

TRACKING GENDER IN NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY TARGETS*

February 2026

In July 2025, Women4Biodiversity conducted an analysis of national targets to assess the extent to which gender were being integrated into national biodiversity planning under the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF). This review was undertaken in recognition of the central role of Target 23, adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15). Target 23 underscores the importance of ensuring equal rights, opportunities and capacities, promoting the full, equitable and meaningful participation and leadership of women and girls at all levels, and recognizing their equal rights to land and natural resources. As acknowledged in the KM-GBF, progress across all goals and targets depends on advancing gender equality and reducing structural inequalities¹. In the present update, W4B evaluates progress made between July 2025 and February 2026.

The 7th National Report, which Parties are in the process of preparing and submitting in early 2026², provides a key mechanism for reporting on the implementation of the KM-GBF, including national contributions toward its 23 global targets. Where Parties have established national targets aligned with Target 23 and mainstreamed gender-responsive approaches in their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

The adoption of a national target on gender equality facilitates the systematic collection of sex-disaggregated data, the identification of relevant indicators, and the documentation of outcomes, thereby strengthening the overall quality and comparability of reporting. Monitoring the national adoption of this target enables the Secretariat, Parties, and stakeholders to assess the degree to which gender

*This version updates and builds on the analysis published in July 2025.

¹Section C, 7 (h) of the KM-GBF.

² <https://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2025/ntf-2025-074-pmrr-en.pdf>

considerations are being mainstreamed in updated or revised NBSAPs, and to ensure alignment with Decision 15/9 and the objectives of the Gender Plan of Action (GPA) adopted at COP 15.

In this context, the mid-term review of the GPA, considered by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its sixth meeting (SBI-6), underscores the need for clear, consistent, and comparable data on the status of GPA implementation. Tracking the integration of national gender targets provides critical evidence for assessing progress towards Objectives A (gender-responsive policy), B (capacity building and participation), and D (monitoring, evaluation, and reporting).

Finally, tracking national adoption of Target 23 contributes to the broader implementation support mechanisms under the KM-GBF, including the Enhanced Planning, Monitoring, Reporting and Review Framework. It provides a means for facilitating peer exchange, identifying capacity-building needs, and supporting the effective mobilization of resources pursuant to Articles 20 and 21 of the Convention. It also reinforces the commitments of Parties to implement the Convention in a manner that respects, protects, and promotes human rights and gender equality, consistent with the preamble of the KM-GBF and Decision 15/9. By doing so, Parties help ensure that biodiversity governance is inclusive, equitable, and responsive to the differentiated roles, knowledge, and needs of women and girls in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Women4Biodiversity has undertaken this brief review of the National Targets submitted by Parties to the Convention to track the integration of gender equality into

national target-setting processes. This compilation serves as a timely technical resource for understanding global progress and remaining gaps in integrating gender considerations into national biodiversity targets, particularly in the context of preparing 7th National Reports and the mid-term review of the GPA.

Examining Gender Integration in National Targets

By early February 2026, 124 Parties had submitted at least one national target explicitly aligned with Target 23 of the KM-GBF, representing a substantial increase compared to July 2025, when only 64 Parties had done so (see Figure 1). Over the same period, the total number of gender-related national targets increased from 202 to 228 (see Figure 2).

Of the 124 national targets linked to Target 23, 82 were reported by Parties as having a high degree of alignment, while 20 were assessed as having medium alignment and 12 as having low alignment.



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Figure 1. Participation of Parties in national target-setting and gender-specific targets

