

FINDINGS REPORT

“ADVANCING GENDER JUSTICE IN BIODIVERSITY DATA AND POLICY”



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Authors: *Shruti Ajit, Amelia Arreguín-Prado, Fatima El-Aaraby* (CBD Women’s Caucus) and *Karen Wong-Pérez, Francesca Booker, Cinzia Cimmino* (IIED).

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For more information: genderandbiodiversitydata@cbd womenscaucus.org

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This study, led by the CBD Women’s Caucus in partnership with IIED, provides an exploratory, network-based mapping of capacities, practices, and needs related to gender-responsive biodiversity data among women-led and community-based organisations across the biodiversity data value chain: collection, management, analysis, and use.

Based on 70 survey responses from 33 countries (See Annex 1 for more details), findings show that women-led and community-based organisations are already generating vital gender-responsive biodiversity data. Organisations are highly active in data communication (77%) and data use (70%), and are substantially engaged in data collection (61%), and analysis (56%). However, only 37% report engagement in data management, highlighting a gap that may affect the long-term usability and accessibility of evidence. While many organisations demonstrate strong ethical intent, implementation is uneven, with 52% reporting having ethical guidelines or data protection frameworks, but fewer report having formal data management plans.

A major strength of women-led biodiversity data is the generation of community-rooted evidence. Community members and women leaders play central roles in data collection (57%), data use (43%), and data validation (43%). The most common approaches to collecting data are qualitative and narrative-based methods, including interviews, focus groups, and storytelling. These methods reflect the centrality of lived experience in building gender-responsive biodiversity data. Organisations frequently collect overlapping categories of information, such as gender and social inclusion data (86%), socio-economic data (67%), policy and legal data (61%), biodiversity and ecological data (56%), and traditional, Indigenous and local knowledge (57%). This approach illustrates an emerging shift toward holistic, multidisciplinary evidence systems that capture ecological, social, cultural, and governance dimensions together.

Across the data value chain, limited funding is the most significant and recurring barrier to collecting data (86%), closely linked to limited access to technology and tools (56%), and constraints in technical skills (44%). These interlinked challenges limit the ability of organisations to conduct systematic, ethical, and scalable data work. However, the primary obstacle to policy impact is not lack of evidence, but the lack of recognition, access, and resources. Community-generated and women-led data is often undervalued in formal decision-making spaces, despite its relevance, depth, and usefulness for community-grounding.

The findings suggest two important opportunities. On one hand, there is a strong readiness for peer-to-peer learning and collective capacity strengthening (96%), signalling high potential for network-based, scalable approaches to strengthening gender-responsive data capabilities across regions and contexts. On the other hand, these findings suggest an opportunity to operationalise a whole-of-society approach to monitoring and reporting, building on what already exists. Women-led organisations are already generating and using rich, community-rooted evidence. The recognition of their existing contributions coupled with strategic support to strengthen their capabilities and infrastructure would enable the generation and use of gender-responsive evidence that can inform more gender-just decisions in national and global biodiversity reporting processes.

1. MAPPING THE MISSION

Purpose and Scope

The following assessment¹ was undertaken by the CBD Women’s Caucus (CBD WC) in partnership with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) to better understand how women’s organisations engaged in biodiversity conservation currently collect, manage, analyse, use, and share data. The survey focuses on organisations working at local, national, and regional levels, particularly those representing or working with Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant, and local communities.

The assessment examines capacities and challenges across the data value chain (See box 1), identifies priority support needs, and explores opportunities for collaboration and peer learning to strengthen gender-responsive biodiversity data systems.

This assessment was designed as an exploratory, network-based mapping of capacities, practices, and needs related to gender-responsive biodiversity data among women-led and community-based organisations. It is not intended to produce statistically representative findings, but rather to generate directional and practice-oriented evidence that can inform programme design, capacity-strengthening initiatives, and strategic investments.

Why Gender-Responsive Biodiversity Data Matters

Gender-responsive biodiversity policy depends on evidence that captures how women, men, and diverse gender groups experience environmental change differently. Yet major global data gaps persist. Of the more than 90 Sustainable Development Goal indicators related to the environment, only around 10 include a gender dimension, and most of these lack reliable sex-disaggregated data across countries.² As a result, critical differences in how women and men experience biodiversity loss, environmental degradation, and access to natural resources remain largely undocumented.

This gap is reinforced by the way environmental data is collected. National and international environmental statistics rarely include sex-disaggregated or gender-sensitive indicators, limiting understanding of differentiated impacts, roles, and vulnerabilities. At the same time, women remain underrepresented in environmental governance and decision-making spaces. Across the three Rio Conventions, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, women account for only around 40–45% of national focal points, and just about 10% of countries have achieved gender parity across environmental leadership roles³

These data and representation gaps obscure the distinct roles and knowledge that women contribute to biodiversity conservation, including as primary gatherers of wild foods and medicinal plants and as custodians of Indigenous and local ecological knowledge. Without gender-responsive data, global frameworks such as the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals risk advancing policies that overlook lived realities, weaken accountability, and fail to deliver equitable and effective biodiversity outcomes.

¹ To obtain a copy of the assessment tool, please write to genderandbiodiversitydata@cbdwomenscaucus.org

² Please see: <https://data.unwomen.org/features/why-we-need-gender-and-environment-data-agenda-cop28>

³ Please see: <https://unu.edu/inweh/news/gender-imbalance-hinders-equitable-environmental-governance-un-university-report-reveals>

This report is organised along the biodiversity data value chain (see box 1), moving from data collection through management, analysis, use, and communication. Early sections outline who is generating data, what types of data are collected, and the methods used. Subsequent sections examine organisational capacities, challenges, and support needs related to data management and analysis. The report then explores how information is used for advocacy, community decision-making, and policy engagement, before concluding with recommendations to strengthen gender-responsive, community-centred data systems.

Box 1: Understanding a Data Value Chain

The data value chain describes a sequence of interconnected stages through which raw information becomes decision-ready evidence, highlighting how gaps at any stage can limit the overall impact of data. The framework the assessment was built on comes from Data2X (2019), which outlines the value chain as encompassing data generation, processing, analysis, dissemination, and use, emphasising the importance of connectivity and feedback across stages.

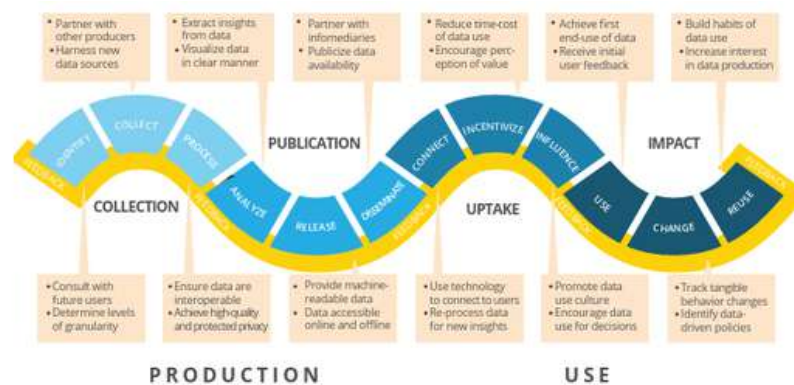


Figure 1: A data value chain is simply the transformation of raw data into decisions and actions that can improve people’s lives.” – Data2X, 2019, *The Data Value Chain*

More details can be found here: Open Data Watch (2019). ‘The data value chain: Moving from production to impact’. Washington D.C: Data2X. https://www.data2x.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Data_Value_Chain.pdf

In this report, the stages of the data value chain are defined as follows:

- **Data Collection:** Gathering information through surveys, interviews, community monitoring, mapping, and other primary or secondary sources.
- **Data Management:** Organising, storing, curating, and safeguarding data using digital, paper-based, or hybrid systems, including ethical protocols.
- **Data Analysis:** Interpreting data to identify patterns, trends, and insights, including gender and social dimensions.
- **Data Use:** Applying analysed evidence to advocacy, policy engagement, community decision-making, reporting, and learning.
- **Data Sharing and Communication:** Disseminating findings to diverse audiences through reports, briefs, media, visual tools, or dialogues.
- **Data Governance:** Ethical practices, consent processes, data protection, and decision-making authority over how data is used and shared.

