

TOWARDS A GENDER-RESPONSIVE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

**Integrating gender-specific indicators in the post-
2020 global biodiversity framework – workshop
report**

17th December 2020, Virtual Expert Workshop



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2 Summary

The UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), in close collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD Secretariat) hosted a virtual expert meeting on 17th December 2020 to explore key entry points for addressing gender-biodiversity data gaps by integrating gender-specific¹ indicators in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Prior to the workshop, UNEP-WCMC, with funding provided by UN Women, carried out an extensive technical review of indicators to identify gender-specific indicators that are currently being used in conventions and intergovernmental processes, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). UNEP-WCMC has also reviewed all inputs related to indicators that were submitted by Parties, other governments and observers in response to CBD Notification 2020-045 'Peer review of draft documents for the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 24)'.² The findings from this work are available in the information document 'Indicators for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework' (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/16).³

The purpose of the virtual meeting was to discuss findings from the indicator review and to gather further relevant inputs from Party representatives and technical experts. Outcomes from the workshop will be shared with stakeholders to inform discussions in support of SBSTTA-24 and the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-3).

The three main objectives of the workshop were as follows;

1. To present UNEP-WCMC and UN Women's findings on available indicators that can be integrated in the post-2020 monitoring framework;
2. To discuss the development of the post-2020 gender plan of action and action-oriented indicators; and
3. To discuss best practices for addressing gender-biodiversity data gaps and the development/use of gender-specific indicators to monitor progress towards gender equality priorities.

A total of 30 participants with expertise in gender and biodiversity issues took part in the discussions, which included representatives from governments, the CBD Secretariat, and the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (OEWG) (see Annex 1: Participant list).

The workshop consisted of two sessions chaired by Verona Collantes (UN Women). The first session included presentations from UNEP-WCMC on 'Gender-specific indicator review and available indicators for the post-2020 monitoring framework' and the CBD Secretariat on a 'Post-2020 gender plan of action and action-oriented indicators'. For the second session, an interactive discussion with participants focused on best practices, as well as relevant considerations for addressing gender data gaps and indicator use to inform policy change (see Annex 2: Workshop agenda).

This report presents an overview of presentations given in the first session (Section 4), the expert discussion held in the second session (Section 5), and a summary of the recommendations from the workshop (Section 6).

¹ Gender-specific indicators are "indicators that explicitly call for disaggregation by sex/or refer to gender equality as their underlying objective". UN Women (2018) Turning promises into action. Report available [here](#)

² [Notification 2020-045](#)

³ The information document 'Indicators for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework' [CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/16](#), led by UNEP-WCMC in response to [CBD/SBSTTA/REC/23/1](#).

3 Context

In December 2018, at its fourteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the CBD decided that the process to develop the post-2020 global biodiversity framework would be gender-responsive (Decision 14/34).⁴ Parties agreed to a comprehensive and participatory preparation process which would enable the systematic integration of a gender perspective and ensure appropriate representation of women and girls. Contributions received to date from Parties, other governments and observers re-affirm the importance of addressing gender considerations in the development of the framework to achieve both gender equality and global biodiversity objectives.⁵

Examining entry points for the integration of a gender perspective at a workshop in New York in April 2019⁶, experts identified the following three key priority areas for advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, ensuring:

- 1) Equal opportunities for leadership, decision-making and effective engagement at all levels of decision-making in matters related to the three objectives of the Convention;
- 2) Equal access, ownership and control over biological resources; and
- 3) Equal access to benefits from biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and from the utilization of genetic resources.

