live Good," addressing health, economy, empowerment, and food production. They emphasized traditional medicine, creating medicinal plant kits and sharing knowledge across communities. The delivery of ovens and kitchens brought gratitude and a positive shift in attitudes. Economic opportunities, like weekend food sales, have emerged, enhancing financial stability. The solidarity within the women's groups has been key, fostering collective growth and joy. Colectivo

CASA's experience revealed the importance of trusting local knowledge and prioritizing collective well-being over rigid project planning. The initiative celebrates the power of trust, dreaming, and community-driven progress.

Workshops on self-care

Colectivo CASA organized a workshop with 50 women defenders on self-care in the Warmi Yaku (Woman of Water) school. The women got recharge credit for the phone to stay in touch, to improve the use of the social networks to report environmental problems and to seek information. Each age group had different views:

- The eldest women answered that they would like to have good health, work, and to be younger.
- The youngest ones focused their needs on wanting things for their mothers, others thought about school supplies



- so that their families don't need to spend money on them, and others on work investments.
- The women in between young and old expressed their major need from an economic point of view. For instance, they need pumps for water, ovens, some thought about very expensive things, and the need for paid work.

Emergency actions on health

With a focus on physical health, there were spaces to talk about natural medicine, the broad knowledge of the healing properties of the plants, and they also bought kits to preserve the plants. Resources were given to many women who needed support for medicines for the health of their children and family members.

Seeding the community gardens

Seeds were bought for the community gardens in 3 different communities and a solar tent for the production of vegetables. All the production is divided between the women from the organization, as many of them do not have land suitable for production due to mining contamination.

Community kitchens

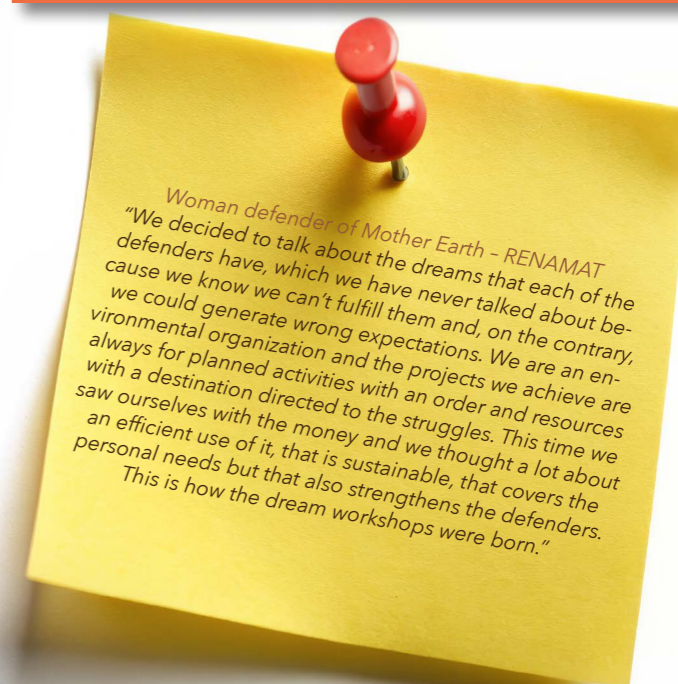
Colectivo CASA purchased the combos, which were brought to each of the communities by truck. With tears and a lot of joy they received their ovens, kitchens, gas canisters, wheelbarrow, blenders etc.



In this PDF you can read the report on all the achievements (in Spanish)



In this short movie the women tell their story (in Spanish)



DARE TO TRUST

AND SYSTEMS OF CARE

Together with environmental justice groups from the Global South, Both ENDS works towards a sustainable, fair and inclusive world. In recent years, our partners have become increasingly threatened, intimidated, violated, imprisoned, and even murdered as a result of their environmental and human rights activities. Our advocacy partners face repressive reprisals for speaking out against environmentally destructive initiatives and denouncing human rights abuses of companies and governments, whilst the communities they support are subjected to violence for simply acting out of necessity to protect their lives, land, territories, and communities from harm.



DARE TO TRUST

To address these challenges, Both ENDS, in collaboration with allies, has been working on developing a comprehensive System of Care, exploring and piloting the ways in which our partners facing threats as a result of their environmental and human rights work can be supported in their efforts to build protection, strengthen practices of care, and sustain their work and guarantee our collective future.