Engagement Across the Data Value Chain

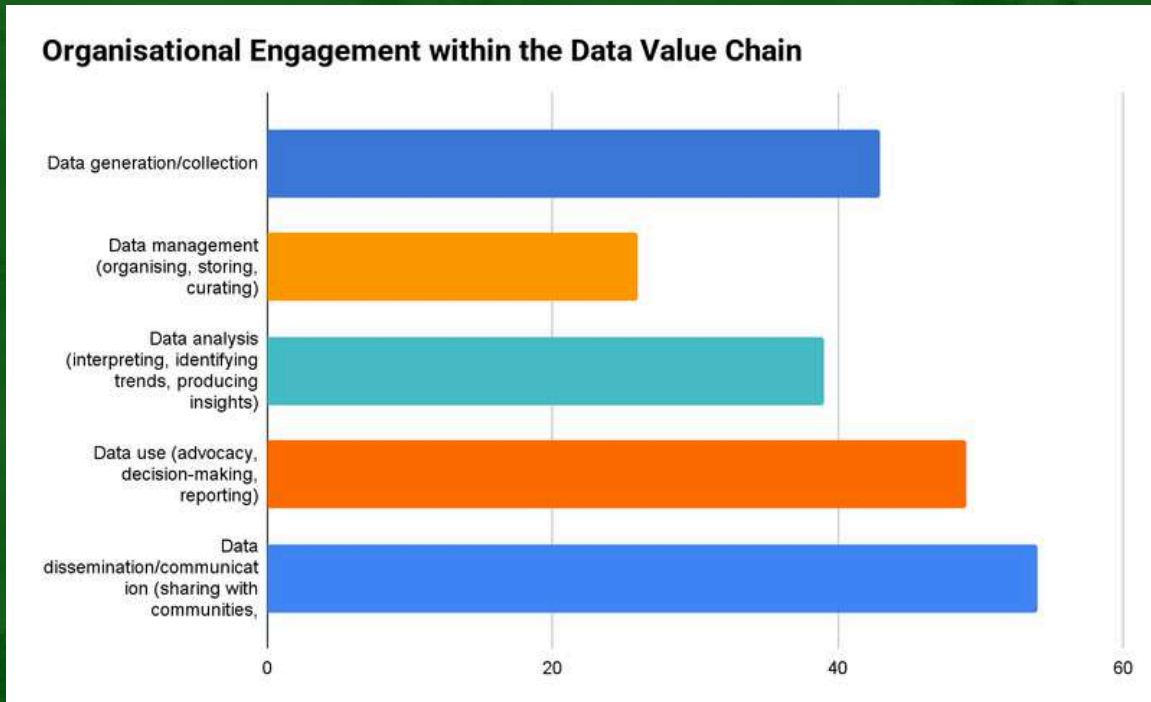


Figure 2: Engagement of Various Organisations across the value chain

The survey results reveal that organisations are actively involved in multiple stages of the data value chain, though their levels of engagement vary. The highest level of participation is seen in data dissemination and communication (77%), demonstrating a strong commitment to sharing findings with communities, policymakers, and the broader public. This is closely followed by data use (70%) indicating that many organisations draw on data to support advocacy, inform decision-making, and meet reporting requirements.

Forty-three respondents are involved in data generation and collection (61%) and data analysis (56%), reflecting widespread experience in gathering and interpreting evidence. However, comparatively, 26 respondents reported engagement in data management (37%), including activities such as organising, storing, and curating data. This gap highlights a key capacity constraint that may affect the long-term usability, accessibility, and quality of the data being generated.

Overall, the distribution shows that while many organisations are highly active in using and communicating data, additional support in data management systems and practices could significantly strengthen the integrity and impact of gender-responsive biodiversity evidence.

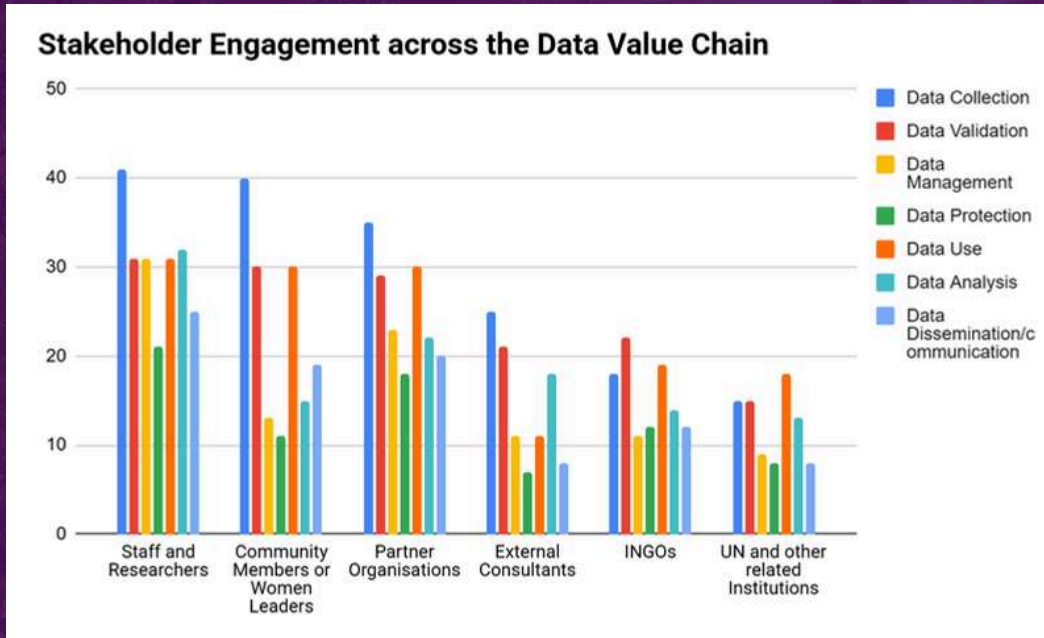


Figure 3: Engagement of various stakeholders within the data value chain

The survey results show that a wide range of stakeholders are engaged throughout the data lifecycle, though their levels of involvement vary by stage. Staff and researchers are the most consistently involved actors, leading across all stages, from data collection (59%) to data analysis (46%), data validation (44%), data management (44%), data use (44%), and data dissemination (36%). This reflects their central role in technical oversight and organisational decision-making.

Community members and women leaders also play a prominent role, particularly in data collection (57%) and data use (43%), demonstrating the importance of community-led knowledge and lived experience in shaping gender-responsive evidence. Their strong involvement in data validation (43%) highlights the emphasis on ensuring accuracy, relevance, and cultural integrity of the data.

Partner organisations are engaged across the data chain, with notable participation in data collection (50%), data validation (41%), and data use (43%). Their contributions often support collaborative evidence generation and shared advocacy initiatives. In contrast, external consultants tend to be involved more selectively, primarily during data collection (36%), analysis (26%), and validation (30%), reflecting their role in providing specialised technical support.

International NGOs (INGOs) and UN or related institutions show moderate involvement, especially in data use (INGOs: 27%; UN-related institutions: 26%) and data validation, where global actors often support alignment with international frameworks. Their lower participation in stages such as data collection, data management, data protection, and dissemination indicates that these functions remain largely internal to local and community-based organisations.

Overall, the findings show a strong multi-stakeholder ecosystem, with community members, local organisations, and technical staff playing central roles. However, the comparatively lower engagement of all actors in data protection and data management suggests areas where additional capacity-building and shared standards may be beneficial to strengthen data governance.

Regional Comparison of Stakeholder Involvement Across the Data Lifecycle

Across all three regions, Latin America, Africa, and Asia the data reveal strong multi-actor engagement throughout the data lifecycle, though with notable regional differences in who leads or supports each stage.

In Latin America, staff and researchers dominate most stages of the data value chain, particularly data collection (48%), data use (43%), and data analysis (39%), reflecting a strong organisational emphasis on internal technical capacity. Community members and women leaders are also closely involved, especially in data collection (35%) and data use (43%), demonstrating meaningful community participation in generating and applying gender-responsive evidence.

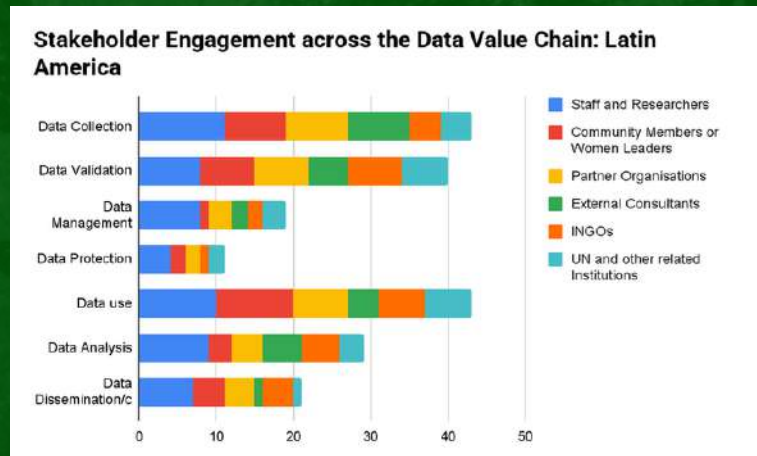


Figure 4: Engagement of various stakeholders within the data value chain in Latin America

Engagement from partner organisations is moderate across stages, supporting collaborative processes, while external consultants contribute more selectively, particularly in data collection (35%) and data analysis (22%), consistent with their role in providing specialised or short-term technical support. Across the region, data protection and data management show the lowest levels of engagement overall, particularly among community actors, pointing to persistent gaps in data governance, infrastructure, and long-term stewardship capacities.

