



**Gender-Responsive
Climate Actions
through
the W+ Standard**

Setting the Standard for Women's Empowerment

Developed in 2015 by WOCAN to:

- 1- Increase rigor and accountability of gender initiatives
- 2- Incentivize new investments in women's empowerment
- 3- Create a market-based results-based financing mechanism

WHY W+ IS UNIQUE

It measures progress on women's empowerment and **provides quantified W+ units that can be monetized rather than statements. It can also be used to certify a supply chain or carbon unit.**

Results are verified by independent verifiers



W+ units = realized improvements in a woman's life in 6 areas : Time, Income and Assets, Education and Knowledge, Health, Food Security and Leadership

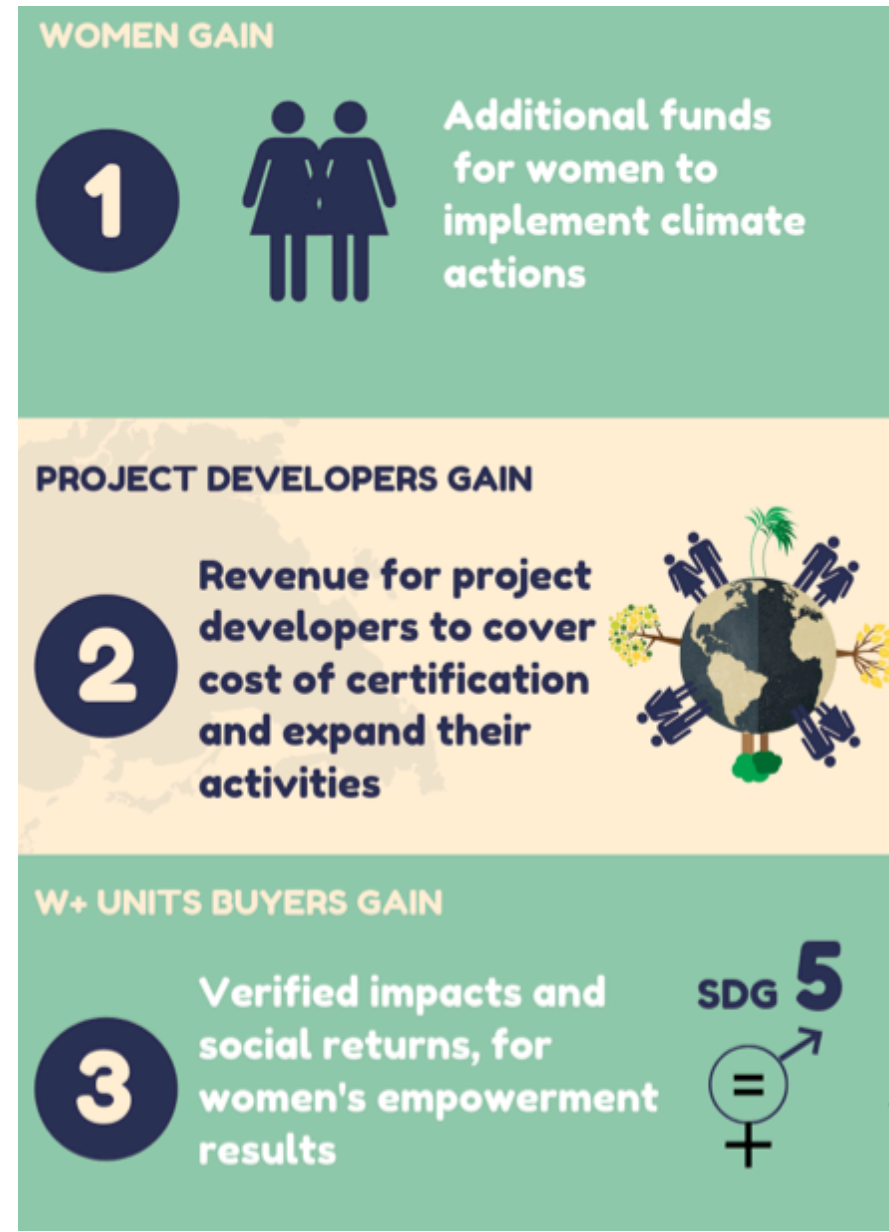
It channels money to women at the community level: at least 20% of the revenue from W+ unit sales is provided to women's groups engaged in the project to support their own community activities.



Meeting Both Climate and Gender Equality Goals

W+ provides a **triple win solution** to reduce carbon emissions while empowering women.

