



# Contributions of the CBD Women's Caucus to the Global Report on Collective Progress in the Implementation of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

## *CBD Women's Caucus submission*

November 2025

The CBD Women's Caucus, on behalf of its more than 800 members across 137 countries, submits the following contributions as relevant information to support the production of the Global Report on Collective Progress in the implementation of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF), as requested under Notification 2025-099.

These contributions reflect the collective work, advocacy and long-standing engagement of women and girls in all their diversity – including from Indigenous Peoples, local communities and Afro-descendant peoples – in advancing gender-responsive biodiversity governance, implementation, monitoring and accountability under the Framework. Through this submission, the CBD Women's Caucus seeks to contribute concrete evidence and collaborative efforts that support the effective implementation of the KM-GBF and the CBD Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030), while strengthening the recognition of the essential role played by women-led organisations, feminist movements, grassroots actors and rights holders in achieving the goals and targets of the Framework.

The contributions presented in this submission reaffirm the CBD Women's Caucus's dedication to ensuring that biodiversity action is inclusive, gender-transformative and rooted in the knowledge, leadership and lived realities of communities on the frontlines of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

### **Part 1 CBD Women's Caucus – Collective Contributions**

The CBD Women's Caucus presents 12 areas of contribution towards the implementation of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, with a primary focus on Target 23 and Section C.

### **Contribution 1 Participation & Leadership in CBD Decision-Making Targets: T23, T21, T22, T14, T3 – Section C**

- Sustained women's delegations across SBSTTA 24–27, SBI 4–5, COP16 & COP16.2 – with daily coordination, text reviews and interventions (2023–2025)
- Co-organised Women's Forum (Blue Zone) and ran the Women's Pavilion with 33 organisations at COP16 (2024)
- Launched Gender & Biodiversity Champions initiative (2024)

### Challenges

Persistent underrepresentation of grassroots and Indigenous women in official delegations; reliance on ad-hoc donor support; unpaid labour burden on activists.

### Lessons learned

Dedicated, visible spaces like the Pavilion and Forum provide a multiplier effect – increasing visibility, influence and networking power. Clear internal coordination mechanisms build collective confidence and credibility.

## Contribution 2

### Capacity Development & Pipelines of Women Negotiators

**Targets: T23, T20, T21, T22 – Section C**

- 2023: Internal webinars ('Advancing our capacities & position') on monitoring, finance and the Gender Plan of Action
- 2024: Multilingual COP16 training programme (EN/FR/ES + AR/PT); in-session clinics, simulations and peer mentoring
- 2025: 'Road to SBSTTA-27 & SB8j-1' peer-to-peer series and social media explainers

### Challenges

Digital divide excluded some members; rapid technical negotiations left limited time for deep learning.

### Lessons learned

Multilingual, multimodal formats (hybrid, online + in-person) maximise reach. Peer-to-peer mentoring is the most sustainable way to grow a pipeline of negotiators.

## Contribution 3

### Gender-Responsive Resource Mobilisation

**Targets: T23, T19, T14, T3 – Section C**

- 2023: Advocacy at 7th GEF Assembly for direct access to finance for women and IPLC organisations
- 2024: Participation in GBF Fund Council meetings (1st, 2nd, 3rd) for simplified, accessible funding windows; COP16 finance-focused side events showcasing women-led solutions

### Challenges

Current financing frameworks remain complex and inaccessible; grassroots organisations often lack eligibility.

### Lessons learned

Showcasing practical, scalable women-led models convinces funders. Persistent presence in GBF Fund governance is key to structural change.

## Contribution 4

### Gender in NBSAPs & National Implementation

**Targets: T23, T3, T14, T21, T22 – Section C**

- 2023: Participation in ASEAN, Latin America and other regional NBSAP dialogues
- 2024: Broadened engagement to Africa, Pacific, Caribbean, Europe and MENA; co-organised SBI-4 side event on gender-responsive NBSAPs
- Gender & Biodiversity Focal Points Network established – providing peer exchange and accountability for national implementation

#### Challenges

Governments often treat gender as optional; consultations may be superficial or exclude local women's voices.