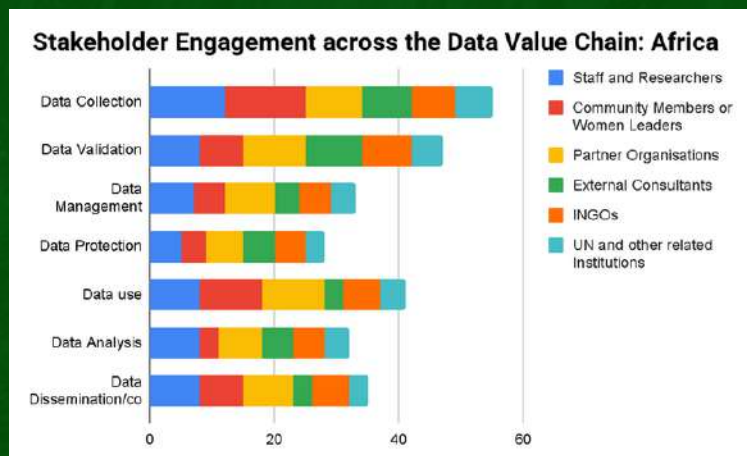


Figure 5: Engagement of various stakeholders within the data value chain in Africa

Africa demonstrates the strongest community involvement of all regions. Community members play a major role in data collection (68%) and data use (53%), illustrating a deep reliance on community knowledge, lived experience, and local leadership in generating and applying gender-responsive evidence. Partner organisations and INGOs are also actively engaged, particularly in data validation and dissemination, reflecting strong collaboration across institutions and levels of action.

Compared to Latin America, the results from Africa show higher engagement in data protection and data management, suggesting relatively stronger attention to data governance and stewardship, even as capacity gaps remain. External consultants and the UN or related bodies are involved more moderately across the data value chain, primarily providing targeted technical or institutional support. Overall, the region’s consistent participation across multiple actor groups reflects dynamic and interconnected networks of NGOs, grassroots organisations, and partners working collectively at the intersection of gender, biodiversity, and community governance.

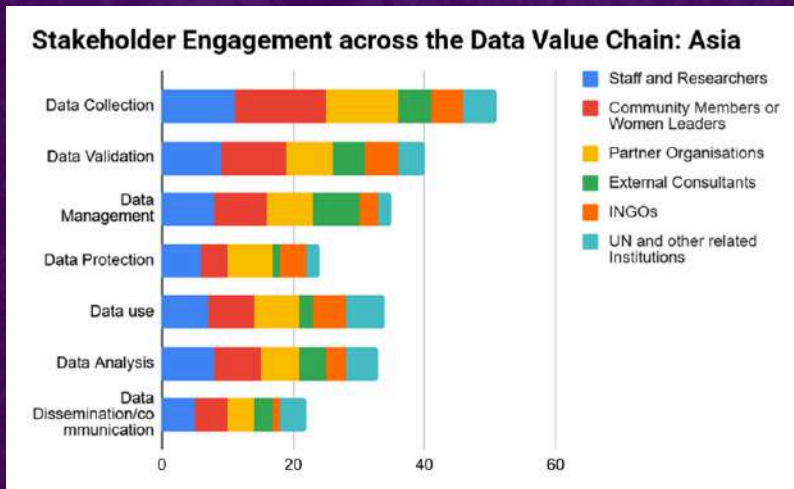


Figure 6: Engagement of various stakeholders within the data value chain in Asia

Asia shows a more balanced multi-stakeholder profile, with strong roles for community members (76%) and partner organisations (65%) in data collection, alongside significant staff involvement across all stages of the data value chain. This region stands out for relatively higher engagement in data management by both staff and community members (47%), suggesting comparatively stronger capacities for organising, storing, and maintaining data systems.

However, external consultants and INGOs are involved less intensively than in Africa, particularly in data protection and data dissemination, pointing to more internally driven and locally managed data systems. The Asia region also shows notable involvement of UN and related institutions, especially in data use (35%) and data analysis (29%), indicating alignment with regional and global policy processes while maintaining strong internal ownership of data practices.

2. DATA COLLECTION

This section seeks to understand organisation’s capacities, approaches, and experiences in generating and collecting gender-responsive evidence. It explores how data related to women, gender equality, and other intersectional factors are identified, gathered, and validated.

Data Collected by Responding Organisations

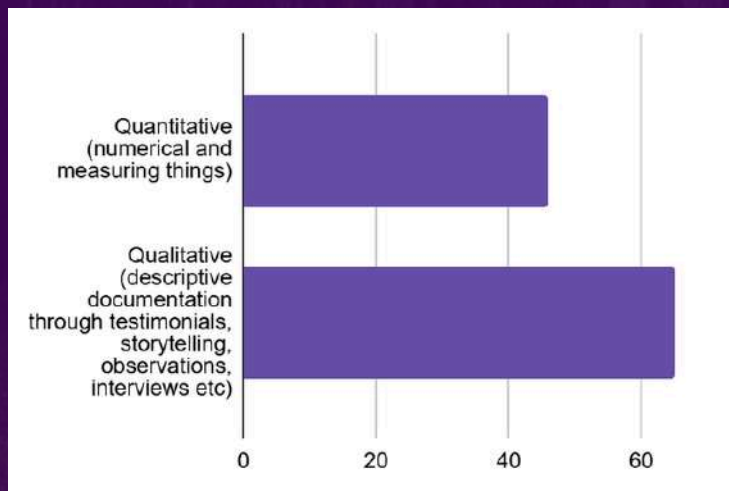


Figure 7: Different formats of data collected by Respondents

Across the dataset, organisations reported using a wide range of data types to inform their work on gender and biodiversity. Qualitative data emerged as the most frequently used approach, with 65 organisations (93%) relying on descriptive and narrative-based methods such as testimonials, storytelling, interviews, community observations, and field-based documentation. This reflects the central role of lived experience, traditional knowledge, Indigenous and local knowledge, and community perspectives in understanding gendered relationships with biodiversity.

Quantitative data is also widely collected, with 46 organisations (66%) reporting engagement in numerical data collection and measurement-based assessments. Many respondents combine both quantitative and qualitative methods, applying mixed-method approaches to strengthen evidence, support policy advocacy, and generate more holistic insights.

A smaller number of organisations also noted the use of geospatial data, legal analysis, impact assessments, and field-based evaluations, illustrating a growing diversification of methodological tools in gender-responsive biodiversity work.

Organisations reported collecting a wide and often overlapping range of data types (see Figure 8), reflecting the complexity of their work. The most commonly collected type is gender and social inclusion data, reported by 60 respondents (86%), signalling a strong emphasis on wanting to understand social dynamics. This is closely followed by socio-economic data, which helps organisations track livelihoods, income, and access to resources within communities, collected by 47 respondents (67%).

Policy and legal data reported by 43 respondents (61%) and biodiversity/ecological data (56%) also feature prominently, indicating an effort to link field observations and community realities with national and international policy frameworks. Traditional, Indigenous and local knowledge is collected by 40 respondents (57%), demonstrating recognition of the value of diverse knowledge systems in informing biodiversity conservation, resource governance, and cultural continuity.

Beyond these major categories, one organisation highlighted the use of multiple forms of environmental statistics, such as integrated datasets combining climate, land-use, and ecosystem indicators. There was also one reference to collecting public health surveillance data, particularly where environmental changes intersect with health risks or community vulnerability.

Across the dataset, it is clear that many organisations gather multiple categories simultaneously, for example, combining biodiversity data with socio-economic information, gender insights, traditional, Indigenous and local knowledge, and legal/policy sources. This intersectional approach illustrates an emerging shift toward holistic, multidisciplinary evidence systems that capture ecological, social, cultural, and governance dimensions together.

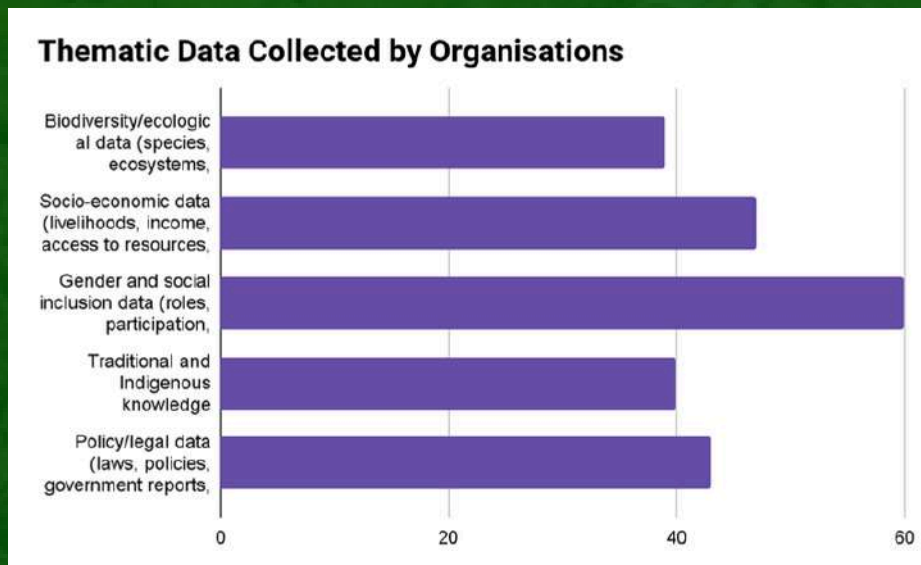


Figure 8: Thematic types of data collected by respondents, illustrating the range and overlap of biodiversity, socio-economic, gender and social inclusion, policy/legal, and Indigenous and local knowledge data informing their work

Methods of Data Collection Used by Organisations

Respondents employ a diverse mix of data collection methods, reflecting the varied contexts in which they operate and the need to capture both quantitative and qualitative insights. The most frequently used methods are interviews and focus group discussions (79%), and surveys or questionnaires (77%), underscoring the central role of direct engagement with communities in capturing lived experiences, perceptions, and structured data.