The W+ Standard™ partners with VERRA to offer project developers and unit purchasers the opportunity to achieve both emissions reductions and women's empowerment in a streamlined process. It can also be applied to other GHG accounting frameworks.



Value of the W+ | Addressing global trends

Climate Change

- Recognition of women's contributions to climate actions through link to GHG units
- W+ units can be purchased by governments, companies, investors and individuals

Women's Empowerment/ Gender Equality

- Encourages new resources, esp. private sector investments, through incentives
- Provides new revenue stream to local women's groups and organizations

Sustainable Businesses

- Provides quantified impacts for SDG target # 5
- Provides certification and consumer-facing label for supply chains
- Measures results at level of producers (farmers) within supply chains



Value of the W+ | Addressing global trends

Responsible Investing

The W+ provides:

- Stories and qualitative metrics beyond numbers of women
- Means for ‘doing good for women’ (beyond ‘do no harm’ level)
- Quantification for social returns for investors

Measuring and reporting outcomes/impacts

- Provides transparency and credibility through rigorous measuring and registry
- W+ units listed on a global environmental registry



Value of the W+ | A Gender-Responsive Solution

1

Provides results-based measurement and reporting for donors and investors

- Quantified impacts for SDG target # 5
- Transparency and credibility through rigorous measuring and registry
- Stories and qualitative metrics beyond numbers of women
- Apply W+ to portfolio of projects

2

Enables one-stop mechanism to purchase GHG units with W+ label

- Linked to VCS (Verified Carbon Standard) to enable streamlined verification of both standards
- Can also link to other GHG accounting frameworks
- Enables buyers to purchase GHG units with co-benefit

3

Provides revenue for women's groups and organizations



Proof of Concept: UNFCCC Recognition

- Winner of Momentum for Change Lighthouse Activity Award of UNFCCC 2016

- W+ Standard: Measuring and Monetizing Co-Benefits of Climate Mitigation to Support Women's Empowerment

- Units from this biogas project in Nepal were generated by measuring time savings (2.26 hours/day) for 7200 households and sold to buyers

- Funds given to women's groups in project area and used for livelihood and climate adaptation activities.



<https://unfccc.int/climate-action/momentum-for-change/women-for-results/the-w-standard>



Transformative changes in women's lives

- Women's unpaid labor has enabled functioning and maintenance of biogas digesters, resulting in climate mitigation, forest conservation and GHG units sold by Nepal government.

- W+ Standard measured the time saved for 7,200 women in Kavre and Sindhuli districts who replaced their wood-generated stoves, relieving them of the need to collect fuel wood from the forest and saving 2.26 hours per day.

- By eliminating this time-consuming, labor-intensive task, women gained time for leisure and self-improvement, planting vegetable gardens and cash crops, and engaging in income generation and community activities.



Benefits for Climate Resilience

These actions increase their resilience to weather-related risks:

- a diversified food supply reduces the risk of total harvest loss,
- additional income generation increases their means to respond to burden of disease resulting from changed weather;
- participation in community organizing activities allows for better planning for risk reduction and leisure time increases women's access to media, thus increasing their awareness of community relevant risks.

In addition, WOCAN has distributed revenues from the sale of W+ Units to 12 women's groups in the project, as is required by the Standard. Groups used these funds for water supply access, savings and loans to group members, and other needs.



A Platform for Rapid Scale-up for Crosscutting Solution for Climate Action and Women's Empowerment

- This activity demonstrates that women's empowerment, like climate mitigation, is a cross-cutting topic that touches projects implemented in a wide variety of sectors.

- Carbon markets demonstrated that a financial value placed on a measurable impact that generates tradeable assets ("carbon credits") leads to climate-sensitive design of a large number of projects across a wide spectrum of sectors.

- The W+ Standard demonstrates that we can use this same concept for the purpose of women's empowerment. The W+ Standard gives a monetary value to women's unpaid work and contributions to climate actions.

- A key factor for success is the stimulation of demand for W+ units.



W+ Labelled CERs from Nepal Biogas Project

- 224,064 W+ Units generated by measuring time savings from biogas project of AEPC
- 31% decrease in time spent on fuelwood collection and cooking
- Per 10,000 CERs: 3127 W+ units for 2128 households



More information

www.wplus.org

jeannettegurung@wocan.org

coordinator@wplus.org

[Momentum for Change Award 2016](#)

