

Views and information in preparation for the mid-term review of the Gender Plan of Action 2023-2030

CBD Women's Caucus submission September 2025

The CBD Women's Caucus, on behalf of its more than 800 members across 137 countries, shares the following compilation of standalone submissions filed individually by its member organisations as part of the Gender Plan of Action (GPA) mid-term review process.

These submissions reflect the Caucus's long-standing advocacy for gender-responsive biodiversity governance and its commitment to ensuring the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action (2023-2030) reflects the broad reach and diversity of actions undertaken by women-led organisations across Africa, Latin America, Asia-Pacific and globally – recognizing women and girls in all their diversity as rights-holders, knowledge holders, and decision-makers in biodiversity governance.

1. CBD Women's Caucus contributions to implement the CBD Gender Plan of Action

Expected outcome 1: All people in particular all women and girls, have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention

Objective 1.1: Increase all women and girls' rights to ownership and control over land and access to natural resources and to water, to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

1.1.3 Support women's organizations and networks to have equal opportunities to lead or participate in decision-making on policies relating to the three objectives of the Convention, including related to land and waters, land tenure and property reforms through inter alia, consultation of women, in accordance with national law, and the provision of financial support

As a global network of women and gender advocates, the CBD Women's Caucus (CBD WC) ensures that women's voices, particularly those of Indigenous women and local communities, are heard in CBD processes.

This is achieved by facilitating consultations with grassroots groups, gathering evidence of women's realities regarding land, waters, and tenure rights, and bringing those perspectives into negotiations and submissions to the CBD Secretariat and Parties. We also build capacity by providing technical briefings, mentorship, and advocacy tools so that women leaders can confidently participate in negotiations and policy dialogues. By collaborating with national and regional women's networks, the CBD WC strengthens collective advocacy around land tenure, property reforms, and the recognition of women's traditional knowledge systems. Partnerships with donors and allies allow us to mobilize resources that help reduce financial barriers to participation, enabling women's organizations to attend meetings, prepare interventions, and influence outcomes. In addition, we promote the actions of women in favor of biodiversity, serving as tangible evidence of their contributions to conservation, especially those from Indigenous Peoples and local communities. At the global level, the CBD WC contributes to shaping biodiversity policies that are gender-responsive, highlighting how land and water governance reforms affect women and men differently and proposing safeguards that ensure equity. At the national and local levels, we support women's participation in consultations and decision-making platforms in accordance with national contexts. Members from the CBD Women's Caucus, with their varying expertise and from different parts of the world, were supported to participate in SBSTTA 24, SBSTTA-25, SBSTTA-26, SBI 4, SBI 5, and COP16 in 2024, and further in COP16.2 in 2025, ensuring their sustained presence and influence in decision-making processes. This facilitated the development of leadership and capacity to engage with global policy while bringing in a plethora of evidence to showcase gender-transformative engagement taking place at the local level.

Objective 1.2: Ensure equal access for all women and girls to resources, services and technologies to support their engagement in the governance, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (including financial services, credit, education, training and relevant information)

1.2.2 Take targeted measures to facilitate equal access of women to financial services and credit, and of all women and girls to education, training, information, among other relevant resources, services and technologies relevant for their engagement in the governance, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources

Recognizing that financial and knowledge barriers often exclude women from decision-making and benefit-sharing, the CBD WC works to strengthen women's capacities and remove systemic obstacles. At the global level, the CBD WC advocates for gender-responsive resource mobilization within the Convention. This includes urging Parties and funding mechanisms to dedicate direct financial support to women's organizations and networks, especially those at the frontline, and the environmental defenders, and to design funding schemes that are accessible to women in all their diversity, including those from Indigenous peoples and local communities. By highlighting best practices and evidence, the CBD WC helps shift financing frameworks toward equity and inclusion. The CBD WC also developed webinars and communication video series that targeted women, girls, and the broader public, using accessible language to avoid acronyms and technical jargon. At the same time, members received targeted support and tools to strengthen and enhance their leadership, ensuring their active and substantive participation in CBD and national processes, in line with commitments under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Through these efforts, the CBD Women's Caucus:

- Increased understanding among participants of the key agenda items CBD meetings, and beyond, including their relevance to women's and girls' rights and roles in biodiversity conservation.
- Strengthened participants' capacity to interpret technical language, follow negotiations, and articulate collective positions grounded in community knowledge and lived realities.
- Facilitated the creation of collective advocacy messages, including mapping exercises, translated

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Expected outcome 2: Biodiversity policy, planning and programming decisions address equally the perspectives, interests, needs and human rights of all people, in particular of all women and girls

Objective 2.2 Enhance the meaningful and effective participation and leadership of women in processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity, including through the engagement of women’s groups and women delegates

2.2.1 Support capacity development in leadership, negotiation and facilitation for women delegates, including through webinars and in-session training, through remote and in-person modalities	Recognizing that women are often underrepresented in delegations and decision-making spaces, the CBD WC provides targeted support to strengthen their voices and ensure gender perspectives are reflected in negotiations. Capacity development is delivered through a mix of modalities. Prior to major CBD meetings, the CBD WC organizes virtual webinars and briefings on agenda items, technical issues, and negotiation strategies. During sessions, in-person trainings, and peer-to-peer mentoring help women delegates prepare interventions, develop text proposals, and build confidence in delivering statements on the floor.
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2.2.2 Ensure gender expertise included in all advisory and expert bodies under the Convention on Biological Diversity	We have established an internal transparent nomination process that prioritizes the inclusion of women from territories, Indigenous peoples, and local communities. Through this process, candidates are formally put forward to the CBD Secretariat's official selection procedures, guaranteeing fairness and broad participation. Once representatives are selected, the Caucus provides comprehensive support before, during, and after each meeting. Pre-event preparations include technical briefings, resource materials, and internal consultations to gather views from the membership. This ensures that each representative brings forward collective perspectives rather than individual positions, strengthening the legitimacy and inclusiveness of our inputs. During the sessions, the Caucus offers real-time guidance and solidarity to its representatives, enabling them to engage effectively in discussions, drafting, and consensus-building. This support helps highlight the importance of gender-responsive approaches across all thematic areas, from conservation to access and benefit-sharing. Post-event, representatives are responsible for reporting back to the membership. They prepare summaries that highlight key decisions, debates, and opportunities for future advocacy. These debriefs strengthen accountability and collective learning, ensuring that the Caucus remains coordinated and informed across processes. Through this transparent and participatory model, the Caucus not only guarantees gender expertise in CBD bodies but also builds continuity, capacity, and collective ownership of biodiversity policy advocacy. In 2023, the Caucus contributed to several expert groups: Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation, Informal Advisory Committee on Capacity-building for the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization, Technical Expert Group on Financial Reporting, Meeting to develop a Target 3 Partnership, Sustainable Ocean Initiative Workshop on Ocean-related Capacity-building Needs for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology, Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) regional capacity-building workshop for East, South and South-East Asia, International Forum facilitated by the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (FERI):
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2.2.2 Ensure gender expertise included in all advisory and expert bodies under the Convention on Biological Diversity	Workshop on ecosystem restoration-related planning and capacity-building needs for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, workshop to develop a road map for supporting the implementation and monitoring of and capacity development for ecosystem restoration under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, Technical Expert Workshop to Review Modalities for Modifying the Descriptions of EBSAs and Describing New Areas, Legal Expert Workshops to Review Modalities for Modifying the Descriptions of EBSAs and Describing New Areas, Informal Advisory Group on Benefit-sharing from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources, In 2024, this engagement continued with further contributions to the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology, Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization, Technical and Scientific Cooperation processes, and the Technical Expert Group on Financial Reporting ensuring gender perspectives were systematically integrated into highly technical CBD discussions. And during 2025, we contributed to <u>Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation</u>, <u>Sustainable Ocean Initiative regional capacity-building workshop for West Africa and North Africa</u>, <u>ad hoc scientific and technical advisory group for the preparation of the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</u>, <u>Consultations for the development of a supplement to the Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction</u>, <u>Open-ended Online Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management</u>, <u>Global Workshop on Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative in Seoul</u>, <u>Training course for Pacific small island developing States on invasive alien species</u>, and <u>Global Plan of Action for Education on Biodiversity</u>.
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Objective 2.3 Integrate human rights and gender equality considerations into national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs)