Community mapping and participatory Geographic Information System (GIS) (53%) and citizen science or community monitoring approaches (43%) also feature prominently, highlighting efforts to actively involve communities in documenting spatial information, tracking biodiversity, and monitoring environmental change. In parallel, digital databases and digital survey tools (46%) indicate a growing uptake of technology to support data entry, storage, and real-time field data collection, even as access to digital infrastructure remains uneven across contexts.

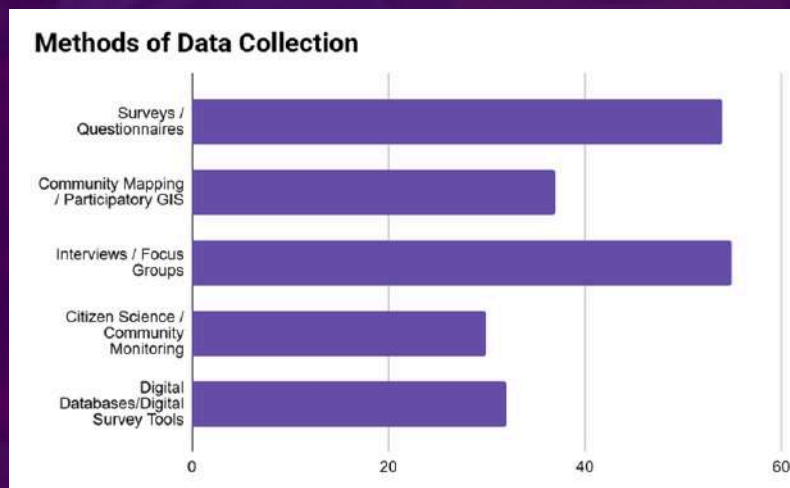


Figure 9: Methods of data collection used by respondents, showing the prevalence of surveys, interviews and focus groups, participatory approaches, and digital tools across organisations (n = 70)

In addition to these core methods, organisations also utilise several specialised or context-specific approaches, including:

- Participatory rural appraisal (PRA) and storytelling-based evidence collection, used to surface local narratives, histories, and experiential knowledge.
- *Giras y caminatas botánicas* (botanical walks), field visits, and in-situ observations to collect ecological and cultural data.
- Geospatial information, big data, and administrative records, especially among groups with stronger technical or policy-oriented capacities.
- Camera traps, drone flights, and field sampling, demonstrating the integration of technology-rich ecological monitoring tools.
- Government polls, call responses, and community queries, which show how organisations also draw from institutional and communication-based data sources.

Overall, the results show that organisations rely on a blend of participatory, technological, and traditional field-based methods, with many using multiple methods in combination to ensure more comprehensive and reliable datasets. This mixed-methods approach reflects a broader shift toward integrating community knowledge, digital innovation, and scientific monitoring within environmental and social data systems.

Challenges Faced by Organisations in Data Collection

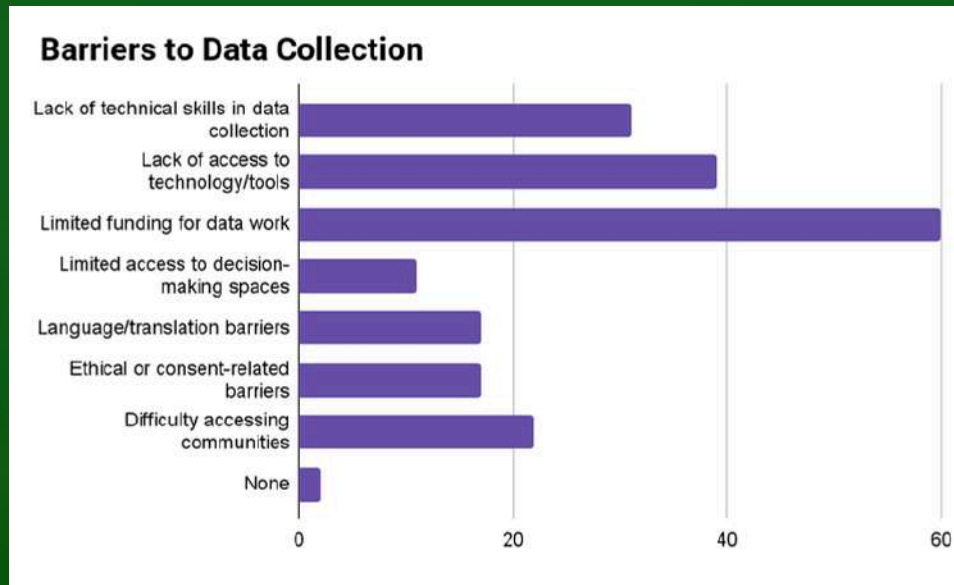


Figure 10: Key challenges faced by respondents in collecting and managing gender-responsive biodiversity data, highlighting the predominance of funding, technical, and access-related constraints (n = 70)

Respondents report facing a wide spectrum of challenges that hinder effective and sustained data collection. The most significant and recurring barrier is limited funding for data work, highlighted by 60 respondents (86%) and echoed consistently across qualitative responses. This financial constraint is closely linked with two other major challenges: lack of access to technology and tools, reported by 39 respondents (56%), and limited technical skills in data collection, cited by 31 respondents (44%). Together, these constraints significantly restrict respondents’ ability to conduct robust, systematic, and well-resourced data processes across the data value chain.

In addition, difficulty accessing communities was reported by 22 respondents (31%), particularly in remote areas or in contexts shaped by power imbalances, patriarchal norms, or restrictive cultural beliefs that affect participation in data collection. Language and translation barriers and ethical or consent-related challenges were each raised by 17 respondents (24%), especially when working with Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, and multilingual populations where trust-building, informed consent, and culturally appropriate engagement are essential.

Structural and institutional barriers were also noted. Limited access to decision-making spaces was highlighted by 11 respondents (16%), constraining the ability of respondents to ensure that community-generated data meaningfully informs policy and governance processes. Qualitative responses further pointed to challenges related to limited human capacity, lack of institutional awareness of gender equality, and entrenched power dynamics, including control over conservation processes and socio-cultural norms that undermine participation and data ownership.

While only two respondents (3%) indicated that they experienced no challenges, the overwhelming majority reported multiple, overlapping barriers, financial, technical, social, and institutional, that collectively limit their capacity to generate, manage, and apply high-quality, gender-responsive, and community-driven data effectively.

Data Collection- Gaps and Capacities

Respondents consistently highlighted a strong need for training on inclusive and gender-responsive data collection, cited by 46 respondents (66%), alongside demand for funding and logistics support (83%) and access to digital tools or equipment (64%), all of which are essential for improving data collection, storage, and analysis. Guidance on ethical and safe data practices was also prioritised by 28 respondents (40%), particularly when working with Indigenous Peoples, women, and communities facing risks related to consent, privacy, or data ownership. In parallel, 46 respondents (66%) expressed the need for partnerships or mentorship, reflecting recognition that peer learning and alliances are critical for strengthening gender-responsive data work and collective advocacy.

At the same time, the survey indicates that respondents are not only seeking support but are also well positioned to provide it to others. The most common forms of support respondents reported being able to offer include training on inclusive and gender-responsive data collection (67%) and partnerships or mentorship (66%), underscoring strong readiness for peer-to-peer learning and collaboration. Practical support such as funding and logistics assistance (59%) and access to digital tools or equipment (54%) was also frequently mentioned, while guidance on ethical or safe data practices (49%) emerged as another area of shared expertise.

Although fewer respondents indicated the ability to directly share digital tools or equipment (31%) or provide funding and logistics support (19%), many highlighted their capacity to contribute specialised knowledge, including training on gendered tenure data, participatory action research, value-chain analysis for forest-based economies, and sharing institutional experience. Together, these findings highlight a strong foundation for network-based, peer-led capacity strengthening that combines technical skills, ethical practice, material support, and collective learning.

