

UN Women: Environmental Mandate & Activities

United Nations Women

Environmental Mandate

Created by the United Nations General Assembly in July 2010, UN Women is a United Nations Entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Due to the traditional work of women across the world, UN Women believe that women are well placed to understand first-hand how important environmental sustainability and resource management are for their families and communities. However, in spite of this, women remain insufficiently recognized and involved in environmental policy-making and environmental management. Therefore, UN Women seeks to achieving environmental sustainability by putting plans and policies in place that are tailored to gender equality and women's empowerment. Should these issues be put into practise, high returns could be made through women exercising their collective voice as managers, decision makers, leaders, innovators, and contributors in all aspects of environmental management.

Environmental Activities

UN Women are seeking to push their environmental mandate through the Sustainable Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda. As well as discussing the aforementioned, the United Nations Environment Assembly on 23-27 June 2014 also convened a Gender and Environment Forum and reviewed the Beijing Platform for Action, through which 189 countries adopted an agenda for empowering women 20 years ago (in 1995). The Forum's High-Level Panel specifically looked at Section K, which deals with women and the environment, founding an unfinished agenda. Section K specifically calls for women to be actively involved in environmental decision-making; for gender concerns and perspectives to be integrated into sustainable development policies and programmes; and for mechanisms that assess environmental policies' impact on women. A major recommendation of this Forum was political commitment to and accelerated implementation of the Platform for Action agenda for empowering women. This requires renewed efforts by governments, civil society, the private sector and others.

UN Women believe that the post-2015 sustainable development agenda will put renewed focus on women, households and communities in the context of environmental management, therefore respecting and upholding women's rights to essential environmental goods and services. This is crucial to producing an environment that is conducive to gender equality more broadly.

Moreover, UN Women will continue to work on promoting gender-sensitive legislation; enforcing existing legislation; making judicial systems more accessible and responsive to women; and providing legal aid to women seeking to claim their rights.