

Advancing Women's Rights, Gender Equality and the Future of Biodiversity in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

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Preface

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aims to eradicate poverty while shifting the world towards a sustainable and resilient path. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF) under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is envisioned to align with this agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals in an integrated manner. The current draft of the framework, however, does not have adequate and gender-responsive actions and relevant indicators. It does not fully take into account women and girls' unique roles and contributions in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity,

Also under the current global biodiversity framework, the post-2020 Gender Plan of Action (GPA) is being discussed to guide the gender-responsive implementation of the framework through Parties' national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs). Both will be adopted at the Fifteenth Meeting of the Conference of Parties (CBD COP 15) in Kunming, China.

Women4Biodiversity has been working to advance gender considerations in the work of the CBD, including co-convening the Women's Caucus - UN CBD to share, collect, contribute and engage in various deliberations in the development of the post-2020 GBF and the post-2020 GPA. We have brought together a collective recommendation in advancing a stand-alone gender target, Target 22, which is now gaining momentum for support.

This report discusses gender and environment linkages, women's roles in biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and access and benefit sharing, international gender-environment policy frameworks, gender considerations in the post-2020 GBF, and implementing the post-2020 GPA. It also lays out Women4Biodiversity's advocacy roadmap to advance gender considerations in the post-2020 GBF, including reflective recommendations to incorporate collaborations with key partners in strengthening collective advocacy.

Women4Biodiversity has put this report together with funding support by WWF International. And, with further funding support from Sida, through SwedBio, at Stockholm Resilience Centre, we are now embarking on a long advocacy campaign to strengthen the voices of women from the ground and create space for the diversity of its members to share, co-create and build collective actions. We envision the integration of a human rights-based approach for women's rights, gender equality and the future of biodiversity in the GBF and GPA.

Special thanks goes to Cristina Eghenter, Global Governance Policy Coordinator at WWF International for her continued support to Women4Biodiversity and the Women's Caucus - UN CBD, and for her valuable feedback to this report. We also acknowledge some of our colleagues and members who also reviewed and provided inputs to this report: Ana di Pangracio (FARN/Argentina), Shruti Ajit (India), as well as Claire Madarang (Philippines) and Amelia Arreguín (Mexico) from the Women4Biodiversity Editorial Team. Thanks also to the team that translated the original report into French: Rachel Babin, Mathilde Craker and Gaëlle Le Gauyer; and Spanish: Daniela Campos Rubio and Xaviera Elorza Salinas.

This is a living document which we will review, reflect on and further strengthen as we head towards CBD COP 15.

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1. Introduction

There is growing awareness and evidence within conservation and development communities of the roles and contributions of women in sustainable resource governance and conservation outcomes.¹ However, there are still limited mechanisms in place to systematically map, collect and analyse women's and girls' roles and activities regarding biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and access and benefit sharing, including baseline data and indicators to showcase their contributions which are still, for the most part, invisible and in most cases unaccounted for. There are also no mechanisms to analyze the extent to which the loss of biodiversity disproportionately burdens women and girls. The systematic documentation and mapping of the knowledge, innovations and practices of women is important to build stronger awareness among decision-makers around the role of women and effectively influence policies of resource management, governance and related conservation outcomes that are more gender-sensitive.

Forestry², fisheries³ and agriculture may be the three sectors where more data on women's roles are available. For example, in the forestry sector, it is estimated that of the 880 million people worldwide who spend part of their time

1

<https://environmentalevidencejournal.biomedcentral.com/track/pdf/10.1186/s13750-016-0057-8.pdf>

2 Women's participation in forest management: a cross-country analysis - CIFOR Knowledge

3 The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2020

collecting firewood or producing charcoal, many are women.⁴ Figures tell us that women account for just 14 per cent of the 59.5 million people engaged in the primary sector of fisheries and aquaculture in 2018, but make up about 47 per cent of the global fisheries labour force, and just under 50 per cent of the global agricultural workforce and over two-thirds of smallholder farmers are women. Women's contributions are crucial; however, they are often limited to secondary roles and they have minimal voice when it comes to decision-making in management and governance of the resources.

Women suffer disproportionate impacts from biodiversity loss and climate change impacts. Because women, especially rural and indigenous women's livelihoods depend on the management and consumption of diverse natural resources, they often bear the greater brunt of challenges than their male counterparts when these resources are destroyed or depleted. In fact, women are powerful agents of biodiversity protection, because of their unique roles and possession of knowledge on natural resources within rural and indigenous communities.⁵ Emerging evidence also suggests that when women hold secure rights to land, efforts to protect biodiversity⁶ and build climate resilience are more successful.⁷ But women are radically under-represented in decision-making spaces related to conservation, climate action, land governance, and land administration at all levels in least-developed countries.

Many gender initiatives to address inequality have looked at the issue from an economic and social angle, focusing on discrimination, education, labour and health policies.⁸ Much less focus has been placed on the environmental and natural resource dimensions.

Notwithstanding evidence of the differential impacts of environmental degradation on women and the effects of gender inequality on environmental outcomes, as well as their specific behaviours and preferences, women's knowledge and contributions have not been the subject of adequate research or policy focus.

The Global Gender Gap Report 2021⁹ identified economic participation and opportunity as the second largest gaps, and estimates that it will take another 267.6 years to close, political empowerment being the largest of the four gaps tracked. Women's contributions to society are not only monetary but also non-monetary. With the scant available data it is difficult to gauge the involvement of women in informal sectors where their work is often underpaid and unrecognized.¹⁰

Just as gender norms shape behaviours and preferences related to the natural environment, they also influence how women and men acquire and develop different knowledge about plant and animal species, their uses and their management, resulting in important and sometimes complementary distinctions between women's and men's agroecological knowledge.¹¹ There is a

4 The State of the World's Forests (SOF)

5 Vandana Shiva (2016). Women's Indigenous Knowledge and Biodiversity Conservation.

6 Women's rights to land and communal forest tenure: A way forward for research and policy agenda in Latin America - ScienceDirect

7 Glazebrook, T.; Noll, S.; Opoku, E.(2020). Gender Matters: Climate Change, Gender Bias, and Women's Farming in the Global South and North. Agriculture, 10, 267.

8 OECD (2017), The Pursuit of Gender Equality: An Uphill Battle, OECD Publishing, Paris, The Pursuit of Gender Equality : An Uphill Battle | OECD iLibrary.

9 Global Gender Gap Report 2021; Global Gender Gap Report 2021 | World Economic Forum

10 See [https://www.unep.org/resources/report/gender-and-waste-nexus-experiences-bhutan-mongolia-and-nepal?](https://www.unep.org/resources/report/gender-and-waste-nexus-experiences-bhutan-mongolia-and-nepal?_ga=2.226367891.809061528.1633160078-152724407.1633160078)

[_ga=2.226367891.809061528.1633160078-152724407.1633160078](https://www.unep.org/resources/report/gender-and-waste-nexus-experiences-bhutan-mongolia-and-nepal?_ga=2.226367891.809061528.1633160078-152724407.1633160078)

11 CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity). 2017. Guidance for gender mainstreaming in the work of CBD. Guidelines for Mainstreaming Gender into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

need to place people's diversity of contributions and societal equity squarely at the center of environmental discourse to ensure a gender-just policy framework. Only the latter will be able to address gender inequalities rooted in legal and social norms that exacerbate unequal opportunities - including unequal access to education, decision-making and the gender-differentiated roles and responsibilities that dictate women's access, control and rights over land and related resources.

Biodiversity loss, climate crisis and natural disasters are linked and have an impact on the status of women in all spheres of their lives, pushing them further to the margins economically, socially, culturally and health-wise, and hence placing them in more vulnerable situations. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated fault lines of inequality. Biodiversity loss associated with conversion of forest and other ecosystems can increase risk of emerging diseases,¹² which, in turn, may pose a higher risk for women and girls considering their close interaction and dependence on natural environments, land, territories and resources within.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown it disproportionately affects women and furthers inequality.¹³ According to the report, the COVID-19 pandemic is causing a resurgence in extreme poverty, affecting women the most. By 2021, around 435 million women and girls will be living on less than \$1.90 a day – including 47 million pushed into poverty as a result of COVID-19.

Indeed, women are affected more significantly by biodiversity loss, climate change, and this COVID-19 pandemic much more than their male counterparts. However, women, especially those in rural and indigenous communities,¹⁴ have distinct roles and knowledge in biodiversity and are at a good position to protect them. And, when women have secure land rights, they can better protect biodiversity¹⁵ and build climate resilience.¹⁶

Research shows that increasing women's control over land increases their local-level decision-making ability;¹⁷ boosting women's power as changemakers for persuading others in their households and communities to protect biodiversity. Rights to land are also likely to contribute to women's influence more broadly—greater levels of assets correlate with greater levels of political involvement;¹⁸ when women have greater economic power, including direct control over land, they are more likely to have enhanced political voice and power, and in turn greater presence and influence in national and global level policymaking on biodiversity.

12 https://ipbes.net/sites/default/files/2020-11/201104_IPBES_Workshop_on_Diversity_and_Pandemics_Executive_Summary_Digital_Version.pdf

13 Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The gender snapshot 2020 | Digital library: Publications | UN Women

14 Vandana Shiva (2016). Women's Indigenous Knowledge and Biodiversity Conservation, available at:

<https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Women%27s-Indigenous-Knowledge-and-Biodiversity-Shiva/08a471357c1b4f5fdc290c9af3e335e185f9abca>

15 <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S027753951730420X>

16 Glazebrook, T.; Noll, S.; Opoku, E.(2020). Gender Matters: Climate Change, Gender Bias, and Women's Farming in the Global South and North. *Agriculture*, 10, 267

17 Meinzen-Dick et al, (2017) Women's Land Rights as a Pathway to Poverty Reduction. International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) available at: <http://www.ifpri.org/publication/womens-land-rights-pathway-poverty-reduction-framework-and-review-available-evidence>

18 Pilar Domingo et al (2015). Women's voice and leadership in decision-making: assessing the evidence. ODI, at 15, 95, hereinafter "ODI," available at: <https://cdn.odi.org/media/documents/9627.pdf>





2. Gender and Environmental Linkages

Gender considerations should play a significant role in shaping the “building back better”¹⁹ response. In the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, glaring gender disparities are apparent, from the additional burden on women that has impacted all spheres of their lives - social, cultural, economic, among others. The pandemic has resulted in reports of increased tension contributing to new cases of gender-based violence, including many linked with the environment.²⁰ When indigenous women are denied access to their territories and resources, and are forced to migrate or look for seasonal labour in plantations, this can increase the risk of them becoming victims of sexual violence. Displacements caused by agricultural developments also deepen poverty as access to traditional crops and occupations disappear. This situation has led families to resort to child marriage to use bride wealth as a coping mechanism.²¹ As indigenous women are often holders of traditional knowledge of forest and forest resources, these violations and vulnerabilities also harm livelihoods and environmental resilience.²²

¹⁹ Beyond COVID-19: A feminist plan for sustainability and social justice | Digital library: Publications | UN Women

²⁰ Gender-based violence and environment linkages

²¹ Luithui, S. and Tugendhat, H. (2013). Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls: A Complex Phenomenon. Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact Foundation (AIPP) and Forest Peoples Programme (FPP). Available at: Violence Against Indigenous Women And Girls: A Complex Phenomenon

