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# Advancing Gender Equality Through Strategic Data Insights
# **Gender and Environment Data Conference**

*Sunday, October 20, 2024*
*09:00 – 20:30 hours*
*Venue: Sonesta Hotel, Calle 18 Norte No. 4N-08, Cali, Colombia*

Hosted and facilitated by Women4Biodiversity in partnership with, UN-Women, IUCN, UNDP, and supported with funding from SwedBio through Stockholm Resilience Center through Stockholm University.

## Introduction

The conference aims to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and align with the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) by sharing and exploring strategic and practical actions for integrating gender perspectives in environmental data collection and analysis. This conference will provide a collaborative platform to bring together diverse views to explore synergies, and identify pathways for advancing gender equality into biodiversity efforts. The outcomes of this conference are intended to significantly contribute to the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the CBD, taking place in Cali, Colombia.

This conference aims to emphasize the critical role that gender-disaggregated data and environmental metrics play in formulating effective policies and strategies for biodiversity and sustainable development. By bringing together experts, practitioners, and policymakers, it will provide a platform for knowledge exchange, capacity building, and collaborative action toward integrating gender considerations in biodiversity and environmental data collection and analysis.

## Background

Gender equality is essential for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Women and men have different relationships with biodiversity, and these differences can significantly impact how biodiversity is managed and used. During the 15th Session of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Conference of the Parties (COP15), Parties to the Convention adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) which promotes gender-responsive actions to achieve its goals and targets. Prior to COP15, the agreed conclusions of the 66th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66) (E/CN.6/2022/L.7) called on the importance of the outcomes of COP15 in the realization of gender equality through the implementation of the KMGBF (Paragraph 62c). In order to achieve gender equality, data is fundamental in mobilizing, focusing and monitoring efforts, thus, it helps identify gaps, streamline policies and direct resources. However, the inaccessibility of disaggregated data hampers efforts to these ends.

Decision CBD/COP15/6, on Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting, and review, calls on Parties to enable the full and effective participation and engagement of women in all levels of development and implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), as well as in the preparation of the seventh and eighth national reports, to ensure that targets, actions and expected outcomes are coordinated, that the concerns of different actors are addressed. Regarding data and indicators, CSW66 demands the strengthening of the capacities and coordination of national statistical and data production offices and government institutions to collect, analyze, disseminate, and use sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics on the environment. In Decision CBD/COP15/5, on the Monitoring framework for the KMGBF, data gaps remain in understanding the gender and biodiversity nexus.  In this context, Women4Biodiversity and the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) have collaborated in the development of a new methodology for the component indicator that will support Parties to comprehensively measure progress towards national implementation of Target 23 and the Gender Plan of Action. In addition, very few of the SDG environment-related indicators have gender considerations and among those that do, data is only available for 2 out of 10. Apart from these SDG indicators, gender-

disaggregated data is scarce/unavailable for other environmental factors, including the effects of climate change and disasters, on women and their use of biodiversity.

Data itself is rarely neutral or objective since the methodologies through which it is created and how it is collected is done by people, combining science, beliefs, values, and attitudes. As a result, data can potentially reflect prevailing power structures and norms. When data fail to consider gender, many critical issues may be misrepresented or ignored. Hence, we need new data to understand our gendered world.  Recently, it has been shown that it is possible to fill this data gap by integrating multiple data sources, using new methodologies and tools for survey data collection by integrating multiple data sources, using new methodologies and tools for survey data collection, analyzing big data, and identifying gender-biodiversity indicators that could be used to monitor progress at national, regional and global levels, new data are being produced and policymakers are increasingly using gender-biodiversity indicators for policy monitoring.

This conference also seeks to underscore the vital role of gender data in environmental decision-making. It serves as a continuation of the Global Conference on Gender and Environment Data, held prior to COP28 in Dubai. The earlier conference issued a Call to Action, and this subsequent event aims to address some of those ambitions. This is a unique opportunity to align the efforts of the Rio Conventions on this crucial issue.

The decisions adopted at COP15 are a significant step forward for the gender-biodiversity nexus, as these decisions provide a framework for Parties to the Convention to advance women's rights and gender equality in all aspects of biodiversity governance and implementation of the KMGBF. This needs to be reflected on the ground and taken into account.