#### Lessons learned

Linking gender to national priorities (livelihoods, food security, GBV risks) increases resonance. The Focal Points Network provides a structured accountability mechanism.

## Contribution 5

### Data, Indicators & Monitoring

**Targets: T23, T21, T14 – Section C**

- 2023: Submissions to SBSTTA on integrating sex-disaggregated indicators into the KM-GBF monitoring framework
- 2024: Policy briefs and technical proposals on headline indicators and data methodologies (time-use surveys, community-generated data)
- 2025: Gender and biodiversity data events at CSW69, in collaboration with IIED and GEDA; launch of Gender & Biodiversity Data Initiative

#### Challenges

Persistent lack of gender-disaggregated biodiversity data; national monitoring often under-resourced.

#### Lessons learned

Framing proposals around existing SDG indicators (5.a.1, 5.a.2) helps Parties adopt gender indicators. Community-based data is crucial to fill official gaps.

## Contribution 6

### Cross-MEA Coherence & High-Level Advocacy

**Targets: T23, T14, T22 – Section C**

- 2023: Bern III, 7th GEF Assembly, Geneva GPA dialogue, Women's Land Rights Workshop
- 2024: Joint Rio Conventions learning session (with UNFCCC Women & Gender Constituency and UNCCD Gender Caucus); co-hosted international GPA dialogue
- 2025: GAP synergies national consultations in Kenya, Madagascar and Mali; Bogis-Bossey Expert Workshop (August 2025); GEF Expanded Constituency Workshops (Central Africa, LAC, West Africa/Sahel)

#### Challenges

Fragmentation across MEAs; parallel gender mandates risk duplication.

#### Lessons learned

Joint sessions and national GAP synergies consultations are highly effective models to scale coherence across the Rio Conventions.

## Contribution 7

### Institutional Strengthening & Governance

**Targets: T23, T22 – Section C**

- Transparent nomination process for women in advisory and technical groups: DSI Informal Advisory Group, TEG on Financial Reporting, AHTEG on Synthetic Biology (2023–2025)
- Supported creation and consolidation of the Gender & Biodiversity Focal Points Network (launched 2025)
- Internal growth: adoption of Statute (2023), governance rules (2024), membership expanded to 800+ individuals and 44 organisations across 137 countries

#### Challenges

Coordination largely volunteer-driven and underfunded; regional outreach uneven.

#### Lessons learned

Formal structures (statute, board, regional hubs) provide stability. Transparent nomination enhances legitimacy and the visibility of women experts.

## Contribution 8

### Communications & Visibility

**Targets: T23, T20 – Section C**

- 'Road to SBSTTA-27 and SB8j-1' information campaign and social media explainers – transformative informal education tools broadening access for women and youth who cannot attend meetings
- Multilingual content (EN/FR/ES) across X/Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube and Spotify; newsletters; podcast series
- Democratising access to CBD processes by countering the knowledge gap created by acronyms and technical jargon

#### Challenges

Limited digital access and connectivity for many grassroots women. Resource constraints make it difficult to maintain regular, professional-level outputs.

#### Lessons learned

Plain language combined with visual explainers significantly increases reach and understanding. Social media campaigns are powerful tools for intergenerational engagement.

## Contribution 9

### Gender & Biodiversity Champions

**Targets: T23, T14 – Section C**

- Catalytic initiative bringing together decision-makers, funders, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, civil society and governments to model gender-responsive leadership
- Landmark moment: CBD Executive Secretary Ms. Astrid Schomaker declared herself a Gender & Biodiversity Champion on International Women's Day, 8 March 2025
- Champions mobilised for SBSTTA-27, SB8j-01 and SBI-6

#### Challenges

Difficult to secure sustained commitment from high-level Champions beyond symbolic endorsements. Risk of tokenism if Champions are not backed by concrete resources or accountability.