²² Foro Internacional de Mujeres Indígenas (FIMI) (2006). Mairin Iwanka Raya. Indigenous Women Stand Against Violence. Available at: <https://fimi-iiwf.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Mairin-Iwanka-Raya-ENC.pdf>

Gender equality and women's empowerment are fundamental to human rights and social justice,²³ allowing equal access to rights, resources and opportunities. But it also makes our societies richer and more secure. In other words, gender equality is a condition for development, and a matter of sustainable peace and security.²⁴ The health and well-being of all genders are basic to the enjoyment of human rights. This has also been recognized as one of the essential principles for a biodiversity-inclusive One Health approach of CBD.²⁵ However, there is still a lack of understanding on how this particular principle would be implemented in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. To ensure that the One Health approach is gender-responsive and rights-based, it would need two most important leverage points to help heal ourselves and nature (See Fig. 1).²⁶

Figure 1

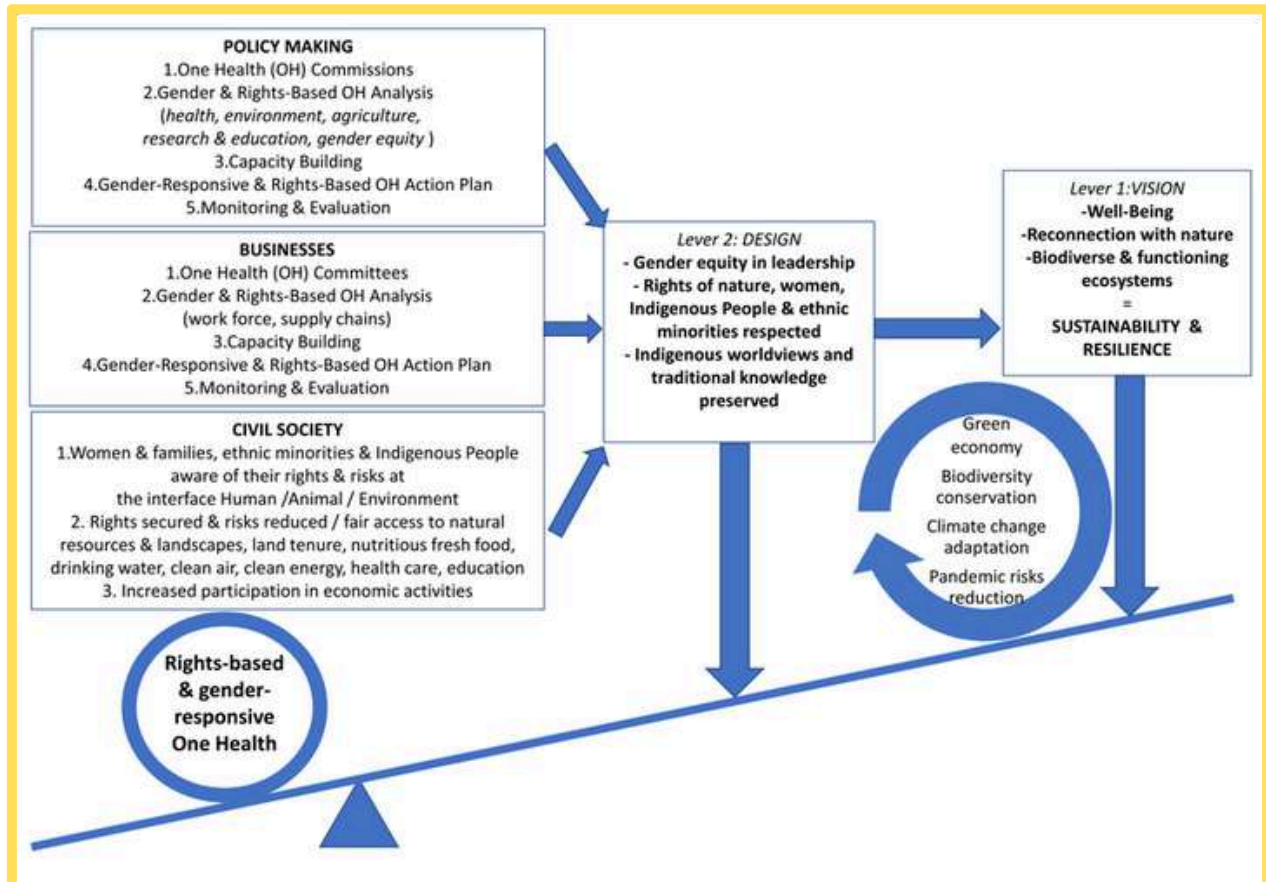


Fig.1: A framework for mainstreaming gender-responsive and rights-based One Health to deliver improved well-being for all and healing of nature. The framework uses a leverage points perspective for sustainability in complex systems [119, 120]. We suggest that the two most important leverage points to help heal nature and ourselves are: 1. A change of mindset and paradigm, going from a pursuit of wealth, GDP and overconsumption, towards a goal of well-being of humans and their re-connection to healthy and diverse ecosystems, using a holistic One Health understanding of health and nature. This would build resilience in the face of climate change and risks of future pandemics. We recommend learning from indigenous peoples to re-position ourselves within nature and better conserve biodiversity. 2. The integration of gender equity in leadership and the respects of the rights of nature, women and the most vulnerable, including minority ethnic groups and indigenous peoples. This leverage point requires actions at all levels (boxes on the left): Implementing a gender-responsive and rights-based One Health Action Plans in policymaking institutions and businesses, as well as a fair access to natural resources and landscapes, clean air, water and energy, nutritious fresh food, health care, land tenure and economic opportunities for women, ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples by securing their rights.

²³ Gender Equality | United Nations

²⁴ Gender equality: a matter of social justice - Union for the Mediterranean - UfM

²⁵ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/2abd/08b3/123a81e9d2b3b9d6eb0dd9b8/sbstta-sbi-ss-02-inf-01-en.pdf>

²⁶ Friedson-Ridenour S, Dutcher TV, Calderon C, Brown LD, Olsen CW. Gender Analysis for One Health: Theoretical Perspectives and Recommendations for Practice. *Ecohealth*. 2019 Jun;16(2):306-316. doi: 10.1007/s10393-019-01410-w. Epub 2019 Apr 23. PMID: 31016438.

a) A change of mindset and paradigm, from a pursuit of GDP and overconsumption towards the well-being of humans and their reconnection to healthy environments using a holistic One Health understanding of nature and health. We recommend learning from indigenous peoples and preserving traditional knowledge to reposition ourselves within nature and better conserve biodiversity.

b) The integration of a gender-responsive and rights based One Health approach at all levels of society, from policymaking to businesses and the civil society, leading to gender equity and the respect of the rights of women and of ethnic minorities.

c) Women should not be seen as vulnerable, but should be regarded as agents of change. Currently, in many NBSAP reports, women are regarded as vulnerable.

In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the contributions of women in biodiversity conservation,²⁷ sustainable use²⁸ and access and benefit sharing.²⁹ In many communities, women are establishing their specific responsibilities as knowledge bearers and defenders, taking collaborative action to contribute to the achievement of Aichi Target 14 (By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, **taking into account the needs of women**, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable). Examples include:

- In India, women's collectives in villages in Korchi taluka are resisting mining and opening spaces for self-governance. Nearly 85 per cent of the Gadchiroli district is covered in forest. Besides forests being important for local economics and livelihood, they are an integral part of the Adivasi indigenous socio-cultural practices and political identity. Between 1990 and 2017, 24 mining leases have been sanctioned or are proposed in the District, collectively impacting approximately 15,000 hectares of dense forest diversity and over 16,000 hectares indirectly. Women's collectives have started to assert their voices not only in resisting mining but also in the newly emerging village and taluka level decision-making institutions.³⁰
- In the Dolakha district of Nepal, women play essential roles in community forests, using their knowledge and experience to develop effective strategies to conserve, manage and use the forests. As a result of these success stories, women are increasingly being recognized as important actors engaged in biodiversity conservation in this region.³¹
- In Kenya, the Paran Women Group in Ololunga, Narok County who are part of Enkutuk Entim Community Forest Association (CFA), a collective community forest user group formed in 2005, have brought together women groups from Maasai and Ogiek communities bordering Mau forest in Narok county Kenya and undertaking protection and restoration of forest ecosystems in a coordinated and collective manner.³²
- In the Mexican state of Queretaro, in the Charape-La Joya Ejido community, Eulalia Moreno with her two daughters founded Women & Environment (W&E), a community-based initiative supported by the Autonomous University of Queretaro (UAQ) to improve the livelihoods of the town's residents through a micro-business focused on the sustainable use of plants. In 2016, W&E in collaboration with the Spanish Company Provital S.A, inspired by the Nagoya Protocol guidelines, initiated the path to obtain the Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliance for access to a plant useful for cosmetics purposes and its associated traditional knowledge. By 2017, after completing all the processes, Provital S.A. turned into the first cosmetic ingredients supplier worldwide to fully fulfil the Nagoya Protocol requirements, and initiated work with the community and UAQ.³³

27 Nemonte Nenquimo - Goldman Environmental Foundation

28 Deccan Development Society - Equator Initiative

29 Mujeres y Ambiente SPR de RL de CV - Equator Initiative

30 Contributed by Kalpavriksh and Amhi Amchya Arogyasaathi, India (2020) Reimagining wellbeing: Women's collective in villages in Korchi taluka, India, resisting mining and opening spaces for self-governance (Women4Biodiversity)

31 Khadka, M. and Verma, R. (2012) Gender and biodiversity management in the Greater Himalayas: Towards equitable mountain development. Kathmandu: International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development.

32 World Environment Day 2020: Time for Nature, Time for Women - Women4Biodiversity

33 ABS Biodiscovery case in Mexico

- In the isles of Kei, southeast Moluccas in Indonesia, in the area that is now part of a regional Marine Protected Area (MPA), women collect molluscs and shells in the intertidal area. This activity is called *bameti* in many parts of eastern Indonesia. While often referred to as a local subsistence activity, *bameti* is actually a form of sustainable management of marine biodiversity by women in coastal areas based on traditional practices and local knowledge. Women are also small-scale fish traders (*papalele*). Through sustainable use of natural resources, they are able to monitor changes in the availability and abundance of species, take action for restoration and conservation, and place temporary limitations in the use of certain resources. *Bameti* also helps women build their economic resilience and that of their families.³⁴

Since the adoption of the Convention under the CBD, various decisions on gender considerations have been reflected consistently, wherein Parties have recognized the need for women's full participation in efforts to manage and conserve biodiversity. Over the last two decades, over 50 CBD decisions³⁵ have strengthened the mandate for an approach that reflects gender considerations. A notable step towards it was the adoption of the 2015-2020 Gender Plan of Action by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting, which further reinforced the link between gender equality and biodiversity.

A specific objective of the Gender Plan of Action is to mainstream gender into national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), the principal instrument for implementing the Convention at the national level. The NBSAP is significant in setting the framework for gender-responsive biodiversity planning and programming at the national and local levels. NBSAPs are required to be updated and strengthened in accordance with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020,³⁶ and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Parties are requested to mainstream gender considerations, where appropriate, in the implementation of the Plan and its associated goals, Aichi Targets and indicators. The Strategic Plan also indicates that capacity-building for gender mainstreaming should be supported.

