

Full report of the CBD COP16' Women Pavilion





Introduction

The Women's Pavilion at COP16 served as a pivotal space for women's organizations to showcase their vital on-the-ground efforts in biodiversity conservation and to advance the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and its associated protocols. This space was designed as a safe, inclusive environment where women's contributions to biodiversity were both highlighted and celebrated, emphasizing the essential role of gender in environmental governance.

The primary objective of the Women's Pavilion was to create a platform that empowered women's organizations and advocates to share their work and influence the global biodiversity agenda. By focusing on the intersection of gender and biodiversity, the Pavilion sought to amplify the voices of women in decision-making processes, ensuring their perspectives were included in the development and implementation of biodiversity policies. The sessions and discussions held throughout the Pavilion aimed to promote gender-responsive approaches that are critical to achieving the ambitious global biodiversity targets outlined in the KMGBF. Through these efforts, the Women's Pavilion contributed to creating a more inclusive, equitable, and effective pathway to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

Key achievements

The Women's Pavilion at COP16 successfully showcased a wide range of achievements through various events organized by women-led organizations from around the world. The Pavilion created a platform for organizers and audiences from diverse backgrounds, including international and national organizations, parties, networks, and grassroots movements. This inclusivity was one of the Pavilion's core strengths, ensuring that a variety of perspectives and experiences were shared, which was highly appreciated by participants.

- One of the most notable highlights was the focus on women's contributions across multiple sectors. Events highlighted women's roles in small-scale fisheries, wildlife conservation, leadership, and their responses to food and water insecurity and displacement. These discussions illustrated the critical role that women play in addressing biodiversity challenges and fostering resilience, providing examples from communities around the globe.
- All events were strategically aligned with the objectives of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity
 Framework (KMGBF), emphasizing the essential role of women in achieving its targets and advancing
 sustainable development. The Pavilion celebrated women's leadership, showcasing innovative,
 community-driven solutions for biodiversity conservation, climate adaptation, and ecosystem restoration.
- The Pavilion also served as a space for exchanging ideas among global stakeholders, strengthening
 partnerships, and fostering collaboration between organizations, networks, and parties committed to both
 biodiversity and gender equality. Through its diverse range of events, the Pavilion emphasized the
 importance of gender-responsive approaches to biodiversity conservation, advocating for policies and
 actions that prioritize women's voices and contributions in global biodiversity efforts.





Lessons learned

- The organization and coordination of events at the Women's Pavilion during COP16 provided valuable insights into effective planning and execution. Several key lessons emerged from these experiences, highlighting the critical components of a successful event.
- One of the most important takeaways was the need for consistent, timely updates and clear communication channels. This ensured that all organizers and teams were kept informed and aligned throughout the process. As highlighted by WEDO, "Participants emphasized the pavilion's role in fostering meaningful dialogue, collaboration, and knowledge exchange on issues that are cross-cutting globally for women, such as gender equity, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development."
- Another crucial lesson was the value of close collaboration with the Colombian government and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the primary organizers of COP16. This partnership was essential for aligning the Pavilion's activities with the broader goals of the conference and the Women's Caucus, significantly enhancing the Pavilion's impact and visibility.
- Managing events hosted by grassroots worn n' c ganizations, alongside national and international entities, required a nuanced approach to balance diverse perspectives while maintaining consistency with the Pavilion's overarching goals. This underscored the importance of inclusivity and adaptability in event planning. Organizers from TMG shared that, "Participants appreciated the Pavilion as a safe, inclusive, and empowering space that amplified the voices of women and gender-diverse groups in biodiversity conservation, commending its excellent coordination and the supportive platform it provided to grassroots, national, and international organizations to showcase their work and share their experiences."
- The Pavilion also highlighted the importance of amplifying women's voices in biodiversity conservation, ensuring that grassroots and underrepresented groups had a platform to showcase their efforts. Many participants expressed gratitude for the visibility the Pavilion provided, particularly those from indigenous communities, local organizations, and researchers. This exposure allowed them to connect with a diverse audience, including policymakers, community leaders, and fellow advocates.













Recommendations

Based on the positive feedback and suggestions from participants and organizers at the Women's Pavilion during COP16, the following recommendations are proposed to enhance its impact and inclusivity:

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Larger Space Allocation

To accommodate the growing interest and participation, the Women's Pavilion should be allocated a larger space. This will ensure that more women and gender-diverse individuals can engage in events, discussions, and networking without space limitations.