## Objectives

- To explore the significance of gender-disaggregated data in understanding the interconnections between gender and biodiversity, highlighting the current state of data availability, and address challenges in collecting and prioritizing gender and environmental data.
- To present practical tools and methodologies for integrating gender perspectives into environmental data collection and analysis systems.
- To share concrete examples of data-driven policy, strategies and advocacy successes to influence policy and public opinion.
- To provide inputs towards developing indicators on gender in the context of the Monitoring Framework of the KMGBF.

## Intended Audience

This conference is intended for the main audiences attending Biodiversity Conference in Cali CBD COP16, CP MOP 11 and NP MOP 5 in Cali, Colombia in October 2024. With a special focus on gender- and environment-focused decision-makers and practitioners and their networks, as well as those NGOs, academia, and civil society organizations focused on the environment, Indigenous peoples', local communities and women's rights.

## For more information about the conference,

Alejandra Duarte at alejandra.duarte@women4biodiversity.org

Venge Nyirongo at venge.nyirongo@unwomen.org

**Session 1: The Power of Data: Understanding the state of gender and environment data**

**Background**

The environment and biodiversity loss are not gender-neutral issues. The impacts of these crises affect women, girls and gender-diverse people in different proportions due to social, political and economic inequalities: and, they have less access to and control over resources and the benefits derived from the utilization of them. At the same time, they play an important role in implementing solutions to minimize impacts on households and communities. In this context, gender data, which is the collection of information about the different lived experiences of women, men, and gender-diverse people, including data disaggregated by sex or gender, reflecting roles, relationships, inequalities, stereotypes, social norms, and other factors that may introduce gender bias; can help illuminate the disparate impacts of biodiversity loss for women, girls and gender-diverse groups, as well as their contributions. However, on many key issues, gender data remain unavailable, resulting in a lack of baseline data available to compare the situation of women and girls before and after the implementation of initiatives of conservation, sustainable development, and benefit sharing; also, in most cases these data lack high quality, regularity and are not internationally comparable for many aspects of the environment; despite the fact that numerous international commitments recognize the interlinkages between gender and environment, the measures that support gender data collection and its monitoring are not consistently. This is why, wherever possible, gender data collection and analysis should adopt an intersectional approach and disaggregate data by multiple dimensions to capture differences based on income, age, race, ethnicity, location (urban/rural), indigenous status, migration status, disability, and other characteristics. Establishing strong gender data systems today can help to ensure that data is available to inform response and recovery efforts when crisis strikes so that no one is left behind.

This session will explore the significance of gender-disaggregated data in understanding the interconnections between gender and biodiversity, it will showcase current state of data availability on gender and biodiversity, highlight the data gaps and challenges in collecting gender-disaggregated environmental data, and the steps needed to strengthen it. Will explore how statistical systems collect, analyze, and disseminate data related to biodiversity and gender, addressing the existing challenges in prioritizing measurements at the intersection of gender and the environment.

**Outcomes**

- Increased awareness of the importance of gender-disaggregated data.
- Identification of key gaps in current data collection efforts.
- Recommendations for improving gender and biodiversity data collection.

**Moderator:** Venge Nyirongo, Intergovernmental Specialist (Climate Change, Sustainable Development and the Rio Conventions), UN Women

**Trigger presentation: The state of gender and environment data.**
Sara Duerto Valero, Regional Advisor on Gender Statistics in UN Women's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

This presentation will explore critical topics including the current landscape of data availability concerning the environment and biodiversity, identify key data gaps, and discuss effective methods for data collection, and the barriers to obtaining comprehensive data and highlight opportunities for improvement.

**Panel discussion: Overcoming challenges to produce gender and environment data: Implementing the Call to Action.**

- Alicia Bárcena, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Mexico
- Claudia Rubio, Associate, Policy & Programs, Gender and Environment Data Alliance
- Jillian Campbell, Head of Monitoring, Review and Reporting, UN Convention on Biological Diversity
- B. Piedad Urdinola Contreras, Chief Statistician, Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística (DANE), Colombia
- Cate Orwen, Senior Advisory on Gender Equality/ Ciara Daniels, Gender and Environment Specialist, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

## Session 2: Tools and Techniques: Integrating Gender into Environmental Data Systems

**Background**

The Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework acknowledges that the "successful implementation of the Framework will depend on ensuring gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, and on reducing inequalities". To achieve this, Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, adopted Target 23, focussed on ensuring gender equality in the implementation of the Framework through a gender-responsive approach. Parties also adopted the CBD Gender Plan of Action 2023-2030, which through its implementation will significantly contribute to the achievement of Target 23. Indicators are included in the monitoring framework for the Biodiversity Plan to help measure progress against its goals and targets. Headline indicators and binary indicators are a fundamental set of high-level measures, which countries are required to use as a minimum, while component and complementary indicators are additional indicators that provide more detailed insights on progress towards the goals and targets of the KM-GBF.