Recognizing that such focal points are essential to advancing gender-responsive biodiversity policies, the CBD WC mobilises its members across regions to consistently remind and urge their governments to appoint a national gender and biodiversity focal point in all regions.

2.3.2 Appoint national gender-biodiversity focal points to support knowledge exchange, sharing experiences and best practices, peer-to-peer learning, mentoring and coaching	This ongoing campaign is designed to keep the issue visible on national agendas. Members of the CBD WC, many of whom are deeply rooted in territories and local communities, advocate directly with their ministries of environment and other relevant agencies. They highlight the importance of having dedicated gender-biodiversity focal points to coordinate across sectors, facilitate the integration of gender perspectives, and ensure women's priorities are reflected in national biodiversity strategies and action plans. In 2024, the CBD WC prioritised advocacy with governments through bilateral meetings with Gender and Biodiversity Focal Points. These engagements reinforced the need to institutionalize dedicated focal points at the national level to strengthen coherence and ensure women's priorities are systematically reflected in biodiversity policies and NBSAP implementation.
	Members of the CBD WC have been supported to participate in NBSAP consultations where Parties have opened opportunities for engagement. Through these spaces, women's organizations have contributed perspectives from territories and communities, highlighting issues such as land and water rights, sustainable livelihoods, and the urgency of addressing gender based violence related to environment matters. These inputs strengthen the relevance and legitimacy of national biodiversity strategies. The CBD WC has also taken part in a series of dialogues organized by the CBD Secretariat on NBSAPs. In these dialogues, members presented key information and practical advice on how to make NBSAPs gender-responsive. Recommendations included integrating gender analysis, inclusion of gender-sensitive indicators, and ensuring gender budgeting to implement the NBSAP. In 2023, members of the CBD WC participated in subregional dialogues on NBSAPs, including in ASEAN, Latin America, and other regions, bringing grassroots perspectives on land and water rights, sustainable livelihoods, and gender-based violence into national biodiversity planning.

2.3.3 Engage all relevant stakeholders, particularly women's groups, gender institutions and gender experts, and indigenous peoples and local communities, in the process of developing and updating NBSAPs and related	In 2024, this engagement broadened to dialogues across Africa, Asia, the Pacific, the Caribbean, Europe, and MENA, and included co-organization of an SBI 4 side event on enhancing gender responsiveness in NBSAPs. These efforts ensured gender considerations were visible in both global dialogues and national-level planning. Beyond formal dialogues, the CBD WC supports its members through knowledge-sharing, peer learning, and advocacy guidance. This enables women's groups and networks to effectively engage during NBSAPs or local strategies' updating or developing.
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Expected outcome 3: Enabling conditions are created to ensure gender responsive implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Objective 3.1 Develop national capacity to produce and use gender and biodiversity data, including relevant data disaggregation (e.g. sex, age, ethnicity and other demographic factors)