→ Real-Time Interpretation Services

Incorporating translators and offering real-time interpretation services will make the Pavilion more accessible to participants from diverse linguistic backgrounds, fostering greater inclusivity and cross-cultural dialogue.

→ Permanent Space at Future COPs

The Women's Pavilion should become a permanent space at future COPs, reinforcing its role as a critical space for amplifying women's voices and gender-focused discussions in global biodiversity and climate negotiations.

→ Enhanced Promotion of the Women's Pavilion

The CBD Women's Caucus should promote the Women's Pavilion more broadly before and during the event to reach underrepresented groups and individuals. This can be achieved through social media campaigns, newsletters, and alerts.

→ Structured Networking Sessions

Facilitate structured networking sessions to help participants connect, exchange ideas, and build alliances across regions and sectors.

→ Real-Time Feedback System

Implement a system to gather participant feedback throughout the event to identify immediate needs and make real-time adjustments, ensuring a smooth and responsive experience for all attendees.





Events aggregation

1. Bridging feminist climate justice to biodiversity conservation

Organizers: Feminist action for claimate justice, Generation equity

Description: The discussion touched on topics such as how to strengthen capacities, prevent conflict in the defence of territory, and equip local communities to participate in data analysis and collection.





2. Mujeres en Biodiversidad, Agua, Gobernanza y Paz: Declaración de Inírida

Organizers : Fundación Rios&Ciudades, Mujeres en Biodiversidad por los Territorios del Agua

Description: The discussion touched on topics such as how to strengthen capacities, prevent conflict in the defence of territory, and equip local communities to participate in data analysis and collection.







3. Empoderamiento De Las Defensoras Ambientales, Del Agua y la Biodiversidad.

Organizers: Red Ecofeminista Latinoamericana y del Caribe

Description: Defensoras ambientales de Argentiba, Chile, Colombia, Bradil y Mejico compartiremos información sobre nuestras luchas y herramientas de defensa de nuestros derechos en los territorios, especialmente en relación al Acuerdo de Escazú. Here are event Photos.





4. Experiencias de proteccion de la biodiversidad de les mujeres indígenas andinas y amazonicas

Organizers: Organización Nacional de Mujeres Indigenas Andinas y Amazónicas del Peru

Description: Las mujeres indígenas cumplimos un rol transcendental en la preservación de la biodiversidad gracias a los conocimientos científicos que heredamos de nuestros ancestros y que tenemos la misión de heredar a las futuras generaciones. Aquí están las fotos del evento.









5. Role of women in community based forestry for Restoration.

Organizers: Green foundation, WRRN

Description: Exploring the history of Nepal, focusing on the pivotal role of women in community restoration and the management of community forests. Nepal is home to over 22,000 community forests, which are predominantly managed and conserved by women from nearby communities, contributions to community restoration and forest management are indispensable, highlighting the extensive roles and responsibilities women have undertaken in the conservation and management sector over an extended period and here are the photos.





6. Women in the heart of Restoration: Stories of self-determination and leadership

Organizers: Women4Biodiversity, The African Women's Network for Community Forest Management (REFACOF), Pastoral Communities Empowerment Programme (PACEP) CoopeSolidar R.L, CoopeMoluscosChomes R.L, Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (FARN), Fundacion Inalafquen, Network of Indigenous Peoples Solomon, Karen Environmental and Social Action Network (KESAN)

Description: The discussion touched on topics such as how to strengthen capacities, prevent conflict in the defence of territory, and equip local communities to participate in data analysis and collection.









7. Celebrating grassroots women and feminist frontline defenders for biodiversity and climate action.

Organizers: WECF, Both ends, we do, IUCN national committee netherland

Description: We created a platform for young women environmental defenders from Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, and local communities to share their priorities and policy demands with policymakers. The event focused on COP16 and the roles of KM-GBF targets 22/23 and the GPA in implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework. Here are event photos.





8. Enfoque de género: Transformación para el mundo

Organizers: Colombia diversa, Asociación Ambiente y Sociedad

Description: Las mujeres indígenas cumplimos un rol transcendental en la preservación de la biodiversidad gracias a los conocimientos científicos que heredamos de nuestros ancestros y que tenemos la misión de heredar a las futuras generaciones. Aquí están las fotos del evento.







9. The collective inputs of Small scale Fisherwomen towards the realisation of Human Rights based Conservation and Sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity.