Of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, Target 14 is the only one to address gender issues overtly, calling for the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable to be taken into account in the restoration and safeguarding of ecosystems. No other provisions are contained within the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan on how gender should be mainstreamed. As many of the cases showcased above, there is a growing attention on the roles and contributions of women, but there is still a lack of adequate resources and policies including gaps in documented knowledge about women's land rights and access.³⁷

Women contribute significantly in all spheres of biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and management of natural resources; however, many studies show how women are often at the margins and their roles and work are often under-recognized or are hidden in all sectors.³⁸ The roles in the use and management of natural resources are often gendered; men and women use and manage resources differently. In certain situations, gender disparities in land and natural resource access, control, and ownership, as well as systemic socio-cultural impediments to women's economic prospects, can make women more reliant on local access to nature and more vulnerable to environmental degradation.

Limited access to land and resources, for example as a result of insecure land tenure, disproportionately affects women.³⁹ A study of 240 rural women in Nigeria found that women's limited access to and ownership of land limits their ability to harvest forest resources and provide for their families' needs.⁴⁰

34 Contributed by WWF Indonesia and FoMMA (Alliance of the People of the Kayan Mentarang National Party) and GOW (The united association of Women's Organisations) for Women4Biodiversity

35 Gender Equality and the Convention on Biological Diversity
36 <https://www.cbd.int/sp/>

37 Meinzen-Dick, R., Quisumbing, A., Doss, C. & Theis, S. (2019) Women's land rights as a pathway to poverty reduction: framework and review of available evidence. *Agricultural Systems*, 172, 72-82. Women's land rights as a pathway to poverty reduction: Framework and review of available evidence - ScienceDirect

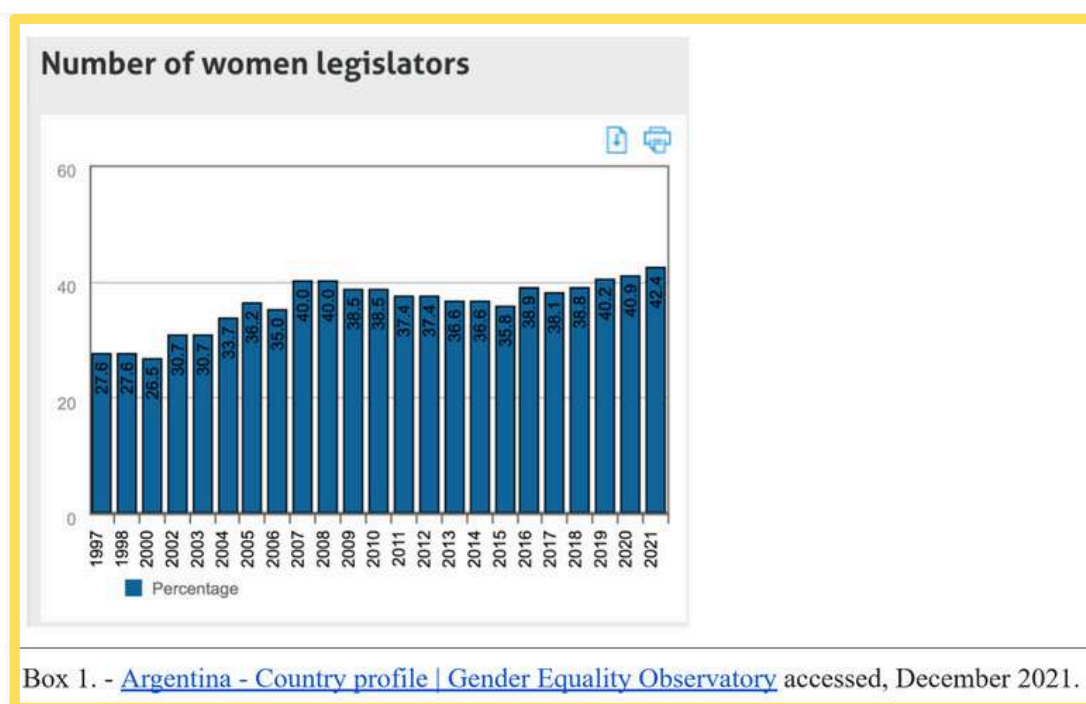
38 Not all gaps are created equal: the true value of care work | Oxfam International

39 Conservation and natural resource management: where are all the women? | Oryx | Cambridge Core

40 Adedayo, A.G., Oyun, M.B. & Kadeba, O. (2010) Access of rural women to forest resources and its impact on rural household welfare in north central Nigeria. *Forest Policy and Economics*, 12, 439-450; Access of rural women to forest resources and its impact on rural household welfare in North Central Nigeria - ScienceDirect

There are governments that have realized that community engagement in forest governance is essential to achieve sustainable resource management and poverty alleviation. In the case of Myanmar, the National Environment Policy of the country (2019)⁴¹ recognizes that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will be integrated into all aspects of environmental protection and management as one of the 23 National Environmental Policy Principles for achieving a clean environment, healthy, functioning ecosystem, sustainable economic and social development and the mainstreaming of environmental protection and management. Moreover, the Community Forestry Instructions (CFI), first formulated in 1995, and subsequently revised in 2016, allow for the establishment of community forests, and describe gender equality concerns in the organizing management committee. However, it still lacks clear guidance on participatory benefit-sharing mechanisms and on differentiated rights and responsibilities of men and women in the use and management of forests and forest resources.⁴²

In Argentina, within the process towards updating their NBSAP, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development has included the gender approach as one of the transversal approaches to biodiversity management within the new NBSAP, as gender was absent in the Argentine NBSAP 2016-2020.⁴³ The recently created Ministry of Women, Genders and Diversity has become a formal governmental actor represented at the CONADIBIO (National Advisory Commission on Biological Diversity), established in 2011, whose main functions relate to NBSAP development including establishing goals, targets and priority actions based on consensus among stakeholders.⁴⁴ Representatives of this Ministry have already taken part in CBD consultations regarding gender issues.⁴⁵ While as of February 2021, though, 42.4 per cent of seats in parliament were held by women, more needs to be done in Argentina to achieve gender equality. There is a lack of comparable methodologies for regular monitoring in many areas such as gender and poverty, physical and sexual harassment, women's access to assets (including land), and gender and the environment.⁴⁶



41 https://data.opendevelopmentmekong.net/dataset/67627653-56ef-422c-bd78-5494d6deeed1/resource/113b2c11-2b2c-4d9d-84eb-73e9aeb9ddaf/download/nep_ecd-website.pdf

42 [Empowering women in forest governance contributes to forest conservation and poverty reduction - Landesa](#)

43 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/ar/ar-nbsap-v2-es.pdf>

44 <https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/about/latest/#ar>

45 During CBD OEWG-2 meeting in Rome in February 2020, the Argentina delegation was supportive of the Women's Caucus-UN CBD recommendations, including a target on Environmental Human Rights Defenders.

46 Argentina

Gender and environment initiatives in Argentina

With the support of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Argentina, various initiatives are being implemented to integrate gender and environment. The following "TICCA" projects (territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities) are at an initial stage of development with a multi-stakeholder and multi-rights holders approach: governmental actors (National Parks Administration and National Institute of Indigenous Affairs), the academy (Faculty of Agricultural Sciences of the University of Buenos Aires) and indigenous communities of the Ocloya people, and incorporate a gender perspective in their formulation.

- Integral Management Plan for the Mapuche community territory. Lanin National Park, Neuquén.
- Biodiversity protection for good living. Ocloya People, Calilegua National Park, Jujuy province.
- Protection of the Menvko (menucos) of the Mapuche Community Lof Kinxikew, sites of high biodiversity value-ixofijmogen. Nahuel Huapi National Park, Neuquén Province.

In particular, the project "Protection of Biodiversity for Good Living" can be considered a good practice in biodiversity conservation with a gender perspective. It is implemented in protected areas in the territory of the Aboriginal Communities of the Ocloya People. It has been presented by the Council of Delegates of the Aboriginal Communities of the Ocloya People, within the framework of a strategic plan of action for the benefit of the Aboriginal Communities of Laguna de Tesorero, Tiraxi, Tilquiza, Las Capillas and Normenta Pacha, of the Ocloya People in the Jujuy province.

Due to events that put the integrity of the territory of these communities at risk, it is considered vital to count on women and men who are aware and prepared to accompany and restrain in the best possible way these challenges. They have the mission to prevent, mitigate and compensate for adverse impacts on the population and the environment, and developing territorial actions for the conservation and sustainable management of their natural and cultural heritage. In this context, it is important to highlight that the role of women is considered to be 50/50, i.e. to share the responsibilities of implementing this project with equal responsibilities.

The implementation of this proposal includes: on the one hand, a coordinated work with the referents of the Calilegua National Park with whom it was agreed to carry out workshops on themes related to the care of the territory and its biodiversity, and on the other hand, the development of a product according to the specific needs of each aboriginal community: Tilquiza (a garden centre and a physical space for awareness-raising); Normenta Pacha (a community tea house); Las Capillas (a greenhouse for native plants); Laguna de Tesorero (a place for ancestral ceremonies); Tiraxi (differentiated containers for recycling and acquisition of communication equipment); and Ocloya youth (recognition as Community Guardians).

Another interesting example in Argentina is the National Action Plan on Forests and Climate Change. In the framework of the work on safeguards established by the UNFCCC for REDD+, the UN-REDD National Programme has been working on the development of a guide to mainstream the gender approach in the Plan's implementation stage.

Box 1: Case study from

https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/34929/GEN_EN.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y



3. International Gender-Environment Policy Framework

Over the decades, there has been an increase in the number of international policy frameworks that have been put in place to recognize women's rights across the environmental sphere and promote attention to gender-environment linkages, including through human rights, environmental, sustainable development and women's rights and gender equality agreements, mandates and global priorities. For the past three decades, governments have established international commitments and mandates (see Table 3) to ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment are central to environmental decision-making processes and sustainable development. This policy framework can help increase attention to advancing gender equality, and yet, without a mechanism to monitor and measure implementation of these commitments and drive further action, a void remains in being able to identify real progress.⁴⁷ The table presents some of the key components of the international policy landscape which is vital to underpinning the argument that gender and environment interlinkages are not only necessary but called for repeatedly in international agreements. Now is the time to place women's rights in all environmental discussions, including the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

⁴⁷

https://dukespace.lib.duke.edu/dspace/bitstream/handle/10161/9701/Prebble_Final.pdf?sequence=3

Table 3: International Gender-Environment Policy Framework⁴⁸

KEY COMPONENTS COMPRISING THE INTERNATIONAL GENDER-ENVIRONMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK INCLUDE

CEDAW (1979): Gender equality is a human right that is enshrined in a number of declarations and conventions, including the legally binding Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). CEDAW is often considered the international bill of rights for women and is fundamental to advancing gender equality. Signatory governments are bound to take action to promote and protect the rights of women; they agree to include the principle of equality in legislation and ensure it is operationalized throughout their country. In Article 14, special attention is paid to discrimination against rural women, towards ensuring their access and benefits to rural resources.

BPfA (1995): The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) includes women and the environment as one of the 12 critical areas for action and encourages governments to collect data on the impact of environmental degradation on women, as well as develop gender-sensitive databases (United Nations, 1995). BPfA is still considered the most comprehensive set of guidelines for the development of gender statistics at the national, regional and global levels (United Nations, 2016).