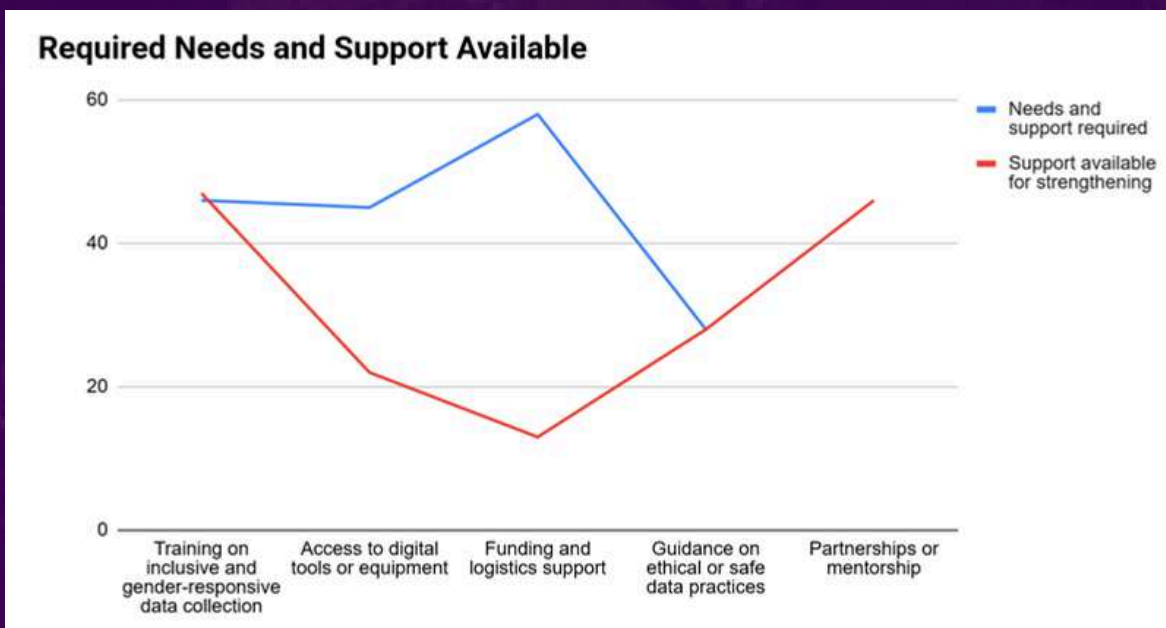


Figure 11: Respondents’ Needs and Capacities for Peer Support on Gender-Responsive Data

3. DATA MANAGEMENT, ANALYSIS, AND GOVERNANCE

This section explores organisational capacities in organising, storing, curating, and safeguarding information, while following ethical protocols. It also includes data analysis, which involves interpreting information to identify patterns, trends, and insights, particularly related to gender and social dimensions, and data governance, covering ethical practices, consent processes, data protection, and decision-making authority over data use and sharing.

Organisation of Data

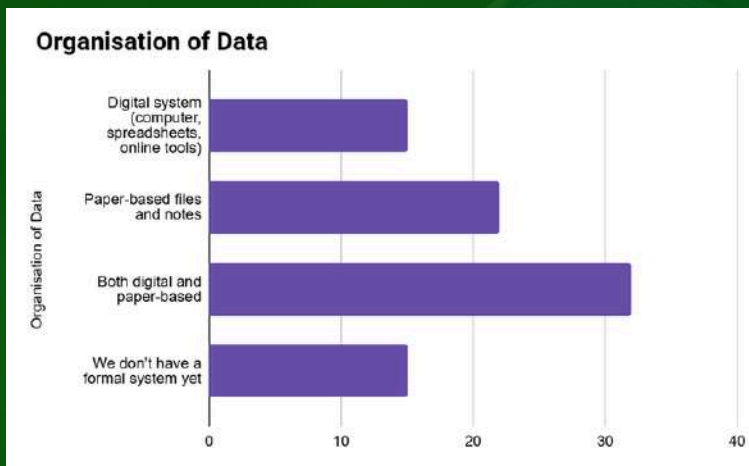


Figure 12: Various approaches used by organisations to organise their data (n=70)

The survey results show that organisations use a range of systems to organise their data, with varying levels of formality and digitisation. The most common approach is a combination of digital and paper-based systems as reported by 32 organisations (46%), reflecting transitional data practices where digital tools are used alongside physical records. 22 organisations (31%) rely primarily on paper-based files and notes, while a smaller group (21%) use fully digital systems, such as computers, spreadsheets, and online tools.

Notably, an equal number of organisations (21%) reported that they do not yet have a formal system for organising data, highlighting an important capacity gap. Qualitative responses further revealed informal practices, such as sharing monthly reports via messaging platforms like WhatsApp, and ad hoc combinations of digital and paper records. Overall, the findings indicate uneven data organisation practices, underscoring the need for strengthened digital infrastructure, standardised systems, and support for transitioning toward more secure, accessible, and sustainable data management approaches.

Challenges in Data Management

Respondents reported a range of interconnected challenges affecting effective data management. The most frequently cited constraint was lack of time or dedicated staff (59%), reflecting limited organisational capacity to systematically collect, manage, and analyse data. This was closely followed by limited skills in data analysis (46%) and lack of digital tools or reliable internet access (45%), which restrict both the quality of data handling and the ability to use data for planning and advocacy.

Concerns about privacy and data ownership (42%) were raised, highlighting sensitivities around managing gender-related and community-level data, particularly in contexts of evolving data protection regulations and limited institutional guidance. The responses indicating difficulty understanding complex data (30%) point to gaps in data literacy, challenges with standardisation, and the quality of administrative records.

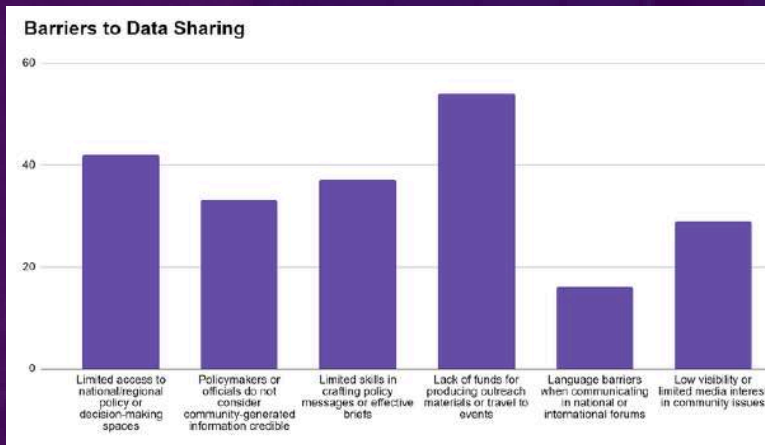


Figure 13: Key challenges in data management, showing number of respondents and corresponding percentage for each challenge.

In addition to these core challenges, unique qualitative responses revealed broader structural and contextual barriers. These included the power dynamics influencing community projects, especially in gender-related work, where decision-makers can shape data priorities and participant selection; underreporting of violence and gender inequalities; uneven technical capacities at sub-national levels; and the absence of online management information systems.

Some organisations noted that frequent changes in national data protection protocols have made storing data securely increasingly complex, while others emphasised that additional staff and resources would enable deeper analysis, improved dashboards, and more effective data sharing. Only three respondents (4%) indicated that they faced no challenges, underscoring the pervasive and multi-layered nature of data management constraints across organisations.

Support and Training Needs for Improving Organisational Data Management and Analysis

Respondents expressed strong demand for targeted support and training to strengthen organisational data management capacities. The most frequently identified need was training on turning findings into community-friendly reports (72%), underscoring the importance of making data accessible, relevant, and actionable for communities and local stakeholders. This was closely followed by understanding gender and social aspects in data analysis (67%), reflecting a clear priority for gender-responsive, inclusive, and intersectional approaches to interpreting data.

Support for analysing information in simple and visual ways was highlighted by 45 respondents (65%), indicating a need for practical skills to translate data into clear visuals, dashboards, and summaries that can inform advocacy and decision-making. Basic data management and digital literacy (52%) remains a foundational requirement, particularly for organisations with limited digital infrastructure or formal data systems.

In addition to these core training needs, unique qualitative responses pointed to complementary forms of support. These included liaising with communities to promote uptake and ownership of findings, strengthening understanding of inclusivity and intersectionality across gender and economic class, and improving interoperability between digital platforms to enable smoother data sharing and integration. A small number of respondents also identified financing as a critical enabler for effective data management, highlighting that training alone is insufficient without adequate resources to apply new skills in practice.