Organizers: CBD Women's Caucus, observatorio ciudadano, ICSF, Coopesolidar

Description: The collective inputs of Small scale Fisherwomen towards the realisation of Human Rights based Conservation and Sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity. This side event highlighted the indispensable role and initiatives of small-scale fisherwomen and all those women who work in the seafaring professions in marine and coastal biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and explore strategies to empower them and strengthen their collective efforts as key stewards of marine and coastal biodiversity and here are the <u>event</u> photos.



10. A rights-based approach to transform goals to ground level change

Organizers: Ecojustice

Description: This all-women panel highlights Indigenous voices discussing how to implement GBF goals through rights-based approaches that uplift Indigenous laws, promote environmental equity, and ensure women's safety. Here are event <u>Photos</u>









11. Debating the Merits of Gender-Responsive Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Adaptation.

Organizers: IISD & WWF

Description: This all-women panel brings together Indigenous voices and Turtle Islanders to share best practices for implementing GBF targets through on-the-ground action. The discussion highlights the vital role of women in defending lands, sharing knowledge, and upholding Indigenous laws, despite the disproportionate risks they face due to systemic oppression. The panel explores rights-based approaches to achieving global biodiversity goals, promoting environmental equity, ensuring women's safety, and mainstreaming biodiversity values. Here are the event <u>Photos</u>



12. Women in conservation are rising in Africa.

Organizers: Climate Change Thematic Group

Description: In Madagascar, over 50.6% of the population are women, yet they often face exclusion from decision-making and conservation benefits. Despite this, women are rising to tackle biodiversity and climate challenges, proving their vital role in natural resource management and driving transformative change at all levels. Here are event photos









13. Reimagining Masculinities: Advancing Gender Equity in Biodiversity Conservation in Rural Territoriesn.

Organizers: IICA, Branquilla +20, Global Youth Coalition

Description: This event focuses on rethinking traditional masculinities to address gender inequalities in natural resource management. By fostering dialogue among men, women, and diverse groups, it aims to advance gender equity as a pillar of sustainability. The discussion highlights strategies for integrating equitable participation in sustainable agriculture, promoting practices that respect biodiversity and support rural development. here are the event photos.





14.A rights-based approach to transform goals to ground level change

Organizers: Ecojuste

Description: This all-women panel highlights Indigenous voices discussing how to implement GBF goals through rights-based approaches that uplift Indigenous laws, promote environmental equity, and ensure women's safety. Here are event <u>Photos</u>









15. Biodiversity, Climate Change and Gender: Interlinkages on the road to COP29.

Organizers: WEDO

Description: This event addressed the interlinkages between the CBD and the UNFCCC on the road to COP29 and in the margins of COP16, from a gendered perspective and below are <u>event</u> photos.





16. Amazon bioregional financial facilities

Organizers: Fundación pachamama

Description: An event was to discuss and advance conversations on financial mechanisms and available facilities to accelerate the flow of compensation systems reaching Indigenous territories and here is the event Photos.







17. Women on the Frontlines of the Biodiversity and Climate Crises: Challenges and Solutions.

Organizers: WECAN

Description: The event highlighted the vital role of women and gender-diverse leaders in safeguarding biodiversity and promoting equity. Their perspectives drive inclusive, sustainable conservation, advocate for marginalized communities, and ensure policies prioritize long-term environmental health. Empowering these leaders helps create a resilient, just world that values biodiversity. Here are event photos..



18.Uranba: La diversidad ecológica y educación para las vidas en el planeta

Organizers: Amdae

Description: Metodología conversación circular de intercambio de saberes ancestrales, desde de la música y el plátano como elemento que aporta la historia de la diáspora Africana en el mundo Elementos básicos para profundizar la cosmogonía colectiva Afrocolombiana, campesina, mujeres en desplazamiento y el aprendizaje de los recursos naturales para la defensa de las vida, después de salir del territorio por desplazamiento and here are event Photos







19. Conservation of native bees.

Orgnizers: BeeSip

Description: Krystle Hickman as she took us on a visual journey into the fascinating world of native bees, their relationships with native plants, and community science engagement and here are the event Photos.





20. Women, Finance & Forests.

Organizers: Climate & Company

Description: This event started with an overview of financial mechanisms mapped under the SAFE Project, focusing on instruments that empower women in sustainable production and forest conservation and here are the events photos.