3.1.2 Share sample indicators, data, best practices and relevant guidance on developing and monitoring data disaggregated by sex and other demographic factors, per sector	We developed and shared <u>technical documents</u> with sample indicators, best practices, and guidance to strengthen the monitoring of sex-disaggregated and gender-sensitive data across biodiversity sectors. Recognizing that data gaps are one of the main barriers to gender-responsive implementation, the Caucus has consistently advocated for the inclusion of gender-specific indicators in the monitoring framework of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Drawing from the experience of the SDG indicator framework and CBD decisions 14/34 and 15/11, the Caucus has proposed that the Monitoring Framework adopt disaggregation by sex as an overarching principle.
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3.1.2 Share sample indicators, data, best practices and relevant guidance on developing and monitoring data disaggregated by sex and other demographic factors, per sector	In our technical submissions, we have outlined examples of gender-sensitive indicators, such as the proportion of women and men involved in community-based biodiversity initiatives, or secure tenure rights to land disaggregated by sex. These proposals align with internationally recognized indicators, including SDG 5.a.1 and 5.a.2, and ensure coherence with broader global monitoring efforts. The Caucus also shares guidance on data collection methodologies, encouraging Parties and stakeholders to use innovative approaches such as household and time-use surveys to uncover gendered differences in biodiversity management and benefit-sharing. Complementary and citizen-generated data are promoted to capture realities often invisible in official statistics, particularly for Indigenous women and local communities. Through policy briefs, technical papers, and participation in expert workshops, the Caucus provides Parties with concrete tools to embed gender equality into national reporting and monitoring systems. By addressing gender-related data gaps, we help ensure a more comprehensive and inclusive assessment of progress under the Convention. In 2023, the Caucus submitted technical inputs on the KM-GBF monitoring framework, emphasizing the need for sex-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive indicators. In 2024, this was followed up with new policy briefs and submissions to SBSTTA 26 on headline indicators and data gaps, proposing concrete methodologies and examples of gender-responsive monitoring tools.
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Objective 3.4 Ensure coherent gender responsive implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework through identifying synergies and drawing on relevant experience from related United Nations and international processes