Agenda 21 (1992): The 1992 Earth Summit, or UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), marked a pivotal moment embedding gender equality considerations in environmental decision-making on the global stage. Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development. The Rio Declaration recognized the important role of women in environmental management and development, and Agenda 21 called for, among many other things, sex-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive databases (United Nations Sustainable Development, 1992). While not legally binding, Agenda 21 (UNSD, 1992) was for decades considered the blueprint for sustainable development, shaping national planning, donor investment and programming across the environmental sphere. Agenda 21 built upon previous plans and platforms that promoted women's empowerment and gender equality with regard to crucial issues such as land ownership, resource stewardship, education and employment. Moreover, two of the three Rio Conventions (below), i.e. those derived from UNCED, included gender considerations.

CBD (1993): The first of the three Rio Conventions, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has a preamble text as well as many subsequent decisions of Parties that include gender considerations. In 2008, Parties to the CBD adopted a Gender Plan of Action, making it the first Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) to do so. It was recently updated for the period 2015-2020. CBD has integrated actions to enhance the monitoring framework and indicator system for gender mainstreaming in the Secretariat and at the national level.

UNCCD (1996): Similarly, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) recognized women's important role and participation in combatting desertification and mitigating the effects of drought. Parties have integrated gender into their decisions and evolved a Gender Action Plan—the latest version of which (September 2017) aims to accompany implementation of the UNCCD 2018-2030 strategic framework (UNCCD, 2017).

UNFCCC (1994): Once void of social considerations in its Convention text and related decisions by Parties, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) now has implementation informed by more than 50 decisions on gender equality made over recent years, including the Lima Work Programme on Gender (LWPG) and, in 2017, a first-ever Gender Action Plan (GAP) (Burns and Patouris, 2014; UNFCCC 2017). Among priority areas, the GAP includes a focus to strengthen monitoring and reporting of implementation of gender-related mandates under the Convention.

BRS (1989, 1998, 2001, respectively; synergy 2008): The Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions (BRS) are designed to help protect human health and the environment from the negative effects of hazardous pollutants. Marking a first concerted step in advancing gender equality as a key issue across the three Conventions, a Gender Task Team was established in 2012 to mainstream gender across the BRS Secretariat and to support the work of Parties and stakeholders. A BRS Gender Action Plan (BRS-GAP) (BRS, 2016), developed in 2013 and updated in 2016, serves as the guiding framework to ensure gender is an integral part of implementation (BRS, n.d.). Baseline information was collected towards this end in 2017 (Gilligan & Sabater, 2017; IUCN, 2017b).

SDGs (2015): Building on lessons learned while implementing the agreements made at the Earth Summit, as well as the MDGs, the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, with its 17 SDGs, recognize that the natural world and its life-giving services must be urgently protected in order to fulfil the needs of nine billion people by 2050. Gender is a stand-alone SDG goal (#5) in addition to being a cross-cutting issue across the other 16 goals.

Sendai Framework (2015-2030): The Sendai Framework for Action for Disaster Risk Reduction calls for stronger women's leadership and participation in disaster risk reduction (DRR). This recognition provides a new opportunity to strengthen the capacities of gender machineries, women's organizations and women at regional, national and community levels to shape how DRR and climate change are implemented in the coming 15 years (UNISDR, n.d.).

United Nations human rights instruments and mechanisms, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), provide framework for, and critical support to, efforts to respect, protect and fulfil women's rights in all policy areas. This Convention placed a significant recognition of the role of rural women (Article 14)⁴⁹ in the economic survival of their families, including their work in the non-monetized sectors of the economy and many of which interlinked on their dependence and interaction with ecosystems and the services and functions they provide. Gender-responsive approaches identify and lead to action to address gaps and constraints in women's enjoyment of human rights, including in relation to natural resource management, conservation of biodiversity and restoration of ecosystems.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aims to eradicate poverty while shifting the world towards a sustainable and resilient path.⁵⁰ The post-2020 global biodiversity framework is being proposed to align with this agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals in an integrated manner,^{51, 52} including identifying relevant SDGs indicators which may further inform development of the GBF indicators for the monitoring framework.⁵³ It is important that such a framework be a transparent monitoring mechanism to understand progress towards its global ambitions set in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Currently, the monitoring framework is not placing adequate and relevant gender-responsive indicators in the draft global biodiversity framework.⁵⁴ There are gender-related indicators available including in the SDGs framework, which could be relevant to be used as suggested by the Women's Caucus - UN CBD.⁵⁵ The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 Target seeks to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls (Stand-alone Goal 5 on Gender Equality)⁵⁶ and some of the SDGs' indicators that have been accepted, agreed upon and identified could also be used to access, implement and inform policy and decision to address gender equality in the global biodiversity framework.

Furthermore, "access to information, effective participation and access to justice in biodiversity and healthy ecosystems related matters" is a way to specify the content of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development⁵⁷ in the context of biodiversity, women and girls. Principle 10 seeks to ensure that every person has access to information, can participate in the decision-making process and has access to justice in environmental matters for a healthy environment for present and future generations.

The Beijing Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995), calls upon Governments, at all levels, including municipal authorities, as appropriate, to take actions to "encourage, subject to national legislation and consistent with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the effective protection and use of the knowledge, innovations and practices of women of indigenous and local communities (...); and to "safeguard the existing intellectual property rights of these women as protected under national and international law (...)"⁵⁸ However, there is a lack of recognition of the knowledge of women in the current draft global biodiversity framework.

Similarly, there are also potential synergies among the Rio Conventions and other biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements that integrate gender in its work, in particular to address climate change, land degradation and desertification. Women's participation in climate/environmental decision-making processes, for example, is a common priority for the "Rio Conventions".⁵⁹

49 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

50 A/RES/70/1 Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

51 LINKAGES BETWEEN THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK AND 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT Note by the Executive Secretary

52 Biodiversity at the Heart of Sustainable Development Introduction

53 CBD/SBSTTA/24/3 Post-2020 global biodiversity framework: scientific and technical information to support the review of the updated goals and targets.

54 CBD/SBSTTA/24/3 Add.1 Post-2020 global biodiversity framework: scientific and technical information to support the review of the updated goals and targets.

55 Women's Caucus Submission (104)

<https://www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020/submissions/2020-045>

56 Goal 5 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs

57

https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_CONF.151_26_Vol.I_Declaration.pdf

58 Resolution 1 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* The Fourth World Conference on Women

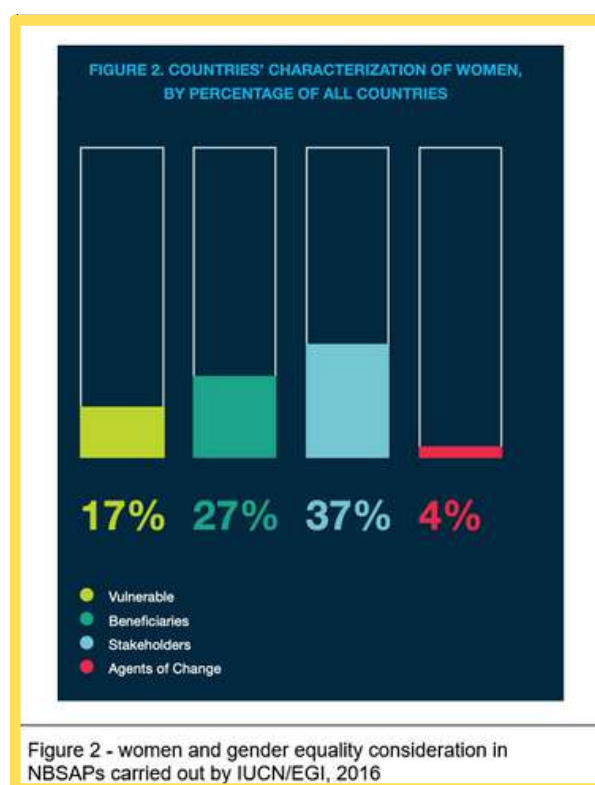
59 This term refers to the conventions arising from the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil – the CBD, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

3.1 Gender and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) preamble text⁶⁰ recognizes the vital role that women play in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and affirms the need for the full participation of women in the implementation of the Convention. Subsequently, the general Principles for the programme of work on the implementation of Article 8(j)⁶¹ of the Convention, call for the "full and effective participation of women of indigenous and local communities".

In 2008, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (CBD COP) made a significant step towards gender mainstreaming by approving the Gender Plan of Action and endorsing it in Decision IX/24⁶² at its ninth meeting, making it the first of the Rio Conventions to have adopted a Gender Plan of Action and the first Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) to do so. Gender mainstreaming was further integrated into the CBD's mandate in 2010, when Decision X/19⁶³ invited Parties to consider gender as a core cross-cutting issue in the implementation of biodiversity-related activities. The same decision requests Parties to commit to mainstreaming gender into the development, implementation and revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. An updated Gender Plan of Action was adopted in Decision XII/17⁶⁴ at CBD COP 12 in 2014. Also, in 2010, at the CBD COP 10, the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in Decision X/2⁶⁵ adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, a ten-year framework for action to safeguard biodiversity and the benefits it provides to people. Additionally, Parties to the CBD have further committed to gender in Target 14. According to the recent Global Biodiversity Outlook 5,⁶⁶ this target along with other targets "have not been achieved". An argument for the lack of the achievement could be the fact there was no gender-responsive indicator for this target to assess the impacts and role of women.

The Convention on Biological Diversity's 2015 - 2020 Gender Plan of Action⁶⁷ includes mainstreaming gender into national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) as one of the possible actions for Parties towards integrating a gender perspective into the implementation of the Convention.



60 Preamble

61 Article 8(j) - Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices

52 CBD COP Decision IX/24 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-09/cop-09-dec-24-en.pdf>

63 CBD COP Decision X/19, <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-10/cop-10-dec-19-en.pdf>

64 CBD COP Decision XII/17 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-12/cop-12-dec-07-en.pdf>

65 CBD COP X/2. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 - 2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. /... Distr. GENERAL UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/X/2 29 October 2010 ORIGINAL: ENGLISH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

66 Global Biodiversity Outlook 5

67 2015-2020 Gender Plan of Action

The CBD is now in the phase of updating the Post-2020 Gender Plan of Action⁶⁸ to support the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and ensure that the implementation of actions set forth mainstream gender-responsive pathways and ensure that in an RBA and a whole-of-society approach, women and girls are included and are part of the process. One way of addressing this has been the CBD's guidance⁶⁹ to support countries to integrate gender considerations in their national biodiversity and strategic Actions Plans (NBSAPs). Reviews of NBSAPs undertaken by IUCN⁷⁰ and the Secretariat of the Convention⁷¹ suggest that many Parties recognize some relevance of gender in efforts to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity. Women are most frequently characterized as a vulnerable group or as beneficiaries within NBSAP, rather than as key actors and rights holders in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. In an updated analysis of the women and gender equality consideration in NBSAPs carried out by IUCN/EGI,⁷² it was found that out of the 254 total NBSAP reports from 174 countries (presented from 1993 to 2016), women and their participation were characterized by most countries (37 per cent of the 174 Parties included in this analysis) as stakeholders; 27 per cent of the countries included reference to women as beneficiaries; 17 per cent of country reports referred to women as vulnerable; and only 4 per cent (equalling only seven countries) characterize women as agents of change. The Global Biodiversity Outlook - 5 (GBO5) indicated that at the global level, none of the 20 Aichi targets have been fully achieved, including Target 14.⁷³ It was also mentioned that a number of Parties noted a lack of knowledge or data on how the needs of women may be taken into account in ecosystem management.⁷⁴ The Review of Progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan of Biodiversity 2011 - 2020 includes the assessment of the Gender Plan of Action 2015-2020. Though the sixth national reports seem to suggest an increased focus on gender and women's issues in implementing the Convention as compared with the fifth national reports, persistent challenges remain for

addressing gender issues effectively. These include a lack of sex-disaggregated data, the limited availability of financing and insufficient capacity to address, monitor and report on gender-responsive measures to halt biodiversity loss.⁷⁵ The same review also recommends that the efforts of Parties need to be maintained and strengthened, including in areas of women's full and effective engagement in implementation and mainstreaming of gender issues in biodiversity-related actions. Better coordination needs to be developed among women's organizations, ministries and local partners, as well as awareness-raising and capacity-building for different actors to ensure stronger and sustained outcomes for gender mainstreaming in biodiversity going forward.

