



CBD Women

# SBSTTA-27

## Outcomes Analysis From a Gender Perspective

November 2025



# Introduction

The twenty-seventh meeting of the CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-27) was a critical moment in advancing the implementation of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF). Across all agenda items, negotiations showed both progress and significant political divergence, with many recommendations heavily bracketed and key issues deferred to COP17. For the CBD Women's Caucus, this session reaffirmed a persistent gap: while women and girls in all their diversity, including from Indigenous Peoples, local communities and people of African descent, comprising collectives embodying traditional lifestyles, are central to biodiversity action, their rights, knowledge, leadership, and lived experiences remain insufficiently recognised in scientific and technical decision-making.

This document presents an analysis of the outcomes of SBSTTA-27 from the perspective of the CBD Women's Caucus, organized around all agenda items discussed during the meeting. Each item, responds to four key questions: (1) what the issue is about; (2) why it is relevant for gender justice; (3) what happened, or did not happen, during the negotiations; and (4) what needs to be done next to advance women's rights in the lead-up to COP17.

We invite you to read, share, and use this analysis to strengthen our collective advocacy for a truly just, inclusive, and transformative implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

## Item 3. Planning, monitoring, reporting, and review: global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

### ► What is the item about?

This agenda item focused on the Global Report on Collective Progress , the central output of the Global Review of how the world is implementing the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF). The Global Review is a critical process of mutual accountability by Parties and Non-State Actors (NSA) on how we are delivering on the cross-cutting considerations, Targets and Goals of the global framework and doing so in a rights-based, inclusive, effective, and gender-responsive manner.

At SBSTTA-27, Parties were tasked to review the annotated outline of the Global Report and provide scientific and technical advice to strengthen its structure, evidence base, and approach. Based on a note prepared by the Secretariat and the work of an Advisory Group, SBSTTA-27 was mandated to recommend improvements to the outline.

## ➤ Why is it relevant for gender justice?

The Global report needs to provide a full account of how gender equality and justice and human rights considerations are integrated in the implementation of NBSAPs and NTs, including the use of indicators and data disaggregated by sex/gender. This is mandated by several COP decisions and Section C of the KM-GBF. Without such explicit integration, the Global Report and the Global Review risk reproducing gender-blind assessments of progress that neglect women and girls' contributions, needs, and rights in all their diversity.

For this reason, the Caucus focused on three core priorities:

- Ensure that the results of the mid-term review of the Gender Plan of Action (GPA) inform the Global Review process to assess whether the KM-GBF is implemented in gender responsive ways. Gender equality and justice are core to a Human Rights-based Approach (HRBA).
- Ensure that the already agreed (COP decision 16/32) informal technical dialogue and opportunities for further exchange with IPs and local communities, women, and youth are actually resourced and held.
- Integrate fully the commitments and contributions of Non-State Actors (NSA) fully, including stories, priorities, and experiences of women, in the Global Report, and support with disaggregated data.

This is of particular importance as we are aiming for women and girls, in all their diversity, to have a strong, collective voice in the process, and their contributions are fully accounted for in the Global Review.



## ► What happened (or didn't happen) during negotiations?

The annotated outline for the Global report was overall welcome by Parties. Analysis of section C, progress for each target, use of indicators and disaggregated data are all mentioned in the outline to guide the development of the Global Report. It is critical that National Reports are submitted on time in February 2026. There is still a divergent view among Parties on which sources of information and data should be prioritized, with Parties emphasizing that National Reports are the primary source and that the quality of data from other sources should be verified by Parties and double counting avoided, while other Parties and Observers underscoring the importance of NSA submissions, Traditional Knowledge and other sources for a comprehensive assessment of collective progress, in line with the whole-of-society principle of the KM-GBF. In this regard, two key aspects in decision 16/32 to support indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth in sharing information, and an informal technical multi-stakeholder dialogue were not highlighted in the original document for negotiations but the provision about the dialogue was reinserted in the final draft thanks to concerted and strategic advocacy of Parties and the CBD WC. During negotiations, major groups increasingly indicated that their commitments and contributions should count more in the Global Report and Global Review process, and were voiced in plenary and supported by Parties. A key point of contention concerns the nature of the recommendations emerging from the Global Report. While most Parties oppose prescriptive measures, other Parties, and especially observers, expect the Global Review to drive accelerated action and prompt adjustments to NBSAPs so that the Goals and Targets of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework are achieved in effective, just, and inclusive ways.

