

Information note: Indicator on national implementation of the Gender Plan of Action (component indicator for Target 23 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework)

This document provides information on the process of co-development of the indicator on national implementation of the Gender Plan of Action, which is now available for Parties to use for monitoring and reporting on progress towards Target 23 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

This indicator links relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at their fifteenth meeting (CBD COP 15),¹ including the adopted Target 23 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Decision 15/4), the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Decision 15/5) and the Gender Plan of Action (Decision 15/11).

An indicator on national implementation of the Gender Plan of Action could also serve as a useful tool for Parties to track and report on their actions towards ensuring the gender-responsive implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and gather the required evidence to report on the binary indicator for Target 23 (indicator 23.b)² and the Gender Plan of Action in their 7th and 8th national reports to the CBD.

I. Background

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (hereafter Global Biodiversity Framework)³ acknowledges that the “*Successful implementation of the Framework will depend on ensuring gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, and on reducing inequalities*”. The Global Biodiversity Framework includes Target 23, which focuses on ensuring gender equality in the implementation of the Framework through a gender-responsive approach. Alongside the Global Biodiversity Framework, Parties also adopted the Gender Plan of Action,⁴ which addresses all elements of Target 23.⁵ Consequently, implementing the Gender Plan of Action will significantly contribute to the achievement of Target 23.

To help track progress towards Target 23, the monitoring framework,⁶ includes a component indicator on the national implementation of the Gender Plan of Action. This component indicator provides a means to measure Target 23 in line with the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action and serves as a tool to support Parties with reporting on their efforts towards ensuring the gender-responsive implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework.

Since December 2023, UNEP-WCMC and Women4Biodiversity have collaborated with Parties, observers, and key stakeholders to co-develop an indicator methodology that is useful to track

¹ <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/2021-2022/cop-15/documents>

² See [CBD/SBSTTA/REC/26/1](#) binary indicator for Target 23 (Annex II page 31)

³ [Decision 15/4](#)

⁴ [Decision 15/11](#)

⁵ The Gender Plan of Action can serve as a guide for supporting Parties with the gender-responsive implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework. It outlines specific outcomes, objectives, and actions that address all elements of Target 23, including measures to ensure that women and girls have equal opportunities and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention. Additionally, it emphasizes equal rights and access to land and natural resources, as well as the full participation and leadership of women in all their diversity in biodiversity-related policy and decision-making.

⁶ [Decision 15/5](#)

progress towards Target 23 and the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action, to support national monitoring and reporting by Parties.

The Gender Plan of Action includes three expected outcomes, a set of 14 objectives, 30 indicative actions and leading and contributing actors named for each action. This component indicator for Target 23 is based on the 18 indicative actions for which Parties are named as the lead responsible actor. These actions emphasise the role of Parties in ensuring that relevant legislation, mechanisms and enabling conditions are in place to facilitate the gender-responsive implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework.

II. Process of co-development and peer review of the indicator methodology

Technical experts at UNEP-WCMC developed a first draft of the methodology based on the text of the Gender Plan of Action 2023-2030, which provided a starting point for this collaborative process. The methodology includes a questionnaire with multiple choice answers. Questions are organised under the three expected outcomes from the Gender Plan of Action and the wording closely corresponds to the indicative actions in the Gender Plan of Action. Each answer falls under a category representing the level of progress. Answers are then aggregated and summarised as a quantitative measure (index) to provide a measure of progress over time. UNEP-WCMC developed a draft metadata accompanied by a calculation tool for recording answers and producing index scores.⁷

Parties, observers and key stakeholders reviewed the draft metadata and calculation tool and contributed with feedback in virtual sessions,⁸ in person at a meeting held at SBSTTA-26,⁹ through a peer-review process,¹⁰ and several Parties piloted the methodology and calculation tool in bilateral online testing sessions.¹¹

III. Summary of feedback and how it was addressed

Overall, feedback on the draft indicator methodology and calculation tool was gratefully received from 19 Parties including Bhutan, Canada, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Malawi, Mexico, Mozambique, Peru, the Republic of Korea, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Vanuatu. Additionally, input was provided by 1 major group the CBD Women's Caucus, and 8 observer organizations, the Charitree Foundation, the Chemichemi Foundation, the Foundation for Ecological Security, the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Feedback was received in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

A range of feedback was received on the draft indicator metadata and the calculation tool, covering different aspects of the indicator methodology including the questionnaire, index calculation method, rationale and comments on usability and usefulness. Overall, most feedback indicated the methodology was clear and the calculation tool easy to use. Parties found the indicator not only useful for assessing their progress toward Target 23, but also particularly effective for identifying gaps in current plans and implementation, and for highlighting areas for further work and coordination

⁷ The draft methodology available here: http://wcmc.io/T23_GPA_indicator;

Draft calculation tool available here: http://wcmc.io/T23_GPA_indicator_calculation_tool

⁸ Information on the virtual sessions available [here](#)

⁹ Information on the in-person session available [here](#)

¹⁰ Information on the peer review process and relevant documents available [here](#)

¹¹ Names of Parties that supported with testing are included in the Annex to this document

among relevant ministries and departments (e.g., ministries of environment, women affairs and national statistical offices).

All feedback received in online sessions, in person, peer review and one-to-one testing sessions was systematically compiled into a spreadsheet. Each piece of feedback was carefully considered with a view to ensure that the indicator methodology is practical for Parties to use and supports their reporting needs.

Important improvements have been made to the indicator methodology and calculation tool based on feedback from Parties, observers, and the CBD Women's Caucus. These include revisions to the answer options, linkages with the binary indicator 23.b for Target 23, and adjustments to the method of computation, in particular:

- Questionnaire: the optional answers now provide stronger clarity on the measures to be taken in relation to each of the indicative actions from the Gender Plan of Action
- Answers options: clear distinctions between "Fully", "Partially", "Under Development" and "No" following the same options provided for binary indicator in CBD/SBSTTA/REC/26/1
- Link with the binary indicator 23.b: mapping and marking questions that overlap with the binary indicator to facilitate compiling relevant evidence and support reporting on the binary indicator.
- Method of computation: calculations and interpretation of results improved, with stronger linkages made to well established methods (e.g., SDG Indicator 5.1.1¹², Green Climate Fund scorecard¹³) and best practice in the social sciences.

IV. Final version of the indicator and resources

The indicator on the national implementation of the Gender Plan of Action is now available for use here: <https://www.gbf-indicators.org/metadata/other/23-1-C>

For more information on the indicator and process of co-development please contact Ayesha Wijesekera at ayesha.wijesekera@unep-wcmc.org

¹² Details on methodology for the Indicator 5.1.1: *Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex* available [here](#)

¹³ Details on relevant methodology for the Green Climate Fund scorecard available [here](#)