These priority areas form the basis for the development of more detailed, gender-specific considerations for the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Building on this work, a follow up virtual expert workshop was hosted by UNEP-WCMC and UN Women in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat, in December 2020. The discussions focused on exploring ways for addressing gender-biodiversity data gaps, and enhancing monitoring and reporting on gender priorities in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

3.1 Expert workshop: Opening remarks

The workshop began with introductions from the workshop hosts and the OEWG Co-Chairs. Ms Verona Collantes (UN Women) provided an overview on integrating a gender perspective for the implementation of the CBD. Ms Katherine Despot-Belmonte (UNEP-WCMC) provided an overview on the UNEP-WCMC/UN Women collaboration for addressing gender-biodiversity data gaps in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Mr Basile van Havre and Mr Francis Sabino Ogwal (Co-Chairs of the OEWG) provided an overview on the process and current timelines for delivering a gender-responsive post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Upon opening the workshop, Ms Collantes warmly welcomed attendees and invited their contributions during the workshop sessions. Ms. Collantes highlighted that the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework presents a unique opportunity to realise concrete advances for gender equality and women's empowerment in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, and to strive for the realisation of equal benefits for all. She reviewed progress in integrating gender perspectives so far, noting the establishment of a dedicated gender-specific target under the draft monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

⁴ [CBD/COP/DEC/14/34](#)

⁵ Submissions on the scope and content (Notification [2018-063](#)), preparation of (Notification [2019-008](#)), and proposals for (Notification [2019-075](#)) the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF). Submissions of views on possible targets, indicators and baselines (Notification [2019-108](#)), and on the draft monitoring framework (Notification [2020-045](#)) for the post-2020 GBF.

⁶ [CBD/GB/OM/2019/1/2](#)

Mr Basile van Havre gave a brief presentation situating the workshop within the broader timeline of the post-2020 development process. Recalling the zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework released in February 2020 at the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG-2), he noted that the next step will be to prepare the updated draft for the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG-3). The draft will be informed by discussions at SBSTTA-24, as well as informal processes, parallel discussions and consultations. He emphasized the importance of examining how best to factor gender aspects into biodiversity targets, noting two prominent approaches: (1) with gender reflected throughout every target, and (2) designating a specific target for gender. Noting that these approaches are not mutually exclusive, he welcomed further discussion and work in both areas. Mr Francis Sabino Ogwal and Mr Basile van Havre expressed their support for the workshop, encouraging active participation from workshop attendees.

4 Expert workshop: Session 1

4.1 Gender-specific indicator review and available indicators for the post-2020 monitoring framework

Ms Despot-Belmonte presented work that UNEP-WCMC, in collaboration with UN Women, have undertaken to explore practical ways for addressing gender-biodiversity data gaps and enhancing monitoring and reporting towards the three key priority areas for advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

UNEP-WCMC carried out an extensive review of indicators used within a variety of conventions and intergovernmental processes, including the SDGs. UNEP-WCMC also reviewed all inputs related to indicators which were submitted by Parties, other governments and observers in response to Notification 2020-045.⁷ According to the analysis, four gender-specific indicators already in use in the SDG indicator framework (5.5.1, 1.4.2, 5.a.1, 5.a.2)⁸ are well-aligned to the current wording of Target 20⁹ of the draft monitoring framework. As such, these indicators could provide a minimum set for Parties to report progress towards the priority areas of: (1) equal leadership/decision-making, and (2) equal access/ownership/control over resources.

A number of submissions from peer review noted that a practical way to mainstream gender is by disaggregating data by sex for all relevant indicators across the monitoring framework. This suggestion is reflected in the proposed headline indicators for the draft monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which include six indicators that could be disaggregated by sex.¹⁰ If these headline indicators were to be adopted and disaggregated by sex, then these could help to monitor progress towards priority area (3): equal access to benefits.

Full details of the findings from the indicator review are available in the updated version of the information document on 'Indicators for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework'.¹¹

4.2 Post-2020 gender plan of action and action-oriented indicators

Ms Tanya McGregor (CBD Secretariat) delivered a presentation outlining the process currently underway to develop a new post-2020 gender plan of action. A first round of inputs was requested in August 2020, with 30 submissions received by the Secretariat. Incorporating these submissions, a new draft plan has been prepared and is due to be shared in early 2021, with a final draft due to be presented at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (CBD COP15).

