

Women4Biodiversity

Key Recommendations

Gender and Environment Data Conference: Advancing Gender Equality Through Strategic Data Insights



Partners



Support

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Gender and Environment Data Conference: Advancing Gender Equality Through Strategic Data Insights

People's interactions with the environment vary based on gender, deeply influencing their vulnerability to climate change and biodiversity loss. Women, particularly those relying on natural resources for their livelihoods, face disproportionate challenges in coping with environmental hazards. Their limited access to assets and financial resources exacerbates their vulnerability, while their underrepresentation in environmental decision-making restricts their contributions to sustainable natural resource management. This gender disparity has significant implications for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

Gender-disaggregated data is also essential for understanding how biodiversity is managed, highlighting how women and men interact with and rely on natural resources. However, significant data gaps remain, limiting the ability of policymakers to develop effective, gender-responsive biodiversity strategies. Currently, many gender-environment issues are not reflected in existing global frameworks, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and gender-disaggregated data is rarely available for environmental indicators related to biodiversity.

By emphasizing the importance of gender-disaggregated data in environmental policy and building on the momentum of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) adopted at COP15, and following the [global Call to Action](#) from the Conference on Gender and Environment Data in 2023, held in [UNFCCC COP28 in Dubai](#); Women4Biodiversity in partnership with, UN-Women, IUCN, UNDP, and supported with funding from SwedBio through Stockholm Resilience Center through Stockholm University¹ hosted the [Gender and Environment Data Conference: Advancing Gender Equality Through Strategic Data Insights](#) on 20 October 2024, in Sonesta hotel, Cali, Colombia. The conference brought together around 100 participants in-person and virtually. The outcomes of this conference contributed to the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), supporting the implementation of gender-responsive biodiversity targets and advancing gender equality in environmental governance. The conference addressed one of the key barriers to achieving biodiversity conservation: the lack of comprehensive data on the gender-biodiversity nexus. It is only through closing these data gaps that we can design effective policies, measure progress, and ensure that women's full participation, contributions and leadership at all levels of action and engagement are fully integrated into global biodiversity efforts and initiatives

The following key messages emerged from the conference discussions:

¹ The following allies' organisations also provided their support and dedication in the conference: Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), REFACOF, COOPEMOLUSCHOMES, International Land Coalition, UNEP-WCMC, Fundación Inalafquen, Karen Environmental and Social Action Network (KESAN), Network for the Indigenous Peoples Solomns (NIPS), Solidar, PACEP.Gender + Environment Data Alliance (GEDA).



Session 1

The Power of Data:

Understanding the State of Gender and Environment Data

The session presentations highlighted that, despite progress in gender and environment data, significant gaps remain. By utilizing existing data, we have demonstrated how women's lives are closely connected to environmental harms and how they continue to be excluded from decision-making, particularly in sectors directly affecting the environment. The panelists shared analysis, best practices, and challenges in expanding and deepening gender and environment data.

Key Messages:

1. In expanding gender-environment statistics, there is significant **potential in integrating diverse data sources** such as public-generated data, big data, geospatial data, and demographic and health surveys, alongside incorporating traditional knowledge.
2. **Strengthening connections** between local groups, government ministries, organizations working at the gender-environment intersection, and international frameworks is key to overcoming the current silos in these areas. Efforts focused on closing information gaps must consider **strengthening gender-responsive analysis**, implementing meaningful and **inclusive mechanisms for women's participation**, and greater cross-sectoral coordination.
3. In order to ensure gender perspectives are integrated into the implementation of the KM-GBF, the following factors are vital:
 - a) **Ensuring diverse women are involved** in local-level data collection, including incorporating traditional knowledge;
 - b) **Highlighting the gender dimensions of each KMGBF target**, and supporting the effective implementation of Target 23 through gender-responsive action plans that include women - in all their diversity - in decision-making processes; and
 - c) **Ensuring adequate funding** for inclusive, diverse, and robust data collection, especially in the global south.



Session 2

Tools and Techniques:

Integrating Gender into Environmental Data Systems

Beginning with a presentation on the indicator methodology for implementing the Gender Plan of Action under the KM-GBF, this session examined how gender and environmental data can be captured in practice. In feedback, Parties have found the methodology useful for assessing progress on achieving Target 23 and helping identify gaps and priorities for further work. In relation to indicators for measuring the implementation of the KM-GBF targets, participants also heard how a headline indicator on land tenure could help reach several of the KM-GBF targets through a gender lens.

Key Messages:

1. **Involving diverse women, Indigenous peoples, and local communities in the development and implementation of gender-sensitive National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) is necessary to ensure that their priorities are reflected through participatory dialogues, surveys, and regional meetings.**
2. **Integrate gender-sensitive methodologies into biodiversity planning processes** by adopting indicator methodologies for national implementation of the gender action plan, and the indicator of land use change and land tenure in traditional territories of indigenous peoples and local communities to operationalize gender indicators.
3. **Strengthen the implementation of Target 23** by ensuring robust monitoring frameworks that incorporate gender-sensitive indicators. This includes allocating resources for participatory processes, such as dialogues and technical working group meetings, to ensure the active and effective inclusion of diverse women, Indigenous peoples, local communities, and other stakeholders in decision-making.



Session 3

From Data to Action:

Policy and Advocacy for Driving Transformative Change for KM-GBF

In this session, we heard stories from communities working on ecosystem restoration in six countries around the world. Panelists shared about the implications of documenting women's role in biodiversity restoration. There was also discussion and demonstration about how global spatial data tools can support work relating to gender and environment data.

Key Messages:

1. **The documentation of women's knowledge** and restoration efforts can generate information that is important for communities and integral for biodiversity conservation at local and national levels. Having communities and women drive these processes can help build solidarity, enable intergenerational sharing of traditional ecological knowledge, and help protect knowledge specifically held by women.
2. **Social and cultural aspects of biodiversity restoration, documentation, and monitoring** are integral and should not be undermined. Building leadership capacity for communities to collect citizen-generated data can help restore social bonds and empower women within communities and in decision-making processes on multiple levels.
3. **Restoration and documentation of biodiversity should be driven by communities**, informed by traditional ecological knowledge, and take into consideration livelihoods and food sovereignty. Crucially, this requires patience and time and direct resourcing to communities, which should be directed towards developing women's skills in environmental management.
4. **NBSAPs must be actionable** and utilize spatial data, which captures gender perspectives, to support gender-responsive decision-making.



Women4Biodiversity

About Women4Biodiversity

Women4Biodiversity advocates for gender equity in biodiversity conservation. We believe "Living in Harmony" with nature requires recognizing women's and girls's roles and rights with holistic solutions. We champion these principles through collaboration across the three Rio Conventions (UNCBD, UNCCD, and UNFCCC) for a more inclusive future.

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