

SBI-6 | 16 - 19 FEBRUARY 2026 | ROME, ITALY

POLICY BRIEF

ITEM 5 - GENDER PLAN OF ACTION

February 2026

What is the issue?

The mid-term of the Gender Plan of Action (GPA) review shows that, while many Parties report important steps toward gender equality, such as legal frameworks, strategies and action plans; implementation of the GPA (2023–2030) remains uneven and fragmented. Some of the key problems identified include:

- **Implementation gap:** Gender equality frameworks exist in many countries, but effective implementation of these policies and programmes remains limited, including persistent barriers to women's ownership and control over land, as well as their participation in decision-making.
- **Weak mainstreaming across sectors:** An intersectoral approach is needed to ensure that gender is mainstreamed across sectors.
- **Limited engagement of women's groups in NBSAPs:** Less than half of Parties reference women's groups in NBSAP development or as implementing partners, undermining inclusive planning and delivery.
- **Insufficient data on gender and biodiversity:** which is often insufficient, fragmented or unavailable; institutional

- capacity, adequate resources and coordination for data governance are weak; and there is a strong call for gender-responsive indicators to enable evidence-based implementation.
- **Financing constraints:** Access to dedicated gender-responsive funding remains limited, especially for women-led initiatives and for women from Indigenous peoples and local communities; gender is still not consistently embedded in budgets and funding mechanisms.
- **Capacity and recognition gaps:** Women's contributions are frequently undervalued, and gender expertise within institutions remains insufficient.

Why is it important?

The implementation of the GPA is essential for the success of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Women are primary custodians of traditional knowledge and biodiversity. Their exclusion from governance leads to less resilient and less effective conservation outcomes.

Additionally, the KM-GBF explicitly calls for implementation and reporting that are

consistent with human rights-based and gender-responsive approaches, and the GPA was adopted to support and promote gender-responsive implementation of the Framework.

Decision 15/5 includes a component indicator on national implementation of the GPA, and Women4Biodiversity and UNEP-WCMC have supported the co-development of its methodology. The use of the indicator and its methodology will support in measuring results of the gender responsive implementation of the KM-GBF; and to develop national indicators for monitoring and reporting the implementation of NBSAPs.

Limited gender-disaggregated data, capacity to monitor and report on gender-responsive measures are persistent constraints that invisibilize women's roles and impacts. This undermines evidence-based planning and weakens NBSAP implementation and national reporting.

What should be done?

The GPA implementation indicator and its methodology should be used to structure national reporting, cross-reference national data, and inform the development of gender-responsive national indicators.

Gender-disaggregated data linked to biodiversity should be strengthened. There is a need to improve generation, use and reporting of disaggregated data, including strengthening institutional arrangements, and coordination across sectors.

Dedicated, accessible finance should be ensured, especially for women-led initiatives, including those led by women of

Indigenous People and Local Communities and of Afro-descendant communities. This includes improving access to gender-responsive funding, including support for women's rights organizations and women-led biodiversity initiatives. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) should take gender equality and women's empowerment into account in its project and programme support.

References

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About this brief

This brief outlines Women4Biodiversity's key recommendations for the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action (2023-2030) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

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