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)