



# TARGET 23



## What is Target 23?

Ensure Gender Equality and a Gender-Responsive Approach for Biodiversity Action

Ensure gender equality in the implementation of the framework through a gender-responsive approach where all women and girls have **equal opportunity and capacity** to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention, including by recognizing their **equal rights and access to land and natural resources** and their full, equitable, meaningful and **informed participation and leadership** at all levels of action, engagement, policy and decision-making related to biodiversity.





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## Why is this Target important?

Gender roles influence biodiversity conservation and sustainable use by affecting women's decision-making power and access to resources. By considering gender dimensions in decision-making, we can achieve positive outcomes for both biodiversity and gender equality. Women often play crucial roles in natural resource management and sustainable agriculture. When empowered with equal access to resources and opportunities, women can effectively participate in decision-making and advocate for environmental protection. Target 23 focuses on considering the different needs and experiences of people based on their gender identity to create a more inclusive and equitable society.

Text has been shortened for brevity.





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## **How is this Target significant for a gender-responsive implementation of the KM-GBF?**

### **Case Study: The Invisible Role of Indigenous Women in Biodiversity Conservation**

Indigenous peoples' lands often have better biodiversity conservation status due to their traditional practices.

However, the Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES, 2019) overlooks the crucial role of indigenous women in these efforts. Research on women's roles in terrestrial ecosystem management often focuses on household or community levels, neglecting their broader contributions at landscape scales.



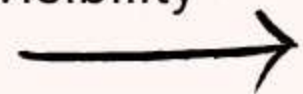


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Photo: Network for the Indigenous Peoples Solomons (NIPS)

Indigenous women actively manage landscapes through various activities like sustainable harvesting, agroforestry, and community-based conservation. These contributions are frequently overlooked in official statistics and policy-making, leading to their invisibility and discrimination.





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Rural women often lack land ownership rights, despite their significant contributions to agriculture and conservation. This gender-based inequality persists due to patriarchal systems and cultural norms. However, agroecology is closely linked to rural women's productive activities such as horticulture and farming. Addressing these issues is essential for ensuring the rights of women whose livelihoods depend on biodiversity including marine and coastal ecosystems aside from terrestrial ecosystem.



Photo: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)





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Women play vital roles in natural resource management and are disproportionately affected by climate change. However, they are often underrepresented in decision-making processes and lack access to resources and opportunities. Recognising women's crucial roles and contributions at all levels (local, national, regional and global) is crucial for sustainable development and biodiversity conservation.

By mainstreaming gender equality, we can create a more just and equitable society. This involves recognizing women's contributions, addressing their unique needs, and ensuring their equal participation in decision-making.

Sources: Indigenous women's rights in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. September 2021. EGM/ENV/EP.21. [https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/CSW/66/EGM/Expert%20Papers/Georgina%20CATACORA%20VARGAS\\_CS66%20Expert%20Paper.pdf](https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/CSW/66/EGM/Expert%20Papers/Georgina%20CATACORA%20VARGAS_CS66%20Expert%20Paper.pdf) [Date of access: 18 September 2024]. Catacora-Vargas, G. M.

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