Ms McGregor emphasised that a key objective is to work with Parties and observers on an ongoing basis to develop and reach agreement on a plan that will include clear and measurable actions which allow progress to be monitored. She noted that the current gender plan of action (2015-2020)¹² is not structured in a way that easily lends itself to measure actions or outcomes.¹³

Looking forward, Ms McGregor outlined some of the details proposed in the new gender plan of action, including:

- Three key priority areas aligned with the updated zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, formulated along the lines of: (1) equal participation of women and

⁷ Notification 2020-045

⁸ Full indicator details available [here](#)

⁹ CBD/SBSTTA/24/3 Target 20: "By 2030, ensure equitable participation in decision-making related to biodiversity and ensure rights over relevant resources of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls as well as youth, in accordance with national circumstances"

¹⁰ See Annex I in [CBD/SBSTTA/24/3](#). Headline indicators to be disaggregated by sex: C.0.1, C.0.2, 8.0.2, 10.0.2, 12.0.1, 20.0.2

¹¹ CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/16, available [here](#)

¹² [UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/XII/7](#), adopted the 2015-2020 Gender Plan of Action. Full details available [here](#)

¹³ See [CBD/SBI/3/2/Add.3](#)

girls, (2) equal rights over resources, and (3) equal access to benefits from nature and use of genetic resources.

- A number of implementation support mechanisms, such as: (1) gender responsive policy planning and programming, (2) knowledge generation management, (3) partnerships and collaboration, (4) monitoring and reporting, and (5) resourcing.

Ms McGregor noted that submissions received to date had provided suggestions of suitable gender-specific indicators which are readily available, or otherwise required only minor modification from the SDG and related indicator frameworks. She provided an open-ended question for discussion on whether these SDG indicators are at an appropriate level for the gender plan of action given that the plan will be implemented at the national level. Lastly, she noted that, while the indicators for the gender plan of action could be the same as those included in the draft monitoring framework, there is also the potential to accommodate more specific indicators that countries have adopted at the national level.

5 Expert workshop: Session 2

5.1 Discussion

The following is a synthesis of the general views and perspectives expressed by participants on the discussion topics set out below. Recommendations from the discussions are provided in Section 6.

Best practices in developing indicators/collecting data

Participants from Costa Rica highlighted the importance of developing indicators that integrate environmental, social and economic data. For example, Costa Rica developed relevant indicators making use of available data (from agriculture, environment and census data). The information derived was visualised to provide evidence on land ownership gaps between women and men, the different roles that women and men play in regard to the conservation of forests and its biodiversity, and how women and men benefit differently from forest resources. As such, the need for simple and practical indicators that can illustrate the realities on the ground (at the local level) are especially useful. Costa Rica is also developing and making use of data to understand the gender gaps in the rural environment (for example related to agriculture), and indicators related to funding that could be useful tools to de-link Payment from Ecosystem Services (PES) from land-tenure. Interventions from other participants highlighted that these initiatives are well-aligned to FAO and OECD indicator development efforts, and that potential synergies for replicating Costa Rica's experiences should be explored.

Mexico is also leading the way towards integrating a gender perspective in the implementation of the CBD and reporting on progress towards gender-biodiversity objectives. Efforts for disaggregating data by sex have helped to visualise the experiences from men and women with regards to the use, management and conservation of biodiversity.

Participants from Costa Rica and Mexico highlighted the importance of collecting data disaggregated by sex, not only to inform policy change, but also to use the data to allow women and men to benefit equally from the sustainable use of biodiversity. Costa Rica is implementing certification schemes with this purpose, and Mexico is taking measures to ensure that women are involved and benefit from successful production chains.

Challenges and suggestions for addressing gender-environment data gaps

Participants from UNCCD and UN Women shared their experiences on some of the challenges around collecting data and indicator use, as well as current efforts to address gender-environment data gaps.

