

A gender-responsive post-2020 global biodiversity framework

Inputs to support negotiations on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

UN Women and UNEP-WCMC

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1. Key messages

This document outlines recommendations for integrating a gender perspective into the post-2020 global biodiversity framework based on discussions at the informal workshop convened by UN Women and UNEP-WCMC.¹

Key opportunities to strengthen the integration of a gender perspective in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework include:

- Incorporate a gender-specific target covering: (i) women's full and effective participation in decision-making, (ii) equal rights to and control over land and resources, and (iii) equal access to benefits derived from biological resource use;
- Enhance the consideration of gender equality across other targets that relate to people;
- Enhance the wording of the current draft target 21 to ensure that the target calls for the full and effective participation of women and girls in decision-making related to biodiversity, and that their rights to and control over lands and resources are respected;
- Integrate gender considerations in key principles to guide the implementation of the framework

Integrating gender considerations into planning, monitoring, and reporting processes is also critical:

- Enhance gender considerations in national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- Include gender-sensitive indicators in the monitoring framework, and disaggregate data by sex and other characteristics;
- Integrate gender considerations in national reports

Ensure that implementation support mechanisms are gender-responsive and promote women's empowerment:

- Ensure alignment between the post-2020 gender plan of action and the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development;
- Address financial resource needs for the gender-responsive implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
- Finalize and adopt the post-2020 gender plan of action as a tool to implement the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in a gender-responsive manner

2. Introduction

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), have been working together to strengthen the evidence base for underscoring the linkages between gender and biodiversity.

¹ A summary of discussions from the informal workshop on *Strengthening the integration of a gender perspective in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework* is available [here](#).

This entails exploring ways to further advance gender equality, women's empowerment, and women's rights, alongside biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, and benefit-sharing. To this end and building on past work and previous meetings,² UN Women and UNEP-WCMC, in close collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD Secretariat), convened an informal workshop³ to discuss priority issues and opportunities for strengthening the integration of gender considerations in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and its future implementation.

The aim of the informal workshop was to foster an exchange of views among Parties to the CBD that could help to identify some of the key elements that would contribute to the development of a gender-responsive post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The discussions covered the post-2020 framework and related implementation instruments, including the post-2020 gender plan of action, the post-2020 monitoring framework, the long-term strategic framework for capacity building and development, review and reporting mechanisms, and resource mobilisation. Building on earlier work and the discussions and suggestions during the informal workshop, the recommendations below are proposed to inform future deliberations and support negotiations for a gender-responsive post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

3. Recommendations

- **Ensure the integration of a gender perspective in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework**

The following opportunities can be considered for enhancing a gender perspective in the post-2020 framework:

Include a gender-specific target that encompasses these three key priorities that are important in integrating a gender perspective in actions on the environment ("gender equality priorities" hereafter)⁴: (i) women's full and effective participation in decision-making, (ii) equal rights to and control over land and resources, and (iii) equal access to benefits derived from resource use. During the 3rd meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (part I) there was a proposal to include a new target that focuses on women and girls, 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.***⁵ This proposal, which captures some of the key priorities referred to above, could be further enhanced by including some reference to rights over land and resources.

Enhance the reflection of a gender perspective across targets that relate to people to encompass the key gender equality priorities, for example across draft targets 9-13 that focus on *meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit sharing*. Considering a gender dimension will be particularly important for **draft targets 9 and 10** as they focus on the sustainable management of diverse ecosystems⁶ as well as **draft target 13** as it relates to benefit sharing, which is one of the key gender priorities.⁷

Enhance the wording of current draft target 21. The wording of draft target 21 focuses on effective participation in decision-making and rights over land and resources. There is an opportunity to enhance the wording **to ensure that the target calls for the full and effective participation of women and girls in**

² See UN Women and UNEP-WCMC expert workshop [report](#) and [issues brief](#).

³ The workshop was held online on 29th November 2021. Participation was by invitation and considered regional balance. There were 20 attendees from Parties to the CBD who participated in their personal capacity under the Chatham House rule. Participants came from the following Parties: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Finland, Germany, India, Japan, Malawi, Mexico, South Africa, Sweden, Uganda, and United Kingdom. Additional participants were the co-chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the SBSTTA chair, representatives of the CBD Secretariat, UN Women, IUCN and UNEP-WCMC staff.

⁴ These three key priorities were identified during an expert workshop organised by UN Women and the CBD Secretariat.

See [CBD/GB/OM/2019/1/2](#) and UN Women [submission](#)

⁵ [CBD/WG2020/3/CG/4/REPORT](#)

⁶ Women contribute towards genetic diversity and food security and they are heavily involved in the management of diverse ecosystems. See <https://www.cbd.int/gender/doc/cbd-towards2020-gender-integration-en.pdf>

⁷ Measures to ensure that men and women benefit equally from the access to genetic resources as well as sharing of benefits derived from their utilization should be further explored

decision-making related to biodiversity, and that their rights to and control over lands and resources are respected.