#### Lessons learned

Pairing public recognition with practical tools (Champion brochure, multilingual guidance) strengthens credibility. Identifying Champions across sectors builds bridges and expands political space.

## Contribution 10

### Youth Engagement

**Targets: T23, T20 – Section C**

- Creation of intergenerational exchange spaces – central to Section C's principle on intergenerational equity
- Mentorship, role-play and simulation exercises to prepare young women for CBD negotiation processes
- Youth bring fresh advocacy strategies (digital mobilisation, visual campaigns) that enrich the Caucus's toolbox

#### Challenges

Young women often face double barriers: lack of resources to attend meetings and lack of recognition within official delegations. Youth perspectives risk being sidelined in highly technical negotiations.

#### Lessons learned

Explicitly linking youth engagement to intergenerational equity strengthens legitimacy in CBD spaces.

## Contribution 11

### Language & Accessibility

**Targets: T23, T21, T22 – Section C**

- All tools, training and communications systematically delivered in English, French and Spanish – plus Arabic and Portuguese when possible
- Interpretation at all live sessions at CBD meetings (English, French, Spanish) – directly improving confidence and engagement of participants
- A major accessibility achievement: very few platforms invest systematically in multilingual tools, making the Caucus's approach a concrete example of inclusivity in practice

#### Challenges

Translation and interpretation costs are high and often underfunded. Some technical biodiversity terms have no direct equivalent in local languages.

#### Lessons learned

Investing in multilingual tools increases inclusivity and participation. Multilingual resources become legacy materials that remain useful beyond any single meeting.

## Contribution 12

### Direct Technical Expertise in CBD Bodies

**Targets: T23, T6, T12, T19, T21 – Section C**

- Contributions to technical expert groups: AHTEG on Synthetic Biology, Informal Advisory Group on DSI Benefit-Sharing, TEG on Financial Reporting, Informal Advisory Group on Technical & Scientific Cooperation (TSC-IAG), Sustainable Ocean Initiative advisory group
- Demonstrates that women are not just present on 'gender items' – they contribute at the technical heart of biodiversity governance
- Transparent nomination and internal support processes ensure collective Caucus positions are represented in highly technical spaces

#### Challenges

Gender perspectives are often dismissed as 'not technical enough.' Women experts frequently underfunded, limiting sustained participation. Heavy technical workload on a small pool of volunteer experts.

#### Lessons learned

Presence in highly technical groups changes perceptions: women are seen as both gender advocates and technical experts. Reporting back to the Caucus strengthens collective learning and amplifies institutional memory.

## Part 2 Member Organisation Contributions

The following member organisations of the CBD Women's Caucus have contributed their experiences and practices in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

### Member 1 · Bosnia and Herzegovina Forestry and Environmental Action (FEA)

**Targets: T10, T21, T23**

- Fem2Forests project (Interreg Danube): promotes innovative pathways for girls and young women in the forestry sector across 9 countries – partner meetings, field excursions and international conference 'Equality and Diversity: Changing the Image of Forestry' (Portoroz, 2024)
- Female Ambassador Program: creates cohorts of pioneer women ambassadors as role models and leaders, sharing innovative ideas, knowledge and experiences – with international alumni network for long-term cross-border cooperation

### Challenges

Deep-rooted gender stereotypes remain in forestry. Ensuring that opportunities created by the programme translate into sustainable employment pathways.

### Lessons learned

Visibility and mentorship are crucial: when women see peers succeeding in forestry, they are more likely to join the sector. Building structured alumni networks ensures continuity of support.

