



Annual Report



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List of abbreviations

ADHD	Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
COP27	27th United Nations Climate Change Conference
CSO	Civil society organisation
ESCR-Net	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Network
FIFF	Forging Intersectional Feminist Futures
FY	Financial year
GBV	Gender-based violence
GSWF	Global South Women's Forum
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
ILGA	International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LOI	List of Issues
LOIPR	List of Issues Prior to Reporting
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
OURs	Observatory on the Universality of Human Rights
PSWG	Pre-Sessional Working Group
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual and gender-based violence
SOGIE	Sexual orientation and gender identity and expression
SWIFA	Sex Worker Inclusive Feminist Alliance
TB-Net	Treaty Body Network
TrEAD	Transforming Economics and Development through a Feminist Approach
TRIPS	Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
UN	United Nations
UNSG	United Nations Secretary-General
WGC	Women and Gender Constituency
WRO	Women's rights organisation
WTO	World Trade Organization

Reflecting on 2022



Protesters, including Marisa Hutchinson of IWRAW Asia Pacific (second from right), at the Bonn Climate Conference

2022 was an extremely busy year, in which IWRAW Asia Pacific balanced addressing gaps in our feminist practice as an organisation alongside intensive engagement with diverse partners and advocacy in diverse spaces on a range of issues.

The context in which we work remained complex. The spectre of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to hover over multilateral, state and civil society spaces, while access to those spaces was restricted by stricter border controls and inadequate investment in hybrid modalities.

The importance of IWRAW Asia Pacific's focus on structurally excluded groups, and our resolve to draw attention to intersecting forms of discrimination, was made clear by the undermining of inclusive feminist and intersectional frameworks even within the UN human rights system. We witnessed the dilution of gains made towards inclusive human rights standards, with the language of 'sex-based rights' gaining preference

over 'gender-based rights' across varying UN mechanisms. Two other sustainable-development-related spaces emerged where regressive and anti-rights agendas are having a considerable influence: 'Our Common Agenda', a report authored by the UN secretary-general representing his vision of the future of multilateralism and the role of the UN in the face of intersecting crises; and the drafting of a Convention on the Right to Development. The future of the UN as a democratic space for global cooperation may be at risk, and there are fears that Our Common Agenda is proposing the introduction of more restrictive decision-making spaces, and modifications to existing ones, with negative implications for developing countries

and for the participation of civil society and structurally excluded groups.

The 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) was held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, and although the last-minute establishment of the Loss and Damage Finance Fund could be hailed as a victory for civil society, several other important issues remained secondary. State parties passed up the opportunity to phase out fossil fuels and exclude, once and for all, the major polluters from climate policy making and from partnering or sponsoring climate talks or climate action. The review of the Gender Action Plan was carried out with much resistance to gender equality and insurance for the survival of women and girls post-disasters.

One of the more positive discourses to gain traction in 2022 was the resurrection of the conversation around the New International Economic Order (NIEO). The NIEO was a set of proposals advocated by the Global South in the 1970s to end economic colonialism and dependency through a new interdependent economy. It called for changes in trade, industrialisation, agricultural production, finance, and transfer of technology. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the Declaration for the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and its accompanying programme of action on 1 May 1974. A fresh resolution, 'Towards a New International Economic Order', was adopted by the UNGA by a vote of 123-50 on 15 December 2022, a sign of the continued power of that vision.

IWRAW Asia Pacific positioned itself alongside allies such as the Observatory on the Universality of Human Rights (OURs), Feminist Faultlines, Empty Chairs and other networks that challenge regression in human rights and distortion of the gender equality frameworks. Our work with different structurally excluded groups and women facing multiple forms of discrimination increasingly points us towards a more nuanced approach to carcerality, recognising the criminalisation of certain identities and the use of punitive measures to achieve justice only for some.

While working to challenge gender inequality and discrimination impacting the women and communities we work with, IWRAW Asia Pacific was

also conscious of the need to put our own house in order. In 2022 we completed an organisational review that assessed our organisational practice and its alignment with our feminist values, then worked on developing a roadmap to implement some of the recommended changes. The 'change project', as it is being called, received inputs from all of IWRAW Asia Pacific's different stakeholders.

2022 saw IWRAW Asia Pacific gaining knowledge and experience, and addressing the critical issues that constrain governments from protecting the rights of women and ensuring gender equality and non-discrimination. The fight is far from over, but we are committed to advancing our vision of a world in which everyone enjoys human rights and fundamental freedoms, free from oppressive power relationships. We are grateful for the opportunities that 2022 gave us to learn and to strategise.

Programmes



Countering human rights regression and UN capture

IWRAW Asia Pacific's programme [Countering Human Rights Regression and UN Capture](#) is our human rights compass, guiding our projects, strategies, and collaboration efforts. Its significance grows as crises and anti-rights forces loom, anchoring our work in the human rights system, from CEDAW reviews to systems strengthening.

Through our membership in the Treaty Body Network (TB-Net), IWRAP Asia Pacific engaged with the [34th Annual Meeting of Human Rights Treaty Body Chairpersons](#) (held in June 2022), with a focus on addressing procedural and coordination aspects. Monitoring and participating in treaty body strengthening is an important part of our work facilitating NGO participation in CEDAW processes and advocating for effective UN human rights accountability mechanisms.

To empower feminist organisations and facilitate the active participation of structurally excluded communities in the CEDAW process, a key role of IWRAP Asia Pacific is to support civil society organisations through updated guidelines, revised guidance notes, support for the shadow report writing process, and groundwork for country-level strategies, all within broader CEDAW capacity-building efforts.

