

# Advancing Gender Equity in Inland Fisheries

Successes and reflections on The Nature Conservancy's gender transformative approaches in community-led inland fisheries conservation

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# Who are we at TNC?

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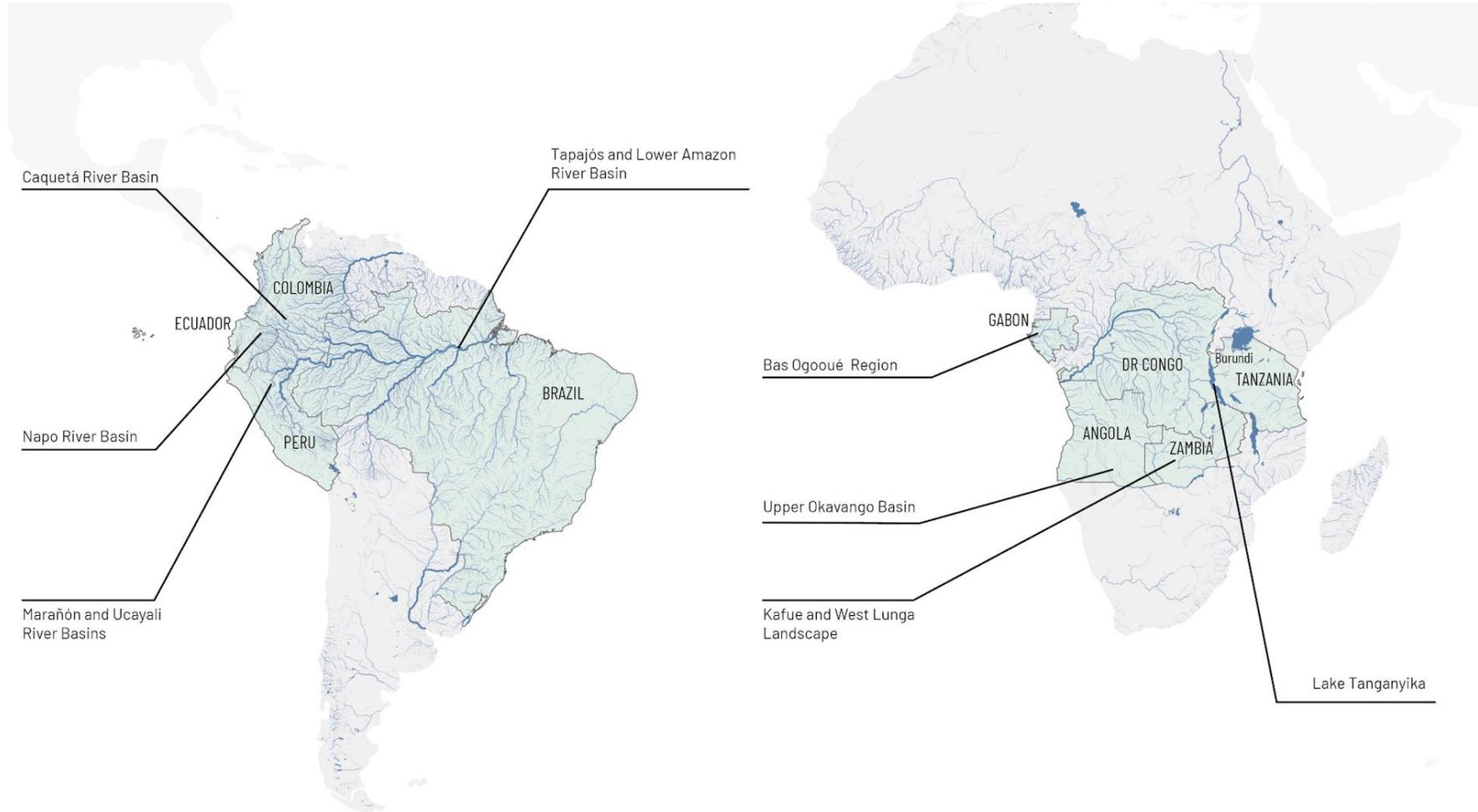
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# Where We Work

TNC's Freshwater Fisheries Strategy touches down in key geographies across Africa and Latin America and is already yielding transformative results.



# 50%

Women represent > 50% of the inland fisheries workforce but are under-represented in inland fisheries management decision-making.

- Unique natural resource knowledge
- Increase effectiveness of conservation
- Improve equity and household wellbeing



**We strive to lift  
the voices of  
women in inland  
fisheries  
management and  
conservation  
decisions.**



# How we do it

- TNC guidance
- Deep relationships with communities
- Co-design Gender Action Plans
- Minimize negative consequences
- Implement gender-transformative approaches





BRAZIL



# Amazon

## Elevating women's leadership in the Brazilian Amazon

- ✓ **Gender-targeted training** and rights awareness
- ✓ **Women's leadership** in fishing councils
- ✓ Women's **capacity building** on gender and public policies, amplify voices ('multiplicadores', guide for LAR)
- ✓ **Engagement** with Ministries of Women and Fisheries





COLOMBIA



# Caquetá River Basin

Honoring local wisdom and knowledge of women

- ✓ **Building the capacity** of indigenous women in fisheries data collection and analysis
- ✓ **Value of indigenous women's knowledge** of the territory and its resources from a new role supported by communities
- ✓ **Gains in confidence**, recognition and community respect
- ✓ **Co design of a Gender Action Plan** that includes conservation and monitoring actions led by women
- ✓ **Women as holders of knowledge** and transmission through ethno-education and intercultural exchange





TANZANIA



# Lake Tanganyika

Working with partners across four countries to protect the world's longest lake.

- ✓ **Gender dialogues** on social norms in fishing and in households
- ✓ **Creation of community conservation banks (COCOBA)s** and fisheries cooperative societies
- ✓ **Capacity building** by empowering women to participate in leadership positions, incl. **BMU**
- ✓ **Policy Advocacy and Legal Inclusion** by enhancing LT women's lobbying and advocacy capacity through their umbrella organization such as *Tanzania Women Fish Workers Association - TAWFA*.



# Reflections

## What has worked well:

- Capitalising on drivers of change on the ground
- Awareness raising among women about own capabilities and agency, building confidence to inspire other women
- Institutional bridges beyond communities
- Opening spaces for women leadership, carefully build on existing roles with community support



# Remaining challenges

- Inertia of customary and traditional rights and fisheries management systems
- Hidden prevalence of gender-based violence, including sex-for-fish
- Insufficient understanding of women's fishing practices
- Incoherent policies and social protection mechanisms
- Women's groups and networks not supported by government institutions
- Disproportionate climate change impacts on inland fisheries and women
- Weight of home chores and caring responsibilities
- Preconceptions about what women can/cannot do





- Women in inland fisheries deserve greater attention
- Fisheries management and gender equity cannot be dissociated

# Thank You!

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