## Member 2 · El Salvador

### Asociacion GAIA El Salvador

#### Targets: T10, T21, T22, T23

T21, T22, T23: Se ha facilitado el proceso "Empoderamiento y Fortalecimiento de Capacidades de las Mujeres, para su participación activa y sustantiva en la consolidación de la Reserva de Biósfera Transfronteriza Trifinio Fraternidad (RBTF)", alcanzando aproximadamente 4,000 mujeres; creación de la Red de Mujeres de la Reserva de Biósfera Transfronteriza Trifinio Fraternidad (Red Mujeres RBTFES), integradas por 60 mujeres de la base comunitaria transfronteriza de Guatemala, Honduras y El Salvador; dos ediciones del Diplomado Escuela "Mujeres, Género, Medio Ambiente y la Sustentabilidad Ambiental".

T10, T23: Agricultura orgánica familiar a través de huertos de traspatio, donde las mujeres son depositarias del conocimiento sobre producción de hasta 25–30 especies de hortalizas en espacios de 1m<sup>2</sup> a 16m<sup>2</sup>. Fortalecimiento de capacidades para el emprendedurismo sustentable de 200 mujeres usando bienes naturales no maderables (pomadas, jabones, artesanías, jaleas, abonos orgánicos).

T23: Investigación "Género y Conflictos Ambientales en la Región del Trifinio" – confirmando desigualdad de género en el control de recursos y la necesidad de reducir la vulnerabilidad social y mejorar la gobernanza de los recursos naturales.

### Challenges

La violación sistematizada de los derechos de las mujeres y niñez en la RBTF es grave, potenciada por el hecho de ser una región transfronteriza compartida por Guatemala, Honduras y El Salvador. Desde GAIA se ha desarrollado el enfoque "Mujeres Transfronterizas y Biodiversidad".

## Member 3 · Rwanda

### Go Green Restore Africa Action (GGRAA)

**Targets: T2, T4, T5, T9, T11, T15, T18, T21, T22, T23**

- Mentorship and internship programme with African Leadership University (ALU) School of Wildlife Conservation: empowering university students and rural high school graduates in biodiversity conservation, green economy and climate change adaptation
- Land restoration and sustainable land management with women in Eastern Province of Rwanda; environmental education for primary school children integrating traditional ecological knowledge – contributing to Targets 2, 4, 9, 10, 22 and 23
- Capacity-building for trade unions and civil society organisations on sustainability, biodiversity conservation, just transition, gender justice and green job creation

#### Challenges

Programme currently operates on a voluntary basis without external funding, limiting scale and sustainability. GGRAA is seeking partnerships to mobilise resources and expand impact.

#### Lessons learned

Awareness and training on the GPA are essential. Addressing patriarchal structures and power imbalances enables meaningful participation. Engaging trade unions in biodiversity conservation is key to ensuring advocacy for a just transition and green jobs.

## Member 4 · Regional – Africa

### Reseau des Femmes Africaines pour la gestion Communautaire des Forets (REFACOF)

**Targets: T2, T11, T22, T23**

T2, T11, T22, T23: REFACOF appuie les femmes rurales dans la promotion des vergers de case en vue de l'amélioration de la résilience face aux changements climatiques. Lauréate du Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity, l'initiative «LiLAGLÈ» a permis de sécuriser 100 ha de terre au profit de 35 femmes et filles à ce jour, à travers la restauration des paysages menés par des femmes rurales.

T2, T11, T23: Grâce à l'appui de GEF-SGP, les femmes fumeuses de poisson de Campo Beach disposent de fumeurs améliorés qui permettent d'économiser l'énergie à travers une utilisation considérablement réduite du bois de mangroves. Grâce à l'appui de W4B, les femmes de Londji vivent le retour du poisson grâce à leurs activités de restauration des mangroves. De même, le REFACOF a soutenu le Gouvernement sur l'intégration de la dimension genre dans le NBSAP.

