



Traditional Knowledge innovations, practices, and technology of indigenous peoples and local communities for 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 case studies and information in response to the CBD Secretariat's invitation under Notification 2025-100, to submit relevant traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technology of indigenous peoples and local communities for the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF).

The case studies presented in this submission were contributed by member organisations working directly with or representing Indigenous Peoples and local communities across Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America. The CBD Women's Caucus reaffirms its dedication to ensuring that the traditional knowledge and practices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities – and in particular of women within these communities – are fully recognised, protected and integrated into KM-GBF implementation, monitoring and reporting.

Case Studies: Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Contributions

The following case studies document the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities – and in particular women from these communities – to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

- **Case study 1**

Targets: T10, T23

Country: Indonesia

This is a story of recognition and leadership of indigenous women as economic and ecological agents in local green entrepreneurship, champions of healthy nutrition and custodians of agrobiodiversity in North Kalimantan, Indonesia. Women from two villages started walking to the town of Malinau carrying large baskets with their traditional produce cultivated in their gardens or wild food harvested in the forest and selling it by going from door to door.

The women's association was successful in lobbying local government support for the initiative to create a special marketplace for the women traders to sell their vegetables and fruits. In rural markets in Indonesia, women represent the majority of the traders and control most of the small trade. While this is part of the so-called 'informal economy' it is a very significant sector that generates important income for women to exit a cycle of poverty. Nowadays, at the Inai/Ina market of Malinau, sales per woman trader are on average Rp 400,000/day (=US\$27). The market now hosts 120 women traders from 10 surrounding villages. The model is being replicated in several other regencies and provinces in Borneo. Many varieties sold at the market are uniquely local and can only be found there. The women are preserving the seeds they have inherited from their mothers and grandmothers. The food of the ancestors is the source of healthy nutrition for the families and communities. With the support of the local government and NGOs, the women received training in quality control (ICS) and participatory guarantee system (PGS), and started their own campaigns to reduce the use of plastic bags. They formed a committee to regulate activities and support the self-governance of the market which has also become a social and cultural space for women to realize their equal rights, restore and preserve agrobiodiversity and contribute to sustainable development.

Contributing organisation: FoMMA (*Alliance of the Indigenous Peoples of the Kayan Mentarang National Park*) and the 'Pasar Inai' group (=Indigenous women local market)

- **Case study 2**

Targets: Goal A, Goal B, Goal C, Goal D. T4, T9, T10, T11, T19, T22, T23

Country: Rwanda

Source:

https://www.rema.gov.rw/fileadmin/templates/Documents/rema_doc/publications/Planning%20docs/NATIONAL%20BIODIVERSITY%20STRATEGY%20AND%20ACTION%20PLAN%20Final%20version.pdf

GGRAA supports local communities around Volcanoes National Park (VNP) to engage in sustainable, nature-based livelihoods, specifically beekeeping and basket weaving as alternatives to the unsustainable use of natural resources from protected areas. Through the project "Strengthening the Honey Value Chain Around VNP for Sustainable Livelihood and Mountain Gorilla Conservation," GGRAA established Village Savings and Loans (VSL) schemes prioritizing women and youth.

These provide small, interest-free loans repaid during honey harvests, promoting financial inclusion, savings culture, and equitable benefit-sharing. Beekeeping reduces human-wildlife conflict (by placing hives in buffer zones), enhances pollination, integrates traditional knowledge, and introduces modern hives, honey processing, and beeswax-based products, while reducing pressures like poaching, fire wood collection, and habitat encroachment and enhance best practices in beekeeping that address issues of using fire in honey harvesting, which is a big threat for protected areas management. Similarly, basket weaving uses locally available non-timber forest products to generate income while promoting the sustainable use of natural materials and add value to the local cultural products. It preserves traditional knowledge, empowers women and youth, and supports biodiversity conservation by reducing pressure on wildlife and ecosystems. With training on product development, circular economy and restoration of plants, non-timber products value addition, and market access, this activity links biodiversity conservation with local economic development. Together, these initiatives directly contribute to GBF Targets 4, 9, 10, 11, 19, 22, and 23 by fostering gender equality, sustainable resource use, and community participation in conservation.