## What's next? Actions needed to ensure gender justice

As we look towards COP17 where the Global Review will be held, the CBD-WC suggest the following:

- Ensure that the findings of the mid-term review of the Gender Plan of Action (GPA) inform the content, analysis, and recommendations of the Global Report, and ensure that the mid-term review of the GPA becomes a meaningful milestone of the Global Review process at COP17.
- Create meaningful and well-resourced opportunities for women's organisations and networks to engage at national and regional levels through dialogues, events and participatory spaces and share knowledge and initiatives, and have their roles and contributions reflected in National Reports. In addition, support women organizations to make online submissions and shape the narrative of the Global Report.
- When drafting their NRs, Parties could advance generation and use of gender-responsive data, including sex-disaggregated information and documentation of women's biodiversity knowledge and leadership, to strengthen the evidence base for the Global Report.

## Item 4. Matters related to the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

### ► What is the item about?

This agenda item concerns how the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) contributes to the work of the Convention, particularly in supporting the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF).

Under this item, Parties were invited to consider the role of IPBES assessments, including the Nexus and Transformative Change Assessments, in providing scientific and technical information relevant to the work under the CBD, including ways to align work cycles between IPBES and the CBD to ensure timely and coherent scientific input into Convention processes.

In parallel Parties expected to discuss options to enhance the uptake of IPBES findings in national processes, such as NBSAP updates and the development of indicators.

### ► Why is it relevant for gender justice?

IPBES assessments influence how CBD Parties interpret drivers of biodiversity loss, design policies, allocate resources, and track progress. For the CBD Women's Caucus, ensuring the gender-responsive elaboration and uptake of IPBES knowledge was therefore a key priority to be raised at SBSTTA-27.

As the Nexus and Transformative Change Assessments already reaffirm, women and girls play a central role as knowledge holders and actors across interconnected systems: biodiversity, climate, land, water, food, and health. However, persistent structural inequalities continue to limit their access to resources, data, finance, technologies, and decision-making spaces.

These gaps must be addressed to achieve the goals and targets of the KM-GBF; thus, the CBD Women's Caucus called for:

- Systematic integration of gender equality and gender justice across all future IPBES assessments.
- Recognition that transformative change requires shifting power relations, not just participation.
- Addressing economic systems as structural drivers of both biodiversity loss and gender inequality.
- Ensuring CBD uptake of IPBES findings, including those related to gender and human rights.

## ► What happened (or didn't happen) during negotiations?

During SBSTTA-27, Parties were unable to reach agreement on whether to “welcome” or merely “take note of” the IPBES Nexus and Transformative Change Assessments, a dispute that dominated the agenda and prevented deeper engagement with their substantive findings. Despite broad support from many Parties, including strong calls to better integrate the assessments’ principles, approaches, and evidence into the KM-GBF and CBD work programmes, a small group of countries opposed stronger language, objecting to content they considered policy-prescriptive or beyond the CBD’s remit.

As a result, several key paragraphs, particularly those related to actor visibility, gender-responsive and rights-based participation, One Health framing, and policy uptake, remained heavily bracketed. While a few procedural paragraphs advanced, most of the draft decision was forwarded to COP17 unresolved, missing a critical opportunity to translate the assessments’ systemic insights into actionable guidance for implementation.

## What's next? Actions needed to ensure gender justice

As we look towards COP17, the CBD-WC suggests the following:

- Unequivocally welcome the IPBES Nexus and Transformative Change Assessments as essential scientific guidance for implementing the GBF. COP17 must resolve the current brackets by endorsing these assessments, recognising that their evidence and pathways are critical for enabling Parties to address structural drivers of biodiversity loss and to deliver transformative action at national and local levels.
- Call for future IPBES assessments to be no longer gender-blind; rather, they should systematically integrate a gender/intersectional analysis, and diverse knowledge systems, throughout all processes, authorship, evidence generation, and policy support tools.
- Invest in inclusive, community-led science–policy interfaces that centre gender-differentiated knowledge and rights. Strengthen participation and leadership of women as knowledge holders; support the translation of IPBES findings into gender-responsive national policies; and allocate predictable resources to ensure whole-of-society, rights-based integration of science into GBF implementation.