21. Decisión de género del Acuerdo de Escazú

Organizers: Derecho Ambiente y Recursos Naturales

Description: This all-women panel brings together Indigenous voices and Turtle Islanders to share best practices for implementing GBF targets through on-the-ground action. The discussion highlights the vital role of women in defending lands, sharing knowledge, and upholding Indigenous laws, despite the disproportionate risks they face due to systemic oppression. The panel explores rights-based approaches to achieving global biodiversity goals, promoting environmental equity, ensuring women's safety, and mainstreaming biodiversity values. Here are the event <u>Photos</u>





22. Extractivismo en la académica: ¿cómo crear capacidad en el sur global?

Organizers: McGill

Description: La ciencia ha sido fundamentalmente extractivista desde su cuna. Exploradores y científicos de Europa y Norteamérica han extraído conocimiento y especímenes de países del sur global desde el inicio de las grandes disciplinas científicas. Aquí están las <u>fotos del evento.</u>









23.Advancing biodiversity laws: ecocide, women's rights and nature..

Organizers : Stop ecocide international, Peru sin ecocidio, Colombia sin ecocidio, life of pachamama, Global youth coalition, GARN youth hub

Description: The event presented the September 2024 proposal by small island states to amend the Rome Statute, making ecocide a crime. It explored the link between ecocide law and the Rights of Nature movement, highlighting how it can protect biodiversity and support women's rights in halting biodiversity loss. Here are the event photos.



24. Advancing Women's Rights & Leadership in Area-based Conservation.

Organizers: IUCN CEESP, FPP, IIED, IUCN WCPA

Description: The discussion focused on Target 3 implementation that requires area-based conservation measures that are equitably governed and effectively managed, and that respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories and these are event <u>photos</u>.









25. Sharing Stories: Women's Land Rights and Conservation in Focus.

Organizers: International Land Coalition

Description: The Event discussed, the Target 23 of the CBD addresses the need for gender equality in the implementation of biodiversity strategies and action plans, recognizing their equal rights and access to land and natural resources, both gender dimension and land rights play a critical role in biodiversity conservation and the <u>event photos</u>.



26. Unleashing Finance for Women's Leadership Protecting Nature.

Organizers: Daughters for Earth, Myzelio, Svarmi, Wea, Cumbres blancas Colombia

Description: This event focused on Women's leadership in nature protection is crucial to tackling the planetary crisis, yet it continues to receive a mere fraction of global financing, the panel discussed the urgent need to fully harness funding for women in biodiversity conservation, building upon the Gender Action Plan within the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and here is the <u>event photos</u>.







27.Bridging the Rio Conventions to advance women's land rights.

Organizers: TMG Think Tank for Sustainability, Women 4 biodiversity, Stand for Herland

Description: The event focused on the three Rio Conventions—UNCBD, UNFCCC, and UNCCD—and their reliance on land-based measures like sustainable land management, reforestation, and ecosystem restoration. These actions are crucial for biodiversity protection, climate change mitigation, and preventing land degradation. Here are <u>event photos</u>.





28. Women in Science: Integrating Wildlife Health into the Global Biodiversity Framework for Restoration and One Health

Organizers: Smithsonian Institution

Description: The event focused on the vital task of integrating wildlife health monitoring into restoration and conservation efforts to protect biodiversity and further One Health objectives and these are <u>event photos</u>.









29. Wisdom, self care and resilience of adolescents, youth and women in the defence of our territories.

Orgnizers : Mujeres en Conservación, CIAM, Fondo Socioambiental del Perú, Agentes Eco Guatemala, UNICEF: Para Cada Infancia

Description: The wisdom, resilience, and self-care of adolescents, youth, and women are key to defending territories and preserving biodiversity. Their knowledge of ecosystems and sustainable practices empowers them to lead efforts in environmental advocacy, fostering a sustainable and equitable future. Here are <u>event photos</u>.





30. Participación de las mujeres en la gestión y manejo de las áreas naturales protegidas.

Organizers : Gaia El Salvador, Mujeres en Conservación

Description: La participación de las mujeres en la gestión y manejo de las áreas naturales protegidas es fundamental para garantizar su conservación y uso sostenible. Las mujeres, especialmente aquellas de comunidades locales e indígenas, aportan conocimientos tradicionales y perspectivas únicas sobre la biodiversidad y los ecosistemas, su involucramiento permite una toma de decisiones más inclusiva y equitativa, contribuyendo a la creación de estrategias de manejo que integran necesidades sociales, culturales y ambientales. Y aquí están las <u>fotos del evento.</u>







31. Implementing Article 8(j) new Programme of Work with a Gender Focus for Women Environmental Defenders.

Organizers: CBD Women's Caucus, in collaboration with Eco Maxei, WECAN, TICCA LA, Red de Mujeres Originarias por la Defensa del Mar, CoopeSoliDar R.L, Raoul Wallenberg Institute, The Invisible Thread (TINTA), WWF International, Women's Movement of the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities, Global Forest Coalition, UN Women, FACJ, Engajamundo, and Green Hope Foundation.

