



Permanent Mission of the
International Union for Conservation of Nature
to the United Nations

High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2025
“Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and Eradicating Poverty in Times of Multiple Crises”

SDG5 thematic review

Statement delivered by the Permanent Observer of IUCN to the UN, Dr Sofie Jaffe

New York, 23 July 2025

Thank you chair,

Excellencies, distinguished delegates

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) reaffirms its commitment to advancing gender equality as a cornerstone of sustainable development, environmental integrity, and climate resilience.

As we have heard today SDG 5 is foundational to the success of all other Sustainable Development Goals. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation and climate impacts, yet they are also powerful agents of change. Women, particularly Indigenous women and those in rural communities, are often frontline defenders of nature. Their leadership must be recognized, resourced, and protected through inclusive decision-making and targeted capacity-building.

As the world confronts converging crises—from biodiversity loss and climate change to conflict and economic instability—we need to accelerate – not reverse – the realization of gender equality and women’s and girls’ rights.

Environmental governance must be gender-responsive. This includes integrating gender considerations into biodiversity finance, climate adaptation, and nature-based solutions to ensure equitable outcomes and avoid reinforcing existing inequalities. To do this we need gender-disaggregated data including for key environmental indicators.

As we approach the midpoint of the SDG timeline, the IUCN urges all stakeholders to accelerate action on SDG 5. Without it, we cannot achieve a just, green, and peaceful future.

Thank you