## Item 5. Biodiversity and climate change.

### ► What is the item about?

This agenda item focused on strengthening policy coherence between biodiversity and climate action, ensuring that measures to address one crisis do not undermine progress on the other, and that opportunities for synergies are maximised. Under this item, Parties were invited to consider the draft supplement to the Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction.

This work also included the potential updating of fit-for-purpose social and environmental safeguards, drawing on existing safeguards frameworks. In addition, Parties were asked to reflect on options to enhance policy coherence across the Rio Conventions (CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD), including through a potential joint work programme.

### ► Why is it relevant for gender justice?

Women and girls in all their diversity, including from Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and people of African descent, comprising collectives embodying traditional lifestyles, are already leading coherent, holistic, and community-rooted solutions to the biodiversity and climate crises. Yet these contributions remain largely unrecognised, under-resourced, and insufficiently protected in both the climate and biodiversity regimes. At the same time, several proposed “solutions”, particularly those that fail to address structural drivers of environmental degradation or that rely heavily on market-based or offsetting approaches, risk deepening existing inequalities and causing further harm to women, youth, and frontline communities.

Ahead of SBSTTA-27, the CB-WC underscored three priority demands:

- Ensure transformative and rights-compliant coherence between biodiversity and climate agendas.
- Apply a gender-responsive and human rights-based approach to all biodiversity-climate action.
- Guarantee equitable and gender-responsive access to biodiversity and climate finance.

## ► What happened (or didn't happen) during negotiations?

Discussions during SBSTTA-27 were slow and frequently stalled on procedural issues, ultimately leaving much of the text heavily bracketed in the recommendations to COP17 and further delaying real action. Although the agenda intended to consider the supplement to the Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction, Parties agreed to postpone this work to a later peer review process. Positively, women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and other stakeholders will be involved in this review.

In the draft recommendations to COP17, a preambular paragraph encouraging gender-responsive action remained the only section not bracketed. However, a proposed operative paragraph requesting submissions on the impacts of carbon and biodiversity offsets and other market-based mechanisms on Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, and youth was removed. Some Parties also requested the removal or bracketing of references to the legal advice from the International Court of Justice and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. While the text includes references to strengthening coherence between monitoring and reporting frameworks, further alignment with Targets 22 and 23 and with the Gender Plan of Action is still needed.

SBSTTA also requested the organisation of technical information exchanges to explore synergies across the Rio Conventions and to develop a multilevel road map with short-, medium- and long-term actions, including a mapping study to identify concrete actions and gaps or overlaps in existing policies. It remains unclear whether non-governmental stakeholders will be included in this process.



## What's next? Actions needed to ensure gender justice

As we look towards COP17, the CBD-WC suggests the following:

- Adopt approaches that tackle the structural drivers of biodiversity loss and the climate crisis. Governments, UN agencies, and conservation organisations must prioritise policies that address fossil-fuel dependence, pollution, unsustainable production and consumption, and entrenched inequalities, rather than relying on narrow or market-based solutions that treat symptoms and enable business-as-usual.
- Deliver gender-responsive, culturally appropriate biodiversity and climate finance with direct access for rights-holders. Funders and governments should ensure predictable, accessible, and equitable finance for Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and women and girls in all their diversity, including from Afro-descendant and grassroots groups, through simplified procedures, dedicated funding windows, and strong social and environmental safeguards.
- Ensure coherence with the Gender Plan of Action (GPA) and KM-GBF Targets 22 and 23 across all biodiversity-climate policies. Parties should embed gender-responsive, rights-based approaches in national biodiversity and climate strategies, ecosystem-based actions, and reporting frameworks, and ensure that safeguards, NBS guidelines, and Rio Convention cooperation fully align with GPA principles and obligations.

## Item 6. Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

### ► What is the item about?

This agenda item concerned how the Convention can better organise, update, and strengthen its scientific and technical work to support the effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF). Under this item, Parties considered three interlinked areas: (a) strategic review and analysis of all existing programmes of work under the Convention, and the preparation of draft updates to align them with the KM-GBF, as mandated by COP Decisions 15/4 and 16/12; (b) Strategic review and draft update of the Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biodiversity, based on submissions and expert inputs compiled by the Secretariat; and (c) Areas of potential further work identified by COP (including biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning, pollution and biodiversity, sustainable biodiversity-based activities, equity and gender equality, and diverse value systems).