The From Global to Local (G2L) programme resumed alongside in-person CEDAW reviews from June 2022, providing a constructive, pragmatic and crucial space for women's human rights activists to strategise, collaborate and foster transnational solidarity. A new addition to the G2L programme was a session on CEDAW's accountability to the women's human rights movement. This included an overview of IWRAP Asia Pacific's CEDAW scorecard as a mechanism for feedback on substantive issues and process accountability; and links to other global feminist networks such as the Sexual Rights Initiative and the Association of Women in Development (AWID), giving G2L participants the opportunity to connect to broader feminist agendas in support of their CEDAW advocacy.

Consultant Alicia Wallace, who developed the CEDAW scorecard, hosted a series of information-sharing sessions with G2L participants throughout the year. The scorecard tracks WROs' satisfaction regarding translation of their civil society demands into Concluding Observations and recommendations to governments by the CEDAW Committee. Broadly, it aims to map CEDAW's accountability and responsiveness to the women's human rights movement across diverse constituencies. It also addresses concerns around regression and capture.

The Countering Regression programme maintained and developed IWRAP Asia Pacific's

engagement with a wide variety of coalitions such as Feminist Faultlines, OURs, #EmptyChairs campaign, and TB-Net. These cross-movement and transnational links broaden our advocacy for gender equality – while monitoring its regression – at the treaty body level and beyond.

Projects

The Countering Regression programme expanded strategic collaborations through its four projects: Co-Impact, Feminist Learning Exchange (FLEX), Forging Intersectional Feminist Futures (FIFF), and Women Gaining Ground (WGG).

Co-Impact

IWRAP Asia Pacific, in collaboration with the George Institute for Global Health and partners in India (Jagori), Indonesia (CEDAW Working Group Indonesia), Kenya (Kenyan Sex Workers Alliance), and South Africa (Women's Legal Centre), launched a three-year collaborative and research-oriented project temporarily known as the Co-Impact Project (later renamed to Gender-responsive Research and Advocacy through CEDAW (GRACE)). The project addresses the scarcity of systematic evidence on the effectiveness of CEDAW Committee recommendations to states and monitors the implementation of the Committee's Concluding Observations in national contexts. It aims to identify CEDAW-aligned legal and policy interventions to prevent gender-based violence (GBV). The project began with an inception meeting and administrative finalisation, marking the start of the research phase.

Forging Intersectional Feminist Futures (FIFF)

The FIFF project collaborates with eight regional partners in Asia to build collective capacity on the praxis of intersectionality. IWRAP Asia Pacific leads the consortium, which comprises Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers, Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network, Asia Pacific Transgender Network, ASEAN SOGIE Caucus, International Drug Policy Consortium Asia, and Special Talent Exchange Programme. Alongside capacity-building activities organised throughout the year focusing on sharing insights with an emphasis on collective and cross-movement advocacy, FIFF hosted a workshop on intersectionality at the ILGA Asia

and a virtual side event at the [65th session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs](#). Cumulatively, the workshops highlighted intersectional perspectives on drug policy and addressing carcerality while emphasising duty bearers' lack of recognition of diverse identities, including sex work, indigeneity, race, drug use, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and caste. Taking the learnings and knowledge generated from the consortium, FIFF, in partnership with the Society of Trans Women of the Philippines and Intersex Philippines, engaged with the UN Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls through a [joint submission](#) giving input on human security of women and girls in the context of poverty and inequality.

Women Gaining Ground (WGG)

The WGG project, helmed by IWRAW Asia Pacific, CREA and Akili Dada, focuses on women with disabilities and young women within advocacy on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and political participation. The project, in its third year of implementation, worked with 14 strategic partners in Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda, with IWRAW Asia Pacific providing direct support to its Bangladesh partners Naripokkho, Women With Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) and Bonhishikha. In early 2022, IWRAW Asia Pacific facilitated a partners' meeting with the Bangladesh strategic partners, using the information gathered in 2021 on partners' interests and capacities, and creating a space for sharing and reflection on the activities of 2022. At the 49th Human Rights Council session, WDDF delivered a video statement on the theme of women with disabilities and statistics and data

collection under article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). This collaboration took place with the support of our partners Sexual Rights Initiative. IWRAW Asia Pacific also supported WWDF's participation in Bangladesh's review at the 27th CRPD session in August 2022. The WGG regional meeting held in October 2022 initiated two separate research projects: 1) focusing on international advocacy on SGBV, and 2) examining the agency of young women and women with disabilities and its intersection with carceral approaches to SGBV.

Feminist Learning Exchange (FLEX)

The [outcome document](#) of 2021's FLEX 1.0 was published in April 2022, and the team continued its spirit of cross-country feminist sharing by hosting two learning sessions. The first, hosted in May 2022, focused on anti-sexual harassment legislation in Indonesia and Malaysia, and shared best practices of policy advocacy within the context of Indonesia's passing of the sexual violence bill; Malaysia, at the time, was still debating the anti-sexual harassment bill in its parliament. The second cross-country sharing session centred democratic processes and deficits, and their impact on human rights in the context of the Philippines and Indonesia, during a period when both countries were preparing for general elections. The session was a collaborative effort between Jakarta Feminist, ASEAN SOGIE Caucus, Purple Code Collective, Transmen Indonesia, WomXn Voice, Women's Legal & Human Rights Bureau Philippines, PANTAY Pilipinas, and the FIFF project's national partners.



