

SBI-6 OUTCOMES HIGHLIGHT PERSISTENT GAPS IN FINANCE AND GENDER-RESPONSIVE KM-GBF IMPLEMENTATION

March 2026

The [Sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation \(SBI-6\)](#) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was held in Rome, Italy, from 16 to 19 February 2026. The meeting took place at the midpoint of the implementation of then [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework \(KM-GBF\)](#), and addressed several issues, as the global community approaches the 2030 deadline for achieving the Framework's goals and targets, the urgency of accelerating implementation has become increasingly evident.

During the discussions at SBI-6 many developing countries emphasized that financial and technical constraints continue to limit their ability to implement the commitments under the Framework. The following sections provide an overview of key agenda items discussed at SBI-6 that are particularly relevant for gender equality, rights-based approaches and inclusive implementation of the KM-GBF.

Item 3: Resource mobilization and financial mechanism

Agenda item 3 was addressed in two parts:

resource mobilization under [item 3\(a\)](#), and the financial mechanism under [item 3\(b\)](#). Discussions on resource mobilization at SBI-6 focused on the findings of three studies on the relationship between debt sustainability and CBD implementation, implementation of the guidance on safeguards in biodiversity finance mechanisms, and the relationship between biodiversity and climate finance, and a draft recommendation. Many developing countries stressed that innovative financial instruments, including debt-related mechanisms, cannot replace predictable and adequate public finance from developed countries, emphasizing the continued importance of fulfilling commitments under Target 19 of the KM-GBF. Concerns were also raised regarding the potential risks of conditionalities, excessive administrative burdens and the need to ensure that biodiversity finance mechanisms respect national circumstances and development priorities.

From a gender perspective, the final outcome ([CBD/SBI/6/L.8](#)) acknowledges the potential participation of Indigenous

Peoples and local communities, women and youth in exploring other opportunities for applying debt-related finance instruments for biodiversity; but this reference remained bracketed, reflecting ongoing divergence among Parties regarding inclusive governance of biodiversity finance. This represents a significant gap.

Women play critical roles in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use but often face structural barriers in accessing financial resources. Safeguards in biodiversity finance mechanisms emerged as an important point for addressing social impacts, with several Parties emphasizing the need for transparent benefit-sharing, accountability mechanisms and respect for Indigenous Peoples' rights, including free, prior and informed consent. Strengthening gender-responsive biodiversity finance will therefore be essential to ensure that resource mobilization contributes not only to closing the biodiversity finance gap but also to advancing equitable and inclusive implementation of the KM-GBF, and the Gender Plan of Action.

Discussions on the financial mechanism focused on assessing funding needs for the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Trust Fund and reviewing the effectiveness of the financial mechanism supporting implementation of the Convention and the KM-GBF. The final recommendation (CBD/SBI/6/L.9) recognizes the importance of participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth in the review of the effectiveness and efficiency of the financial mechanism, including assessing the constraints affecting women's access to financing. Also includes references to evaluating the social, gender

and equity-related outcomes and impacts of the activities financed through the mechanism, as well as trends in access to funding for Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth. However, some of these provisions remain bracketed. These discussions highlight the need to improve women's direct access to biodiversity finance, addressing structural barriers that limit women's leadership for biodiversity action.

Item 4: Planning, monitoring, reporting and review

Discussions under this agenda focused on the status of submissions of the seventh national reports, which constitute the primary inputs for the global review of collective progress under the KM-GBF. Many developing country Parties highlighted technical and financial constraints affecting their ability to meet reporting deadlines, emphasizing the need for strengthened means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfer.



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The final outcome ([CBD/SBI/6/L.3](#)) mentioned the importance of enabling the full and effective participation of women, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, youth and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of NBSAPs and in the preparation of national reports. However, gender considerations remain primarily framed in terms of participation rather than through the integration of gender-responsive indicators or gender-disaggregated data within monitoring and reporting systems. While the recommendation encourages Parties to provide additional information of the contributions from non-state actors, it does not explicitly require gender-responsive reporting. Effective reporting requires robust national data systems, technical expertise and sustained institutional support; without these enabling conditions, the monitoring risks reinforcing existing inequalities in reporting capacities among Parties.

