

Upholding Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

- **Gender equality and women's empowerment are essential for the sustainable use of biodiversity and must be an essential component of the new Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).**
- **All Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) are urged to support the inclusion of a stand alone target on gender equality and gender-responsive indicators throughout the monitoring and evaluation framework.**
- **Stronger and intentional language that aligns and builds complementarity with both the CBD Gender Plan of Action (GPA) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should be incorporated in the GBF.**
- **Fulfilling these actions will contribute to a gender-responsive GBF and make sure the GBF is designed for inclusive, participatory and rights-based biodiversity conservation action.**

What is the issue?

Gender equality and women's empowerment are essential for the sustainable use of biodiversity. Understanding and exposing gender-differentiated biodiversity practices contributes to successful conservation and makes efforts more effective and efficient because women and vulnerable groups are empowered to participate as equals.

Lamentably, gender inequality is ingrained in the existing social structures that manage and impact sustainable use, access to and control over biological resources and, the sharing of benefits arising out of their use is often unequal. Not only do conservation efforts exist in social structures that are inherently unequal, but also they do not have as strong of an impact if they are not designed and implemented with all community members included in decision making. This goes beyond just considering the inclusion of women but requires applying an intersectional perspective, which includes a diversity of identities including, but not limited to, community members of varying ages, ethnicities and abilities.

Designed to align with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the current draft of the GBF under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is not gender-responsive, and therefore falls short. It has significant gaps, limiting it from fulfilling gender-responsive and transformative goals and does not fully take into account women and girls' unique roles and contributions to conservation and sustainable use

of biodiversity. The GBF should not miss its chance to include gender-responsive language and actions throughout, to take advantage of key opportunities for strengthened biodiversity conservation action and to contribute to achieving existing goals and outcomes. Doing so will also ensure that the GBF does not contribute to, and exacerbate, discriminatory and harmful practices.

What should be done?

The new GBF, designed to guide actions worldwide through 2030 to preserve and protect nature and its essential services to people, is missing vital components, preventing it from being gender-responsive. All CBD Parties are urged to support the inclusion of the following in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework:

- **A stand-alone target on Gender Equality.** This requires the addition of a 22nd Target on Gender in the Post-2020 GBF, as proposed by Costa Rica and now supported by the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) and some African Members states, which reads "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".
- **Gender-responsive indicators** throughout the monitoring and evaluation framework, aligned with each draft target.
- **Stronger and intentional language that aligns and builds complementarity with both the CBD Gender Plan of Action (GPA) and**

the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, among others, to ensure gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is placed at the center of the implementation of the GBF, guiding transformative action.

Why is this important?

Recognising that gender equality is fundamental for the sustainable use of biodiversity, fulfilling these key tasks will ensure that the GBF is consistent with the Convention on Biological Diversity's preamble text which recognises the vital role 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.

Similar to the way Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 ensures coherence throughout the SDG framework, a new target - 22, focused on gender - will ensure the GBF simultaneously addresses both the urgency and the need to ensure advancement and coherence of gender considerations throughout the GBF.

In order for Parties to use it to access, review, monitor and report on the implementation of the GBF, the monitoring framework must include gender-responsive indicators. Including these indicators across the monitoring framework is a practical and vital step to ensuring the GBF is gender-responsive and contributes to reducing gender gaps. It will also support global efforts that aim at building the evidence of the heightened effects of environmental degradation on women, as well as of the benefits of engaging women in biodiversity conservation.

Finally, a gender-responsive GBF will ensure consistency across the CBD, align more snugly with the CBD Post-2020 Gender Plan of Action (GPA) and contribute to global gender equality goals. The GPA is a key strategy document, that provides clear guidance on how to ensure the rights of women and girls, in all their diversity, are upheld in decision making and implementation of the GBF. To ensure that Parties will use the GPA, a concerted effort must be made to make the GBF gender-responsive and consistently aligned with the GPA.

A gender-responsive GBF will recognise that gender equality and women's empowerment are vital for the success of sustainable conservation action and that when a commitment to the rights of women and girls leads the way, key enablers for ambition, strategy and action are unlocked. Fulfilling the actions above will contribute to a gender-responsive GBF, making sure it is designed for inclusive, participatory and rights-based biodiversity conservation action.

The right global tools

- [The UNFCCC 5-year enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan](#) sets out objectives and activities that aim to advance knowledge and understanding of gender-responsive climate action and its coherent mainstreaming in the implementation of the UNFCCC and the work of Parties, the secretariat, United Nations entities and all stakeholders at all levels.
- Women4Biodiversity's publication [Advancing Women's Rights, Gender Equality and the Future of Biodiversity in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#) provides in-depth context and guidance for the urgency of gender-responsive action in the Post-2020 GBF, and implementing the Post-2020 GPA.
- The CBD Secretariat's Information Note [Developing and Measuring a Gender-Responsive Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework: Information on Gender Considerations Within the Draft Post-2020 Monitoring Framework](#), prepared by IUCN, is intended to contribute to the consideration of the effective integration of gender considerations in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and its implementation and monitoring and the development and implementation of the post-2020 gender plan of action.
- The [Elements and Structure of a Gender-Responsive Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#) submission from UN Women to the CBD Secretariat provides proposals for the structure and key elements to consider for the development of a gender-responsive Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in order to achieve sustainable outcomes for both biodiversity and gender equality.