The UNCCD gender action plan contains four focus areas, tied to the SDG indicator framework. Each focus area is monitored through a corresponding SDG target and indicator/s, as set out in Table 1 below. The majority of the indicators assigned to the action plan remain weak, with limited data availability. A major challenge for UNCCD has been integrating country (nationally-derived) data within reporting processes. The lack of nationally-derived data for some indicators has had a detrimental impact on monitoring progress towards specific areas of focus. As such, the benefits of making use of readily available data for reducing the reporting burden on countries was noted.

UNCCD in partnership with technical institutions are continuing to explore the use of sex disaggregated data and indicators for enhancing monitoring in the implementation and achievement of gender-related issues in land degradation and desertification.

Table 1: UNCCD gender action plan targets and indicators

Focus Area	SDG Target	SDG Indicator	Data availability
1. Participation in decisions taken during the design, planning, implementation and evaluation of initiatives to implement the UNCCD	5.5	5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments	5.5.1 (a) 5.5.1 (b)
2. Integrating women's economic empowerment in UNCCD implementation activities in order to eradicate their extreme poverty	1.1	1.1.1 Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural)	1.1.1
3. Strengthening women's land rights and access to resources	5.a	5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure 5.a.2 Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control	5.a.1 (a) 5.a.2
4. Enhancing women's access to improved knowledge and technologies that relate to effective UNCCD implementation	4.7	4.7.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development, including gender equality and human rights, are mainstreamed at all levels in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student Assessment	4.7.1

*highlighted in green = data available, highlighted in red = limited data available

In order to address current gender-environment data gaps, UN Women, particularly through their Asia Pacific Office, has been working with IUCN to develop a new model of household survey questionnaire which examines household (women and men) characteristics in detail. The survey would provide a range of additional indicators which, if adopted by countries, could support greater understanding of issues relating to gender and biodiversity. There is also an opportunity to better exploit existing datasets, by combining demographic data, survey data and geo-spatial analysis for monitoring progress towards gender-environment priorities.

The issue of scalability from national to global level was raised by a few participants during the discussion (i.e. making use of global indicators vs making use of national indicators). This issue needs to be considered in the development of the post-2020 monitoring framework.

Implementation: capacity-building and resourcing

Participants from IUCN and Costa Rica noted that the compilation of data is only the first step in the process of developing and making use of indicators. The national capacities for analysing data is also fundamental in order to make effective use of available information to support policy change. Representatives from technical institutions, including FAO, IUCN, UN Women, provided a number of examples of materials related to data collection and indicator development that can be useful to build national capacity.

The importance of planning and budgeting for data collection and the production of indicators was also raised. For example, the late inclusion of indicators in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) may have been detrimental for monitoring progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. This consideration should be addressed in the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

6 Conclusion and recommendations

The following eight recommendations emerged from the workshop discussions:

- 1. Data and indicators are important:** Experiences from Mexico and Costa Rica demonstrate that data and indicators have been essential tools to inform policy change in favour of gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- 2. Gender-specific indicators:** a number of indicators from the Sustainable Development Goals indicator framework are well suited to monitor progress towards Target 20 (equitable decision-making and rights over resources). These indicators could be used to provide a minimum baseline globally for monitoring progress on gender priorities.
- 3. Headline indicators and indicators related to people to be disaggregated by sex:** the proposed list of headline indicators on the draft monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework comprises six indicators which may allow for disaggregation by sex. Other indicators in the monitoring framework should also call for sex disaggregation when these relate to people.
- 4. Integrating a gender-perspective across the monitoring framework:** Integrating both gender-specific indicators and indicators that can be disaggregated by sex is recommended for embedding a gender perspective in the monitoring framework beyond draft Target 20.
- 5. Use of indicators from the SDG indicator framework** can enhance synergies with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UNCCD and other biodiversity-related conventions, which may help to reduce the reporting burden on Parties.
- 6. Scaling efforts from national to global:** National experiences of successful indicator development and use to monitor progress towards gender equality priorities should be explored with relevant indicator producers/custodian agencies. This may help to address the issue of scalability (national indicator use vs global indicator use). Gender-specific indicators that are relevant to specific regions could potentially be integrated as 'complementary' indicators in the monitoring framework.
- 7. The post-2020 gender plan of action** has the potential to be used as an implementation mechanism for Parties to monitor and report on progress towards gender priorities. To be effective, the plan will need to set out clear actions and gender-specific indicators which are linked to the monitoring framework. The gender plan of action should also remain well-aligned to the three gender equality priorities (equal access to leadership/decision-making, equal access/ownership/control over resources, and equal access to benefits).
- 8. National capacity development** should be given careful consideration within the capacity development and resource mobilisation components of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in order to address current data gaps, and provide sufficient financial and technical support for data collection, analysis and indicator development/use. Partnerships with technical institutions are fundamental for developing national capacity to collect and analyse data, as well as for the development and use of indicators.