SBSTTA was tasked with reviewing this information and preparing recommendations for COP17 on how to update, strengthen, and prioritise the scientific and technical work programmes needed to support GBF implementation.

### ► Why is it relevant for gender justice?

As the CBD reviews and updates its programmes of work and identifies new areas of scientific and technical support for the KM-GBF, it is essential that every programme explicitly integrates a gender perspective. The strategic review confirmed the fundamental importance of the existing Gender and Biodiversity cross-cutting issue, recommending its retention with only minor updates, and acknowledgement that gender equality is foundational for implementing the KM-GBF. Yet major gaps persist: tools and guidance remain largely gender-neutral, gender data is scarce, and institutional capacities to implement the Gender Plan of Action remain uneven. Closing these gaps, strengthening women's leadership, and ensuring gender-responsive science and technical work is therefore crucial for delivering effective, equitable, and rights-based biodiversity action.

Ahead of SBSTTA-27, the CB-WC underscored three priority demands:

- Strengthen and resource the Gender and Biodiversity area of work, ensuring coordinated implementation, capacity-building, and accountability mechanisms so gender commitments translate into tangible results across all programmes of work.
- Address systemic gaps identified in SBSTTA/26/INF/15, including the lack of gender assessments in existing tools, gender-neutral treatment of land and resource access, limited institutional capacity to operationalise the GPA, and insufficient documentation of lessons learned.
- Advance gender-responsive science and technical work, including sex-disaggregated data, gender-responsive methodologies, and the meaningful integration of women's traditional, local, and scientific knowledge in biodiversity monitoring, research, and decision-making, in line with Target 23 and human rights obligations.

## ► What happened (or didn't happen) during negotiations?

At SBSTTA-27, discussions under Item 3 unfolded across three sub-items and were marked by slow progress, procedural disagreements, and significant use of brackets, leaving most of the work to COP17. On the strategic review of the Programmes of Work (PoWs), Parties diverged on the scope of the review, whether it should include cross-cutting issues, and how the results should be forwarded, ultimately agreeing only to request the Secretariat to propose a systematic approach and timeline for future reviews. On the expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biodiversity, the entire recommendation, including the annexed activities, remained fully bracketed amid concerns about workload, alignment with the GBF, and whether new guidance was needed. Despite this, the CBD Women's Caucus successfully secured, through sustained lobbying outside plenary, the inclusion of language referencing the Gender Plan of Action and actions to recognise gender roles and adopt gender-responsive approaches in forest conservation and restoration, although these remain bracketed. Finally, under the areas of potential further work, negotiations were heavily polarized, resulting in the full deletion of the section on equity, gender equality, and human rights, and leaving most proposals on pollution, spatial planning, sustainable biodiversity-based activities, and diverse values bracketed. The combination of unresolved political issues, disagreements over process, and limited time meant that SBSTTA-27 made only partial progress, with many substantive decisions deferred to COP17.

## ► What's next? What should we all do to advance women's rights?

As Parties move toward COP17, it is essential that the ongoing review and updating of the CBD's Programmes of Work (PoWs) strengthens, not weakens, the integration of gender equality across all scientific and technical work under the Convention. The cross-cutting issue on gender and biodiversity must not remain a principle on paper; it must be operationalised across every thematic area, aligned with Section C and Target 23 of the KM-GBF, and informed by the lessons from the mid-term review of the Gender Plan of Action. To ensure that the PoW updates meaningfully support just and effective KM-GBF implementation, the CBD Women's Caucus recommends that Parties and all stakeholders:

- Adopt a transparent, inclusive, and participatory methodology for updating Programmes of Work and cross-cutting issues, ensuring that Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, youth, and rights-holders can engage meaningfully throughout the process.
- Maintain and strengthen the cross-cutting issue on gender and biodiversity as an independent area of work, fully operationalising the Gender Plan of Action through gender-responsive objectives, actions, indicators, and safeguards across all PoWs and scientific-technical processes.
- Retain and advance work on equity, gender equality, and the human rights-based approach under the "Areas of Potential Further Work," safeguarding its visibility and ensuring that scientific and technical guidance reflects women's contributions, knowledge systems, and differentiated impacts across biodiversity governance.