Indicators will play a key role in informing policies at the national level. To ensure that the contributions and roles of women are recognised, and that gender-responsive actions benefit people and the planet, planning, policies and practices need to be evidence-based and informed by gender sensitive indicators. Collecting and understanding information and data on how gender contributes to different experiences, knowledge, impacts, contributions and opportunities for environmental and social results is essential.

In this context, a methodology for the component indicator for Target 23 of the KM-GBF on the national implementation of the gender plan of action was co-developed by CBD Parties and Observers with support from Women4Biodiversity and the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). This methodology will support Parties to comprehensively measure progress towards national implementation of the Gender Plan of Action. Similarly, Land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous peoples and local communities has been proposed as a headline indicator for Target 22, to access the security of land tenure of Indigenous peoples and local communities. This indicator shall act as an enabling condition underpinning the realization of several Goals and Targets including Target 23.

Apart from these indicators, Gender data from a range of traditional sources including civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems, population-based surveys, censuses, and administrative data produced by justice, health, and education systems as well as from digital technologies such as social media, mobile phone applications, and geospatial information, are garnering increased attention and use. National Statistical Offices (NSOs) play a crucial role in the collection, production and dissemination of gender statistics within a country and to ensure that they are produced and monitored frequently gender statistics must be integrated into national statistical systems (NSS), adopting a policy-oriented approach that goes beyond the provision of sex-disaggregated data, developing gender statistics based on actual biodiversity issues and those identified in national development policies and plans.

Examining the role of gender in environmental data systems is a critical aspect of ensuring inclusive and equitable environmental policies and decision-making. This session focuses on transforming gender-disaggregated data into

actionable strategies. Experts will share best practices for improving the accessibility, understanding, and application of this data, with a focus on the indicator methodology on the national implementation of the gender plan of action and the indicator on land use change and land tenure in traditional territories of  indigenous peoples and local communities. to monitor the progress toward Target 23. Additionally, the session will examine how other data tools can support the collection, organising and monitoring of knowledge and information relevant for gender-responsive monitoring and implementation of the KM-GBF.

**Outcomes:**

- Enhanced understanding of available tools and methodologies.
- Practical skills for integrating gender into environmental data systems.
- Networking opportunities for collaboration and support.

**Moderator:** Meenal Tatpati, Policy & Research Associate, Women4Biodiversity

**Trigger presentation: Indicator methodology on national implementation of the Gender Plan of Action under the KM-GBF of the CBD**
Katherine Despot-Belmonte, Senior Specialist: Nature, Gender and Rights, UNEP-WCMC

This presentation will explore the development, use and application of the methodology for the component indicator for Target 23, that will support Parties to comprehensively measure progress towards national implementation of the Gender Plan of Action.

**Panel discussion: Integrating tools and techniques in the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action, Target 22 and 23 under the KM-GBF**

- Katherine Despot-Belmonte, Senior Specialist: Nature, Gender and Rights UNEP-WCMC
- Eva Hershaw, Global Data and Land Monitoring Lead, International Land Coalition
- Paola Lara, Senior Gender Consultant for the NBSAP team of the Vice-Ministry of Environmental Policies and Standardization of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS), Government of Colombia
- Karma Wangchuk, Deputy Chief Biodiversity Officer and the NBSAP Coordinator for Bhutan.
- Roxana Solis, Coordinator in Management of Biodiversity Instruments, Directorate of Ecosystem and Species Conservation, General Directorate of Biodiversity, Ministry of Environment, Peru (TBC)

**Session 3: From Data to Action: Policy and Advocacy for Driving transformative change for KMGBF**

**Background**

Women's roles in biodiversity conservation are often invisible, and limited qualitative and quantitative data exist to ascertain the full impact of biodiversity loss on women. This invisibility also permeates toward the recognition of rights, their full and effective participation in crucial decision-making processes, and access and benefits from the sustainable use of biodiversity, all of which are the core elements of Target 23 within the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Without evidence, it often becomes difficult to negotiate for stronger and better implementation of these elements, and most deliberations remain abstract.

National biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) can have persistent data gaps, including in terms of biodiversity monitoring data, spatial data and mapping, and a lack of gender responsive data. These plans and biodiversity policy and planning processes more broadly may not make full use of the traditional knowledge held by women, nor of women-led efforts to monitor biodiversity loss and its impact on communities.

Spatial data are essential to make NBSAPs actionable and visually compelling, yet, governments often face challenges to access and use this data, whether it is due to the scarcity and poor resolution of data; its price; or technical complexity in using this data. Further, while spatial datasets have the potential to support policy-makers toward data-driven decisions to prioritize action and monitor progress on biodiversity loss, these tools may not be fully utilized by local communities nor alongside gender data. These gaps limit governments' ability to design evidence-based policies that equip communities with the tools they need to manage their biodiversity sustainably.

**Description of Event**

The session will explore existing gaps in gender responsive data collection and monitoring for biodiversity and highlight solutions including women-led initiatives in local communities, and efforts to make spatial data more actionable and gender responsive.

The session will bring together women leading biodiversity conservation and restoration efforts in local communities in Asia, Africa, and Latin America to share their experiences and lessons learned through the "Building Resilience and Weaving Gender-responsive Approaches to Biodiversity Governance" project, initiated by Women4Biodiversity and implemented with the funding support of Sida through SwedBio at Stockholm Resilience Centre.

Participants will learn more about the work of the UN Biodiversity Lab and its public platform where users can access some of the world's best global datasets and work in national private workspaces to combine national spatial datasets with analytic tools. It is essential for women and women's groups to have access to such platforms, and learn more about opportunities to overlay socio-economic, gender responsive data with data on biodiversity and ecosystems.

**Objectives and outcomes:**

- Learn more about data collection in women-led, local biodiversity conservation initiatives and how these efforts can lead to more effective policy-making at the subnational and national levels.
- Learn how spatial data can further support decision making processes.
- Explore strategies for effectively using data to influence policy and public opinion.
- Discuss and define actionable recommendations for integrating gender data into national and international sustainable development frameworks.

**Moderator:** Shruti Ajit, Programme Officer, Women4Biodiversity
**Welcome Remarks**: Ciara Daniels, Gender and Environment Specialist, UNDP

**Panel discussion:**

- Sunita Kwangta, Advocate for Women Research Group, Karen Environmental and Social Action Network (KESAN), Myanmar
- Irene Arono, Member, Pastoral Communities Empowerment Program (PACEP), Kenya
- Elizabeth Assef, Secretary, Fundacion Inalafquen, Argentina
- Regina Lepping, Member from Network for the Indigenous Peoples Solomon (NIPS), Solomon Islands
- Di Zhang, Senior Technical Officer on Spatial Planning & Biodiversity, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Marion Marigo, Capacity Building & Biodiversity Senior Officer, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

# Agenda of the Conference

| Time | Session |
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| 8:30 – 9:00 | Registration |
| Welcome and opening remarks | |
| 9:00 – 9:30 | **Welcome and Opening Remarks**<br><br>*María Noel Vaeza, Director, UN Women's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean*<br>*Olivier Rukundo, Head of the Peoples and Biodiversity Unit of the CBD Secretariat*<br>*Mrinalini Rai, Founder & Director of Women4Biodiversity*<br>*Mayora Ninfa Herrera Domínguez, Leader of the Murui Muina people and Commissioner for Women and Family, Traditional Indigenous Authorities of Colombia - Major Government* |
| 9:30 - 9:45 | **Gratitude and recognition to the territory with harmonious words and sounds by** *Mayora Ninfa Herrera Domínguez* |
| 9:45 - 10:00 | **Women and Nature – A Harmony: A Bharatnatyam Tribute by Sumina Subba**<br><br>A Bharatnatyam (Indian classical dance) performance exploring the profound connection between women and biodiversity. Through movements and storytelling, this performance celebrates the beauty of nature and the vital role women play in its conservation. |
| Session 1: The Power of Data: Understanding the state of gender and environment data<br><br>**Moderator:** Venge Nyirongo, Intergovernmental Specialist (Climate Change, Sustainable Development and the Rio Conventions), UN Women | |
| 10:00 – 10:45 | **Trigger presentation: The state of gender and environment data.**<br><br>**Sara Duerto Valero,** Regional Advisor on Gender Statistics in UN Women's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific<br><br>This presentation will explore critical topics including the current landscape of data availability concerning the environment and biodiversity, identify key data gaps, and |