Sowing the seeds of hope

Three organizations that we supported through Dare to Trust are located in an unsafe area. For their protection we can't tell too much about the specifics of the project. These women's organizations used the donation from Dare to Trust to work on:

- Harnessing renewable energy to meet women's basic and local needs – streetlights, electricity for homes, drawing water from wells.
- Innovative firewood stoves which reduce and expel the harmful smoke.
- Support forest-based livelihood activities with tools and value addition skills. A part of the produce is utilized for medicinal home remedies and supplementary nutrition for children.
- Development of kitchen gardens by clearing up little pockets of land available for collective use, sowing seeds and planting saplings.
- Irrigating the gardens using a solar-powered watering system.



- Using the produce for local consumption, selling the excess to nearby villages, and distributing the vegetables as supplementary nutrition for tuberculosis and silicosis patients.
- Women and barefoot ecologists go for forest walks and map their resources to create their own biodiversity registers.
- Using their vast traditional knowledge of the forest resources, the women are coming up with supplementary medicines and home remedies for common ailments and sharing recipes within their communities.
- This knowledge is passed on to young barefoot health volunteers who prepare these medicines and administer it to tuberculosis and silicosis patients.
- Children's educational forest walks to identify the various traditional herbs and other forest resources.
- Women maintaining nurseries of local plant species to safeguard biodiversity and increase the green cover in their areas.

Read on about our System of Care



They also aided on several different grass root organisations within their own network. Overall they found that single women are the most vulnerable women in the rural society who need immediate support. Their achievements were very broad and divers.

- 200 children were made aware on the important issues such as child labour, health and education, environmental education, climate change and on the prevention of drug abuse.
- About 250 adolescent girls from the rural areas of the project intervention village got awareness regarding menstrual hygiene. Also 250 girls got career guidance regarding the steps to be followed for pursuing their goals.
- Legal aid has been provided to about 13 women in getting support for their entitlements.
- Social security benefits to about 103 women have been given by the project staffs. Nutritional security of about 300 families have been improved through the establishment of backyard kitchen gardens.

SOWING SEEDS OF HOPE
WOMEN DARE TO TRUST



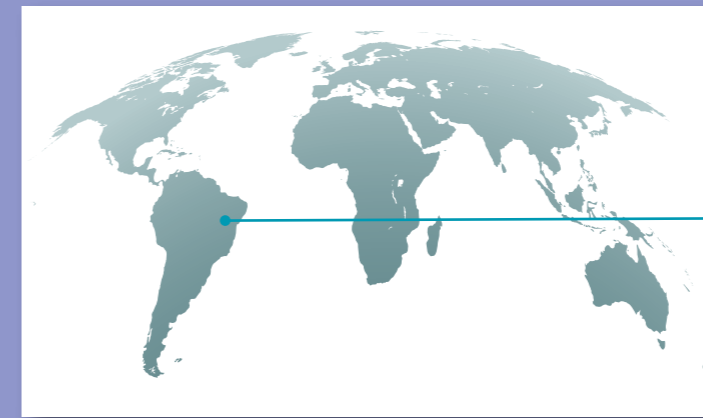
CALL TO ACTION FROM OUR PARTNER

We would like to call upon women's networks, unions, collectives and local communities to come together to lobby for women-centered and gender just energy policies and for bringing women's energy needs as a priority in energy finance and technological investments.

INSTITUTO CORDILHEIRA

BRAZIL

The **Instituto Cordilheira** defends the environment, cultural heritage, and human rights and promotes a sustainable society. It advocates for ecosystem regeneration, indigenous practices and accountability for environmental violations, emphasizing a shift away from dependence on extractivism including large scale mining.



BRAZIL



DARE TO TRUST

Instituto Cordilheira has a vast network of grassroots organisations in Brazil. With a lot of creativity they were able to assist many of them. They supported 15 indigenous and anti-racist groups of women defenders and also asked each of them about the value of trust. How did Dare to Trust work out for them, what does trust feel and look like, how important is it? The assistance of Instituto Cordilheira was very diverse, for example helping several women defenders who were so much in debt that they could not provide for their family, the purchase of computers to strengthen their

own personnel and assist in two emergency actions. The first was support for the funeral of Chief Merong, a leader of an ethnic group who has devoted his life to defending the land and people of his tribe against the building of dams. His death was sudden and is still being investigated. And secondly they supported women affected by floods in Rio Grande do Sul in May 2024. They made a donation to shelter women victims of violence and helped with baskets of medicinal and self-care products.



