

Gender: The Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and The Gender Plan of Action of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Project “Accelerating systemic change for gender equality and biodiversity conservation through NBSAPs “

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Introduction

During COP-15 in December 2022, a historic milestone was achieved with the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF). The KMGBF, with its ambitious Targets, including Target 23 aimed at promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in biodiversity conservation.

Additionally, the Gender Plan of Action (GPA) was adopted at the same meeting through decision COP 15/11¹ reinforced the commitment to mainstream gender equality throughout biodiversity policies and actions.

A. Gender in the Kunming Global Biodiversity Framework

Section C of the Framework on “considerations for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework” contains a section on Gender and provides that the successful implementation of the Framework will depend on ensuring gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, and on reducing inequalities;

Furthermore two targets specifically refer to gender with one dedicated to Gender (target 23

Target 22

- Ensure the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and **gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities**, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources, and traditional knowledge, as well as by **women and girls**, children and youth, and persons with disabilities and ensure the full protection of environmental human rights defenders.

Target 23

¹ <https://www.cbd.int/decisions/cop/?m=cop-15>

- **Ensure gender equality in the implementation of the Framework through a gender-responsive approach**, where all women and girls have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention, including by recognizing their equal rights and access to land and natural resources and their full, equitable, meaningful and informed participation and leadership at all levels of action, engagement, policy and decision-making related to biodiversity.

B. Overview of the Gender Plan of Action

The Gender Plan of Action (GPA) recognizes the importance of advancing efforts to achieve gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment to ensure the effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). The GPA also recognizes that the full and effective participation and leadership of women in all aspects of Convention processes, particularly in policy and action at national and local levels is vital. The following provides the main structure and sections of the GPA

I. Objective

The purpose of the Gender Plan of Action is to support and promote the gender responsive implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The Plan of Action will also support a gender responsive approach to applying the implementation mechanisms associated with the Framework.

II. Modalities

The following are the modalities contained in the GPA

- Maximizing synergies between gender equality and the conservation, sustainable use and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources;
- Ensuring coherence and coordination with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- Applying a human rights-based approach;
- Addressing the intersecting ways in which gender inequalities may be amplified;
- Ensuring meaningful and effective engagement and empowerment of women and girls from indigenous peoples and local communities

III. Expected outcomes

The Gender Plan of Action contains three expected outcomes. Under each outcome there are several specific objectives with associated indicative actions and deliverables, alongside named responsible actors (e.g., Parties, CBD Secretariat, relevant organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, private sector).

The following are the expected outcomes of the GPA

1. Expected outcome 1

The objectives under this expected outcome 1 are:

- Increase all women and girls' rights to ownership and control over land and access to natural resources and to water, to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity
- Ensure equal access for women to resources, services and technologies
- Ensure gender equitable access in relation to access and benefit sharing instruments, as appropriate
- Promote women's empowerment and entrepreneurial opportunities in biodiversity-based supply chains and sectors
- Identify and eliminate, prevent and respond to all forms of gender-based discrimination and violence

2. Expected outcome 2

The objectives under this expected outcome 2 are:

- Increase opportunities and strengthen participation and leadership of women at all levels of action, engagement and decision-making
- Enhance the meaningful and effective participation and leadership of women in Convention processes
- Integrate human rights and gender equality considerations into national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs)

3. Expected outcome 3

The objectives under this expected outcome 3 are:

- Develop national capacity to produce and use gender and biodiversity data, including relevant data disaggregation
- Strengthen evidence base, understanding, analysis of gender-related impacts of implementation of post-2020 KMGBF
- Support access to information and public participation of women's organizations, networks in implementation and reporting of post-2020 KMGBF
- Ensure coherent gender responsive implementation of post-2020 KMGBF
- Ensure reporting on gender responsive implementation
- Allocate adequate human and financial resources

C. Next steps in the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action

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These are the next steps in terms of implementation of the GPA:

- Mid-term review to be submitted SBI meeting in August 2026 (subject to Bureau approval)
- In the meantime, process of gather information notably through a call for a submission of views to inform the review- project findings can contribute to this process

- Organise a technical workshop to discuss the findings
- Provide this information to SBI (second meeting) for its review and recommendation to the COP 17