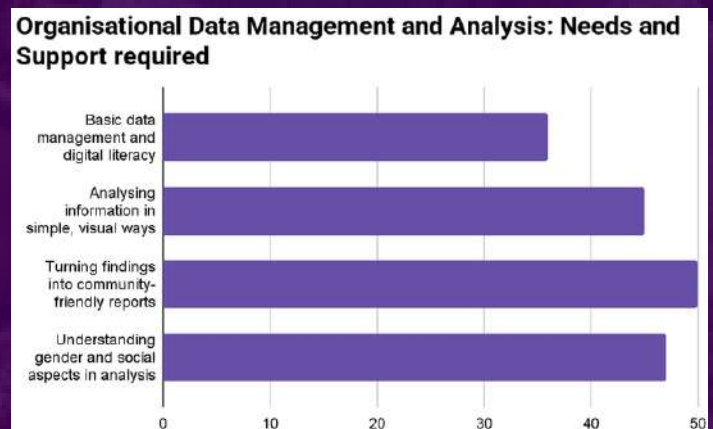


Figure 14: Organisational support and training needs for managing and analysing data (n=70)

Data Management Planning and Ethical Frameworks

A larger proportion of respondents reported having ethical guidelines or data protection frameworks in place, with 36 organisations (52%) responding affirmatively. However, 22 organisations (32%) indicated they do not currently have such protocols, and 9 organisations (13%) reported uncertainty.

Simultaneously, responses indicate that while some organisations have begun formalising their data governance practices, significant gaps remain. Only 17 organisations (25%) reported having a data management plan that they would be willing to share as an example of best practice, compared to 36 organisations (52%) that do not have one, and 15 organisations (22%) that indicated this may be possible in the future. This suggests that structured approaches to data management are still emerging across many organisations.

The findings highlight a stronger emphasis on ethical considerations and data protection than on comprehensive data management planning, pointing to an opportunity for targeted support to help organisations translate ethical commitments into formal, shareable data management plans.

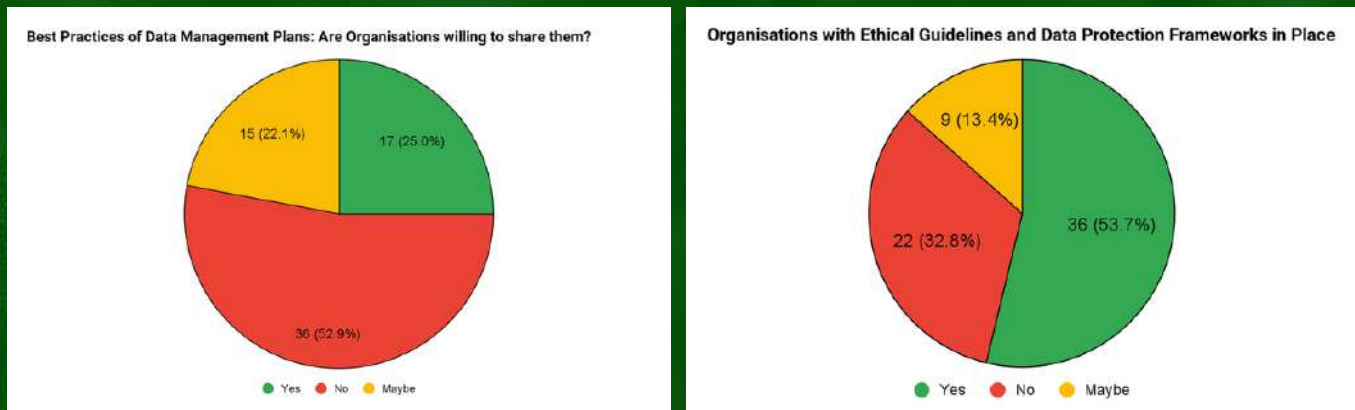


Figure 15 and 16: Organisational adoption of ethical guidelines, data protection frameworks, and data management plans (n=70), showing current status and willingness to share best practices.

4. DATA UPTAKE AND USE

This section combines the two elements of the data value chain, from analysis to application, by exploring how organisations turn data and evidence into action for community awareness, decision-making, advocacy, and policy influence. Data use involves applying analysed evidence to inform advocacy, policy engagement, community decisions, reporting, and organisational learning. Data sharing and communication focuses on disseminating findings to diverse audiences through reports, briefs, media, visual tools, or interactive dialogues, ensuring that evidence is accessible, relevant, and impactful.

Use of Data by Organisations

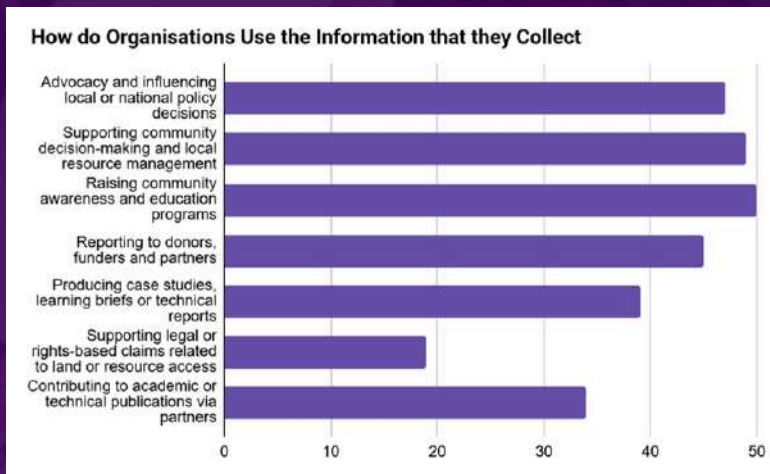


Figure 17: Primary uses of data by organisations (n=70), showing how evidence supports community engagement, decision-making, advocacy, reporting, learning, and specialised applications

The information collected by organisations is primarily used to support community engagement, accountability, and policy influence. The most frequently reported use was raising community awareness and education programmes (72%), followed closely by supporting community decision-making and local resource management (70%). A substantial number of organisations also use data for advocacy and influencing local or national policy decisions (67%), underscoring the strategic role of evidence in shaping policy processes.

Data is also widely used for reporting to funders, and partners (65%) and for producing case studies, learning briefs, or technical reports (56%), reflecting strong accountability and learning functions. Fewer organisations reported using data to support academic or technical publications through partners (49%), and a smaller subset use data for legal or rights-based claims related to land or resource access (28%), suggesting that more specialised or resource-intensive applications of data remain less common.

Audiences and Effective Mediums of Data Sharing

Organisations reported sharing their findings most frequently with members of local communities and community leaders (85%), highlighting the central role of data in supporting grassroots engagement and accountability. A large number of organisations also regularly engage funders, NGOs, and partner organisations (70%), reflecting the importance of data for coordination, learning, and resource mobilisation.

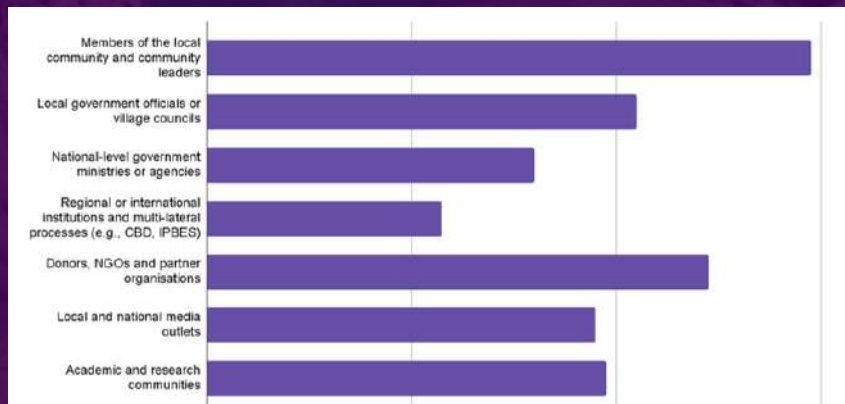


Figure 18: Organisations' primary audiences for sharing findings (n=70)

Engagement with public authorities is also significant, with 42 respondents (60%) sharing findings with local government officials or village councils, and 32 respondents (46%) engaging national-level government ministries or agencies, indicating active efforts to influence governance and policy processes at multiple levels. In addition, findings are shared with academic and research communities (56%) and local and national media outlets (55%), supporting broader dissemination and public awareness. Fewer organisations reported sharing data with regional or international institutions and multilateral processes such as Convention on Biological Diversity(CBD) or Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) (33%), suggesting more limited engagement at global policy platforms.

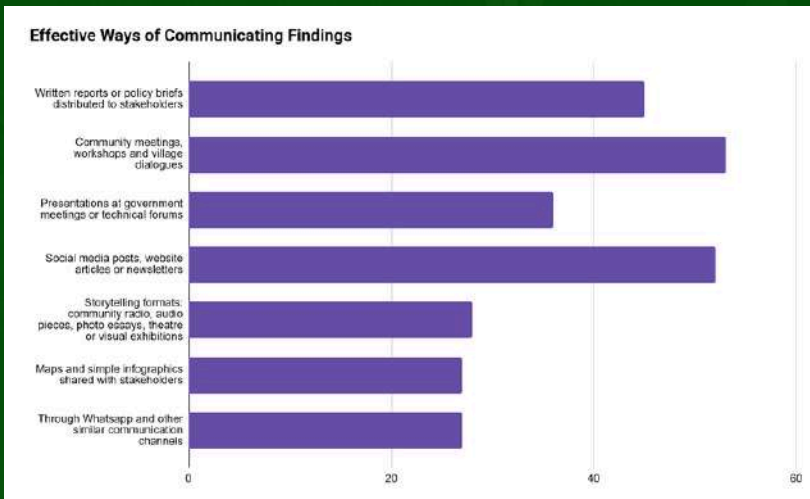


Figure 19: Mediums used by organisations to communicate findings (n=70), showing the effectiveness of community meetings, digital platforms, written reports, presentations, storytelling approaches, and visual tools in reaching target audiences

Respondents identified community-based and accessible communication methods as the most effective for reaching their target audiences. Community meetings, workshops, and village dialogues were cited most frequently (76%), underscoring the importance of direct, participatory engagement in ensuring findings are understood and acted upon. Similarly, social media posts, website articles, and newsletters were reported as highly effective (75%), reflecting the growing role of digital platforms in broadening reach and sustaining engagement.