WGG meeting in Dhaka, 2022

Interrogating borders and their impact on women's human rights

Our programme area on [Interrogating Borders and their Impact on Women's Human Rights](#) recognises the key role of borders as a barrier to substantive equality and non-discrimination, and their role in perpetuating global inequalities. We examine how intersecting forms of oppression are compounded by the presence of borders, and call attention to the excessive barriers faced by Global South activists seeking physical access to high-level decision-making spaces, including UN processes.

Acknowledging our collective **disappointment** with CEDAW's General Recommendation No. 38 on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration, and the broader regression of rights related to borders, migration and trafficking, the Interrogating Borders programme recalibrated for 2022. In the first half of the year, the programme began drafting a paper to articulate its position on borders and identify marginalised groups and themes which might be prioritised in work going forward. A common thread was the issue of documentation and widespread reliance on bureaucratic procedures which inevitably allow people to fall through the cracks.

As the CEDAW sessions and other international spaces resumed their in-person format, the issue of visas for Global South passport holders returned, alongside additional complications in planning travel due to COVID-19 mitigation measures and post-pandemic travel costs. The programme's recognition that borders are a barrier to mobility - most prominently for refugees, undocumented migrants and stateless people, but also for a wide cross-section of activists from the Global South - meant that enhanced connectivity and accessible platforms needed to become key demands.

The programme submitted a **shadow report** for Switzerland's CEDAW review which highlighted challenges faced by Global South activists in accessing the UN system, leading to a recommendation to Switzerland regarding visa and border regulations.

The programme's activities during 2022 took the form of alliance building, providing practical support to individuals and groups marginalised by borders, and gathering information. These contributed to a greater understanding of the ecosystem within which migration takes place, and also helped to develop stronger cross-programme linkages.

During this time the programme discussed CEDAW engagement and other potential collaborations with the Border Violence Monitoring Network, the Centre for Migration, Gender and Justice, and the World Coalition against the Death Penalty. At the invitation of the Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants, IWRAW Asia Pacific co-organised an online event to mark

International Domestic Workers Day, delivering a statement on the vulnerability of migrant domestic workers and potential for engagement with upcoming CEDAW reviews. With support from MADRE and Digital Defenders Partnership, the programme assisted two Afghan families at risk from the Taliban to source funds for relocation.

The programme served as focal point for IWRAW Asia Pacific's work on sex workers' rights, collaborating with the Sex Workers Inclusive Feminist Alliance (SWIFA), the Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP) and the Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers. In October 2022, SWIFA hosted a thematic briefing with the CEDAW Committee following the 83rd session which gained interest from several Committee members. In line with our **policy on addressing rights of marginalised groups of women**, IWRAW Asia Pacific undertakes targeted outreach to sex workers' rights groups for CEDAW engagement.

The Interrogating Borders programme is self-reflective, with team members having experience of migration to Malaysia and elsewhere, together with challenges such as costly visas, exploitation, and transit through hostile areas. Recognising that border-related vulnerabilities are exacerbated by factors including gender, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation and gender identity, and access to funds, the programme advocates for internal as well as external change, to ensure that risk assessments are made and that adequate support is provided to team members who are travelling or relocating for work.



Cover of shadow report on Switzerland

Connecting gender equality to environmental justice

The [Connecting Gender Equality to Environmental Justice](#) programme, after two years of foundational work, shifted its focus to grassroots activists and marginalised groups, emphasising loss and damage, small island developing states, gender in climate change, and defending environmental human rights.

In 2022, the programme kicked off the Voice & Visibility project with programme partners Klima Action Malaysia (KAMY), National Indigenous Disabled Women's Association Nepal (NIDWAN) and Purple Action for Indigenous Women's Rights (LILAK) from the Philippines. The project incorporates knowledge and capacity building on CEDAW and gender, intersectional feminist approaches to environmental justice, mutual learning exchanges and multilateral engagements.

In March 2022, the project coordinated a virtual parallel event at the 66th session on the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), where partners discussed climate adaptation, loss and damage, and climate finance based on the IPCC report released the previous month.