## Item 7. Risk assessment and risk management.

### ► What is the item about?

This agenda item focused on the scientific and technical processes for risk assessment and risk management of living modified organisms (LMOs) under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. LMOs, organisms containing novel combinations of genetic material obtained through modern biotechnology, require careful evaluation to avoid potential adverse effects on biodiversity, ecosystem health, and food security. Under this item, SBSTTA was mandated to consider the outcomes of intersessional work on risk assessment, including the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) established to evaluate Parties' needs and priorities for further guidance materials, based on criteria agreed in decision CP-9/13.

In line with decision CP-11/7, Parties had been invited to submit detailed information on their needs for additional guidance on specific LMO risk assessment topics. SBSTTA-27 therefore reviewed a summary of these submissions, the AHTEG's evaluation, and its recommendations on whether new or updated guidance materials are required. Based on this information, SBSTTA-27 was tasked with preparing recommendations for COP-MOP 12 (the twelfth meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol), which will determine next steps for future guidance development, capacity-building, and work on LMO risk assessment and risk management.

### ► Why is it relevant for gender justice?

Risk assessment and risk management of living modified organisms (LMOs) carry significant implications for ecosystems, food systems, and community wellbeing, areas where women and girls in all their diversity, including from Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and people of African descent, comprising collectives embodying traditional lifestyles, play central roles in stewardship, knowledge transmission, and local governance. Decisions on LMOs influence agriculture, biodiversity conservation, and environmental health, yet gender perspectives remain largely absent from technical guidance and capacity-building processes under the Cartagena Protocol. Ensuring that scientific assessments, safeguards, and decision-making pathways consider gender-differentiated knowledge, rights, and potential impacts is essential to avoid harm, strengthen accountability, and uphold equitable participation in line with the GBF and the Gender Plan of Action.

CBD Women's Caucus key demands entering SBSTTA-27 were:

- Include experts from interdisciplinary social sciences in the next Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group to strengthen analysis of social, ethical, and human rights considerations alongside scientific and technical criteria.
- Ensure the meaningful participation of women, youth, and diverse rights holders in developing guidance materials, capacity-building initiatives, and implementation activities.
- Integrate the One Health approach across all aspects of risk assessment and risk management, ensuring attention to ecological, human, and socio-cultural dimensions.

## ► What happened (or didn't happen) during negotiations?

Negotiations under this item progressed slowly and were marked by limited space for observer participation, with the CBD Women's Caucus not granted the floor during the first plenary discussion. Despite this setback, sustained lobbying in subsequent Contact Groups enabled the Caucus to influence the text, securing the inclusion of women and youth in Paragraph 10, which now references their role in information sharing, capacity-building, and relevant development activities. However, consensus was not reached on most operative paragraphs, including those associated with the recommendations of the previous Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG), leaving large portions of the text bracketed and deferred to COP17. Debates centred on whether to prioritise capacity-building, develop new guidance materials, or convene a new AHTEG, with some Parties opposing both the existing AHTEG recommendations and the establishment of a new expert group.

This lack of agreement risks stalling progress on the urgently needed generation of guidance, and more concerningly, it delays the possibility of developing gender-responsive materials, leaving existing guidance gender-blind and outdated. Finally, concerns were raised by some Parties regarding the transparency of the process and the handling of intersessional work, adding further uncertainty to how work under this item will advance ahead of COP17.

## ► What's next? What should we all do to advance women's rights?

As the negotiations move toward COP17, it is essential that Parties safeguard the development of robust guidance on risk assessment and risk management of living modified organisms and ensure that future processes do not remain stalled in procedural disagreement. Without clear, updated, and inclusive guidance, countries risk making decisions that overlook both ecological risks and the gender-differentiated impacts on women and girls. In this line, the CBD-WC suggests the following:

- Restore momentum toward developing comprehensive guidance on LMO risk assessment and ensure it is explicitly gender-responsive. Parties should prioritise resolving the bracketed text at COP17, mandate the continuation of technical work on guidance materials, and require the integration of gender analysis, diverse knowledge systems, and human-rights-based safeguards in all future tools.
- Guarantee meaningful participation of women, youth, and community experts in all biosafety processes. This includes their involvement in the development of guidance materials, information-sharing initiatives, capacity-building programmes, and future technical expert groups, recognising their essential contributions to biosafety, agriculture, and ecosystem governance.
- Invest in community-level evidence and capacity to support safe, equitable LMO governance. Parties, UN agencies, and funders should resource the collection of local experiences on LMOs, support training for women and community organisations, and ensure that national biosafety frameworks embed gender-responsive processes, monitoring, and safeguards.