More formal channels also remain important. Written reports or policy briefs distributed to stakeholders were highlighted by 45 respondents (65%), while presentations at government meetings or technical forums were identified by 36 respondents (52%), indicating the continued relevance of structured formats for policy influence and institutional decision-making. In addition, a notable number of organisations emphasised the value of storytelling approaches, such as community radio, audio pieces, photo essays, theatre, and visual exhibitions (40%), for making data relatable and culturally resonant. Maps, simple infographics, and WhatsApp or similar messaging platforms were each identified by 27 respondents (39%), pointing to the effectiveness of visual and informal communication tools in simplifying complex information and reaching audiences with limited access to formal reports.

Challenges in Data Sharing

Organisations reported multiple, interrelated barriers to effectively using and sharing their information for advocacy and influence. The most significant challenge was the lack of funds for producing outreach materials or travelling to advocacy spaces, with 54 respondents (77%) highlighting financial constraints as a critical limitation. This was closely followed by limited access to national or regional policy and decision-making spaces (60%), which restricts opportunities for community-generated evidence to inform formal processes.

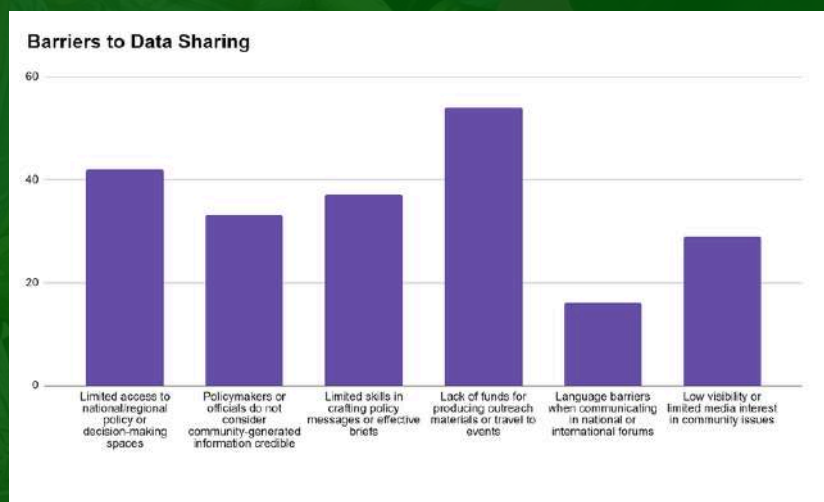


Figure 20: Barriers to effective use and sharing of data for advocacy and policy (n=70), highlighting financial, access, skills, credibility, and communication challenges

Many organisations also reported limited skills in crafting clear policy messages or effective briefs (53%), alongside concerns that policymakers and officials do not view community-generated information as credible (47%). Additional challenges included low media visibility or limited interest in community issues (42%) and language barriers when engaging in national or international forums (23%), further constraining the reach and impact of their findings.

Training Support for Organisations and Capacity Needs Offered by Organisations

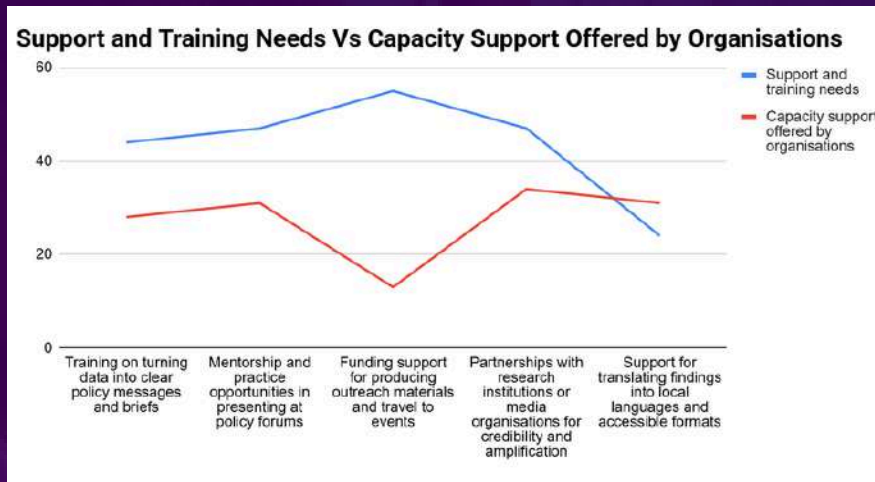


Figure 21: Support needs and peer contributions of organisations (n=70), highlighting funding, mentorship, partnerships, training, and translation for advocacy impact

To address these barriers, respondents prioritised funding support for outreach materials and travel as the most critical form of assistance (55 respondents; 79%). Strong demand was also expressed for mentorship and practical opportunities to present at policy forums (47 respondents; 67%) and partnerships with research institutions or media organisations (47 respondents; 67%) to enhance credibility and amplification. Additionally, training on translating data into clear policy messages and briefs (44 respondents; 63%) was identified, underscoring the need to strengthen strategic communication skills. While less frequently cited, support for translating findings into local languages and accessible formats (24 respondents; 35%) remains important for inclusive and community-centred advocacy.

Despite these challenges, many organisations indicated they are already contributing to peer capacity-building. The most common areas of support they could offer include partnerships with research institutions or media organisations (34 respondents; 49%) and mentorship and practice opportunities in presenting at policy forums (31 respondents; 45%). An equal number (31 respondents; 45%) noted their ability to support translation of findings into local languages and accessible formats, while 28 respondents (40%) could provide training on developing policy messages and briefs. However, far fewer organisations (13 respondents; 19%) reported being able to offer funding support for outreach and travel, reflecting widespread resource constraints across the sector.

These findings highlight the potential for networked support among organisations, where peer-to-peer contributions complement targeted assistance to strengthen advocacy, enhance credibility, and promote inclusive, community-centred approaches.

Interest in Peer-to-Peer Learning on Gender Data

There is an exceptionally high level of interest in participating in a peer-to-peer learning exchange to strengthen gender data capabilities. A total of 67(96%) respondents expressed interest, while only 1 respondent(2%) indicated they were not interested and 2 respondents(3%) said they might participate.

Among those interested, respondents showed a strong preference for interactive and flexible formats. Online webinars were identified as the most accessible option (82%), closely followed by in-person meetings held alongside CBD events (81%), reflecting the value placed on both remote participation and strategic use of existing convenings. Additionally, written guidance with practical examples from other organisations was highlighted by 50%, indicating demand for resources that can be revisited and adapted over time.

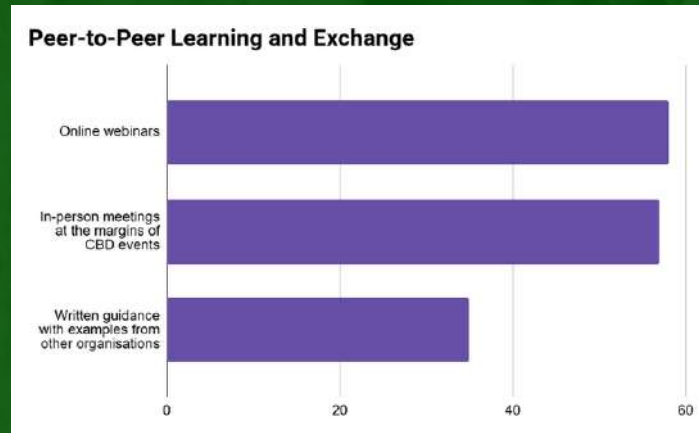


Figure 22: Interest and format preferences for peer-to-peer exchanges on gender-responsive data (n=70), showing blended learning as the favoured approach

Together, these findings suggest that a blended learning approach combining virtual sessions, in-person exchanges, and practical written materials would be most effective in supporting peer learning on gender-responsive data practices.

5. THE WAY FORWARD: INFORMING THE FORMATIVE PROCESS

This assessment set out to understand how women-led and allied organisations working on biodiversity currently engage with gender-responsive data, the constraints they face, and the support they identify as most relevant.

The findings demonstrate that gender-responsive biodiversity data is already being generated and used by women-led and community-based organisations, particularly for local decision-making and advocacy. However, weak data management systems, limited resources, and restricted access to policy spaces constrain the sustainability, protection, and influence of this evidence, especially at national and global levels.