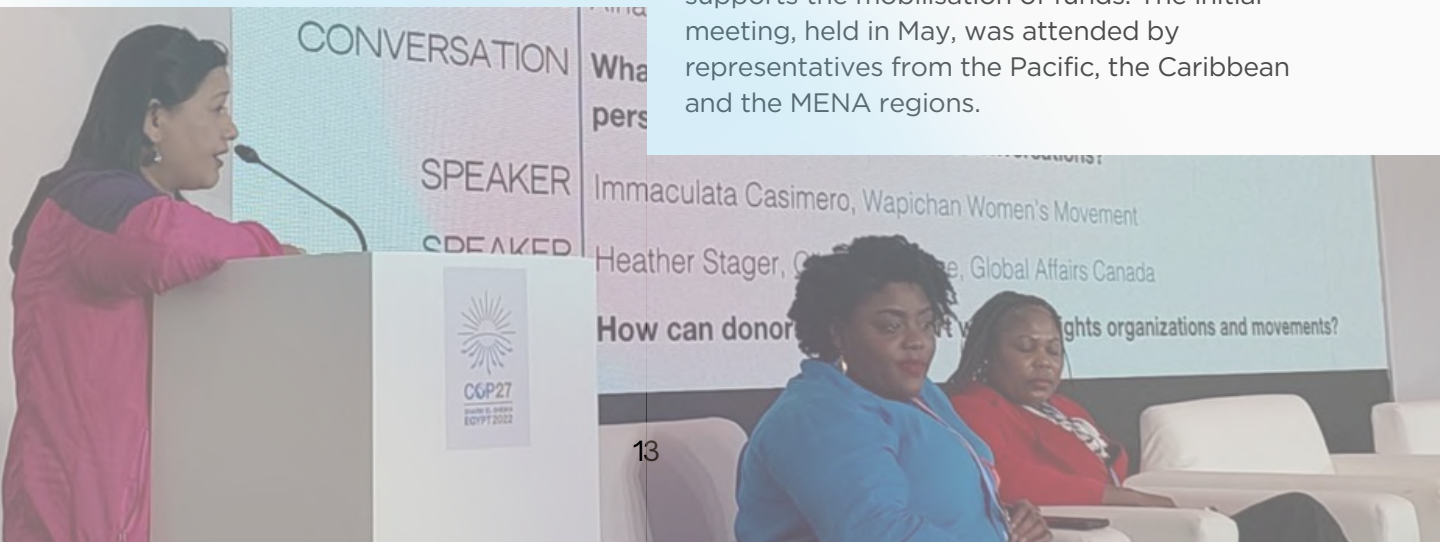
In May 2022, IWRAW Asia Pacific's programme officer on environmental justice attended a three-day private retreat in Geneva with the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in the context of climate change, Ian Fry, at the invitation of the Center for International Environmental Law, ESCR-Net, Franciscans International and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung. The programme's suggestions for ensuring the inclusion and narratives of those most vulnerable to and impacted by dangerous environmental and climate activities were well received. A follow-up meeting in the Subsidiary Bodies intersessionals in Bonn, Germany, between Ian Fry and Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) members enabled them to learn more about the mandate as well as to share information on their specific issues and concerns on the ground in their country contexts. The Special Rapporteur hopes to work with the Women and Gender Constituency members to highlight during his term the gendered impacts of the climate crisis, and IWRAW Asia Pacific will continue to support his mandate and contribute to upcoming reports and initiatives to the Human Rights Council.

Partners from the Voice and Visibility programme, supported by the Women's Fund Asia, joined IWRAW Asia Pacific at COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, in November. Much of the latter half of the year was devoted to preparing for this participation, and the programme worked with the WGC Facilitative Committee to coordinate and facilitate 'listening and learning' sessions towards COP27. During COP27, the programme's coordinator participated in various events and activities, including those hosted by Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD), Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), Centro Alexander von Humboldt, ESCR-Net, La Ruta del Clima, the WGC, and by IWRAW Asia Pacific itself. These engagements focused on climate justice, human rights, loss and damage, state and corporate accountability, feminist perspectives, and Indigenous women's leadership in climate governance.

The programme committed to supporting the Oxfam Mekong Inclusion project as it moved into Phase II, building its already established gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) strategy towards ensuring the inclusion of women, people living with disabilities, youth and Indigenous people in water resource governance and renewable energy development in the Mekong region. The programme will contribute by creating opportunities for learning through knowledge sharing, capacity building and mutual exchanges with project partners and their local communities.

The programme also conceptualised the Environmental Justice Focal Point Network (EJFPN) as a means of creating a space 'for us by us' for environmental justice activists to organise, get support from each other and share experiences of the communities in their region. The network also shares good practices, encourages cooperation between activists and CSOs, and supports the mobilisation of funds. The initial meeting, held in May, was attended by representatives from the Pacific, the Caribbean and the MENA regions.

Left to right: Pratima Gurung (NIDWAN), Marisa Hutchinson (IWRAW Asia Pacific) and Aina-Maria Iteta (National Gender & Climate Change Focal Point, Namibia) at COP27 event on climate finance and feminist activism



Advancing gender justice and equality in the world of work

The [women and work](#) programme is committed to addressing structural issues impacting women's rights to and at work. National labour laws often overlook sectors like domestic work and informal work, and the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated that existing protections were fragile and inadequate for frontline workers, especially in the health and care sectors. It is within this context and understanding that the programme structured its strategic activities in 2022.

The programme worked with the Awaj Foundation in Bangladesh and the Centre for Gender, Family and Environment in Development (CGFED) in Vietnam to raise awareness of the International Labour Organisation's Convention 190 (C190) on violence and harassment in the world of work, particularly at their national levels and lobbying their respective states towards its ratification. During 2022, the Awaj Foundation launched a policy brief analysing gender-based violence and sexual harassment in the workplace in Bangladesh within the framework of C190 and CEDAW. In Vietnam, CGFED conducted activities which engaged the private sector as a key stakeholder and held training sessions on women's economic rights, C190, and CEDAW, as well as on-site meetings for garment workers.

Other C190 ratification activities included collaborating with Care International, the International Trade Union Confederation, the Center for Women's Global Leadership and Action Aid on the Campaign to Ratify ILO C190: Multi-country Virtual Strategy Forum. The programme also continued its work with the ESCR-Net's Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights working group on the social pact on care and strategies to advance the key elements of the pact.

IWRAW Asia Pacific launched a new collaborative project with the support of Oxfam DGD focusing on gender equality for women workers in the agri-food sector. The project will work with women workers in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam, with the aim to address the intersection of gender discrimination and economic and social injustice. With the political intention to challenge existing and instrumentalist language of women's economic empowerment and prioritise women's economic rights, the project will work with both national and regional organisations as its strategic partners.