## Item 8. Invasive alien species.

### ► What is the item about?

This agenda item concerns progress made on intersessional work related to Invasive Alien Species in support of Target 6 of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Under decisions 16/18 and 16/2, the Executive Secretary was requested to strengthen collaboration among relevant organisations through the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species, convene an open-ended online forum to exchange information and experiences on prevention, control, management and eradication measures, including how these can be integrated within a One Health approach, and compile inputs from Parties and stakeholders. SBSTTA-27 therefore received a note from the Secretariat summarising these activities, including the outcomes of the fourteenth meeting of the Liaison Group and the online forum, and was invited to take note of this information and prepare recommendations for COP17.

### ► Why is it relevant for gender justice?

Invasive alien species disproportionately affect the food systems, health, territories, and livelihoods of women and girls in all their diversity, including from Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and people of African descent, comprising collectives embodying traditional lifestyles, who are often responsible for seed protection, traditional agriculture, and ecosystem stewardship. At the same time, these women hold deep ecological knowledge that is essential for prevention, early detection, monitoring, and eradication, yet this expertise remains undervalued, underrepresented, and inadequately safeguarded. As invasive species management increasingly relies on digital tools, genomic information, and data-sharing platforms, ensuring the protection of traditional knowledge and data sovereignty is urgent. Integrating gender-responsive, rights-based, and One Health approaches into invasive species governance is therefore critical for both effective implementation of Target 6 and for strengthening the resilience of people, ecosystems, and food systems.

CBD Women's Caucus key demands entering SBSTTA-27 were:

- Recognise women's unique knowledge and resource their leadership and actions in invasive species prevention, monitoring, control, and restoration. Policies must ensure their full participation, leadership, and direct access to the financial, technical, and capacity-building support needed to implement effective IAS responses
- Establish safeguards against biopiracy, including digital biopiracy, to ensure that the data, knowledge, and innovations of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including the unique knowledge held by women among them, are respected, protected, and governed through rights-based approaches, including data sovereignty.
- Clarify and apply an inclusive One Health approach to IAS management. The One Health approach must reflect ecological, social, and gender dimensions, ensuring coherence across risk assessment, technical guidance, policy development, and capacity-building for invasive species governance.

## ► What happened (or didn't happen) during negotiations?

The Caucus was not given the floor in plenary, but through advocacy in contact groups we helped secure the inclusion of women and youth as actors in IAS management, though this language remains bracketed, alongside most references to One Health, stakeholder participation, and the link between climate change and IAS. Parties agreed that IAS pose a major threat to biodiversity, livelihoods, health, and economies, and broadly supported increased funding, capacity-building, data accessibility, and regional cooperation. However, negotiations became divided over private-sector engagement, Free Prior Informed Consent, and whether to include a list of non-state actors, leading to extensive bracketed text in the draft recommendation.

While the Conference Room Paper was approved with minor amendments, key provisions remain unresolved at COP17, including requests to the Secretariat on coordination with the Liaison Group, development of training materials, early detection and rapid response, technology transfer, and improvements to the IAS Portal. This lack of agreement risks stalling urgently needed technical guidance, and further delays the hope for gender-responsive approaches to IAS prevention, control, and monitoring.

## What's next? What should we all do to advance women's rights?

With many key elements still bracketed, advocacy leading up to COP17 must focus on restoring ambition, securing safeguards, and ensuring that technical and financial resources reach those who are already contributing essential expertise on the ground. In this line, the CBD-WC suggest the following:

- Secure recognition and resourcing for women's roles in IAS management. Advance the explicit inclusion of women's traditional and scientific knowledge, and for direct access to financial, technical, and capacity-building support, to ensure that prevention, early detection, monitoring, and eradication efforts are gender-responsive and community-rooted.
- Protect knowledge and uphold rights across all IAS-related data and decision-making processes. Call for safeguards that address digital biopiracy, ensure data sovereignty, and uphold Indigenous Peoples' FPIC, while promoting transparent, participatory, and rights-based governance in the development of tools, risk assessments, and collaborative frameworks.
- Advance inclusive and coherent implementation of Target 6. Engage in dialogues and strengthen alliances with like-minded Parties, and promote whole-of-society and One Health approaches, to ensure cross-sectoral cooperation, improved data systems, and meaningful participation of women, youth, and Indigenous and local communities in the lead-up to COP17.

