

Integrating a gender perspective in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

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1. Key messages

This brief outlines **four recommendations** for embedding a gender perspective in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

- **Use gender-specific indicators from the Sustainable Development Goals indicator framework** to monitor progress towards targets related to full, equal and meaningful participation in decision-making processes, and equal rights over relevant resources. SDG indicators 1.4.2, 5.5.1, 5.a.1, and 5.a.2 could provide a minimum baseline for monitoring progress on equal decision-making and equal rights over resources for women and girls.
- **Integrate gender-specific indicators and disaggregate relevant indicators by sex** to embed a gender perspective throughout the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Data should be disaggregated by sex for all indicators that relate to people.
- **Develop the post-2020 gender plan of action** for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) with a view towards the gender-responsive implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. To be effective, the plan will need to set out clear actions and include gender-specific indicators that are linked to the monitoring framework.
- **Consider national capacity development on data collection and indicator use** within the capacity development and resource mobilisation components of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This is crucial for addressing current gender-biodiversity data gaps.

2. Introduction

UN Women and the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), in close collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), have been working together to strengthen the substantive bases for underscoring the linkages between gender equality, women's empowerment and women's rights, and biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. Towards this end, and building on past work, UN Women, with technical support from UNEP-WCMC, prepared submissions to the CBD on views on possible targets, indicators and baselines and on the draft monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.¹ These submissions were aimed at addressing gender-biodiversity data gaps and enhancing monitoring and reporting towards key gender priorities in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This brief consolidates recommendations that build on this work as well as inputs provided by technical experts, observers and Parties.

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).² Parties agreed on 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.³

Examining entry points for the integration of a gender perspective at a workshop organized by UN Women and the CBD Secretariat in New York in April 2019⁴, experts identified the following three key priority areas for advancing

¹ Submissions on views on possible targets, indicators and baselines for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (Notification [2019-108](#)), and on the draft monitoring framework (Notification [2020-045](#))

² [CBD/COP/DEC/14/34](#)

³ 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 peer review of the draft monitoring framework (Notification [2020-045](#))

⁴ [CBD/GB/OM/2019/1/2](#)

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 organised by UNEP-WCMC and UN Women in December 2020 to discuss mechanisms for enhancing gender-specific monitoring and reporting aligned with these priority areas. Key recommendations are set out below.

4. Recommendations

• Integrate gender-specific indicators in the monitoring framework

UNEP-WCMC completed an extensive analysis of biodiversity-related indicators from submissions provided by Parties, other governments and stakeholders in response to Notification [2020-045](#). The indicator analysis included indicators that are used to measure progress under other conventions and intergovernmental processes⁵, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Over 300 comments from submissions were gender-specific (e.g. proposals for indicators or for data to be disaggregated by sex).⁶

Indicators currently available: Findings from the indicator analysis identified the most suitable gender-specific indicators that could provide a minimum set for Parties to report progress towards targets that relate to equal participation in decision-making processes and ensuring equal rights over relevant resources for women and girls. These indicators are part of the SDG indicator framework (1.4.2, 5.5.1, 5.a.1, 5.a.2)⁷ and are well-aligned with the current wording of Target 20 of the draft monitoring framework.⁸ Making use of these available indicators will enhance synergies with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ease the reporting burden on Parties, and also support progress towards other international commitments (e.g. Critical area of concern "Women and the environment" of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action).⁹

Indicators under development: UNEP-WCMC notes that there are several promising indicators which could be developed for use at the national and regional scale. For example, there are ongoing efforts in the Asia Pacific Region to develop and adapt indicators from international frameworks to better reflect national and regional priorities.¹⁰ Gender-specific indicators that are relevant to specific regions could be included as 'complementary' indicators in the monitoring framework as they become available.¹¹

• Disaggregate indicator data by sex

A practical way to mainstream a gender perspective is by disaggregating data by sex for all relevant indicators (i.e. all those which relate to people) across the monitoring framework. This suggestion is reflected in the proposed headline indicators for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which contains six indicators (C.0.1, C.0.2, 8.0.2, 10.0.2, 12.0.1, 20.0.2) that could be disaggregated by sex.¹²

⁵ Indicators used under UNFCCC, UNCCD, WHS, CMS, CITES, UNDRR, ITPGRFA, IPPC, Ramsar, IPBES and SDGs

⁶ CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/16 available [here](#)

⁷ SDG indicators 1.4.2, 5.5.1, 5.a.1, 5.a.2. Indicator details available [here](#)

⁸ [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"

⁹ UN (1995) Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, China. Adopted the 'Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action' available [here](#)

¹⁰ UN Women (2019) Mainstreaming gender in environment statistics for the SDGs and beyond: Identifying priorities in Asia and the Pacific. Report available [here](#)

¹¹ The draft monitoring framework [CBD/SBSTTA/24/3Add.1](#) includes headline, component and complementary indicators.

¹² 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

- **Develop the post-2020 gender plan of action as an implementation tool for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework**

Parties and observers have acknowledged the importance of the current Gender Plan of Action (2015-2020) for promoting gender mainstreaming in the implementation of the CBD.¹³ A post-2020 gender plan of action should serve as the implementation mechanism for monitoring and reporting on progress on the gender-biodiversity dimension of the framework. As such, the plan should set out clear actions and gender-specific indicators¹⁴ that are aligned to the monitoring framework. The plan should also be aligned with national reporting, for example, by including a section in the updated format of national reports to report on gender-responsive actions in the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

- **Support capacity building and resource mobilisation**

Implementing a gender-responsive post-2020 global biodiversity framework will require an emphasis on national capacity development to address current gender-biodiversity data gaps. Partnerships with technical institutions and national statistical offices can be valuable to build the national capacity for data collection, data analysis, and indicator use that informs policy change.¹⁵ As such, considerations regarding capacity-building and funding allocation should be reflected in the capacity development and resource mobilisation components of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

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¹³ [CBD/SBI/3/2/Add.3](#)

¹⁴ 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](#)

¹⁵ See examples from Costa Rica and Malawi in [CBD/SBI/3/2/Add.3](#) and other examples from the Asia and the Pacific region [here](#)