### Lessons learned

La sécurisation des droits de tenure pour les femmes et les filles est possible. L'approche LiLAGLÈ montre qu'elle peut se faire avec efficacité, amour et respect au niveau du ménage et de la famille. Les activités de reboisement peuvent constituer une porte d'entrée honorable, durable et paisible pour la promotion des droits de tenure foncière pour les femmes et les filles.

## Member 5 · Democratic Republic of the Congo

### Conseil pour la Terre des Ancêtres (CTA)

#### Targets: T5, T9, T23

T23: In our role as technical gender partners in the Green Livelihoods Alliance's Forests for a Just Future program, in 2024, we supported five local organizations – CEPED, FDAPID, IDPE, ACDH, and CREDDOH – to develop their own gender action plans. These organizations are involved in biodiversity conservation and protected areas, such as Virunga National Park and UPEMBA in Nyiragongo Territory.

T5, T9, T23: To support rural women, we initiated income-generating activities for rural women and indigenous Pygmies living around Virunga National Park: two cutting and sewing workshops for women, a basket-making workshop using plastic waste, and a beauty salon for young girls. Some women have already opened their own cutting and sewing workshops. They sell their handmade baskets and become beauticians for local beauty salons.

#### Challenges

Political insecurity and war are our greatest challenges. War threatens the entire population, and women are more vulnerable, given their specific hygiene needs. We have had a really hard time mobilizing communities around conservation because everyone is looking for political stability. This is where we made it clear how this war is hindering progress in understanding gender in biodiversity because this issue seems secondary during times of war, when all attention is focused on the search for peace and security. We face limited funding. Women have a strong desire to learn trades, but with limited funds, we can only support eight women per year.

## Member 6 · Mexico – Chiapas

### Red de Defensoras del Agua y El Territorio de la Cuenca del Valle de

- Network of women defenders of water, wetlands and biodiversity in the Jovel Valley, San Cristobal de Las Casas, founded in 2022

- Escuela de Defensoras: training space providing legal, feminist and gender-based violence prevention tools for women activists
- Forums, photographic exhibitions and collective actions to raise public awareness of the impacts of ecosystem loss and water scarcity on women's lives
- Contributed to the protection of La Kistt and Maria Eugenia wetlands – now formally decreed as a Natural Protected Area
- Promoting care and self-care as central axes of ecofeminist defence

## Member 7 · Mali

### Reseau des Femmes pour les Droits Environnementaux et le Developpement (REFEDE)

**Targets: T1, T9, T10, T13, T14, T16, T21, T22, T23**

- Training of more than 150 rural women (2023–2024) on sustainable land management, agroecology and conservation of local seeds
- Community dialogue forums for women and youth to express their priorities in environmental governance processes
- Regional training workshops reaching more than 200 rural women, youth and community leaders on the KM-GBF and the Gender Plan of Action 2023–2030
- Circles of dialogue between rural women and local decision-makers to integrate women's priorities into national and local biodiversity strategies
- Advocacy for the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (SPANB) to explicitly integrate the gender dimension and recognise the role of local and traditional knowledge

#### Challenges

Lack of financial resources to sustainably support women's organisations. Weak institutionalisation of the gender approach in national biodiversity strategies.

#### Lessons learned

Capacity-building and collective organisation of women increase their power of influence. Alliances with other NGOs and regional networks are essential to carry women's voices to the international level.

## Member 8 · Rapa Nui (Easter Island, Chile)

### ONG Vahine Matatoa

**Targets: T1, T21, T22, T23**

T1, T22, T23: El pueblo rapa nui ha enfrentado múltiples procesos de consulta indígena en relación con su gobernanza territorial. Las mujeres rapa nui han jugado un papel fundamental en exigir el respeto a los artículos 6 y 7 del Convenio 169 de la OIT, así como en liderar propuestas alternativas desde las propias organizaciones comunitarias. Este caso demuestra que la gobernanza territorial con enfoque de género fortalece la democracia, protege los derechos colectivos e impulsa la justicia ambiental.