Integrate gender-specific references in a new section detailing key principles to guide implementation of the framework, including gender-responsive implementation of goals and targets that relate to people. This section could be along the lines of what the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group suggested as proposed “guidance for implementation” in their reflections for WG2020-3.⁸ The linkages between the post-2020 framework and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action⁹ could also be referenced if a new section of this kind would be added, as the Beijing Platform for Action outlines a number of critical areas of concern (e.g., women and the environment, human rights of women, and women in power and decision-making) that are relevant to the implementation of the post-2020 framework.

- **Integrate gender considerations into planning, monitoring, and reporting processes**

Integrate a gender perspective in national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) to ensure their implementation is gender-responsive. It will be important that guidance and gender expertise is made available to support the update and implementation of NBSAPs. Similarly, it will also be essential that the process for updating NBSAPs is inclusive and enables the full and effective participation of women leaders and women’s groups, including women from indigenous communities and from rural areas.

Include gender-sensitive indicators and an overarching principle on data disaggregation that includes sex disaggregation in the monitoring framework. It will be particularly important that relevant headline and component indicators of the monitoring framework can be used to measure and monitor progress towards key gender priorities (i.e., equal participation in decision-making, equal rights to and control over land and resources, and equal benefits derived from resource use). Building on the experience of the indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG),¹⁰ the monitoring framework of the post-2020 framework could include an overarching principle on data disaggregation that includes sex disaggregation. Several useful suggestions for enhancing the gender-responsiveness of the monitoring framework have been provided in the information document CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/30,¹¹ including suggestions of available indicators from the SDG indicator framework that could be used as component indicators to monitor progress towards key gender priorities. Developing and using gender-sensitive indicators, as well the collection and use of sex disaggregated data, will require that capacity building and financial implications are identified and addressed.

Integrate a gender perspective when reporting on progress in implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This is linked to the importance of developing and using gender-sensitive indicators and making available data disaggregated by sex as this would enable Parties to make the gender dimension visible when reporting on progress towards goals and targets that relate to people. To facilitate reporting, the templates for the 7th and 8th national reports could be updated to include relevant section(s) to report on progress towards gender elements from goals and targets, and to report on progress towards objectives from the gender plan of action. Having access to guidance and expertise to integrate a gender perspective in national reports have proved to be useful resources for Parties.¹²

⁸ See Section IV. Proposal for a new section on guidance for the implementation of the framework <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/2f74/dda0/270258bf5deaab47fbc43da4/wg2020-03-06-en.pdf> (pg. 9)

⁹ The Beijing Declaration is a visionary agenda for the empowerment of women. It was adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 <https://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/intergovernmental-support/world-conferences-on-women>. The Platform for Action covers 12 critical areas of concern.

¹⁰ The [global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets](#) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes an overarching principle on data disaggregation “ Sustainable Development Goal indicators should be disaggregated, where relevant, by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location, or other characteristics, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics”

¹¹ *Developing and measuring a gender-responsive post-2020 biodiversity Framework: information on gender considerations within the draft Post-2020 monitoring framework* [CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/30](#)

¹² According to findings from the review of implementation of the 2015-2020 Gender Plan of Action, 64 countries were supported with addressing gender considerations in their national reports and “94 per cent of those national reports contained references to gender or women”. [CBD/SBI/3/2/Add.3](#)

Therefore, it would be useful to develop guidance to support Parties in addressing the effectiveness of measures for integrating gender considerations in the implementation of the post-2020 framework and the Convention more broadly.

- **Ensure that implementation support mechanisms are gender-responsive and promote women's empowerment**

Ensure alignment between the post-2020 gender plan of action and the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development so that key capacity building needs and priorities required for the gender-responsive implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework are addressed. An option could be to include relevant indicative actions from the post-2020 gender plan of action into the capacity-building framework and adding a column in the post-2020 gender plan of action table to indicate linkages between indicative actions and relevant instruments. For example, indicative actions that relate to Parties' capacity building needs for planning, monitoring, and reporting on progress should be linked to the capacity-building framework.

Address financial resource needs for the gender-responsive implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including the implementation of indicative actions from the post-2020 gender plan of action. In this regard, gender considerations should be considered in the 8th replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF 8) and biodiversity-related Official Development Assistance (ODA). Integrating gender considerations (i.e., gender-responsive budgeting¹³) into national biodiversity finance planning could also be considered.

Adopt the post-2020 gender plan of action as a tool to support the gender-responsive implementation of the post-2020 framework and advance progress towards meeting gender equality and biodiversity objectives. The draft post-2020 gender plan of action includes several indicative actions that could be useful for identifying and addressing gender gaps, and actions that could facilitate progress towards ensuring women's full and effective participation in decision-making processes, equal rights to and control over land and resources, and equal sharing of benefits derived from resource use.

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¹³ Gender responsive budgeting is "a tool to integrate gender concerns in resource allocation and development strategies". The aim is to "ensure that the collection and allocation of public resources is carried out in ways that are effective and contribute to advancing gender equality and women's empowerment". See [definition](#) and further information is available [here](#).