	In 2023, the Caucus participated in global processes such as the Bern III Conference, the 7th GEF Assembly, the Women's Land Rights Workshop, and the Geneva dialogue on GPA implementation. These spaces allowed us to highlight the interconnections between biodiversity, gender equality, and human rights, and to bring grassroots perspectives into international policy arenas.
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3.4.1 Promote gender-biodiversity linkages in relevant tools, information and activities of United Nations and international processes, and undertake joint activities with the Rio conventions, United Nations and international gender partners	In 2024, the Caucus co-organized a joint learning session with the UNFCCC Women & Gender Constituency and the UNCCD Gender Caucus, reinforcing synergies across the Rio Conventions. We also participated in the GEF Extended Constituencies Workshop (ECW) for Southern Africa. In parallel, in the margins of SBI 28, alongside the CBD Secretariat we co-hosted the international dialogue on GPA implementation, further advancing cross-convention collaboration and ensuring that gender was embedded in discussions on biodiversity finance and implementation. In 2025, this engagement expanded with participation in the GEF Extended Constituencies Workshops (ECWs) for Central Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and West Africa/Sahel. The Caucus also contributed to national consultations in Kenya, Madagascar, and Mali on synergies between the Gender Action Plans (GAPs) of the CBD, UNFCCC, and UNCCD, particularly in relation to gender-responsive land governance reporting. In addition, we took part in the Bogis-Bossey Expert Workshop (August 2025), which focused on the Bern Process and the contribution of MEAs to the implementation of the KM-GBF. Beyond these processes, the Caucus organized or co-organized events during major international gatherings, including CSW69, London Climate Week, the Third Agrobiodiversity Congress in China, and the IUCN World Conservation Congress. These platforms created opportunities to highlight women's leadership in biodiversity stewardship, share best practices, and advance linkages across biodiversity, climate, and gender agendas. Finally, the Caucus continues to contribute to joint initiatives that advance gender-responsive governance of land and natural resources. Since 2023, we have been actively engaged in the Women's Land Rights Initiative led by TMG Think Tank and the Robert Bosch Foundation, strengthening advocacy and knowledge-sharing on secure land rights for women as a foundation for biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods.
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3.4.2 Establish coordination mechanisms among women and girls' organizations/networks, ministries or other institutions responsible for gender and those responsible for the environment, relevant focal points, and local partners to strengthen coherent programming on gender and biodiversity-related issues.	The CBD Women's Caucus initiated and continues to support the establishment of the Gender & Biodiversity Focal Points Network whose purpose is to provide a dedicated space for sharing experiences, strategies, and lessons learned; to enable peer-to-peer support and solidarity; and to coordinate advocacy to ensure gender is consistently integrated into CBD processes, subsidiary bodies, and national implementation. It also aims to amplify monitoring of the Gender Plan of Action and Target 23, while fostering coherence between environment and gender institutions at all levels. The CBD Women's Caucus facilitates meetings, documentation, and communication for the network, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility while honoring the autonomy of official focal points. Through this initiative, we are building the foundations for more coherent programming on gender and biodiversity, even within the limits of our current funding. Importantly, the network also serves as a unique space where women's organizations can engage in direct conversation with decision-makers, bridging local realities with national and international biodiversity governance. Our "<u>Gender and Biodiversity Champions</u>" initiative raises awareness and support for gender-responsive approaches and highlights good practices. The Champions initiative recognizes and mobilizes "agents of change" from across sectors, including national and local governments, intergovernmental agencies, civil society, Indigenous peoples and local communities, academia, the private sector, and donors. By committing to uphold women's rights in biodiversity policies, finance, and action, these Champions demonstrate how leadership and resources can be directed toward inclusive and sustainable biodiversity outcomes.
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	A key element of the initiative is accessibility. To support Champions and their networks, the Caucus developed a <u>brochure on the Gender Plan of Action</u>, available in multiple languages (<u>English</u>, <u>Spanish</u>, <u>French</u>, <u>Arabic</u>, <u>Chinese</u>, <u>Portuguese</u>, and <u>Russian</u>), which explains entry points for gender mainstreaming and provides practical tools. This has become a useful resource for raising awareness among policy makers and practitioners of both financial and technical support available for gender-responsive biodiversity work.
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Objective 3.6 Allocate adequate human and financial resources to support rights-based gender-responsive implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including by tracking and reporting resource allocations for gender initiatives, and applying gender-responsive budgeting

3.6.1 Raise awareness of the financial and technical support available for promoting gender responsive approaches to biodiversity related policies, plans, strategies and action, including good practices to facilitate access to finance for grass-roots women's organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities	At COP16, our advocacy highlighted the urgent need for dedicated and accessible biodiversity funding for women's organizations, Indigenous peoples, and local communities. Through plenary interventions and side events, the Caucus presented evidence of grassroots women's contributions to biodiversity and demanded that resource mobilization mechanisms address systemic barriers to funding. We also shared examples of successful women-led biodiversity initiatives, demonstrating scalable models of gender-responsive investment. Our preparatory briefings and post-COP communications further expanded awareness of funding pathways and provided members with tools to navigate them. By connecting grassroots leaders with donors and policy actors, the Caucus helped bridge the gap between communities and financial institutions.
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2. Challenges and lessons learned

A key challenge encountered is the limitation of online connectivity, which, while valuable, cannot fully replace the depth and effectiveness of in-person meetings. Facilitating face-to-face gatherings requires adequate material resources to ensure meaningful engagement and capacity building.

While this unpaid engagement fosters a dedicated and passionate network, it also perpetuates the broader issue of women and girls disproportionately performing unpaid labor, a dynamic that is often undervalued by institutions and not formally recognized as part of professional responsibilities. This reality can limit broader participation and sustainability, as not everyone is able to dedicate time outside of their paid work. Moreover, even the coordination of the WC is largely underfunded, which – despite its incredible achievements – limits the capacity of such an important function. Additional funding would allow the Caucus to unlock its full potential.