68 CBD/SBI/3/4/ADD2/REV2 Draft post-2020 Gender Plan of Action.

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/b899/8ca5/902071cea57c8467e7b419bd/sbi-03-04-add2-rev2-en.pdf>

69 <https://www.cbd.int/gender/nationalreports/>

70 Advancing gender equality in biodiversity conservation: A review of the fifth national reports to the CBD - IUCN

71 See CBD/SBI/2/2/Add.3.

72 Gender and biodiversity: Analysis of women and gender equality considerations in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) - IUCN

73 Aichi Biodiversity Target 14 - By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.

74 Global Biodiversity Outlook - 5

75 CBD/SBI/3/2 Review of progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020



MYANMAR 6TH NATIONAL REPORT

In the Myanmar 6th National Report (posted online) a report was appended on gender and implementation of the NBSAP.

Conclusions from that report are that women are assisting in implementing the NBSAP, often in ways and areas different from men. Among community user groups, women play key roles in maintaining equipment, gathering wood and tending nets, especially in the inshore fisheries. Gender biases, however, remain with respect to wage parity, joining advocacy groups, and travelling to meetings. Furthermore, because of traditional family roles, most women have little time available to travel or attend meetings. Even so, the disaggregated data clearly suggest that women are involved in conservation issues, are willing to improve their skills, and are playing important roles in the implementation of the NBSAP, especially within organized user groups. Overall, among the various training sessions for which gender-based data were available for the 6th National Report, about 50 per cent of the trained participants were women.

Box 4 : Myanmar's 6 National Report (version 2) on Review "Gender aspects for Myanmar 6th National Report". Date of Assessment registered in the CBD portal 29 August 2018 <https://chm.cbd.int/database/record/F7636AF4-F0E7-CAAE-ED0A-CE0E9F3A7F9C>



KENYA 6TH NATIONAL REPORT NATIONAL TARGET 10

By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.

Historically, management of coral reefs in Kenya has been the domain of the central government, with a network of 4 marine parks (fully protected) and 6 marine reserves (partially protected, allowing traditional fishing) under the management of Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). In recent years, coastal fishing communities have embraced the concept of community-based conservation and established 12 demarcated CCAs (the local term for Locally Managed Marine Areas, LMMAs), to enhance sustainable fisheries and other livelihood options such as eco-tourism.

Development of the National Mangrove Ecosystem Management Plan was also supported by the KCDP project. This is a 10-year management plan spanning 2017-2027, with an estimated implementation budget of KES 3.8 billion. The implementation of the Plan will take cognizance of various principles including integrated ecosystem approach, gender parity, participatory management and equity, among others.

Box 5: Kenya 6th National Report to the CBD submitted 28 October 2015; Date of assessment registered in the CBD portal is 13/03/2020 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/nr/nr-06/ke-nr-06-en.pdf>





4. Reflections Surrounding the Development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

4.1 Gender Considerations in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

In 2018, at the fourteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, the Parties, in Decision 14/34, decided that the process to develop the post-2020 global biodiversity framework would be gender-responsive.⁷⁶

⁷⁶ 14/34. Comprehensive and participatory process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

The First draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework⁷⁷ (GBF) published 5 July 2021 proposes 21 Targets, from which only Target 21⁷⁸ mentions women. The target reads “Target 21. Ensure equitable and effective participation in decision-making related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, and respect their rights over lands, territories and resources, as well as by women and girls, and youth”. It is crucial that gender considerations are addressed throughout the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including in the principles, objectives, implementation, financing, monitoring, reporting and review for the full realization of the 2050 vision. This is also needed to ensure that both the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the post-2020 Gender Plan of Action (GPA) are aligned and are complementary to each other to address and ensure women and girls’ equal access, ownership and control over their land and territories and resources and their full and effective engagement at all levels of policy and decision-making related to biodiversity.

A gender-responsive post-2020 global biodiversity framework requires identifying and putting in place gender-responsive indicators⁷⁹ across all the 21 proposed targets and the monitoring framework to ensure that relevant data is collected, analysed and monitored over time. This allows and supports the monitoring of the implementation of the global biodiversity framework to be gender-transformative, equitable and just transitions to sustainable development, and to ensure the collection of sex-disaggregated data.

⁷⁷ [First draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework](#).

⁷⁸ Target 21. Ensure equitable and effective participation in decision-making related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, and respect their rights over lands, territories and resources, as well as by women and girls, and youth

⁷⁹ [Women’s Caucus-UN CBD submission for monitoring framework](#). Women’s Caucus (WC) - UN CBD Chiang Mai mrinalini.rai@women4biodiversity.org NA | Submission | Clearing-House Mechanism

⁸⁰ CBD/SBI/3/INF/42, CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/30 and CBD/WG2020/3/INF/10 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/8337/54d0/e2d6a7945edc4e58a58ac6b8/sbi-03-inf-42-en.pdf>

Box 2. Gender equality within the GBF⁸⁰

Gender equality is included in the GBF as follows:

- **Theory of Change:** “The theory of change for the framework acknowledges the need for appropriate recognition of gender equality, women’s empowerment, youth, gender-responsive approaches and the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the implementation of this framework. Further, it is built upon the recognition that its implementation will be done in partnership among organizations at the global, national and local levels to leverage ways to build a momentum for success. It will be implemented taking a rights-based approach and recognizing the principle of intergenerational equity.” (CBD, 2021, p.4)

- **Enabling conditions:** “Further, success will depend on ensuring greater gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, reducing inequalities, greater access to education, employing rights-based approaches, and addressing the full range of indirect drivers of biodiversity loss, as identified by the Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services issued by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, including those not directly addressed by the goals and targets of the Framework, such as demography, conflict and epidemics, including in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” (CBD, 2021, p.8)

- **Gender Plan of Action:** “Also notes that the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity will be supported through other relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting and, in particular, those addressing the following: (...) e) The gender plan of action for the post-2020 period.” (CBD, 2021, p.11)

4.2 Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the Gender Plan of Action

An approach to integrating a gender-responsive post-2020 global biodiversity framework may also include a specific target on gender,⁸¹ as a way to ensure that gender considerations receive enough specific and enhanced cross-cutting measures. This could also assist with garnering support for the post-2020 Gender Plan of Action that is to be adopted alongside the Global Biodiversity Framework at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD in Kunming in China in 2022.

The Draft post-2020 Gender Plan of Action (GPA),⁸² in the decision, Paragraph 4 urges Parties (...) and to include gender-specific indicators in the development of national indicators, collecting data disaggregated by sex, age and other demographic factors, where possible. However, this aspect is missing in the the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the monitoring framework to support the implementation of the GBF. Identifying and adopting gender-responsive indicators at the global level hence becomes important to ensure that it guides the national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Failing to do so will risk a gender-blind implementation of the GBF and not meet objectives of the GPA to ensure a gender-responsive post-2020 GBF. Previous drafts of the new GPA⁸³ had identified links with the updated GBF goals, targets and indicators. In the current draft, these links have been taken out, hence making alignment between the draft GBF and draft GPA less clear. The current draft GPA consists of three expected outcomes that are measured by indicative actions, possible deliverables, with proposed timelines and responsible actors. However, what is missing from the table is how these expected outcomes will be measured; there are no suggested indicators⁸⁴ as were presented in the earlier draft of the gender plan.^{85, 86} Additionally, the table highlights very broad time frames of when the expected outcomes should be achieved.

Indigenous, local and rural women and girls should be at the centre in all approaches as they are the most vulnerable to the effects of deforestation impacted by biodiversity loss.⁸⁷ It is mentioned explicitly only once in

the plan under expected Outcome 3 - Objective (“Strengthening the evidence base, understanding and analysis of the gender-related impacts of the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the role of women and girls as agents of change in achieving its goals and targets, including insights from traditional knowledge of women and girls from indigenous peoples and local communities.”). The GPA must also include a stronger recognition of the importance of equitable inclusion, and more explicitly recognize the existing limitations women and indigenous women face in accessing information and participation in environmental policy- and decision-making.

Though there has been considerable advancement in gender policies at the global level, including the Gender Plan of Action for the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, the review of the NBSAPs still reveals a considerable gap in implementation at the national level. And while the 6th National Reports have shown some progress in enhanced awareness and understanding among Parties of gender and biodiversity linkages,⁸⁸ much still needs to be done. This is important to ensure, as the review of the Gender Plan of Action suggests that a new gender plan of action or strategy, along with measurable targets and appropriate indicators, will be needed to support the implementation of a gender-responsive post-2020 global biodiversity framework.⁸⁹ However, this key element is no longer there in the Second Revised Draft Post-2020 Gender Plan of Action.

81 Costa Rica (CBD/WG2020/3/CG/4/REPORT) Report of the co-leads of contact group 4 and also being proposed by Women4Biodiversity Target 22

82 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/b899/8ca5/902071cea57c8467e7b419bd/sbi-03-04-add2-rev2-en.pdf>

83 CBD/SBI/3/4/ADD2/REV2 (21 November 2021)

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/b899/8ca5/902071cea57c8467e7b419bd/sbi-03-04-add2-rev2-en.pdf>

84 Ibid., p83

85 CBD/SBI/3/4/ADD2 (18 February 2021) https://unemg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/CBD.SBI_3.4.Add_2-%E2%80%93Draft-outline-of-a-post-2020-gender-plan-of-action.pdf

86 CBD/SBI/3/4/ADD2/REV1 (26 April 2021) <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/18ec/c0c5/b920a490c542402e5c002c9f/sbi-03-04-add2-rev1-en.pdf>

87 Indigenous Women and Climate Crisis: Vulnerabilities and Key Contributions

88 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/73bc/335c/480a6a50d95d04478f4b3041/sbi-03-02-en.pdf>

89 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/73bc/335c/480a6a50d95d04478f4b3041/sbi-03-02-en.pdf>

89 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/73bc/335c/480a6a50d95d04478f4b3041/sbi-03-02-en.pdf>



5. Ways Forward for Embedding a Gender-Responsive Approach to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

5.1 Rights-based Approaches to Gender Equality

Intrinsic to the essence of a new post-2020 global biodiversity framework for living in harmony with nature is recognizing women's rights. Women's rights are part of the fundamental human rights that were enshrined by the United Nations for every human being on the planet nearly 70 years ago. These rights include the right to live free from violence, slavery, and discrimination; to be

educated; to own property; to vote; and to earn a fair and equal wage including of girls. Efforts to protect biodiversity need to ensure the protection, empowerment, leadership, decision-making and meaningful and informed participation of women and girls. The priorities of the Draft post-2020 Gender Plan of Action need to be reflected at the level of targets⁹⁰ and disaggregated indicators.