Care work, as a structural, women's human rights issue, remains a visible thread in both the Women and Work and TrEAD programmes. The pandemic revealed the consequences of systematic underfunding of public services that support or provide care work. The domestic workers' movement played an important role in visibilising these agendas during the pandemic and consolidating the demands of many other essential workers. There is greater realisation that care work should be recognised as a central activity for well-being, a collective social good and a central social and economic concern for everyone.

Awaj Foundation meeting in Dhaka



Global South Women's Forum 2022: Global Tribunal of Women Workers

The 2022 Global South Women's Forum and the Global Tribunal of Women Workers were the programme's overarching response to the political economy of the women and work agenda. A solidarity-based initiative, the Global Tribunal aimed to shed light on systemic issues, serving as a tool for evidence-based advocacy and political education. It demonstrated the programme's commitment to a rights-based approach and its critical stance on the women's economic empowerment framework which positions women as beneficiaries rather than as rights holders. The programme collaborated with 28 organisations working on gender equality and engaging with women workers across the Global South, and focused on five thematic areas, around which thematic jury working groups were formed and tasked with producing findings and recommendations.

These thematic areas were:

1. Ending gender-based violence and harassment in the world of work
2. Wage inequality, living wage, and equal pay for work of equal value
3. Freedom of association, collective bargaining, and the right to unionisation
4. Care work, social protection, decent work, and informalisation
5. Health rights, including occupational health and safety, mental health, and sexual and reproductive health and rights



Illustrations by Appolonia Tesera for the Global Tribunal

The Global Tribunal hosted the testimonies of 73 women workers from 21 countries across Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Their testimonies illustrated their daily struggles, violations of their rights, the structural drivers of injustices and discrimination, and their consequences on workers and people in general. Witnesses represented a range of sectors including domestic work, the garment industry, electronics and other factory work, the sex industry, sanitation, healthcare, journalism, agriculture, home-based work, street vendors, and the entertainment industry. They also included members of Indigenous, trans, migrant and Dalit communities.

The Tribunal exceeded expectations. IWRAW Asia Pacific received much positive feedback from the different people who helped make it happen, as well as some of the organisations that helped to crowdsource the worker testimonies. We are pleased that the tribunal was able to create a truly worker-centred space that made visible many workers who suffer the violation of their human rights in silence, as well as strengthening the voices of others who are organising to make themselves heard. The workers appreciated the acknowledgement of their struggles, the support and the solidarity made possible by the team's effort to facilitate access to the tribunal space in the workers' different languages, and the provision of online safety support and mental health counselling that extended beyond the tribunal itself. The collaborating organisations also worked closely with the workers to enable their effective and safe participation.

Transforming economics and development through a feminist approach (TrEAD)

Our **TrEAD** programme interrogates the economic growth and sustainable development agendas. It seeks to critically analyse and challenge dominant global macroeconomic and development discourses which harm and undermine the human rights of women and girls, by mobilising women's rights organisations around a feminist agenda rooted in the priorities of marginalised groups of women.

The harmful neoliberal practices of governments have not abated; nor has their reliance on international financial institutions for financing. Following the economic crisis in Sri Lanka, there seems to be a huge concern that other countries will follow. Though fuelled by the failure of its national infrastructure, the situation in Sri Lanka is a warning that the global financial architecture is in no way supportive of countries in the Global South.

Feminist economic justice movements continued to push for alternatives, increasingly linking climate and environmental justice demands to macroeconomic policy spaces and advocating for human rights to be centred in macroeconomic and development discourses. The International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE)'s 2022 annual conference was organised around the theme 'Transforming Global Governance for Social Justice: Feminist economics and the fight for human rights', demonstrating the relevance of the TrEAD programme's work connecting macroeconomics to CEDAW and other international human rights standards. It was also important to revitalise the work on sustainable development and human rights, because the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) fail to centre existing international human rights standards, particularly CEDAW. Feminists have a key role to play in demanding that SDG monitoring and implementation incorporates a strong human rights perspective. The SDGs discourse and framework can provide a platform to advocate for gender equality where governments remain reluctant to accept and comply with international human rights treaties.

The programme was able to push forward IWRAW Asia Pacific's work in this area by establishing a sustainable development fellowship, concentrating primarily on the CEDAW-SDGs tool as a mechanism to support WROs to harness Agenda 2030 for the achievement of gender equality and to ensure that the processes to implement the SDGs are in compliance with women's human rights. The sustainable development fellow created a [user manual for the CEDAW-SDGs tool](#), which serves to identify links and gaps between the SDGs and CEDAW, and encourages WROs to leverage the SDGs in their human rights and sustainable development advocacy. To test-drive the tool, we organised and held a CEDAW-SDGs workshop, with a focus

on climate justice. In collaboration with RESURJ, the workshop welcomed 15 WROs interested in or already working on climate justice and gearing up for HLPF 2022.

The sustainable development fellow actively engaged with the Women's Major Group position paper for HLPF 2022, highlighting: 1) the impact of the global economic and financial system on women's rights; 2) the need for bolder efforts to include marginalised and disadvantaged women in SDGs implementation and in international conferences such as HLPF; and 3) the need for increased harmonisation between the SDGs and human rights mechanisms. As mentioned in the introduction to this report, there are two advocacy spaces where IWRAW AP needs to drive attention against a build-up of anti-rights activity. These are the advocacy space around the UNSG's 'Our Common Agenda' and the development of the Convention on the Right to Development. The programme plans to update its organisational strategy on sustainable development to reflect this work.