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| | discuss effective methods for data collection, and the barriers to obtaining comprehensive data and highlight opportunities for improvement. |
| 10:45 - 11:10 | **Panel discussion: Overcoming challenges to produce gender and environment data: Implementing the Call to Action.**<br><br>● **Alicia Bárcena,** Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Mexico<br>● **Claudia Rubio**, Associate, Policy & Programs, Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO) and Gender and Environment Data Alliance<br>● **Jillian Campbell**, Head of Monitoring, Review and Reporting · UN Convention on Biological Diversity<br>● **B. Piedad Urdinola Contreras**, Chief Statistician, Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística (DANE), Colombia<br>● **Cate Orwen**, Senior Advisory on Gender Equality/ **Ciara Daniels,** Gender and Environment Specialist, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) |
| 11:10 - 11:30 | **Q&A** |
| 11:30 - 11:45 | Coffee Break |
| **Session 2: Tools and Techniques: Integrating Gender into Environmental Data Systems**<br><br>**Moderator:** Meenal Tatpati, Policy & Research Associate, Women4Biodiversity | |
| 11:45 – 12:00 | **Trigger presentation: Indicator methodology on national implementation of the Gender Plan of Action under the KM-GBF of the CBD**<br><br>**Katherine Despot-Belmonte,** Senior Specialist: Nature, Gender and Rights, UNEP-WCMC<br><br>This presentation will explore the development, use and application of the methodology for the component indicator for Target 23, that will support Parties to comprehensively measure progress towards national implementation of the Gender Plan of Action. |

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| 12:00 - 12:50 | **Panel discussion: Integrating tools and techniques in the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action, Target 22 and 23 under the KM-GBF**<br><br>● **Katherine Despot-Belmonte**, Senior Specialist: Nature, Gender and Rights UNEP-WCMC<br>● **Eva Hershaw**, Global Data and Land Monitoring Lead, International Land Coalition<br>● **Paola Lara,** Senior Gender Consultant for the NBSAP team of the Vice-Ministry of Environmental Policies and Standardization of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS), Government of Colombia<br>● **Karma Wangchuk,** Deputy Chief Biodiversity Officer and the NBSAP Coordinator for Bhutan. |
| 12:50 - 13:15 | **Q&A** |
| 13:15 – 14:30 | Lunch break |
| **Session 3: From Data to Action: Policy and Advocacy for Driving transformative change for KMGBF**<br><br>**Moderator:** Shruti Ajit, Programme Officer, Women4Biodiversity | |
| 14:30– 14:40 | **Welcome remarks**: Ciara Daniels, Gender and Environment Specialist, UNDP |
| 14:40 - 15:45 | **Panel discussion:**<br><br>● **Sunita Kwangta**, Advocate for Women Research Group, Karen Environmental and Social Action Network (KESAN), Myanmar<br>● **Irene Arono**, Member, Pastoral Communities Empowerment Program (PACEP), Kenya<br>● **Elizabeth Assef,** Secretary, Fundacion Inalafquen, Argentina<br>● **Regina Lepping,** Member from Network for the Indigenous Peoples Solomon (NIPS), Solomon Islands<br>● **Di Zhang**, Senior Technical Officer on Spatial Planning & Biodiversity, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)<br>● **Marion Marigo**, Capacity Building & Biodiversity Senior Officer, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) |

| 15: 45 - 16:00 | **Q&A** |
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| 16:00 - 16:30 | Coffee break |
| **Session 4: Results and reflections** | |
| 16:30 – 17:00 | **Closing remarks**<br>***Mauricio Cabrera Leal, Viceminister*** *Environmental Policies and Standardization of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS), Government of Colombia*<br>***Bibiana Aido Almagro,*** *Country Representative, UN Women Colombia*<br><br>*Group Photo* |
| 17:00 - 18:00 | *Cultural presentations by participants* |
| 18:00 - 20:30 | **Summary of the conference**<br>*Summary of the Day and Presentation of Key Recommendations, reporting back from the 3 sessions*<br><br>**Cocktail Networking**<br><br>Thank you note<br><br>***Mrinalini Rai****, Founder & Director of Women4Biodiversity*<br>***Venge Nyirongo****, Intergovernmental Specialist (Climate Change, Sustainable Development and the Rio Conventions), UN Women*<br>***Ashanapuri Hertz,*** *Programme Officer, Swedbio* |