Description: The event highlighted a case study on integrating a gender perspective into Article 8(j) implementation, offering a platform for women environmental defenders to share experiences and challenges. It focused on mechanisms, legislation, and initiatives that empower women and girls in biodiversity conservation and environmental health. Here are event photos.





32. Enhancing Gender Responsiveness in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

Organisers: CBD Women's Caucus in collaboration with ILC, ICCA Consortium, Eco Maxei, FARN, WWF International, Raoul Wallenberg Institute, YOUNGO Women & Gender Working Group, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, Women's Movement of the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities, Global Forest Coalition, FACJ, and Engajamundo.

Description: The discussion focused on Decision 15/6, adopted at COP15, reinforces the importance of NBSAPs as a key instrument for implementing the CBD. Under this decision, Parties committed to review and update their NBSAPs in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its goals and targets. These updated NBSAPs are expected to be submitted by COP16 and will serve as policy and/or legal instruments integrated into broader national strategies and plans. and these are event photos.









33. Integrating gender: advancing a monitoring framework for biodiversity.

Organisers: CBD Women's Caucus, ILC, CoopeSoliDar R.L., FARN, Eco Maxei, Observatorio Ciudadano, Women for Climate Justice and Biodiversity/Barranquilla+20 Foundation, WWF International, Women4Biodiversity, Raoul Wallenberg Institute on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law Global Network on Human Rights and Environment, Comunicación y Educación Ambiental SC, Women's Movement of the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities, Global Forest Coalition, FACJ - Feminist Action for Climate Justice, Engajamundo, ICCA Consortium, Wild Heart Kenya

Description: This side event explores the integration of gender considerations into biodiversity monitoring frameworks and policies. Featuring expert presentations and panel discussions, it addresses gender-specific impacts of biodiversity loss, strategies for mainstreaming gender in conservation, and the development of gender-sensitive indicators. The event aims to bridge data gaps and promote accountability to ensure inclusive and equitable biodiversity outcomes.





34. Bienestar en el océano y el plan de acción de género.

Organizer: Mujeres, Niñas y Biodiversidad

Description: El evento se centró en las contribuciones que el océano brinda a las mujeres y su relación con el GPA. Abordamos dichas contribuciones, identificamos las amenazas y, posteriormente, propusimos soluciones que permitan a las mujeres y niñas contribuir a los tres objetivos del convenio.









35. Women's Pavilion closing session

Organisers: CBD Women's Caucus

Description: The collective inputs of Small scale Fisherwomen towards the realisation of Human Rights based Conservation and Sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity. This side event highlighted the indispensable role and initiatives of small-scale fisherwomen and all those women who work in the seafaring professions in marine and coastal biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and explore strategies to empower them and strengthen their collective efforts as key stewards of marine and coastal biodiversity and here are the event photos.





Heartfelt gratitude to all the sessions' organisers and the participants!





Conclusions

In conclusion, the Women's Pavilion at COP16, organized by the CBD Women's Caucus, has established itself as a transformative space for fostering dialogue, collaboration, and concrete action on gender equity and biodiversity conservation. Through its diverse and inclusive programming, the Pavilion effectively highlighted the critical contributions of women and gender-diverse groups to biodiversity protection and the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).

It has provided a platform for amplifying voices that are often underrepresented in global environmental decision-making processes and has reinforced the necessity of gender-responsive approaches to achieving sustainable biodiversity outcomes. As we look towards future COPs, it is imperative that the Women's Pavilion continues to grow and evolve, further strengthening its role in advancing gender equality in biodiversity governance.

Acknowledgement

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the women from around the world who joined us at the Women's Pavilion at COP16. Your presence, shared experiences, and insights into the challenges and successes you face in biodiversity conservation have been invaluable. Thank you for using this platform to amplify your voices and advocate for gender equality in environmental decision-making.

We also extend our appreciation to the dedicated team behind the pavilion for their unwavering support in ensuring this space was both inclusive and impactful. Your efforts made this gathering possible and meaningful.



For more info visit https://cbdwomenscaucus.org