Contributing organisation: *Go Green Restore Africa Action (GGRAA)*

• Case study 3

Targets: T4, T8, T9, T10, T11, T12, T19, T22, T23

Country: Rwanda

GGRAA, in partnership with GVTC and protected area authorities in the Greater Virunga Landscape (GVL), conducted an evaluation and assessment of existing community-based tourism initiatives linked to GBF and local knowledge as opportunities to engage local community especially women in nature related enterprise and wildlife economy to ensure that they contribute and benefits from biodiversity conservation., identifying challenges and exploring new opportunities. This ongoing project aims to strengthen community-based ecotourism and local nature-based enterprises, integrate local communities—especially women and youth into protected areas management, promote the efficient use of natural resources, and ensure equitable benefit-sharing. By linking biodiversity conservation with local economic development, the project enhances community livelihoods while fostering sustainable, community-led management of natural resources.

Contributing organisation: *Go Green Restore Africa Action (GGRAA)*

• Case study 4

Targets: T4, T9, T10, T11, T22, T23

Country: Rwanda

Women Change-Makers on Sustainability and Climate Change, GGRAA implemented a four-month program for rural women, focusing on sustainability, climate change adaptation, and biodiversity conservation. Participants learned how to conserve biodiversity while addressing the effects of climate change in their daily activities, including small-scale agriculture and fishing. Through the program, women applied local and traditional knowledge in sustainable land management, food preservation, and agroforestry, reintroducing traditional species used for household materials and medicine. This strengthened community resilience, sustainable livelihoods, and ecosystem conservation. The initiative was gender-responsive, empowering women to participate in biodiversity governance and advocacy with high-level authorities, ensuring their perspectives are integrated into GBF implementation.

Contributing organisation: *Go Green Restore Africa Action (GGRAA)*

• Case study 5

Targets: Como se vincula al Marco Mundial de Biodiversidad(GBF) Aplica al Objetivo 22 del GBF (inclusion y participacion plena y efectiva de los pueblos indigenas).

Country: Rapa Nui, Isla de Pascua, Chile

Source: *Actas de constitucion de la Mesa Intercultural, Resoluciones internas del HHR*

Contribucion/Experiencia: Mesa intercultural de Salud en el Hospital Hanga Roa: Incorporacion de facilitadoras Papara'au reconocidas oficialmente con box, horario y box ,implementacion de la Interculturalidad en el sisteman hospitalario HHRoa. Enfoque de justicia de genero: Liderado por mujeres Rapa Nui, fortaleciendo su rol en la cosmovision de salud y transmision de saberes

Contributing organisation: *ONG Vahine Matato'a Rapa Nui*

• Case study 6

Targets: Contribuye a la Meta 3 (30x30) sobre areas protegidas y a la aplicación del Objetivo 21 (respeto al conocimiento tradicional).

Country: Rapa Nui, Isla de Pascua, Chile

Source: *Convenio de administracion Mau Henua – CONAF, informes de gestion 2018 - 2024*

Gestion territorial en el Parque Nacional Rapa Nui (Mau Henua): Experiencias de Gobernanza indigena sobre sitios arqueologicos y patrimonio natural.
Participacion activa de mujeres y jovenes en la proteccion cultural y ecologica

Contributing organisation: ONG Vahine Matato'a Rapa Nui

- **Case study 7**

Targets: Apoya la Meta 19 (conocimiento y educacion para la biodiversidad) y el Objetivo 22(participacion indigena)

Country: Rapa Nui, Isla de Pascua, Chile

Source: *Programas escolares municipales, materiales pedagogicos entregados a colegios.*

Mesa de Educacion Civica Rapa Nui (ODS 4): implementada desde 5to basico a 4tos medios, integrando derechos indigenas y biodiversidad. Empoderamiento de jovenes y niñas como futuras lideresas, incorporando igualdad de oportunidades. Liderados por mujeres de la ONG Vahine Matato'a, garantizando espacios seguros para todas las identidades.