Glimpses of Affection



Ima Iná



Crochet and Embroidery Group



Seeds of the Earth Women's Association



Pé de Quê Collective



Meeting of the Latin American Network of Women Defenders of Social and Environmental Rights



8M Act in Belo Horizonte



Minas Gerais Indigenous Committee



CSA Gandarela

Anna: "For me, trust is the foundation of healthy human relationships. Our driving force is the trust we have on our ability to learn, and that of others."

Rafa: "Trust can be seen as an act of believing and of weaving connections. Whenever we feel overwhelmed, we all strive to dream together and build trusting relationships."

Selma: "Trust is standing by you and offering support without fully knowing you. Our group is completely transparent with one another, and that, too, is trust."

Alzeneide: "Trust is having faith, and we believe that actions driven by honesty, respect, loyalty, commitment, responsibility, and love can truly make a difference."

Fernanda & Krishna: "Trust is believing in our potential to succeed, valuing our journey, our people, and our actions. It brings certainty and connection as we weave this thread together."

Carolina: "I was thrilled to see so many women receive support to travel to this important meeting filled with incredible women."

Renata: "The funds were used for a campaign to fight harassment during carnival. I felt a deep sense of involvement as the entire community came together to support the feminist movement."

Avelin: "The help received ensured our participation in Abril Indígena in Belo Horizonte, a month dedicated to the struggle and resistance of Indigenous people. Trust is, in a way, the currency you offer without expecting anything in return, and that is also a form of love!"

Ana: "Despite challenges, by maintaining trust, persevering, and managing crises effectively, we can make all the difference."

Read the full story of all these initiatives
in this PDF (in Portuguese)



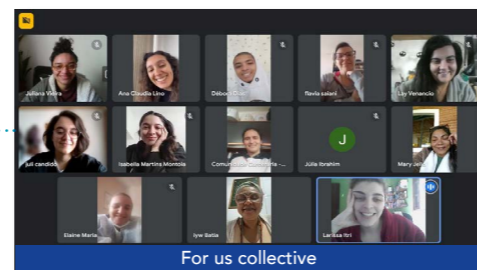
Flávia: "The resources received gave us the peace of mind we needed to reassess our strategies and organize our actions more effectively."

Daniela: "Dare to Trust reminds us that we are not alone, that even when we are exhausted, something miraculous can happen and bring unexpected gifts. It feels as if life itself was telling us to keep going."

Irene: "For us, trust means relying on each other. Our collective thrives on mutual support and trust, and it is present whenever one needs it. For the first time, our collective has experienced the power of this kind of trust."

Mestra: "We are now able to keep building our community of women capoeira dancers, creating a safe space where we can connect and support each other. This is incredibly important to us and to our culture."

Kota: "Trust is about learning, respect, wisdom, and feeling safe beside a wonderful and important person. Today, I feel confident enough to move forward."



For us collective



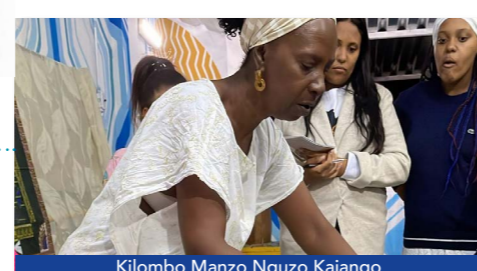
Movement for the Mountains and Waters of Santo Antônio do Itambé



Manicoré



Candeia Capoeira Angola group



Kilombo Manzo Nguzo Kaiango

Met elkaar krijg je het voor elkaar



Foto: Colectivo CASA

De wereld beter maken? Dat doe je met mensen die de omgeving kennen. **Both ENDS** werkt daarom samen met lokale milieu- en mensenrechtenorganisaties en bewoners. Zoals een groep vrouwen in de Boliviaanse regio Chiquitania. Landonteigening door bosbranden ontregelt hun leven. Maar een plan voor meer zelfstandigheid biedt toekomst. Zo delen ze hun kennis van traditionele geneeskunde nu ook in andere dorpen. En verkopen ze dankzij nieuwe fornuizen en ovens in het weekend eten voor extra inkomsten. De afgelopen vijf jaar ontving Both ENDS € 3,98 miljoen van de Postcode Loterij. Dit jaar gaat er in totaal € 363 miljoen naar honderden goede doelen. Dankzij alle deelnemers. Dat is **The Power of Postcodes**.