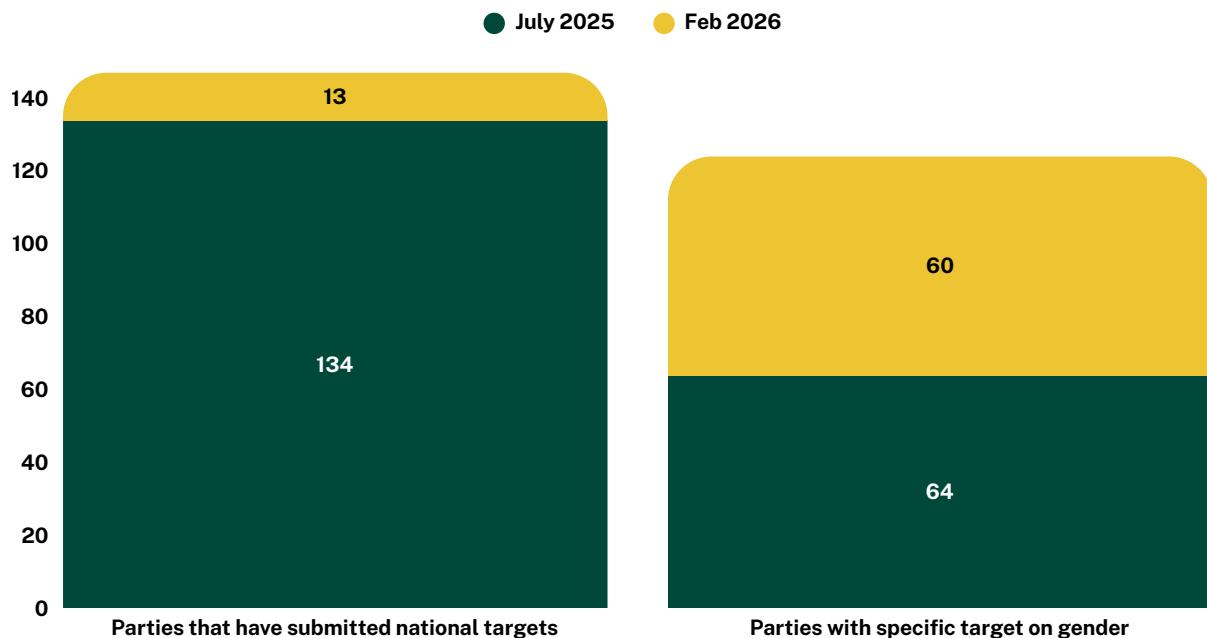


Figure 1 shows progress in the number of Parties that have submitted national targets and Parties with specific targets on gender between July 2025 and February 2026. The near doubling of Parties with gender-specific targets during this period reflects a growing political engagement with Target 23 of the KM-GBF.

Figure 2. National targets and integration of gender considerations

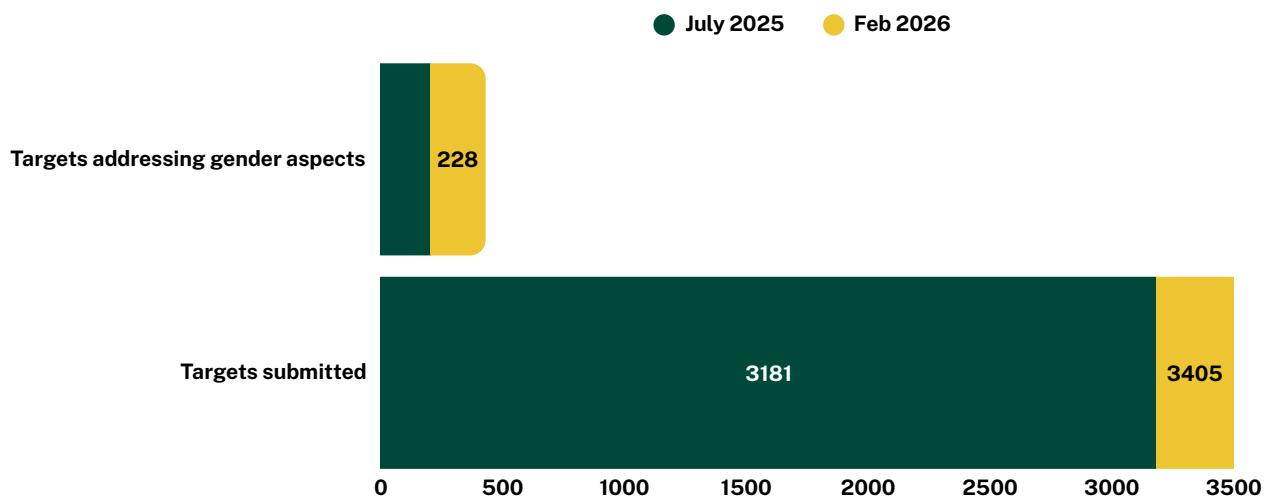


Figure 2 shows the increase in the total number of national targets and targets that address some aspect of gender, reported between July 2025 and February 2026. While the overall number of national targets increased by 224 during this period, only 26 additional targets explicitly address some aspect of gender. This suggests that recent progress is driven primarily by the integration of gender equality within existing national targets, rather than by the creation of new gender-related targets.

