



# Submission of views and relevant experiences on scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (decision 16/12)

A CBD Women's Caucus submission

May 2025

The CBD Women's Caucus, on behalf of its more than 800 members around the world, submits the following inputs and consideration as contribution to the information that will be made available for the 27th meeting of CBD Subsidiary Body of Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, as requested and mandated by the CBD COP decision 16/22 to take into account the diversity of values, worldviews and knowledge systems, including the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as the intersectional approaches.

The CBD Women's Caucus welcomes the opportunity to respond to Notification 2025-058, inviting submission of views and relevant experiences on scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (decision 16/12).

We underscore that the effective implementation of the GBF requires transformative action for change<sup>[1]</sup>, including structural shifts in power for gender responsive biodiversity policy and action, including equitable decision making at all levels, access to resources, and recognition of diverse knowledge systems – particularly of women and girls, including those from Indigenous peoples, local communities and people of African descent<sup>[2]</sup>.

The Gender Plan of Action (GPA) 2022-2023<sup>[3]</sup>, as well as decision on Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review<sup>[4]</sup>, call for design and use of specific tools, capacity building, and monitoring mechanisms to advance gender responsiveness to biodiversity action – which remain unevenly developed and/or applied across Parties and stakeholders.

In this context, advancing work under work area (d) is both a matter of rights and for better biodiversity outcomes to ensure that implementation of the GBF is effective, inclusive, and just.

## 1. ENABLING CONDITIONS FOR USING EXISTING TOOLS AND GUIDANCE

Drawing from the review of the Gender Plan of Action (2015–2020), the Secretariat's gap analysis (CBD/SBSTTA/26/3), and the lived experience of the CBD Women's Caucus and its allies, we outline below a set of priority enabling conditions for design, uptake and scale up of technical tools and support essential for advancing gender equality and human rights-based approaches within the implementation of the GBF.

### a) Updated, accessible and culturally relevant technical guidance and tools

A key barrier to gender-responsive implementation of the GBF is the limited availability and accessibility of updated, intersectional, and action-oriented technical guidance. While some tools exist<sup>[5]</sup>, they are often outdated, narrowly scoped, or insufficiently localized. Furthermore, women and girls' knowledge and leadership remain underrepresented in the development of technical resources, leading to gaps in applicability and legitimacy.

The CBD Secretariat, in collaboration with the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres, should facilitate the co-development, updating, and scaling of tools that are inclusive, intersectional, and rooted in a human rights based approach. These tools must cover thematic intersections relevant to all GBF Targets, especially Targets 22 and 23, and should be co-created with women's organisations and gender experts. Guidance should be contextualized to different cultural and ecological realities, and translated into multiple languages. Collaboration with other MEAs (e.g., UNFCCC, UNCCD) can ensure coherence and avoid duplication.

### b) Gender equality-focused capacity building and peer learning

Even when tools exist<sup>[6]</sup>, the capacity to use them effectively is uneven across Parties and stakeholders. National Focal Points, Gender and Biodiversity National Focal Points, implementing agencies, funders, and conservation practitioners frequently lack the skills or institutional mandates to systematically integrate gender considerations into planning, budgeting, or reporting. The technical nature of biodiversity policy often excludes gender practitioners, while biodiversity actors may lack gender analysis skills. This creates a persistent implementation gap.

To close this gap, targeted and institutionalized technical training is needed at all levels – from policy to field operations. Training modules should be tailored to the roles of different actors (e.g. biodiversity focal points, funders, civil society implementers). CBD should also support the creation of communities of practice, enabling peer-to-peer learning and coordination among gender and biodiversity stakeholders. These spaces should be designed to foster cross-learning across MEAs and draw on successful models, including those enabling South-South and triangular cooperation.

### c) Earmarked, flexible and predictable funding

The use and uptake of such tools cannot be met without predictable, adequate, and accessible funding. Gender-responsive actions are often unfunded mandates – recognised

<sup>[1]</sup> [IPBES Nexus assessment, 2024](#)

<sup>[2]</sup> For the purposes of this submission, the term "women and girls" is used inclusively to refer to all women and girls, with particular attention to those from Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and people of African descent.

<sup>[3]</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-11-en.pdf>

<sup>[4]</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-06-en.pdf>

<sup>[5]</sup> <https://cbd-womens-caucus.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/CBD-Womens-Caucus-GAPS-submission.pdf>

<sup>[6]</sup> Idem

in principle but unsupported in budgets, project cycles, or technical cooperation efforts. Moreover, women's groups face major barriers in accessing biodiversity finance due to administrative burdens, lack of recognition, or rigid eligibility criteria.

Funding must be recognised as a foundational technical requirement for gender-responsive biodiversity action. CBD and its financial mechanisms should mandate gender markers in biodiversity financing and require budgets, disaggregated reporting, and accountability mechanisms in project designs. Specific funding windows should be established to support the technical capacity of women's organisations, especially in the Global South. Partnerships with bilateral funders and philanthropic actors should be encouraged to align funding strategies with the Gender Plan of Action and the GBF.

## 2. PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK ON GENDER EQUALITY AND BIODIVERSITY: TECHNICAL PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIC ACTION AREAS

To ensure the effective and equitable implementation of the CBD as a whole and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) in particular, it is needed to establish a dedicated Programme of Work (PoW) focused on the intersection of gender equality and biodiversity.

Drawing on decades of collective advocacy, technical expertise, and lived experience, the CBD Women's Caucus underscores the urgent need for a coordinated, gender-responsive approach across CBD, its protocols and instruments.

This PoW would address persistent gaps and provide guidance, tools, and mobilise required funding to integrate gender considerations into biodiversity policy and action.

Key thematic areas where such targeted support is critically needed include:

- **Area-based conservation and restoration:** Women and girls' knowledge in ecosystem governance, food sovereignty, and cultural landscapes must be elevated in territorial planning and restoration strategies.
- **Biodiversity-relevant productive sectors of agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and tourism:** Tools are needed to ensure equitable participation, fair benefit-sharing, and recognition of women and girls' ecological labor in these sectors.
- **Intersection of biodiversity and climate strategies:** gendered care burdens, land tenure insecurity, and differential exposure to climate shocks make women and girls' perspectives critical in designing effective and fair biodiversity-climate actions.
- **Access and benefit sharing and Digital Sequence Information:** Gender-equitable ABS and DSI frameworks are needed to safeguard women and girls' rights and ensure fair participation in the use of genetic resources.
- **Biodiversity Finance:** Biodiversity finance mechanisms and flows must adopt gender markers, safeguards, and indicators that monitor and enhance the benefits received by women and girls.
- **Access to green and blue spaces:** Women and girls' use of and dependence on urban biodiversity, particularly those in informal settlements or precarious housing, should inform municipal planning, biodiversity corridors, and ecosystem service delivery.
- **Technical cooperation:** Bridging the gender divide in biodiversity science and innovation is essential to prevent exclusion from data, tools, and decision-making.
- **Defenders, conflict and disasters:** Biodiversity strategies must protect women environmental defenders and respond to the unique needs of women and girls in conflict and disaster-affected contexts within biodiversity frameworks.



**The CBD Women's Caucus (CBD WC) is the women's constituency within the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).** It stands as a self-organised global platform, supporting women and girls worldwide to advocate for their rights within biodiversity-related decision-making processes across all levels.

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