## Item 9. Biodiversity and agriculture

### ► What is the item about?

This agenda item addressed the relationship between biodiversity and agriculture by reviewing progress and developing recommendations related to the Plan of Action (2020–2030) for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity. Agricultural biodiversity, including the diversity of animals, plants, soil organisms, and microorganisms essential for ecosystem function, underpins sustainable agriculture while also being threatened by agricultural intensification and land-use change. Under this item, SBSTTA-27 considered a note from the Secretariat summarising submissions from Parties on their implementation of the Plan of Action on Soil Biodiversity.

The Subsidiary Body was invited to review this information and prepare recommendations for COP17 to support coherent, science-based actions on sustainable soil management, policy mainstreaming, capacity-building, research, and monitoring.

### ► Why is it relevant for gender justice?

Women, including those from Indigenous Peoples, local communities and people of African descent, comprising collectives embodying traditional lifestyles, are central to the conservation, sustainable use, and intergenerational transmission of soil biodiversity, yet their roles remain largely invisible in agricultural policy and biodiversity governance. Soil biodiversity underpins food security, climate resilience, and ecosystem health, but the knowledge, labour, and stewardship that women contribute to sustaining soils are undervalued, under-resourced, and increasingly threatened by land degradation, harmful agricultural practices, and unequal access to land, finance, and decision-making. A gender-blind implementation of the Plan of Action (2020–2030) risks reinforcing these inequalities and undermining the KM-GBF's ambition.

CBD Women's Caucus key demands for SBSTTA-27 were:

- Implement existing gender commitments in the Plan of Action and make them meaningful. Gender relevant provisions already exist within the Soil Plan of Action but remain largely unimplemented. Parties and the Secretariat must operationalise them through gender-responsive monitoring, reporting, and review processes that reflect women's differentiated knowledge, contributions, and needs in soil biodiversity and sustainable agriculture.
- Women's traditional, local, and scientific knowledge is essential for soil biodiversity restoration, sustainable land management, and agroecological transitions. Their participation and leadership must be recognised, supported, and resourced to ensure policies strengthen biodiversity while advancing food sovereignty and community wellbeing.
- Align implementation and monitoring of the Soil Biodiversity Plan with the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030). The Plan of Action must be implemented through a human-rights-based, and gender-responsive lens to ensure agricultural policies address structural inequalities, uphold rights, and deliver equitable and sustainable biodiversity outcomes.

## ► What happened (or didn't happen) during negotiations?

Negotiations centred on encouraging the integration of soil biodiversity into NBSAPs and climate and land-use policy instruments, strengthening cooperation across sectors, expanding community-based monitoring, and addressing harmful subsidies. However, several operative paragraphs, including those requesting strengthened coordination across agricultural, environmental, and health sectors; reform of harmful incentives; and new tools and methodologies, remained bracketed, reflecting a lack of agreement on the level of ambition. Requests to the Secretariat on collaboration, capacity-building, data harmonisation, and indicator development were also left unresolved.

Importantly, discussions on gender were limited, and no new gender-specific commitments were introduced, despite the Plan of Action's existing gender provisions and the critical role women play in soil biodiversity conservation. The final recommendation to COP17 therefore advances key elements of the Plan but leaves several substantive areas, including gender considerations, to be decided at COP17.

## ► What's next? What should we all do to advance women's rights?

Given the limited attention to gender during SBSTTA-27 and the continued brackets across key provisions, COP17 is a critical opportunity for governments, UN agencies, conservation organisations, and funders to deliver concrete, measurable actions that uphold rights, strengthen agrobiodiversity, and centre women's leadership. In this line, the CBD-WC suggests the following:

- Implement the gender provisions already embedded in the Soil Biodiversity Plan of Action through gender-focused monitoring and reporting, inclusive of further alignment with the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030).
- Resource and enable women's full and effective participation and leadership. Provide targeted technical and financial support for women farmers, Indigenous and local women, researchers, and community organisations engaged in soil biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, wild pollinator protection, and ecosystem restoration.
- Integrate women's knowledge and rights into policy coherence and cross-sectoral action, including through harmonised methodologies to advance gender-responsive conservation and sustainable use of soil biodiversity at national and global levels.