Gender Equality and Macroeconomics (GEM)



Illustration by Ang Hui Qiong for the GEM Starter Kit

The [GEM Starter Kit](#) is now available online and has received positive feedback from organisations including [ESCR-Net](#), [WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform](#), [Bretton Woods Project](#), and [Not in My Colour](#). A training manual and GEM Shadow Report Guideline were subsequently completed to enhance participation and provide more information to treaty bodies, especially CEDAW, regarding the impact of macroeconomic policies, trade, and development on women's human rights.

In 2022, the programme lead accepted an invitation to join the steering committee of ESCR-Net's economic policy working group. This is an important opportunity to ensure the programme's work remains grounded in the lived realities and demands of communities and social movements, as well as an important space for reflecting on the political framework of economic justice advocacy.

IWRAW Asia Pacific and other feminists publicly rejected the IMF Gender Strategy, including at the Civil Society Policy Forum in October 2022. Engagement with the IMF continued, but its stance on dogmatic policies like austerity remained unchanged. Similarly, the World Bank was finalising plans for its next gender strategy (FY 2024-30), prompting concerns about a lack of a comprehensive review and calls for greater inclusion of Global South expertise and voices.

Sustainable development

Feminist sustainable development fellow Vanessa Daza Castillo completed her 14-month fellowship, with key deliverables including an updated organisational strategy on sustainable development, a blog post on the right to development, and a CEDAW-SDGs online workshop series focused on environmental justice. The strategy emphasises two key reasons for engaging with the sustainable development

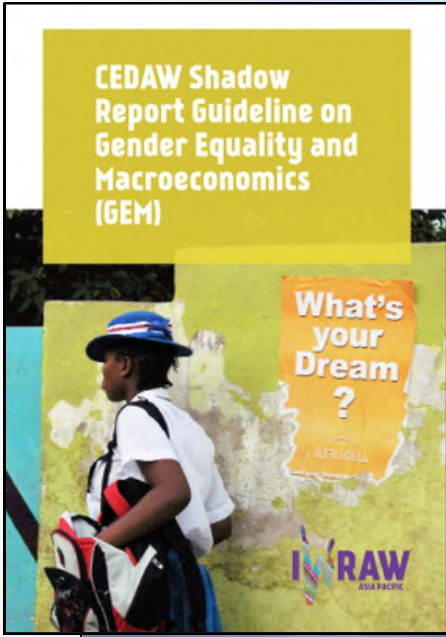
agenda: ensuring that it doesn't undermine human rights commitments, and using the SDGs as an alternative platform to promote gender equality where governments are reluctant to accept human rights treaties. The programme believes in centring Global South women's voices and experiences in this work and orienting sustainable development towards the realisation of human rights.

The CEDAW-SDGs workshop series concluded in August 2022. It affirmed widespread interest among WROs in aligning SDGs with CEDAW, and highlighted the SDGs' continued relevance as an advocacy tool for our NGO networks. At a CEDAW shadow report training in Jordan, jointly organised with Kvinna till Kvinna, participants also expressed interest in further training on SDGs and macroeconomics.

The fellow's work on the right to development kept us informed about this crucial area, which has the potential to advance feminist economic justice. However, some progressive aspects of the draft Convention on the Right to Development are under threat, and there is troubling anti-rights advocacy within the space. Our partners, the Sexual Rights Initiative, pointed out geopolitical challenges that may hinder the realisation of this standard, similar to the obstacles faced at COP27.



Photos from IWRAW Asia Pacific's training with Kvinna till Kvinna in Jordan



Engagement with treaty bodies

The programme continued in its efforts to increase the participation and diversity of WROs in sharing information with CEDAW (and other treaty bodies) regarding the adverse impacts of macroeconomic policies, trade, and development on women’s human rights. This included developing Gender Equality and Macroeconomic (GEM) shadow report guidelines based on our GEM toolkit.

Building on 2021’s thematic briefing on gender and macroeconomics, IWRAP Asia Pacific confirmed with CEDAW Committee members the relevance of developing a PSWG framework of questions to integrate GEM issues into LOIPRs/ LOIs and strengthen Article 13 to address structural macroeconomic issues. This work will be developed in 2023 and 2024.

The programme, together with partners from the Third World Network and Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN), presented two shadow reports to CEDAW’s 83rd session in October as part of the Feminists for a People’s Vaccine (FPV) campaign for Belgium’s and Switzerland’s reviews. The CEDAW Committee raised relevant questions to the state in both constructive dialogues. For Belgium, no relevant recommendations were provided in the Concluding Observations. However, state delegates committed to considering an extension of the June 2022 TRIPS decision from vaccines to diagnostics and treatment. In the case of Switzerland, the campaign secured its first direct recommendation, urging the state party to support and promote women’s access to vaccines globally. This recommendation also referenced Switzerland’s role in blocking proposals at the WTO. These interventions with FPV at CEDAW have paved the way for progressive interpretations of CEDAW norms, which have significant implications for closing the accountability gap in the global economy. They can also be applied to other multilateral organisations, such as the IMF and the World Bank.

Publications from IWRAP Asia Pacific’s TrEAD programme



Communications

The expansion of the communications team strengthened our outreach and accountability to our partners. Despite challenges within the social media landscape, IWRAW Asia Pacific maintained a strong social media presence, emphasising strategic engagement, collaboration and joint advocacy with movements including those of sex workers, Indigenous peoples, and queer activists.