These insights provide a critical evidence base for the next phase of collective work by the CBD Women’s Caucus and its partners, including the co-design of peer learning, capacity strengthening, and advocacy strategies. They further encourage institutions, initiatives, and practitioners working on gender and data to integrate these next steps into their formative, strategic, and implementation frameworks. Future steps, some of which are outlined below, should build on the priorities and readiness expressed by respondents, ensuring that any support mechanisms are grounded in lived realities, ethical data practices, and shared leadership.

1

Recognise and Amplify Community-Generated Data

Concerns about the credibility of community-generated data highlight the need to actively legitimise and amplify this evidence in national, regional, and global processes. Partnerships with research institutions, media organisations, and technical allies can help strengthen visibility while ensuring communities retain ownership and narrative control over their data. Advocacy at multilateral forums should explicitly recognise community and women-led data as valid and necessary.

2

Promote Gender-Responsive, Ethical, and Inclusive Data Practices

With strong demand for training on gender and social analysis, as well as concerns around ethics, consent, privacy, and data ownership, programmes should mainstream gender-responsive and rights-based data approaches. This includes guidance on informed consent, community ownership of data, protection of sensitive information, and culturally appropriate methods, particularly when working with Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Developing and sharing simple, adaptable ethical guidelines would support organisations that currently lack formal frameworks.

3

Invest in Core Data Capacity Building for Grassroots and Women’s Organisations

Given widespread challenges related to limited time, staffing, funding, digital tools, and analytical skills, priority should be placed on foundational capacity strengthening. This should include training on basic data management and digital literacy, simple data analysis using visual tools, and practical guidance on organising and storing data securely. Capacity-building efforts should be designed to be low-burden, modular, and adaptable, recognising the resource constraints faced by many organisations.

4

Support Blended Peer-to-Peer Learning and Knowledge Exchange

The overwhelming interest in peer learning suggests the value of establishing a peer-to-peer learning mechanism that combines online webinars, in-person exchanges at CBD meetings, and written guidance. Peer learning should centre lived experiences, practical tools, and real-world examples from women’s and community-led organisations, rather than overly technical models. Facilitating south-south and cross-regional exchange would further strengthen collective learning and solidarity.

5 Strengthen Pathways from Data to Advocacy and Policy Influence

While organisations actively use data for community decision-making and advocacy, many face barriers in policy access, credibility, and message framing. Targeted support is needed to help organisations translate data into clear, persuasive policy messages, briefs, and community-friendly formats. Mentorship opportunities, particularly around presenting in policy spaces and engaging decision-makers, would help bridge the gap between evidence generation and influence.

6 Expand Access to Digital Tools and Practical Infrastructure

Limited access to digital tools, internet connectivity, and data management systems remains a major constraint. Funders and partners should prioritise flexible funding that supports digital infrastructure, appropriate software, and basic equipment, while also recognising the continued relevance of hybrid paper-digital systems used by many organisations. Support should be context-sensitive and avoid imposing overly complex systems.

7 Support Translation, Accessibility, and Multilingual Communication

Language barriers and accessibility challenges underscore the importance of investing in translation and locally appropriate communication formats. Findings should be shared through storytelling, community radio, visual tools, WhatsApp, and other trusted channels, alongside formal reports. This ensures data serves both community empowerment and policy advocacy, rather than only funder reporting.

8 Build an Ecosystem of Mutual Support and Shared Leadership

Many organisations expressed both needs for support and capacity to support others, particularly through training, mentorship, and partnerships. Future initiatives should therefore focus on building a collaborative ecosystem that values mutual learning, shared leadership, and collective advocacy, rather than one-directional capacity building. This approach aligns with feminist and movement-based principles and strengthens long-term sustainability.

ANNEX 1: METHODOLOGY FOR THE ASSESSMENT

The assessment tool was designed around the key stages of the data value chain: collection, management/analysis/governance, and uptake/use, and aimed to capture both current engagement with data and the barriers organisations face in generating and utilising gender-responsive evidence.

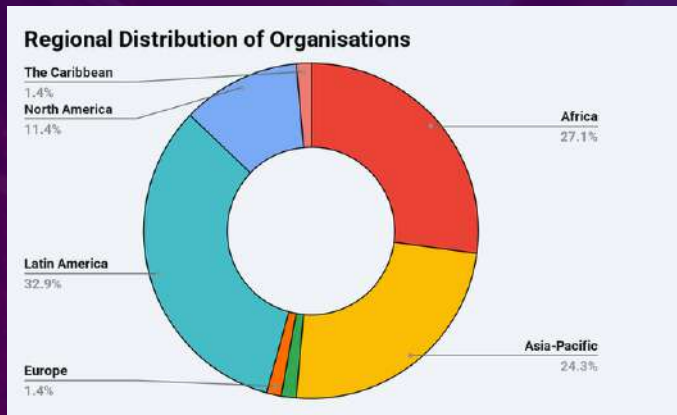


Figure 23: Distribution of Respondents across Regions

The survey was launched in October 2025 and remained open for one month, allowing sufficient time for partners across regions to participate. To accommodate linguistic diversity and ensure accessibility for women’s organisations working in different contexts, the survey tool was made available in English, Spanish, and French.

Ethical and data protection considerations were embedded into the survey design, including explicit consent from respondents for the use of the information provided for the purposes of assessing organisational capacities, identifying gaps, and informing future capacity-strengthening and peer-learning initiatives.

The survey was shared with widely and targeted two groups:

- Organisations already working with gender and data, including those generating, analysing, or applying gender-responsive evidence in policy spaces; and
- Organisations intending to work with gender-responsive data, but requiring additional support, capacity, or resources to do so.

Region	Respondent Countries
Africa	Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda and Uganda
Asia Pacific	Afghanistan, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Philippines and Thailand
West Asia	Jordan
Latin America	Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama and Peru
The Caribbean	Jamaica
Europe	United Kingdom
North America	United States of America, Canada

Table 1: Countries of Respondents based on Regions

A total of 70 responses were received from 33 countries (see Table 1), with particularly strong representation from the global South. Overall, the list shows broad global participation, with notable concentration in Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America, reflecting strong engagement from regions where community-based and women-led biodiversity work is particularly active.

Respondents represent a range of organisational types, with 53% identifying as non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Other types of respondents included community-based organisations (19%), research institutions (14%), INGOs (10%), and women-led collectives (4%). Many organisations work directly with Indigenous Peoples (29%), Afro-descendant communities (26%), and local communities (87%), reflecting the sector’s strong grounding in the community stewardship of biodiversity.

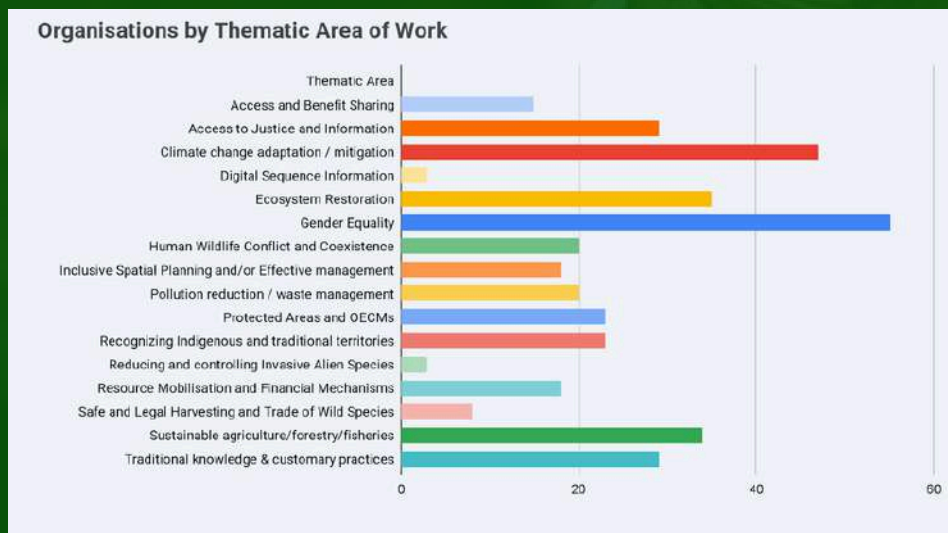


Figure 24: Thematic areas that respondents are engaged in linked to biodiversity and climate change

Across the dataset, organisations reported working in multiple thematic areas, including biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, gender equality and women’s rights, Indigenous and traditional territorial governance, climate change adaptation and resilience, and traditional knowledge and biocultural heritage. This diversity highlights the interconnected nature of gender justice, community rights, and biodiversity protection.

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For more information: genderandbiodiversitydata@cbd womenscaucus.org

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.



The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) is a global policy and research organization that works to promote sustainable development, social justice, and environmental protection. IIED collaborates with governments, communities, and civil society to generate evidence-based solutions, influence policy, and support marginalized groups, including women and Indigenous communities, in addressing environmental and development challenges.