Biodiversity is essential to the well-being of humanity and the health of our planet, but it cannot be protected to the best of our ability unless conservation efforts also address gender equality and recognize women's human rights. Women have an important lead role to play in conservation and the sustainable and equitable access and control of natural resources.⁹¹

The IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services⁹² made it clear that indigenous peoples' and local communities (IPLCs) are the most effective stewards of biodiversity on their land. The recent International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress⁹³ also emphasized the need for greater recognition of IPLC rights and support for locally-led conservation.

While the human rights implications⁹⁴ and environmental damages are felt by individuals and communities around the world, the consequences are felt most acutely by those

segments of the population that are already in vulnerable situations, including indigenous and local communities, small-scale farmers and fisherfolk, majority of whom are women and children.

Respecting and protecting human rights and protecting the environment are inextricably linked, as recently confirmed by the Human Rights Council resolution 48/13⁹⁵ on the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment. The recognition and implementation of this right can be a powerful tool to mainstream biodiversity and embed a rights-based approach across policies and processes. Human rights and a healthy planet are mutually dependent. To have a clean and healthy environment, we have to respect, protect and fulfil human rights. To realize our human rights, we must heal, protect and sustainably live on our planet.⁹⁶

The Draft Gender Plan of Action⁹⁷ sets some modalities for implementation that includes applying a human rights-based approach to advancing gender equality in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of genetic resources. It will be key to target the root causes of human rights harms, such as poverty, inequality, discrimination and marginalization, and there are key human rights obligations and responsibilities of States and/or other actors with respect to gender and the environment⁹⁸ that can guide both the global biodiversity framework and the gender plan of action.

90 Proposed New Target 22 on Gender: "Ensure equitable access and benefits from conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for women and girls, as well as their effective participation in policy and decision-making processes related to biodiversity." (CBD Women)

91 See Protecting people and biodiversity: Addressing gender-based violence (GBV) and conservation links | IUCN

92 Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services | IPBES secretariat

93 IUCN World Conservation Congress

94 Environmental Human Rights Defenders in the Spotlight at the Human Rights Council - Center for International Environmental Law

95 [https://documents-dds-](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G21/289/50/PDF/G2128950.pdf?OpenElement)

[ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G21/289/50/PDF/G2128950.pdf?OpenElement](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G21/289/50/PDF/G2128950.pdf?OpenElement)

96 Human Rights in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

97 CBD/SBI/3/4/Add.2/Rev.2.

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/b899/8ca5/902071cea57c8467e7b419bd/sbi-03-04-add2-rev2-en.pdf>

98 Human Rights The Environment and Gender Equality



5.2 Proposal for a Stand-alone target on Gender in Addressing Women's Rights, Gender Equality in the Future of Biodiversity Governance

The Women's Caucus - UN CBD has been putting forth and advocating the urgency and the need for a stand-alone Target on Gender - Target 22⁹⁹ in consideration of the fact that the current GBF is still lacking in adequately addressing the rights and roles of women within the 21 targets. As mentioned earlier, the brief mention of women and girls in Target 21 seems like an afterthought. The recognition of rights go beyond participation - it is ensuring equitable engagement and inclusion in all biodiversity-related policies and planning; it means recognizing women's traditional knowledge, innovations and practices in sustainable use and management of lands and territories and genetic diversity; it is ensuring that their contributions are not rendered as non-monetary or voluntary when it comes to access and benefits sharing.

The process for the post-2020 GBF is supposed to be gender-responsive¹⁰⁰ and under the auspices of the SCBD and the leadership of Canada and Malawi, the "Friends of Gender Equality" group was formed in 2019 to address these gaps and to strengthen the gender considerations in the development of the GBF and the GPA.

In the guidance information document prepared for CBD COP 14 in 2018, CBD/COP/14/INF/15, human rights approach was identified as one of the three guiding principles in order to (a) promote inclusive consultation and engagement among diverse stakeholders, with an emphasis on supporting women's effective participation; (b) recognize, support and respond to consultations in gender-responsive ways; and (c) enhance women's agency and leadership in the conservation and stewardship of biodiversity.¹⁰¹ Yet, the updated GBF and the monitoring indicators lack adequately addressing (d), the foundation stone needed to build on a transformative, just and equitable approach to 'building back better', needs to be grounded in just recovering for all.

In 2022, four years after CBD COP 14 raised the ambition of the blueprint for biodiversity, comes a 30-year plan in chartering a framework that is supposed to be SMART, transformative and a framework for all, and to ensure that it happens, a stand-alone target on gender is needed. It is a reminder not only to guide all biodiversity-related planning, policies and implementation with a gender lens, but also to support fulfillment of the whole of the GBF as a cross-cutting agenda.

Proposed NEW Target on Gender by Costa Rica - Target 22 during OEWG-3 (Virtual session - September 2021)¹⁰²

Ensure women and girls' equitable access and benefits from conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as their informed and effective participation at all levels of policy and decision-making related to biodiversity.

The proposed target on gender is not a new proposal. It was first reflected in the synthesis of views of Parties and Observers on the scope and content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework¹⁰³ and a target on gender was proposed by Costa Rica. Subsequently, the Women's Caucus has taken the lead and has been advocating for it to be included in the GBF as Target 22. This target was again proposed by the Government of Costa Rica during the first part of the OEWG-3 that took place virtually and is reflected in the outcome of the Contact Group 4 document.¹⁰⁴

99 Target 22 -

https://www.cbd.int/doc/interventions/6126089708edd2000181d143/CBDWC_OEWG3_opening_Item%204-finalALL%20copy.pdf

100 Information Note - Towards a Gender-Responsive Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

101 CBD/COP/14/INF/15 Enabling a gender-responsive process for the development of the post-2020 biodiversity framework: supplementary background and tools (Page 3)

102 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/0699/194f/f6f2fdcad67de3bbf0b5a5e/wg2020-03-cg-04-report-en.pdf>

103 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/de9c/8c12/7c0cb88a47f9084e5d0b82eb/post2020-prep-01-inf-01-en.pdf>

104 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/0699/194f/f6f2fdcad67de3bbf0b5a5e/wg2020-03-cg-04-report-en.pdf>

In the Reflections document by the Co-Chairs following the first session of the third meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework,¹⁰⁵ the text of "Target 22" is mentioned as a proposal for Target 21, which was not the intention. The new target was proposed as a stand-alone target on gender equality to address the urgency and the need to ensure advancement and coherence of gender considerations throughout the GBF, the same way Goal 5 in the SDGs focuses exclusively on gender equality.

Co-Chair's Reflection Paper (24 November 2021)

Proposed in discussion on T21

Ensure women and girls' equitable access and benefits from conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as their informed and effective participation at all levels of policy and decision making related to biodiversity.

167. It may be best to refer to women and girls in a single target or across the framework e.g. in the Principle sections? Parties should consider that while different groups would be concerned under those separate targets, the actions and outcomes would be similar. Further, it should be noted that gender is addressed throughout the framework, including in the front and back section (as well as in the proposed "Guidance for implementation of the framework" section), the monitoring framework.

It is also important to note that in the same reflection paper of the Co-Chairs, there is a proposed alternative text for Target 21 to address gender considerations, where the current language for women and girls is ad hoc and like an afterthought. However, the addition is limited to ensuring gender-sensitive participation and does not address the roles and contributions of women and girls in all related biodiversity policy and planning.

Co-Chair's Reflection Paper (24 November 2021)

Target 21 First draft

Ensure equitable and effective participation in decision-making related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, and respect their rights over lands, territories and resources, as well as by women and girls, and youth.

Alternative text

156. The following revisions to target 21 could be made in the next iteration of the framework to strengthen the language.

Ensure equitable, effective **and gender-sensitive** participation in decision-making related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, and respect their rights over lands, territories and resources, as well as by women and girls, and youth.

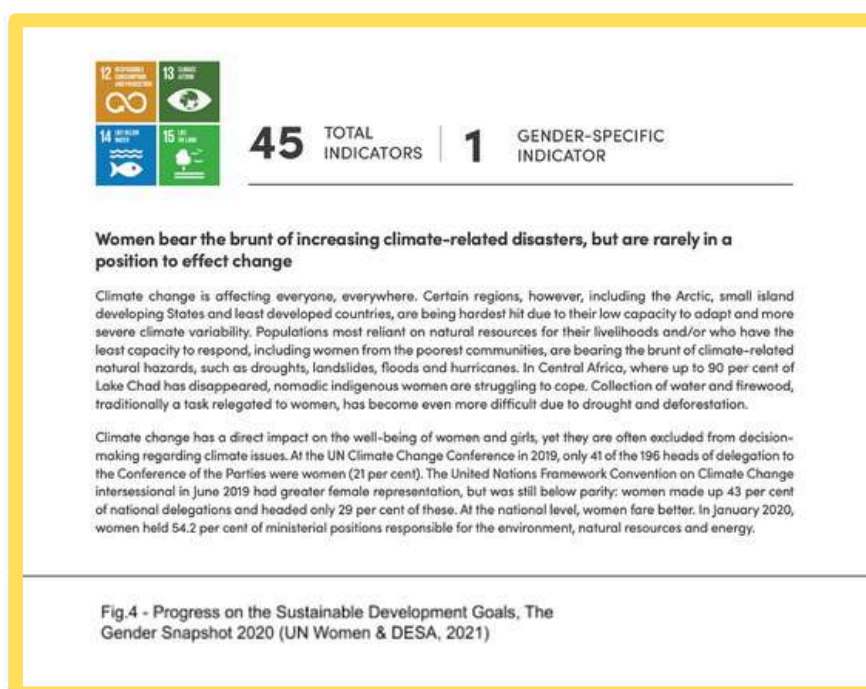
¹⁰⁵ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/9197/b7f1/ef3522327c58fe2e55c0bc71/wg2020-03-06-en.pdf>



5.3 Ensuring Gender-Specific Indicators in the Monitoring Framework

Various internationally agreed monitoring frameworks and intergovernmental efforts are currently in place to track progress towards sustainable development outcomes, climate change, disaster risk and other environment-related measures.¹⁰⁶ The most well-known multi-dimensional framework is the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicator framework. While the SDGs indicator framework includes multiple environment-related indicators and identified 80 gender-related SDGs indicators,¹⁰⁷ not many are gender-specific (E.g. 13.3.1)¹⁰⁸ and miss addressing the gender and environment nexus (Figure 4). However, in the case of Kenya, they have used this SDGs indicator 13.3.1/12.8.1¹⁰⁹

There is a growing analysis that makes clearer linkages with existing SDGs indicators¹¹⁰ which could provide a minimum set of indicators for Parties to report progress towards targets that relate to equal participation in decision-making processes and ensuring equal rights over relevant resources for women and girls. These indicators are part of the SDG indicator framework (1.4.2, 5.5.1, 5.a.1, 5.a.2) and are well-aligned with the current wording of Target 21 of the draft monitoring framework. However many of the SDGs indicators are also limited in scope and focus mainly on access to land. In relation to CBD, it is important to also have indicators for the heightened effects of environmental degradation on women as well as the benefits of engaging women in biodiversity conservation.¹¹¹



106

https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/CSW/66/EGM/Info%20Papers/UN%20Women_CSW66%20Informational%20Paper.pdf

107 Gender-relevant SDG indicators (80 indicators) (updated on 14 Mar 2018)

108 An example is SDG indicator 13.3.1 (Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment) is the only gender-specific environment indicator. See UN Women. 2021. Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The gender snapshot 2021. PROGRESS ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS THE GENDER SNAPSHOT 2020