## Item 10. Biodiversity and health.

### ► What is the item about?

This agenda item addresses the interconnections between biodiversity, human health, and ecosystem health, building on previous COP decisions and guided by the [Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health](#). Under this item, Parties are invited to consider progress on developing integrated, science-based indicators, metrics, and tools to monitor biodiversity-health linkages, and to review ongoing capacity-building, technical cooperation, and technology transfer supporting the uptake and implementation of the Global Action Plan. The item also covers efforts to raise awareness of biodiversity-health interlinkages; to strengthen cooperation with international organizations and relevant multilateral environmental, health, and human-rights agreements; and to explore, together with the WHO and the Quadripartite One Health alliance, the development of an online information platform to collate knowledge and tools on interconnected biodiversity and health policies.

SBSTTA was tasked with reviewing the Secretariat's progress report and preparing recommendations for COP17 on how to advance coherent, science-based, One Health-aligned approaches across the Convention.

### ► Why is it relevant for gender justice?

Biodiversity-health interlinkages have clear gendered dimensions. Women, particularly those in rural, Indigenous, and resource-dependent contexts, are often frontline stewards of biodiversity and simultaneously among the most affected by environmental degradation, pollution, zoonotic risks, and unequal access to healthcare. Yet their knowledge, experiences, and leadership remain insufficiently recognised in biodiversity and health governance. For the CBD Women's Caucus, it is essential that work under this item, especially indicator development, capacity-building, and cooperation with health institutions, fully applies an intersectional, culturally appropriate, and rights-based approach in line with Section C of the KM-GBF and the Gender Plan of Action.

CBD Women's Caucus key demands for SBSTTA-27 were:

- All indicators, tools, and guidance must reflect Section C of the KM-GBF and the Gender Plan of Action, integrating gender equality, equity, and human rights into biodiversity-health policies and recognising differentiated risks, capacities, and impacts.
- Online platforms and knowledge-exchange systems should document and disseminate diverse experiences, tools, and data, including gender-responsive and Indigenous knowledge, to support coherent implementation and evidence-based decision-making.
- One Health must be integrated across related agenda items, health, invasive species, risk assessment, and climate-biodiversity work, to strengthen prevention, resilience, and response measures in ways that are gender-responsive and socially inclusive.

## ► What happened (or didn't happen) during negotiations?

During SBSTTA-27, delegates examined progress on biodiversity–health interlinkages, with discussions centred on the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health, the timeline for developing integrated science-based indicators, and the need for capacity-building, cooperation, and financial resources to support implementation. The CBD Women's Caucus delivered a written statement, read in plenary, calling for rights-based and gender-responsive approaches, strengthened information-sharing platforms, and consistent application of the One Health approach, and key elements of this statement were incorporated into the CRP. However, negotiations overall remained cautious: several provisions were bracketed, including those concerning the development of indicators, the uptake of the IPBES Nexus Assessment, financial support for implementation, and references to One Health. While the CRP was adopted, many operational paragraphs require further negotiation at COP17, and discussions on gender were limited, with no new gender-specific commitments introduced, underscoring the need for sustained advocacy to ensure that gender-responsive implementation becomes a concrete component of the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health.

## What's next? What should we all do to advance women's rights?

As negotiations move toward COP17 it is critical to ensure that gender-responsive approaches shape the implementation of the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health will be critical for equitable, resilient, and community-driven outcomes. In this line, the CBD-WC suggests the following:

- Indicators, metrics, and monitoring frameworks developed for the Global Action Plan must systematically integrate gender, equity, and rights-based considerations, reflecting differentiated vulnerabilities, capacities, and knowledge systems.
- Governments, funders, and UN agencies should provide predictable funding, technical support, and capacity-building to women, communities, and health practitioners, ensuring their leadership informs national implementation and One Health approaches.
- Online platforms and interagency collaboration should include gender-responsive data, integration of indigenous and local knowledge, and community-based insights; and Parties should ensure the One Health approach is applied consistently across CBD agenda items, including risk assessment, invasive species, and health.

**This is a collective publication on behalf of the CBD Women's Caucus.**

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**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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