Item 5: Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030)

Under the agenda item 5 on the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030), SBI-6 reviewed progress in its implementation. Evidence presented in the midterm review shows persistent gaps in access to gender-responsive financing and institutional capacity, particularly for women from Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Addressing these gaps will be essential for the effective and equitable implementation of the KM-GBF.

The final recommendation ([CBD/SBI/6/L.2](#)) recognizes the Gender Plan of Action as the primary instrument supporting the gender-responsive implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF), particularly its Target 23 and its

links with its Target 22 and section C. The decision encourages Parties to strengthen the implementation of gender-responsive approaches across biodiversity policies, strategies and action plans, ensure the full and meaningful participation and leadership of women and girls, and enhance the generation and use of sex- and age-disaggregated data to monitor progress. Importantly, it also encourages Parties to apply the component indicator 23. CT.2 in national implementation, which has been co-developed with UNEP-WCMC and Women4Biodiversity, and it was also acknowledged under Decision 16/31; this indicator is a key tool to strengthen national data systems, support the development of gender-responsive indicators and improve monitoring and reporting on the implementation of NBSAPs.

The outcome further highlights the need to mobilize adequate, predictable and accessible financial and human resources to support rights-based and gender-responsive implementation, including through targeted support for women-led initiatives. It also invites international financial institutions, including the Global Environment Facility, to support gender-responsive biodiversity actions and improve processes related to access to funding, through simplified access modalities, for women-led initiatives.

Item 6: Capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation

Discussions on capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation at SBI-6 focused on addressing technological, technical and institutional capability gaps affecting the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF). Many Parties emphasized that effective cooperation mechanisms must respond to national priorities and be supported by predictable

financial resources, particularly for developing countries facing significant capacity constraints. The final outcome ([CBD/SBI/6/L.5](#)) highlights the importance of inclusive participation in identifying capacity needs and gaps. It encourages Parties, subnational governments, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations, and other relevant actors to collaborate with technical and scientific cooperation support centers in assessing capacity needs and validating results. It also encourages these stakeholders to provide specific information on their technological, technical and institutional capacity needs related to the implementation of NBSAPs and the KM-GBF.

Item 7: Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations

Discussions on cooperation with other conventions and international organizations at SBI-6 focused on strengthening synergies between the Rio Conventions, biodiversity-related conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements. Many Parties emphasized that improved cooperation should reduce duplication, strengthen policy coherence and support more effective implementation of the KM-GBF, particularly at the national level. During discussions, several stakeholders highlighted the importance of strengthening synergies across environmental agreements to address interconnected drivers of biodiversity loss, including pollution. In this context, the ongoing work of the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention is relevant to KM-GBF Target 7, including the development of indicators on mercury concentrations in the environment and human populations; Target 22 on participation and rights, and to Target 23,

particularly in relation to the disproportionate health impacts of mercury exposure on women and children.

Women4Biodiversity recommended to recognize these linkages and including references to the relevance of Minamata Convention activities for Target 22 and 23, including decisions addressing the engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and initiatives focused on the health impacts of mercury on women and children. However, these elements were not reflected in the final recommendation ([CBD/SBI/6/L.6](#)). The final outcome missed an opportunity to strengthen substantive synergies between biodiversity governance and chemicals and pollution frameworks.

Conclusions

SBI-6 highlighted the persistent gap between the ambition of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the resources and institutional capacities available to implement it. The meeting reinforced the importance of the Gender Plan of Action and the use of the component indicator for monitoring progress on Target 23. However, persistent gaps in gender-responsive financing, institutional capacity and data systems continue to limit the effective integration of gender equality. As Parties prepare for COP-17, addressing these structural barriers will be essential to ensure that the Framework can move beyond commitments toward effective and equitable implementation.

For more information on CBD SBI-6:
[Official Conference Page of SBI-6](#)

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