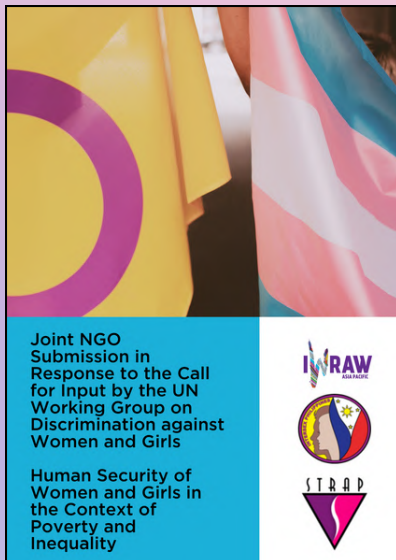
Social-media-related communications throughout the year prioritised amplification of both the CEDAW sessions and the Global Tribunal of Women Workers, as well as supporting multiple external campaigns.

The communications team's support for the Global Tribunal of Women Workers was a key shifting point in our communications strategy and cemented our commitment to making both virtual

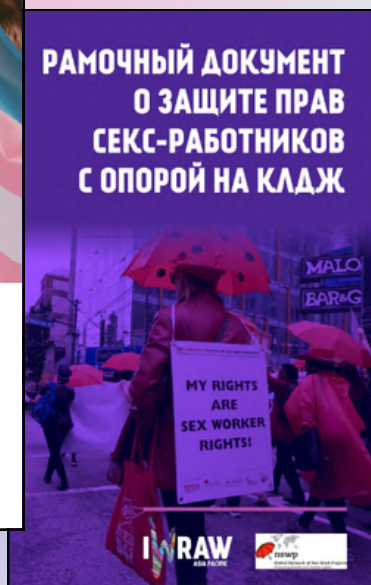
and in-person spaces more accessible. A fully virtual event on Zoom, the Global Tribunal provided simultaneous interpretation in a record number of 16 languages. A [microsite](#) was developed which hosted all information and registration for the Global Tribunal of Women Workers, as well as two videos - one [teaser trailer](#) and one [promotional video](#) - and [illustrations](#) for the Tribunal's messaging.

Publications in 2022 included:

- The Gender Equality and Macroeconomics (GEM) [starter kit](#) and [training manual](#). The GEM starter kit also has its own extensive [section](#) on the IWRAP Asia Pacific website.
- Dr Savitri Goonesekere's [presentation on women's property rights in South Asia](#), from a 2021 workshop co-organised by IWRAP Asia Pacific.
- [Russian version of the Framework on Rights of Sex Workers and CEDAW](#), translated by the Sex Workers' Rights Advocacy Network (SWAN).



Publications from IWRAP Asia Pacific



Six blog posts were published:

- [‘Unpacking feminism in water governance’](#), adapted from Environmental Justice programme officer Marisa Hutchinson’s presentation at Oxfam’s Mekong Water Resources Governance Program’s virtual webinar on feminism in water governance held in June 2021.
- [‘A template for change: The ILO’s C190 and justice for women at work’](#), written by Women Gaining Ground programme officer Kavitha Devadas and based on a conversation with senior programme manager Audrey Lee during a workshop on sexual and gender-based violence at the workplace held in December 2021 as part of the Global 16 Days of Action Against GBV.
- [‘Governance and resilience of Pacific women through the crises of climate change and COVID-19’](#), contributed by Belyndar Maonia Rikimani, a climate activist from the Solomon Islands, as part of the Environmental Justice programme’s blog series.
- [‘The exclusion of Malaysian women with ADHD’](#), by Batrisyia Azalan, our communications intern from December 2021 to February 2022, describing the bureaucratic hurdles to registration for people with disabilities.

Statements and submissions included:

- Joint statement by TB-Net, Amnesty International and the International Service for Human Rights on the [status of the UN human rights treaty body system](#).
- Open letter from SWIFA to members of congress in Spain regarding [proposed amendments to the Penal Code](#).
- Two joint submissions on poverty and inequality to the UN Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls: one with Sexual Rights Initiative and the Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID), rooted in [human rights and economic, racial, gender and climate justice](#); and one with Intersex Philippines and Society of Trans Women of the Philippines, on the [structural barriers faced by trans and intersex women and girls and gender-diverse people](#).
- [‘Through the looking glass: CEDAW sessions within a hybrid model’](#) by our summer intern, Tara Nair, on the 82nd CEDAW session, which was the first session to adopt a hybrid model for NGO participation.
- [‘Towards a more inclusive feminist praxis: Strengthening advocacy through an intersectional lens’](#) by FIFF intern Ramya Gopal, on the practical application and realisation of intersectionality across the feminist movement.



Clockwise from left: Bolivian activist Ruth Alipaz Cuqui as depicted in video on women human rights defenders and COVID-19; Marisa Hutchinson speaks at COP27; excerpt of promotional comic for the Feminists for a People's Vaccine podcast; cover page of Constanza Pauchulo's presentation for INPUD's webinar



In addition to the GSWF 2022 materials, a number of other videos and recordings were developed:

- A [five-part video series](#) on women human rights defenders and COVID-19 was launched in collaboration with the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, released one by one beginning on the World Day of Social Justice and finishing on International Women's Day 2022.
- TrEAD programme manager Constanza Pauchulo joined the Feminists for a People's Vaccine podcast to discuss a [human-rights-based approach to COVID-19](#).
- Constanza also took part in a webinar organised by the International Network of People who Use Drugs (INPUD) on [how drug user advocates can use CEDAW](#).
- FIFF programme officer Vashti moderated a side event at the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs which emphasised the importance of [intersectional perspectives on drug policy in Asia](#).