DARE TO TRUST

SHARING OUTCOMES AND EXPERIENCES

This magazine bundles the stories of women collectives and individual defenders that have been working in Dare to Trust. On 27 February 2025 we came together virtually to share the outcomes and experiences of the Dare to Trust initiative. To celebrate together the wonderful things that resulted from daring to trust, as well as to share about the challenges we encountered and lessons we learned.



DARE TO TRUST



CLICK FOR SOCIALS

We all shared: what did Dare to Trust mean to us?

- Dare To Trust is a promise that another type of funding and partnership is possible, based on trust, and funding with real solidarity.*

We liked the trust of the initiative, and it also meant that we had to trust the community we supported . It gave an opportunity to be innovative, give greater solidarity.
- Financial support based on trust is revolutionary. It awakens hidden powers, builds self esteem and promotes innovation.*

It was a relief in a time of many problems, having this funding gave a feeling of relief and delight and feeling of power to be able to help women in their collective.
- This is how empowering should look like. We were given the opportunity to innovate and find solutions for the difficulties women face in their communities. We can kick-start the transformation of their lives.*

Reflections from our meeting: our experiences, challenges and looking forward
- The project has been an extremely powerful strategy. We were able to bring confidence to women in the communities and build dreams together. Things that are normally not possible with other funding.*

Kick-starting the project took quite some time, for ourselves and also in all the communities. So many positive things have happened. At the start we organized our women's groups to come up with ideas. Sometimes the freedom to choose even felt scary and big. We had to spend time to reflect and realize that they had the power to do this. Often, the women in the project were not familiar with administering funds. We had to balance between accountability and trust. It was a learning process for us. It didn't feel right to 'just giving the money away', we had to choose communities that could deal with this responsibility and trust them.
- This project was a clear source of hope, and it put into reality the idea of 'shifting the power' . It concretised the dreams of community in grant making and let the community decide on their own needs, and not what the funder thinks is eligible or necessary.*

Looking forward we are hoping to find ways to sustain these projects. In some countries banks and legal bureaucracy obstructed the smooth transfer of the grants. How can we build on this project - ensuring that the governments will also support it? Can we encourage governments to really support and implement these kinds of innovative concepts?
- Innovative financial model, the approach helped to encourage women's groups. It gave women the opportunity to be able to fight back against a project that had expelled them from their homes. They regroup every week and share their struggles and are more resilient in the face of these issues.*

This project gave us the freedom to dream. We started to dream with our communities. Dreaming big was a wonderful experience. And then again, we had to select and choose between the dreams. This was a challenge, and we needed to find a strategy for this radical approach and help the women to really make the choices themselves.
- Dare to Trust gave the opportunity to think about what is it that we want?, to explore further communities' voices and to gather their stories.*
- We were able to support women instead of supporting organizations. Usually, funding goes to formal institutions. Now we can support women directly and see that they have power and are able to realize their dreams.*



It was very special for us to work on this project. It is a revolutionary and fertile example in the field of international cooperation. We hope that it will be possible to repeat this project in 2025 and in the coming years! Even though the funds already have been transferred, the impact still is being felt. We are still seeing the fruits of our work on this day. Dare to Trust has not stopped. We enjoy sharing our experiences from all around the world. It would be interesting to create platform where the communities we have supported can share their thoughts. We are seeing this as a model funders everywhere can copy.

AMAZING
TRANSFORMATIVE
INNOVATIVE
EMPOWERING
ENRICHING
PROMISING
COMMITMENT
EXCITEMENT
REVOLUTIONARY
REFLECTION
INSPIRING
REACH
BIG HUGS

REACTIONS OF OUR PARTNERS