Contributing organisation: ONG Vahine Matato'a Rapa Nui

- **Case study 8**

Targets: Refuerza la Meta 3 (equidad en salud vinculada a la Biodiversidad) y la transversalizacion De DDHH en el GBF

Country: Rapa Nui, Isla de Pascua, Chile

Source: *Acta de firma del acuerdo, registro municipal, informes comunitarios.*

Acuerdo local con la Municipalidad de Isla De Pascua sobre VIH/. SIDA e ITS: Inclusion de enfoque de Derechos humanos y. Diversidad en el marco. De la biodiversidad y Salud comunitaria

Contributing organisation: ONG Vahine Matato'a Rapa Nui

- **Case study 9**

Country: Mali

Dans plusieurs zones rurales du Mali (Ségou, Koulikoro, Sikasso), les femmes jouent un rôle central dans la préservation des semences locales adaptées aux conditions climatiques changeantes.

REFEDE Mali a documenté et soutenu ces pratiques à travers : La mise en place de banques de semences communautaires, gérées par des groupements de femmes. La transmission intergénérationnelle des savoirs sur la sélection, la conservation et l'utilisation des semences traditionnelles (mil, sorgho, niébé). L'utilisation de pratiques agroécologiques issues des savoirs traditionnels (assolement, compostage, lutte naturelle contre les ravageurs). Ces initiatives contribuent à la sécurité alimentaire, à la préservation de la diversité génétique et à la résilience climatique des communautés. Elles sont directement alignées avec le Cadre mondial de Kunming-Montréal, notamment en matière de conservation des ressources génétiques et de reconnaissance des savoirs autochtones.

Contributing organisation: REFEDE Mali

• Case study 10

Targets: T9, T21, T23

Country: Mali

REFEDE Mali met en œuvre plusieurs initiatives pour associer et soutenir les communautés locales, en particulier les femmes rurales, dans la conservation de la biodiversité et l'adaptation climatique : Renforcement de capacités : Formation de plus de 150 femmes rurales (2023–2024) sur les techniques de gestion durable des terres, l'agroécologie et la conservation des semences locales. Espaces de dialogue : Organisation de forums communautaires pour permettre aux femmes et aux jeunes d'exprimer leurs priorités dans les processus de gouvernance environnementale. Intégration du genre dans les processus nationaux : Plaidoyer pour que la Stratégie Nationale Biodiversité intègre explicitement la dimension genre et reconnaisse le rôle des savoirs locaux. Partenariats : Collaboration avec d'autres OSC, réseaux régionaux et partenaires internationaux pour valoriser les pratiques traditionnelles comme levier de mise en œuvre du Cadre mondial

Contributing organisation: REFEDE Mali

• Case study 11

Country: Cameroon

In Cameroon, a traditional fishing technique is used in certain localities. Most often, it's the women who do it, but they're often accompanied by men. A village may have one or more "cœurs d'eau". Each year, the watercourse where fishing will take place is chosen.

You don't fish on all the watercourses at once in the same year; you choose just one watercourse where fishing will take place that year. People remove the bark from a particular tree. This bark is crushed into a powder. This powder is poured into the river chosen for fishing. The powder has the effect of panicking the fish out of their hiding places, causing them to rise to the surface of the water, where they are either caught by hand or caught in hand-woven wicker baskets. This action is carried out over several days. The stream is then left to rest, to allow the fish stock to renew itself. The following year, another watercourse was chosen for fishing, giving the fish stock time to renew itself. If the locality has several streams, rotation is easy and fishing can be carried out over several months. If there is only one river, the river is left to rest for around 5 to 6 months to allow the stock to renew itself. This is a traditional way of managing a fishery while preserving the resource.

- **Case study 11**

Country: Cameroon

In the far north of Cameroon, the women use the birds to find out whether or not there will be floods, and to preserve their farming culture. The women control the flight of the birds and the height at which they nest on the trees. If the birds fly high in the sky, this means that when it rains, the risk of flooding is high. If they fly low enough, the risk of flooding is low. The same applies to the height at which the nests are located in the trees. If the nests are at the top of the trees, this means that rainfall will be very high and the risk of flooding is very high. If, on the other hand, the nests are not very high in the trees, then the risk of flooding is lower.

- **Case study 12**

Country: Cameroon

In Cameroon's rural areas, it's mostly women and girls who take care of household chores, work in the fields, fetch water, engage in income-generating activities such as trading and so on. They are at the very heart of the development and blossoming of village communities. This is why, during our participation in the NBSAPS 3 proposals, we proposed that women, girls and indigenous and local populations should be involved in all decision-making processes concerning biodiversity and climate change. We proposed that traditional knowledge that protects biodiversity should be valued. Collaboration between the scientific community and the holders of traditional knowledge.