109 Indicator 4.7.1/12.8.1/13.3.1 measures the extent to which countries mainstream Global Citizenship Education (GCED) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in their education system. <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-13-03-01.pdf>

110 Integrating a gender perspective in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

111 OECD (2021). Gender and the Environment : Building Evidence and Policies to Achieve the SDGs | OECD iLibrary

In a report published by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in March 2019, 18 gender-environment indicators were proposed across four priority areas: the rights to land, natural resources and biodiversity; access to food, energy, water and sanitation; climate change, sustainable production and consumption, and health; and women in environmental decision-making at all levels.¹¹² An issue brief by UNEP-WCMC and UN Women proposed four recommendations to integrate gender considerations in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including some indicators.¹¹³ Another report prepared by the IUCN under contract to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity¹¹⁴ further informs the upcoming discussion on the post-2020 Gender Plan of Action for SBSTTA-24, SBI-3 and OEWC-3.¹¹⁵ This was not taken up in the SBI3 Virtual session, but was followed by an extended consultation to discuss it further,¹¹⁶ and also builds on the new, updated post-2020 Gender Plan of Action.¹¹⁷ To support the ongoing negotiation process, UNEP-WCMC in collaboration with SCBD, NatureServ and GEOBON launched a new Post-2020 Indicators website.¹¹⁸

There is a need to ensure that the monitoring framework¹¹⁹ of the GBF contains gender-specific indicators as the framework will be used by Parties to access, review, monitor, report on the implementation of the global biodiversity framework. In the initial call for submissions for the monitoring framework (excluding the Goals and Targets), Women's Caucus-UN CBD provided an in-depth list of gender-specific considerations for consideration.¹²⁰

112 UNEP and IUCN (2019), Gender and environment statistics: Unlocking information for action and measuring the SDGs, <http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/english/htmain.htm>.

113 Integrating a gender perspective in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

114 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/8337/54d0/e2d6a7945edc4e58a58ac6b8/sbi-03-inf-42-en.pdf>

115 The initial discussion and inputs of views on these three meetings took place virtually. Resumed sessions of SBSTTA-24, SBI-3 and WG2020-3 (postponed), the Agenda item 3 on the updated Gender Plan of Action under SBI3 was not taken up but instead an extended consultancy was organized after 27 - 29 July, 2021. GB-OM-2021-03 - Documents

116 <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/GB-OM-2021-03>

117 CBD/SBI/3/4/Add.2/Rev.2 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/b899/8ca5/902071cea57c8467e7b419bd/sbi-03-04-add2-rev2-en.pdf>

118 Post-2020 Indicators website. Indicators for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

119 The global biodiversity framework will be supported by three additional documents: (a) a monitoring framework with headline indicators, (b) a glossary with a definition of terms used in the framework, and (c) supporting technical information on each draft goal and target. First draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

120 Listing of all submissions made towards the draft monitoring framework in July, 2020. Notification 2020-045 - CBD



5.4 Addressing the Gender Data Gap

Though indicators related to the environment in the post-2020 GBF are present, they are limited and not many are gender-specific, as also discussed in the previous section. With some of the overlapping work being undertaken and challenges in gathering relevant data, there are gaps in data, resulting in an incomplete picture of findings. Aggregates concile the different dimensions, priorities and inequalities and this major lack of sex and gender-disaggregated data is of concern. The lack of data on many of these issues renders women and their needs invisible to policymakers.¹²¹ Thus, addressing this data gap is essential to assist with any planning or design of policies, including to inform the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) that will guide the national implementation of the GBF.

Proposed Indicators for the Stand-alone Target on Gender - Target 22

As proposed by the Women's Caucus to the OEWG-3 (23 August – 3 September, 2021)

UN Women and UNEP-WCMC identified available (already developed) SDG indicators that could be used to monitor progress towards this target.¹²² The indicators identified focus on secure tenure rights of land, as secure tenure rights are linked to access to resources and related benefits. Lastly, SDG indicator 5.5.1 (b) is a high-level indicator with a focus on women representation in local government

- SDG 1.4.2 Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure
- SDG 5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure
- SDG 5.a.2 Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control
- SDG 5.5.1b Proportion of seats held by women in local governments
- SDG 5.c Adoption and strengthening of sound policies and enforceable legislations for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

Complementary to the relevant SDG indicators identified, there are also indicators concerning SDG 16 specifically referring to the sub-goals below that countries are already collecting information on, and the idea is to build on these efforts and prompt countries to focus on how these sub-goals are implemented in the context of biodiversity, healthy ecosystems, women and girls.

- "Equitable access and benefit from conservation, sustainable use of biodiversity:"
- 16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development
"effective participation"
- 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels;
- 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

¹²¹ Analysis of government responses to the pandemic has underlined the extent to which women's rights and needs can be sidelined during crisis response and recovery, showing that only 20 per cent of the over 2,000 fiscal, labour market and social protection measures adopted across 219 countries and territories in response to COVID-19 between March 2020 and March 2021 were gender-sensitive (see UNDP and UN Women. 2021. COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker. Factsheet. March 2021 version.) COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker: Factsheets | UN Women Data Hub. This lack of gender-sensitivity is likely to be mirrored in the response to environmental crises too, but similar global data repositories on policy responses to hydrometeorological disasters, climate change and environmental degradation are not currently available.

¹²² Integrating a gender perspective in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

Relevant headline indicators to monitor progress towards GBF target 21 and Target 22¹²³

- HI 10.0.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture (SDG 2.4.1)
- HI 21.0.2 Land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous peoples and local communities (SDG 1.4.2 and SDG 5.a.1)
- HI 21.0.1 Degree to which indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls as well as youth participate in decision-making related to biodiversity.* (to be developed)

Relevant actions to monitor and report on progress towards proposed Target 22 and other relevant targets from the GBF should be clearly reflected in the post-2020 Gender Plan of Action.

The elements regarding reporting and monitoring should be included in other documents of the GBF (for example as specific actions in the Gender Plan of Action, and indicators in the monitoring framework).

5.5 Data Reporting Tools and Gender Considerations in the Rio Conventions

The three Rio Conventions – the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – are separate, yet interrelated international treaties, dealing with different aspects of environmental sustainability. All of them include gender provisions in their Preambles that have been subsequently reinforced by meetings of Conferences of the Parties (COPs) to the Conventions (Table 2). The integration of gender into actions against biodiversity loss, climate change impacts and desertification will maximize the results of interventions, efforts and resources spent and will hopefully lead to gender-sensitive policymaking with optimal outcomes¹²⁴ and this has also been recognized as long-term strategies and targets of multilateral environment agreements, including biodiversity-related and Rio conventions, to ensure synergistic delivery of benefits from all the agreements for the planet and people¹²⁵ in the First Draft of the Global Biodiversity Framework.

- Data Reporting Tool for MEAs (DART)

The Data Reporting Tool for MEAs – DaRT¹²⁶ is a voluntary tool aiming at supporting Parties to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). It is developed and hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme since 2018 and integrated with the InfoMEA portal. It aims to support Parties in national reporting and is the first tool that allows Parties to effectively benefit from synergies in the field of knowledge and information management for national reporting to biodiversity-related conventions. It will directly support Parties in reporting on the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework that is expected to be adopted at the next Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15).

During the SBI-3 Virtual session in June 2021, Women4Biodiversity recommended integration of the post-2020 Gender Plan of Action into the development of DART¹²⁷ which was supported by Switzerland. Women4Biodiversity is engaged in working with the DART team to follow-up with this recommendation.

¹²³ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/d716/da69/5e81c8e0faca1db1dd145a59/wg2020-03-03-add1-en.pdf>

¹²⁴ The Rio Conventions - Action on Gender

¹²⁵ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/abb5/591f/2e46096d3f0330b08ce87a45/wg2020-03-03-en.pdf>

¹²⁶ DART <https://dart.informeia.org/>

¹²⁷ Women's Caucus-UN CBD Statement on SBI-3, June 11. https://www.cbd.int/doc/interventions/60c3532f40a68800019e8011/CBDWC-SBSTTA24_FS_item8_CooperationwithMEAs-final.pdf

5.6 National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)

One key document that can be used to embed gender mainstreaming in the CBD and other Conventions Parties¹²⁸ is the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). This is the main vehicle of national implementation of the CBD, and is instrumental in guiding the national policy and planning to channel the GBF, including aligning the NBSAPs to the GBF.

For NBSAPs to align with the GBF, it is essential that the guidance and provisions are first put in place at the COP Decision level at COP 15 to ensure that the Post-2020 Gender Plan of Action is integrated in the NBSAP reporting. These are currently not reflected in the preparation documents for SBI-3,¹²⁹ but the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be supported through other relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting, including the post-2020 Gender Plan of Action for the post-2020 period.¹³⁰

5.7 Gender-Responsive Biodiversity Financing

According to the Global Biodiversity Outlook-5 and the Convention on Biological Diversity,¹³¹ investments towards conservation in the coming years will likely span any amount between US\$103 billion to US\$895 billion annually.¹³² Adequate and sustainable biodiversity financing is imperative to address biodiversity loss. In addition, properly designed and executed biodiversity finance vehicles can be leveraged to help address socio-political imbalances and can also help redress gender imbalances. At the moment, there is not much biodiversity financing and gender data as compared with the visibility in climate financing.¹³³

This will be an important discussion as financing is not always simple; there are critiques already on biodiversity finance¹³⁴ options being discussed under the CBD, including providing adequate support for customary rights holders,¹³⁵ which is essential to address. Also, within these contexts there is a need to put gender, intersectionality and environmental justice at the centre of transformative change for gender-responsive biodiversity financing. This is also taking into account the consequences that may further exacerbate the gender-based violences and environmental linkages if not thought through; these should be considered before projects and programmes are developed and biodiversity financing allocated.

¹²⁸ Harmonizing Gender in the Three Rio Conventions and the GEF

¹²⁹ Further information and draft template for the submission of national commitments/contributions to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

¹³⁰ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/fb60/5b11/e9e962bbce1a6c5342301986/wg2020-03-03-add3-en.pdf>

¹³¹ Estimation of resources needed for implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework: Second report of the Panel of Experts on Resource Mobilization

¹³² Estimation of resources needed for implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework: Second report of the Panel of Experts on Resource Mobilization

¹³³ Gender and Climate Change Finance | UNFCCC

¹³⁴ Beyond the gap: Placing biodiversity finance in the global economy

¹³⁵ Biodiversity and finance: building on common ground with customary rights holders

5.8 Gender-Responsive Nature-based Solutions

Currently, governments, donors, and other actors are increasingly looking at nature-based solutions (NbS) as a relevant approach to address the challenges of biodiversity loss and climate change, and at the same time other societal challenges. It is important to engage, inform and strengthen the movement to ensure that more women arise, be recognized and be part of all decision- and policymaking that impacts their right to dignity and well-being, and for their contributions and solutions be also recognized, supported and strengthened. We cannot afford to have gender-blind NbS. Women's initiatives to protect their lands from externally driven destructions and to actively conserve, manage, use and restore biodiversity can offer alternative nature and culture-based solutions. Their innovations and practices are based on traditional knowledge and customary practices; their agencies should be strengthened and supported to effectively assert their voices in policy and decision-making spaces.





