



## **TOWARDS SB8(J)-01: POLICY BRIEF ITEM 6: ADVANCING GENDER-RESPONSIVE AND HUMAN RIGHTS INTO SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL NEEDS FOR THE KMGBF IMPLEMENTATION**

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### **Key messages**

Gender equality and women's participation must be central to all technical and scientific processes supporting KMGBF implementation.

Strengthening local and Indigenous knowledge systems—particularly those of women—enhances biodiversity outcomes and supports inclusive governance.

Human rights-based approaches and diverse value systems, including cultural and spiritual relationships with nature, must shape biodiversity monitoring and policy design.

### **What is the issue?**

The KM-GBF represents a global commitment to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, while embedding equity, human rights, and gender equality across its goals and targets. In addition, Decision 16/12 identified equity, gender equality, and human rights-based approaches as one of five priority areas for technical work. This reflects growing recognition that biodiversity governance cannot succeed

without addressing tenure rights, access and benefit-sharing, participation, and justice for women, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, youth, and other marginalized groups (Women4Biodiversity, 2025).

Despite the gender-responsive ambition of the KM-GBF, gaps persist in how technical and scientific tools integrate gender and equity. The tools and indicators to operationalise rights-based and gender-

responsive approaches are still underdeveloped. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators noted critical gaps in Section C, on equitable governance and participation, and COP16 requested the CBD Secretariat to collaborate with partners to update and develop the necessary metadata (Women4Biodiversity, 2025).

### Why is it important?

Evidence shows that biodiversity outcomes are stronger and more sustainable when governance is inclusive, tenure rights are secured, and diverse knowledge systems are recognized (IPBES, 2022). Women, particularly Indigenous and local women, are primary stewards of biodiversity through their roles as food producers and seed custodians, yet face systemic barriers to participation and resource access.

Youth and children also bear disproportionate burdens, yet remain excluded from formal monitoring and decision-making processes (GYBN, 2025). Initiatives like Sumak Kawsay in Ecuador, Kametsa Asaiki in Peru, and Ubuntu in Africa illustrate how Indigenous value systems provide alternative visions for “living well” in harmony with nature, enriching the scientific and cultural basis of biodiversity governance (Women4Biodiversity, 2025).

### What should be done?

To address these gaps, Parties and the CBD Secretariat should prioritize the following actions:

- **Develop robust human rights and gender-responsive indicators.** Building on [Decision 16/31](#), Parties must ensure that equity, FPIC, benefit-sharing, tenure security, and women’s participation are systematically tracked. Metadata should be expanded to include qualitative and

community indicators that capture cultural values, intergenerational knowledge transfer, and governance quality.

- **Strengthen national and local capacities.** Technical support should be directed to governments, Indigenous Peoples, women’s organisations, and youth groups to integrate HRBA and gender equality into biodiversity strategies and monitoring. Tools such as the [CBD Gender Plan of Action](#), OHCHR indicator frameworks, should be mainstreamed into NBSAPs and national reports.
- **Promote participatory and community-led monitoring.** Scientific and technical work must go beyond remote sensing and species data to integrate traditional ecological knowledge, participatory mapping, and community-based monitoring systems. This ensures early detection of biodiversity change, while also empowering rights-holders as knowledge producers.



- **Align biodiversity governance with international human rights and environmental frameworks.** Synergies with MEAs such as the Minamata and Stockholm Conventions should be leveraged to integrate rights safeguards into pollution control and biodiversity actions. At the same time, biodiversity policies must reflect obligations under human rights law, including FPIC, non-discrimination, and protection of environmental defenders.

By advancing these measures, the CBD can move beyond rhetoric to embed rights, equity, and gender equality into biodiversity governance, ensuring the KMGBF delivers benefits for both people and nature.

### Concrete recommendations

- Women are primary custodians of biodiversity in many communities, but remain underrepresented in scientific and governance systems.
- A gender-blind approach weakens the effectiveness of biodiversity policy and undermines equity commitments of the KMGBF.
- Recognising and protecting different value systems and worldviews allows for holistic, culturally grounded biodiversity strategies that benefit both people and the planet.

### References

- Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN). (2025). Submission of information for the development of indicators, metrics and progress measurement tools on biodiversity and health. GYBN.
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- Women4Biodiversity. (2025). Submission on scientific and technical needs for KMGBF implementation

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