Part 3 – Activities to Engage, Involve and Support Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

The following describes the CBD Women's Caucus's activities and approaches to engage, involve and support indigenous peoples and local communities in the implementation of the KM-GBF.

Relevant elements: *Section C: Considerations for implementation; Target 22; Target 23; Article 8(j)*

The CBD Women's Caucus promotes a human rights-based, gender-responsive and intersectional approach to KM-GBF implementation, with specific attention to the rights, knowledge, leadership and contributions of women and girls in all their diversity, including from Indigenous Peoples, and from local and Afro-descendant communities. Through advocacy, capacity-building, policy analysis and constituency coordination, the Caucus works to ensure that Indigenous women and girls are not treated only as stakeholders, but as rights holders, knowledge holders and leaders in biodiversity governance. This includes advocating for their full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive participation in CBD processes, NBSAP revision, national reporting, monitoring frameworks and implementation of the Gender Plan of Action.

Reference documents: *CBD Women's Caucus statements and policy analyses; CBD Gender Plan of Action 2023–2030; KM-GBF Decision 15/4; Decision 15/11*

Relevant elements: Target 21; Target 22; Target 23; Monitoring framework of the KM-GBF

The Caucus consistently supports the participation and leadership of Indigenous women and women from local communities in CBD negotiations and related advocacy spaces. This includes coordination before and during CBD meetings, collective preparation of statements, identification of gender-responsive priorities, and support for women's organisations to engage in policy discussions. The Caucus highlights the need for biodiversity policies to address structural barriers faced by Indigenous women, including limited access to decision-making spaces, finance, information, land and resource rights, and protection for women environmental human rights defenders.

Reference documents: *Findings Report: Advancing Gender Justice in Biodiversity Data and Policy; related policy brief and learning series materials*

Relevant elements: Target 22; Target 23; Article 8(j)

Through the Gender & Biodiversity Data Initiative, developed in partnership with IIED, the Caucus maps the capacities, gaps and opportunities of women-led organisations, including Indigenous and community-based organisations, in generating, using and communicating biodiversity data. The initiative responds to the invisibility of women's contributions, traditional knowledge, community monitoring and lived experiences within national and global biodiversity monitoring systems. It supports recognition of community-generated evidence and gender-responsive data as essential for tracking KM-GBF implementation.

Reference documents: *Peer-learning series materials; workshop reports; CBD Women's Caucus newsletters and event summaries*

Relevant elements: Target 19; Target 22; Target 23; Section C

The Caucus advocates for biodiversity finance to be accessible, gender-responsive and directly supportive of women-led, Indigenous and community-based organisations. This includes calling for simplified access, dedicated funding windows, safeguards, and accountability mechanisms to ensure that resources reach those implementing biodiversity action on the ground. The Caucus also highlights the importance of recognising unpaid and underfunded contributions of women and community knowledge holders.

Reference documents: CBD Women's Caucus key messages on biodiversity finance; GEF-related advocacy materials

Relevant elements: Target 1, Target 2, Target 3; Target 22; Target 23; Article 8(j)

In relation to spatial planning, restoration and area-based conservation, the Caucus advocates for the recognition of the rights, tenure, knowledge and governance systems of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, with specific attention to the roles and rights of women within these systems. The Caucus stresses that conservation measures must not reproduce exclusion, dispossession or gender-based inequalities, and must instead support community-led and rights-based approaches.

Reference documents: CBD Women's Caucus policy recommendations on KM-GBF implementation; statements on rights-based conservation

Relevant elements: Target 21; Target 22; Target 23; Article 8(j)

The Caucus contributes to awareness-raising and outreach by amplifying the voices, experiences and leadership of women and girls in all their diversity, including from Indigenous Peoples, and from local and Afro-descendant communities. Through newsletters, social media, videos, campaigns and meeting coverage, the Caucus supports visibility of women's contributions to biodiversity action and helps make CBD processes more accessible to broader constituencies.

Reference documents: CBD Women's Caucus newsletters; YouTube channel; social media campaigns; Gender & Biodiversity Champions initiative



For more information:

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