



Women Ocean Guardians

Is a public-private partnership to center coastal women leaders' meaningful inclusion in dialogue that defines the agendas for marine conservation and sustainable use. The initiative elevates women frontliners to participate in decision-making, unlock funding, and access leadership opportunities through gender-transformative policies, enabling the advancement of marine conservation and sustainable development goals.

To support a shift towards equity for women in ocean-dependent communities and in marine conservation efforts, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Conservation International (CI), in partnership with the governments of Costa Rica and French Embassy in Costa Rica, and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) with support from IUCN, MarFund, Movilizatorio, Ocean Outcomes, UNDP, UNESCO, and UNFPA organized a Coastal Women Leaders' Exchange in June 2024 in Costa Rica.

The regional exchange brought together 26 women from 11 countries across the Americas and Caribbean, representing Indigenous women, Afro Descendants, fisherwomen, park rangers, MPA managers, mangrove restorers, conservationists, and advocates, and resulted in a **Call to Action** to recognize and elevate coastal women's leadership in the implementation of marine conservation and climate-smart livelihoods.

Our Pillars



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Formalize the Women Ocean Guardians Global Network

Strengthening conservation and sustainable development frameworks by meaningfully engaging women leaders' voices

Co-design and delivery of a capacity-building program to enhance the skills of coastal women leaders to scale impact.

Knowledge transfer through south-south cooperation and cross-regional exchanges

Monitoring and evaluation to facilitate accountability and adaptive learning



Alignment with International Frameworks



Contact details

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