6. Advocacy Roadmap to Kunming CBD COP 15

With funding support from Sida through SwedBio, at Stockholm Resilience Centre, Women4Biodiversity is now embarking on a long advocacy campaign to strengthen the voices of women from the ground and create space for the diversity of its members to share, co-create and build collective actions. The space created through the Women's Caucus-UN CBD is to ensure that the CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the Gender Plan of Action fully respect and integrate a human rights-based approach for women's rights, gender equality and the future of biodiversity.

6.1 Action Plan

ADVOCACY ROADMAP October 2021 - May 2022

2021 (October - December)

EVENTS

October 11

Women's Rights, Gender Equality and the Future of Biodiversity - Gender Considerations in the post-2020 GBF

<https://www.women4biodiversity.org/high-level-event/>

High-level Virtual Event co-hosted with Government of Costa Rica and co-funded with SwedBio and WWF International

November 10 & 11

Bonn Symposium 2021

The Global Biodiversity Framework: A key building block for local implementation of the 2030 Agenda

<https://www.sef-bonn.org/en/events/bonn-symposium/2021/>

December 06

Nature-based Solutions and People/Geneva Nature-based Solutions Dialogues

<https://www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org/events/nature-based-solutions-and-people/>

December 08

How can we better protect and promote human rights in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

HL Virtual Panel

<https://www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org/events/high-level-biodiversity-and-human-rights-panel/>

November 24 - December 10

#HerSafetyIsPriority

Voices from the Global South in Addressing Gender Inequality and Advancing Human Rights in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

<https://www.women4biodiversity.org/her-safety-is-priority/>

16 Days Activism campaign to voice the links of Gender-Based Violence and Environmental Linkages, commemorated November 25, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

TRAININGS

December

CBD and Gender Training to GBYN, Tanzania: On 18 December, at the request of Global Biodiversity Youth Network (GBYN) Tanzania Chapter, an introduction training was organized on the CBD post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the Gender Plan of Action. The objective of the training was to inform and engage in an interactive session on the links of gender and biodiversity.

There are some others scheduled which need follow-up - India, Eswthini and others in 2022

PUBLICATIONS

Policy Brief

A policy report on “Advancing Women’s Rights, Gender Equality and the Future of Biodiversity in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework” (this report). Funding supported by WWF International and SwedBio in continuation of the High Level Event of October 11, 2021. This report puts an advocacy roadmap together to bring in some of the analysis to date on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the post-2020 Gender Plan of Action. This report is also hoped to assist in advancing and amplifying the campaign on Target 22 with members, UN Agencies, Conservation Agencies and all other allies. Currently, there is support from Costa Rica but there is a need to get more Party support. This report, together with the ongoing campaign on Target 22 and recommendations to the Gender Plan of Action, is intended to garner more support at the next CBD meeting rescheduled for March 2022 in Geneva (SBSTTA-24, SBI-3 and OEWG-3).

CAMPAIGN

Target 22 (Target on Gender Equality)*

This is an ongoing campaign which will continue until CBD COP15. There are bi-monthly webinars scheduled to bring in thematic discussion on gender elements in the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

This messaging will also be strengthened by identifying relevant International Days of celebration with video messages, webinar and various communication tools to amplify Target 22 and showcasing roles and contributions of women in biodiversity conservation.

This also ties up with some of the side events that are being planned in 2022.

What Women Want (video testimonies)**

Ongoing communication strategy to bring in diverse voices of women to share, inform and ask for a gender-transformative post-2020 global biodiversity framework. These messages will be used to amplify the voices from the Global South and to advocate their recommendations to relevant UN international day celebrations.

Note

* - until CBD COP 15

** - ongoing campaign for UN CBD

Other campaign details (especially for Women's Month and International Day of Biodiversity) to be finalized

2022 (January - May 2022)

EVENTS

February

UNEA5.2 (February 28 - March 2, 2022), Nairobi:

Hybrid meeting: Co-convener for two side events planned. One on Human Rights and Post-2020 (confirmed) and the other on Nature-based Solutions (not confirmed yet).

March

CSW66 (March 14 - 28, 2022), New York

CSW66 will be virtual this year as well. The theme is "Climate Change, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction - Gender Equality at the Heart of the Solutions." Women4Biodiversity was invited to present an expert paper on Gender and Biodiversity by UN Women. During CSW66, there is a plan to also have a side event with partners (awaiting confirmation)

Women4Biodiversity's Women's Month event TBC

SBSTTA-24/SBI-3/OEWG-3 (March 13- 29, 2022), Geneva

2 side events were submitted. One of which is in collaboration with the Human Rights Working Group on Post-2020 and another leading the discussion on "Targeting Gender - The Way's Forward".

May - December

CBD COP 15 (TBC)

Side events will be planned during CBD COP 15, including Gender Day.

Women4Biodiversity's International Day for Biological Diversity event TBC

PUBLICATIONS

February -March

Review and Recommendation to the Draft Post-2020 Gender Plan of Action

A Compilation of CBD Gender Equality Decision Text (update from 2012)

Blogs and Articles

CBD Submissions

CAMPAIGN

Target 22 (Target on Gender Equality)*

Ongoing campaign to engage and build a stronger support for Target 22 with the goals to see this target supported by Parties and included in the global biodiversity framework in the Geneva meeting in March 2022 and to see its adoption at the CBD COP15 later in Kunming, China

What Women Want (video testimonies)**

Ongoing communication strategy to bring in women's diverse voices to share, inform and ask for a gender-transformative post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Note

* - until CBD COP 15

** - ongoing campaign for UN CBD

Other campaign details (especially for Women's Month and International Day of Biodiversity) to be finalized



6.2 Building a Collective Movement and Engaging Key Partners

Advancing gender mainstreaming and gender equality and social inclusion in decisions on biodiversity governance needs to address the systemic barriers that exacerbate additional burden on women and girls, including the impacts of the current pandemic which has further exposed them to more vulnerable situations.¹³⁶ Every plan, action and decision has a gender impact and this has to be recognized, strengthened and supported and mainstreamed within institutional policy and planning. Much still needs to be done to ensure that the ongoing deliberation on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in itself integrates gender-responsive elements throughout the targets and indicators and ensures complementarity with the post-2020 gender plan of action.

Women4Biodiversity has been working to advance gender considerations in the work of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, including co-convening the Women's Caucus-UN CBD to share, collect, contribute and engage in various deliberations in the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the Post-2020 Gender Plan of Action. It has brought together a collective recommendation in advancing a stand-alone Gender Target - Target 22¹³⁷ which is now gaining momentum for support. However, the pandemic and the nature of virtual negotiations has been challenging in approaching and gathering more support from Parties and other relevant stakeholders on Target 22 besides others.

There is a need for collective support among and amid all stakeholders, including civil society, UN agencies, international conservation organizations and women's agencies. This should be an agenda for all and not be assigned as separate. The impact of how and what conservation policies and practices are put in place post-CBD COP 15 would pave the path for either a truly just recovery including by or for women, or further exacerbation of women's inequality on their roles and their rights.

The conservation sector needs to acknowledge that women are not a homogenous group and that wealth, disability, education, ethnicity, race and other aspects interact to affect women's opportunities to engage in conservation.¹³⁸ Efforts should be taken to acknowledge and provide space and value to the knowledge, innovations and practices of women in conservation, sustainable use and ensuring that these are also recognized in benefit sharing schemes.

Addressing gender equality should also be streamlined from the global to the local level. The presence of indigenous and rural women in the decision-making arena of social and environmental initiatives, whether from the government or civil society, is also crucial as they hold the very key to the effectiveness of nature protection actions.¹³⁹ The diverse conservation community and stakeholders can play an important role in bringing the global dialogue to the national level, including providing funding support for local-led initiatives to strengthen good practices and build evidence at the national level.

There is also a need to undertake more research on the links with gender and biodiversity for policy and advocacy work. In the context of the work around gender and the CBD, financial and technical support and capacity-building is needed to build strong support and collaboration to strengthen and empower women as agents of change. The Women's Caucus-UN CBD has been paving the path for women to engage, participate in and contribute to discussions on biodiversity conservation and support building collective voices into the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

¹³⁶ <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/press-releases/10-million-additional-girls-risk-child-marriage-due-covid-19>

¹³⁷ <https://www.women4biodiversity.org/target-22-gender-in-post-2020-global-biodiversity-framework/>

¹³⁸ Conservation and natural resource management: where are all the women? | Oryx | Cambridge Core

¹³⁹

<http://www.binaagarwal.com/downloads/apapers/Does%20Women%20Propotional%20Strength%20Affect%20their%20Participation.pdf>

Some reflective recommendations to incorporate collaborations with key partners in strengthening collective advocacy around gender and post-2020 global biodiversity framework are:

Empower women to lead as major stakeholders	Support Women4Biodiversity to continue coordination of the Women's Caucus to provide a space for women representatives to engage with the CBD processes Ensure women's equitable participation in all events Build capacity of women to be able to assert their space to voice their own concerns, experiences and sharing of their knowledge
Elaborate and incorporate gender considerations in studies/research and other relevant publications and submissions	Gender analysis of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF) Identify and analyse gender relevant indicators, including social indicators for the GBF and the Gender Plan of Action Strengthen women's capacities to lead research and studies. Support of recommendations from the CBD Women's Caucus
Develop knowledge products	Video documentation of success stories of women in biodiversity conservation Call for Campaign on Target 22 Communication toolkit Social media collaboration and outreach Other products to be finalized
Conduct trainings, campaigns and events for awareness	Raise institutional awareness on the added value of gender mainstreaming in biodiversity conservation capacity-building efforts Knowledge exchange and the dissemination of information on the gender dimensions of biodiversity Co-convening joint events on gender and biodiversity (virtually and in-person)
Participate and engage in the Post-2020 GBF negotiations	Support women representatives to attend relevant CBD meetings SBSTTA-24, SBI-3, OEWG-3 and CBD COP 15



7. Conclusions

Moving forward for the 30-year plan for living in harmony with nature, the 2050 vision with the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework seeking the above recommendations can pave the path for a just and equitable future for all. The strength of the GBF is also embedded in the Gender Plan of Action under development which can steer a rights-based approach in the implementation, review and monitoring of a gender-responsive GBF. The current update of the Gender Plan of Action includes collection and analysis of gender statistics and has the gender indicators recommendations including some headline indicators.

The IUCN report acknowledges that while countries may not have ready ability to disaggregate data on gender-differentiated benefits, Parties can ensure that the GPA is a vehicle through which to further study capacity gaps and invest in enabling conditions to aid in development and application of gender-specific elements into the GBF. Aligning the GBF and the GPA will support Parties in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment, altogether contributing toward realizing the Convention's purpose as well as interlinked frameworks such as the SDGs.

The GPA can be a tool to advance the recognition of the nexus of the roles, priorities and contribution of women in advancing all the three pillars of the Convention on Biological Diversity and recognizing their rights to a healthy environment that encompasses all aspects of their social, cultural, economic and political lives for them to live in dignity and in harmony with nature.

APPENDIX 1 - ACRONYMS

CBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CFA	Community Forest Association
COP	Conference of the Parties
DaRT	Data Reporting Tool
GBF	Global Biodiversity Framework
GPA	Gender Plan of Action
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
NBSAPs	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
OEWG	Open-Ended Working Group
RBA	Rights-Based Approach
SBI	Subsidiary Body on Implementation
SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNCCD	UN Convention to Combat Desertification
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change





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