Of the 124 national targets linked to Target 23, 82 were reported by Parties as having a high degree of alignment, while 20 were assessed as having medium alignment and 12 as having low alignment. For 10 national targets, no degree of alignment was reported (Fig. 3). The regional distribution of Parties that have submitted at least one national target aligned with Target 23 shows that African Parties account for the largest number of submissions (46 Parties), followed by Asia and the Pacific (34),

Figure 3. Level of alignment of national targets with Target 23 of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

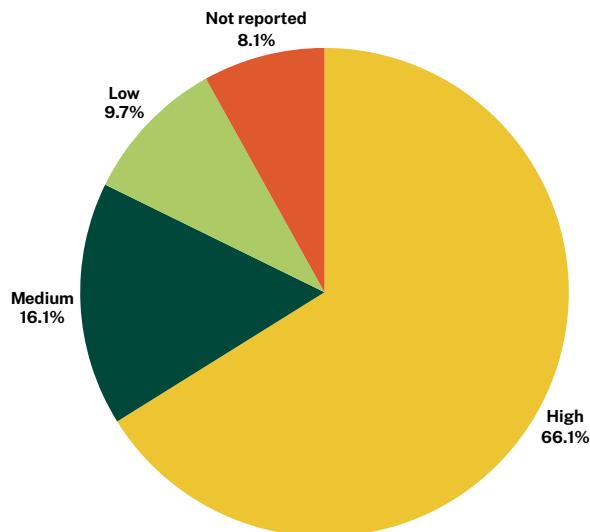


Figure 3 shows the reported level of alignment of 124 national targets with Target 23. The majority of targets report a high level of alignment, indicating strong formal integration of Target 23 elements within the national targets.

Latin America and the Caribbean (19), Western Europe and Others (18), and Central and Eastern Europe (7). This distribution reflects a cross-regional recognition of the relevance of Target 23 (Fig. 4). These targets address gender equality either through dedicated gender-specific targets or by integrating gender considerations alongside Indigenous Peoples and local communities, youth, persons with disabilities and whole-of-society approaches to biodiversity planning.

Figure 4. Regional distribution of Parties with national targets

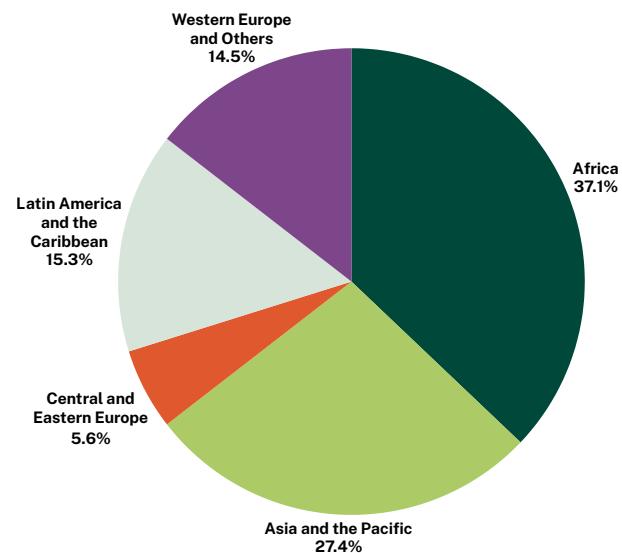


Figure 4 shows the regional distribution of Parties that have submitted at least one national target, highlighting broad participation across all CBD regional groups, with the largest shares in Africa and Asia and the Pacific.

LIST OF COUNTRIES WITH SPECIFIC TARGET ON GENDER

REGIONS	COUNTRIES
WESTERN EUROPE AND OTHERS GROUP (WEOG)	Australia, Belgium, Canada, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Israel, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Bangladesh, Bahrain, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Cyprus, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Nauru, Nepal, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, and Yemen.

AFRICA

Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (GRULAC)

Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Croatia, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, and Slovenia.

This expansion reflects growing political recognition of the importance of gender equality in national biodiversity target-setting processes. However, the mid-term review of the Gender Plan of Action highlights that, while legal and policy frameworks on gender equality are increasingly referenced at the national level, persistent gaps remain in gender-responsive financing, institutional capacity, and the availability of gender-disaggregated data,

particularly affecting women from Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

Addressing gender at the national level, therefore, requires not only acknowledging the differentiated roles, knowledge systems, and impacts of women and men in relation to biodiversity, but also promoting equitable participation, leadership, and benefit-sharing in conservation and sustainable use initiatives. This must be

accompanied by greater attention to the quality, operationalization, and resourcing of gender-related commitments in order to translate political recognition into effective and transformative implementation.

Conclusion

The substantial increase in the number of Parties submitting national targets aligned with Target 23, and in the overall volume of gender-related targets, points to a growing global engagement with gender equality within biodiversity planning. However, as reflected in the mid-term review of the Gender Plan of Action, significant gaps remain in the effective implementation of gender-related commitments, particularly in gender-responsive financing, institutional capacity, and gender-disaggregated data monitoring.

As Parties are now at the midpoint towards the 2030 deadline for the KM-GBF targets, greater attention is required to ensure that national targets on gender equality are operationalized, adequately resourced, and translated into measurable outcomes.

This snapshot, therefore, serves as a foundation for deeper qualitative analysis of national targets and for identifying opportunities to further strengthen the integration of gender equality and other social considerations into national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

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For more information on CBD SBI-6: Official Conference Page of SBI-6

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