- Environmental justice programme officer Marisa Hutchinson moderated a COP27 side event on [loss and damage from a human rights perspective](#).
- UN Women translated our CEDAW Quick and Concise videos on [substantive equality, non-discrimination and state obligation](#) into Turkish.

The communications team also concentrated its energy on strengthening internal communication processes and procedures within the team as we navigate the transition to remote working. This included the introduction of a new online workspace, streamlining of weekly team meetings and cross-programmatic sharing.

Sustainability and relevance of IWRAW Asia Pacific

The outcomes envisioned from our focus on sustainability and relevance are to ground our feminist agenda more deeply in the politics of our constituencies, by developing organisational structures that reflect IWRAW Asia Pacific's feminist values and ways of working, enabling IWRAW Asia Pacific's governance bodies to be more reflective of its constituencies, and facilitating IWRAW Asia Pacific to become a financially sustainable organisation. Several activities to this end were undertaken in 2022.

Funding and fundraising

IWRAW Asia Pacific started 2022 with a fully funded programme, a first during the executive director's tenure. This achievement stemmed from internalising fundraising training, team efforts in attracting different donors, and our strong online presence thanks to the communications team.

The challenge ahead is to maintain interest and build a robust pipeline of funding proposals, especially post-2025 when the current pipeline thins. The resumption of in-person meetings may limit time for fundraising, emphasising the need to rationalise international travel.

The organisational review and the change project

We conducted an organisational review, part of our contract with the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC). The Mangrove Collective was selected to carry out this comprehensive assessment of our governance, institutional practices, and processes aligned with feminist values. The review concluded with a town hall meeting and the finalisation of the consultants' report. We further discussed the recommendations at the annual advisory committee meeting in November, crafting a way forward collaboratively with inputs from the team, the board, and the advisory committee.

Remote working policy and working practices

During the strategy development in 2019, we explored remote work as a means to meet international team demands, reduce our

environmental impact, and adapt to a changing world. The COVID-19 pandemic introduced fully remote working faster than we had anticipated, but as lockdowns eased, we needed to decide on the parameters of our working practices. Early in 2022, the executive director and the finance and administration manager held a series of conversations with global and regional organisations already implementing remote work, to collect information which would help inform the development of our own policy and ways of working.

While we appreciate in-person meetings, we must remain mindful of the climate crisis exacerbated by unrestricted air travel. We should retain the lessons learned from facilitating online participation to increase accessibility for marginalised groups affected by border controls, vaccine inequalities, and costs. We should balance increased movement with time for reflection, information sharing, and organisational development, including fundraising and donor engagement.

In the latter half of 2022, our successful fundraising efforts led to increased workload and staff expansion. Anticipating the formalisation of the remote working policy and considering the experience of some team members, several relocated from Kuala Lumpur. Reasons included security concerns in Kuala Lumpur, particularly for queer and Black individuals, as well as caregiving responsibilities. Our team now spans multiple locations, including Manila, Bali, Kuala Lumpur, Langkawi, Colombo, Kolkata, Kampala, and Msida.



The IWRAW Asia Pacific staff, board and advisory committee in Kuala Lumpur, November 2022. Back row, from left: Shanti Uprety, Vashti, Constanza Pauchulo, Nine, Anindya (Vivi) Restuviani, Breena Au (rapporteur), Pravind Premnath, Hazel Birungi, Evelyn Loh, Marisa Hutchinson, Thaaranni Manikam, Chee Yoke Ling, Audrey Lee, Phang Lai Yoong, Siti Norbaya Mohd Saini, Zahirah Zainal; front row, from left: Priyanthi Fernando, Savitri Goonesekere, Lesley Ann Foster, Nalini Singh, Shanthi Dairiam, Rajeli Nicole (facilitator), Shireen Huq, Ipek Ilkharacan, Ruth Manorama.

People

Staff

Audrey Lee
Anindya (Vivi) Restuviani
Constanza Pauchulo
Evelyn Loh
Hazel Birungi
Kavitha Devadas
Marisa Hutchinson
Molly Yew
Nadia Mohd Rasidi
Nine
Phang Lai Yoong
Pravind Premnath
Priyanthi Fernando
Shanti Uprety
Siti Norbaya Mohd Saini
Siti Zainab binti Abdullah
Vashti
Zahirah Zainal

Fellows

Jhannel Tomlinson
Vanessa Daza Castillo

Interns

Batrisyia Azalan
Paulette Parris
Ramya Gopal
Tara Nair
Virginia Bullington

Board of directors

Amal Hadi
Chee Yoke Ling
Lesley Ann Foster
Maria Herminia Graterol
Nalini Singh
Noor Farida Ariffin
Noraida Endut
Shanthi Dairiam

Advisory committee

Andrew Byrnes
Ipek Ilkkaracan
Ruth Manorama
Savitri Goonesekere
Shireen Huq



The IWRAW Asia Pacific staff, team in Langkawi, April 2022. Back row, from left: Audrey Lee, Anindya (Vivi) Restuviani, Nine, Molly Yew, Constanza Pauchulo, Vashti. Middle row, from left: Phang Lai Yoong, Siti Norbaya Mohd Saini, Zahirah Zainal, Kavitha Devadas. Front row, from left: Priyanthi Fernando, Shanti Uprety, Nadia Mohd Rasidi, Marisa Hutchinson, Lee Yi Ting (facilitator), Pravind Premnath.

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Women's Fund Asia



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