CBD WC is striving to support the mainstreaming and integration of gender equality and gender justice in the works of the Convention and ensure that the KM-GBF is implemented in gender-responsive manner as mandated by decisions 15/11, 15/6 etc. More formal recognition of, and collaboration as relevant with the SCBD, the CBD WC and its mission could enable more impact and effective role of the Caucus in supporting the works of the Convention and the implementation of a gender-responsive, HRBased KM-GBF at regional and national levels.

CBD WC is in the process of further enhancing its structure and governance to enable better and more consistent regional outreach and coordination, now often ad hoc or falling on the shoulders of one individual member. The establishment of regional hubs will enable stronger support and engagement with Gender & Biodiversity National Focal Points, the Technical and Scientific regional Centers, and coordination with other relevant stakeholders and rights holder networks at regional level on biodiversity-related policy and action. This is especially relevant for the CBD WC to contribute to the delivery of objectives 2.2., 2.3., and 3.1 of the Gender Plan of Action.

3. CBD Women's Caucus members' submissions

Herewith, please find separate submissions that have been filed by members of the CBD Women's Caucus, outlining specific activities undertaken within their respective mandates and geographies. We would like to highlight these important submissions to the GPA mid-term review process that demonstrate the broad reach and diversity of actions undertaken by WC Caucus Members. We kindly request that these submissions are considered as standalone contributions in their own right.

1. Asociación GAIA El Salvador (El Salvador)
2. Conseil pour la Terre des Ancêtres (CTA) (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
3. Daughters for Earth (Global)
4. Forestry and Environmental Action - FEA (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
5. Go Green Restore Africa Action (GGRAA) (Rwanda)
6. Red de Defensoras del Agua y El Territorio de la Cuenca del Valle de Jovel (Mexico)
7. Réseau des Femmes Africaines pour la gestion Communautaire des Forêts (REFACOF) (Regional - Africa)
8. Réseau des Femmes pour les Droits Environnementaux et le Développement (REFEDE) (Mali)
9. Vahine Matato'a (Rapa Nui - Chile)

4. History of the CBD Women's Caucus

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

Our history dates back to the time when the CBD itself was being negotiated. Some members recognise Vandana Shiva, Wangari Maathai and Bella Abzug as early thinkers and advocates for such a space. Key institutions, including the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF), Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), the Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network (IWBN), and the CBD Secretariat, played a critical role in the establishment of the Caucus. In its early years, the Caucus brought together members from governments, UN agencies, women's organisations, Indigenous Peoples, feminist advocates and civil society reflecting a broad coalition of stakeholders committed to integrating gender perspectives into biodiversity policies.

In July 2008, the CBD Executive Secretary and the IUCN Director General signed a Letter of Agreement tasking the IUCN's Global Gender Office to support the integration of gender into the CBD. This led to the development of the first Gender Plan of Action (2008-2015).

A primary focus of the GPA was to raise awareness of biodiversity issues among gender-related and women's organisations and enhance the capacity of women, particularly Indigenous women, to participate in processes and decision-making under the Convention. These efforts resulted in the laying out of the Women's Caucus. Likewise, the GPA highlighted the need to appoint a full-time gender programme officer at the Secretariat, which, in coordination with the IUCN Gender Office, led the implementation of the CBD GPA.

Building momentum

From 2008 to 2014, WEDO, WECF, IWBN, Global Forest Coalition (GFC) and others, in close collaboration with the late Ms. Marie Aminata Khan, who served as the first Programme Officer for Gender at the Secretariat of the CBD, gave shape to the Women's Caucus and gathered gender experts and women leaders to advocate for gender justice within the CBD discussions. One of the main achievements of those joint efforts was the increased attention to the first GPA within the CBD, creating momentum to ensure gender was systematically addressed in biodiversity policy discussions.