6.1 Closing remarks

In closing remarks, the OEWG Co-Chairs thanked all participants for their practical insights and contributions to the workshop, and urged continued efforts to address gender considerations in the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Noting that the wider international community is yet to realise the appropriate level of gender recognition within the framework, they advised participants to put forward a solid rationale and considered set of targets and indicators to integrate gender in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

6.2 Next steps

The knowledge, experiences and lessons shared during the workshop have contributed to development of an issues brief with key recommendations to inform discussions at SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3.

UNEP-WCMC and UN Women would like to thank all participants for their contributions towards an excellent and productive workshop.

Annex 1: Participant list

Workshop attendees – 17th December 2020

Name	Institution
Corli Pretorius	UNEP-WCMC
Federica Pesce	UNEP-WCMC
Hilary Allison	UNEP-WCMC
Katherine Despot-Belmonte	UNEP-WCMC
Laura Mack	UNEP-WCMC
Rosy Cousins	UNEP-WCMC
Papa Alioune Seck	UN Women
Sneha Kaul	UN Women
Sylvia Hordosch	UN Women
Verona Collantes	UN Women
Jillian Campbell	CBD Secretariat
Tanya McGregor	CBD Secretariat
Basile van Havre	Co-Chair OEWG
Francis Sabino Ogwal	Co-Chair OEWG
Marlene Elias	The Alliance of Biodiversity International and CIAT
Joni Seager	Bentley University
Markus Ihalainen	CIFOR
Iliana Monterroso	CIFOR
Andrea Cruz	CONABIO Mexico
Vienna Pozer	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Ilaria Sisto	FAO
Lorena Aguilar Revelo	FLACSO
Jackie Siles	IUCN
Laura Cooper Hall	IUCN
Alejandra Loria Martinez	Ministry of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica
Cathrine Mutambirwa	UNCCD
Corinna Voigt	UNCCD
Sandrine Jauffret	UNCCD
Natalie Elwell	WRI
Pamela Castillo	Consultant (Gender and Sustainable Development)

Annex 2: Workshop agenda



Convention on
Biological Diversity

Integrating gender-specific indicators in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

Workshop Agenda

17th December 2020, 10am-12pm (NYC time)

The workshop will have 2 sessions and be chaired by Verona Collantes - UN Women

- 10:00 - 10:10 Welcome (UN Women, UNEP-WCMC)
 - 10:10 – 10:15 Gender-responsive post-2020 global biodiversity framework introduction (Co-Chairs OEWG)
 - Session 1**
 - 10:15 – 10:25 Gender-specific indicator review and available indicators for the post-2020 monitoring framework (UNEP-WCMC)
 - 10:30 – 10:35 Post-2020 gender plan of action and action-oriented indicators (CBD Secretariat)
 - 10:35 – 10:50 Discussion
 - Session 2**
 - 10:50 – 11:50 Discussion on best practices and relevant considerations for addressing gender data gaps, indicator development and use (technical institutions, national and regional perspectives)
 - 11:50 – 12:00 Wrap up
-