T22, T23: Salud Intercultural Rapa Nui – A través del liderazgo de las facilitadoras Papara'au, se ha entregado la cosmovisión Rapa Nui en el Hospital Hanga Roa. Hoy cuenta con reconocimiento formal, horarios definidos, remuneración y box propio. Las mujeres son agentes de cambio institucional, preservan saberes ancestrales y promueven la equidad.

T22, T23: Gobernanza Territorial y Consulta Indígena – Las mujeres rapa nui han liderado procesos para exigir que se cumplan los derechos a la consulta previa, libre e informada. Este protagonismo femenino ha permitido incidir en instancias nacionales e internacionales, estableciendo un precedente para otros Pueblos Indígenas.

### Challenges

El desafío central es que el Estado Chileno aún no aplica de manera plena los estándares internacionales en la práctica, limitando la efectividad de la consulta indígena. Muchas veces los procesos son formales, pero no garantizan una incidencia real en las decisiones.

## Member 9 · Global Daughters for Earth

### Targets: T19, T23

- Projects directly support women's access to education, training, financial resources and information – aligned with UN, IPCC and global scientific roadmaps, with emphasis on land and water restoration, regenerative agriculture and non-extractive conservation
- Charm Community: peer network for current and past grantees to share lessons, adaptations, obstacles and successes

### Challenges

Demand for funding far exceeds available resources. Hard data alone does not capture the full community impact that women-led organisations generate.

### Lessons learned

A trust-based, multi-layered approach combining peer nomination, expert vetting and culturally informed decision-making maximises impact. Elevating the visibility and stories of women leaders is as important as the funding itself.

## Member 10 · Mexico – Chiapas Montana Creativa: Educacion Ambiental

### Targets: Section K (f)

Section K (f): Montaña Creativa es un colectivo integrado por cinco mujeres jóvenes de San Cristóbal de Las Casas que, desde sus diversas trayectorias en el activismo ambiental, decidieron unirse para seguir defendiendo la vida.

Su punto de encuentro fue la convicción de que la educación ambiental es indispensable para conservar los humedales de montaña La Kist y María Eugenia (Decretados ya una ANP) y toda las especies nativas que dan sustento a la Cuenca del Valle de Jovel. Con fotografía, pintura, cine ambiental y manualidades, han creado experiencias donde niñas, niños, jóvenes y personas adultas pueden reconocer la belleza y la fragilidad de su entorno. Section K (f): Montaña Creativa es un colectivo integrado por cinco mujeres jóvenes de San Cristóbal de Las Casas que, desde sus diversas trayectorias en el activismo ambiental, decidieron unirse para seguir defendiendo la vida. Su punto de encuentro fue la convicción de que la educación ambiental es indispensable para conservar los humedales de montaña La Kist y María Eugenia (Decretados ya una ANP) y toda las especies nativas que dan sustento a la Cuenca del Valle de Jovel. Con fotografía, pintura, cine ambiental y manualidades, han creado experiencias donde niñas, niños, jóvenes y personas adultas pueden reconocer la belleza y la fragilidad de su entorno. En poco tiempo han impulsado talleres en diferentes colonias, cine comunitario y espacios creativos que conectan a las personas con la naturaleza. Realizaron una colaboración con la CONANP, a través del área de Protección de Flora y Fauna Humedales La Kist y María Eugenia.

### Challenges

Hace falta financiamiento para poder desarrollar las actividades. Muchas veces las actividades que desarrollamos las realizamos con nuestros recursos y de forma voluntaria, en nuestro tiempo libre. No existe financiamiento para que estas actividades puedan ser un trabajo digno y remunerado, especialmente para mujeres jóvenes. Los financiamientos que existen para jóvenes solo incluyen gastos para materiales, más no para pago de honorarios.

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.

**For more information:** [coordination@cbdwomenscaucus.org](mailto:coordination@cbdwomenscaucus.org)