Over the years, more women's organisations became actively engaged in the CBD, further strengthening the Women's Caucus and its impact. Despite the lack of an official seat for many years, women's rights organisations consistently participated in CBD meetings, strategising, advocating, and delivering statements on key agenda items, particularly at the Conference of Parties (COPs). The year 2010 marked the first time that women from different organisations attending the COP10 in Nagoya formally delivered the first official statement as the Women's Caucus. Until COP13, the Women's Caucus had no dedicated seat and would deliver statements from the NGO (CBD Alliance) seat.

In the context of the GPA, a process was underway to enhance the capacity of women's organisations to engage at the CBD. These efforts contributed to securing a reference to women's roles in at least one of the Aichi Targets (Target 14), a milestone that later influenced the inclusion of gender considerations in the Kunming-Montreal GBF's Target 23.

From 2014 to 2018, the Global Forest Coalition (GFC) and Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network (IWBN) played a key role in revitalising the Caucus after periods of inactivity. During this time, the Caucus's impact continued through its influence in the adoption of the second Gender Plan of Action (2015-2020) adopted at CBD COP12 and the first Gender Day at the CBD COP13 coordinated by SCBD together with GFC and IWBN. COP 13 was instrumental as at this COP in 2014, the Women's Caucus got its dedicated seat to deliver its statements, marking a significant step toward institutional recognition.

The Women's Caucus became the CBD Women's Caucus (CBD WC). This brought a deep change regarding gender issues at the global level, including mainstreaming gender considerations into the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and monitoring mechanisms, the recognition of gender approaches in biodiversity and climate change, as well as other gender considerations in several decisions adopted.

From 2019 to early 2023, the CBD WC made major strides internally with the support of W4B. During these years the Caucus established its mailing list and focused on awareness raising, capacity building, as well as expanding the membership to engage more organisations in the work of the CBD. For collective identity, a logo for the Caucus was designed. Funds were provided at a crucial time, ensuring coordination during the COVID-19 pandemic and maintaining both platform stability and continuous engagement. Additionally, to enhance outreach and member engagement, an Advisory Board of four members from three regions was appointed by the Coordination.

During this period, thanks to the Caucus, historic milestones were achieved in the policy arena, including the adoption of Target 23 in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the adoption of the Gender Plan of Action 2022-2030 – a groundbreaking achievement recognising gender equality as integral to biodiversity policy at all levels, with a particular focus on women and girls from Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

Inclusive governance for Women's collective voice

From mid-2023, the CBD Women's Caucus, guided by its by-then Advisory Board, worked on the collective development of its first Statute, which, after five months of consultations and text contributions, was adopted by acclamation in December 2023. A milestone for the Caucus, marking a historic step in its organisational development. The Statute establishes the structure and governance of the CBD Women's Caucus, institutionalising it as an independent, self-organised, permanent, and sustainable entity within the CBD framework, guided by principles of collective ownership, shared leadership, and collaborative action.

Throughout 2024, the CBD Women's Caucus continued to flourish, further developing its internal regulations, including policies on governance, finance, representation, membership admission and revocation, and communications, among others in alignment with the Statute. This process helped consolidate its governance and operational structure, including the establishment of a Board of Directors to be selected through an open process. Continued efforts from the Board, Coordination, and members—through both volunteer contributions and successful fundraising—ensured progress in key areas such as communications, policy, and capacity development. In this regard, financial support from Avaaz, FARN, WEDO, WWF, IUCN, and the Japan Biodiversity Fund through the CBD Secretariat in 2024 played a crucial role in sustaining and expanding the Caucus's activities.

At the present moment, the CBD WC has grown to 800 members and 44 organisations. It now represents the largest network of such expertise globally and is an incredible resource to advance the gender-responsive implementation of the GBF. Members of the CBD WC hold extensive capacities and expertise, including embodied experiences, covering the wide array of gender-biodiversity topics covered in the CBD, across all regions.

For more information, please visit <https://cbd womenscaucus.org>
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