



SBSTTA-28

Policy Recommendations

UPCOMING





CBD Women

SBSTTA-28

Policy Recommendations

This document presents the policy recommendations of the CBD Women's Caucus for the twenty-eighth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-28). The recommendations aim to strengthen and advance the effective and inclusive implementation of the Convention, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the Gender Plan of Action through rights-based, gender-responsive approaches, and informed by multiple knowledge and evidence-sources.

Across the agenda items under consideration, the CBD Women's Caucus calls for stronger governance, accountability and policy coherence; greater recognition of the knowledge, leadership and contributions of women, Indigenous Peoples, people of African descent, local communities, youth and other rights holders; and increased investment in the enabling conditions—including finance, capacity, monitoring, data and technical cooperation—needed to achieve equitable, effective and transformative implementation of the Framework.

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

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Item 3. Planning, monitoring, reporting and review

What do we recommend?

- The consistent engagement of rights holders, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth, and other non-state actors, and the recognition and tracking of their contributions to GBF implementation are critical to enable the achievement of the mission to halt and reverse biodiversity loss in inclusive, effective and gender-responsive ways. Strengthening a whole-of-society, inclusive multi-stakeholder platforms, collaborations and partnerships at national and regional levels, and the institutionalization of existing good practices can significantly increase the level of ambition and implementation of the Framework. Whole-of-society is not just a principle, it is the accountable, effective and cost-efficient way to address the current implementation gaps and challenges, and a fundamental pathway to achieving transformative change.
- A significant scaling up in the availability and accessibility of means of implementation under targets 19 and 20 finance, capacity-building, technology, transfer and knowledge-sharing is urgently needed to support the recognition, coordination, and integration of efforts by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women, youth and other stakeholders. The Technical and Research Centers should also be adequately resourced and supported through technical collaborations with other organizations and other actors, including Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth, to be able to carry out their critical functions to help with data analysis and disaggregation, organize knowledge and peer-exchanges, including on Section C, and learning from successful initiatives at regional and sub-regional levels to secure the needed support for Parties.
- Improvement and increased investment in monitoring, data analysis and disaggregation can enhance accountability and support more effective, inclusive and ambitious implementation, monitoring and reporting of the KM-GBF. The Global report highlights the gaps in the monitoring framework and challenges faced by Parties in the development of national monitoring systems and also indicates that the use of TK indicators, qualitative elements and inclusion of community-based information, and data disaggregation, including by sex/gender, are weak, and with substantial gaps in both policy implementation and measurement. This makes it hard to monitor both the significant contributions of women in particular and the gender differentiated impact of biodiversity loss. It is important to further operationalize and strengthen the monitoring framework by adding relevant indicators, including the change in indicator category from component to headline for Target 23 with developed and tested methodology, and by encouraging data disaggregation by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, age, sex/gender and persons with disabilities.

Key textual suggestions for document CBD/SBSTTA/28/2

In section “IV. Recommendation for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice”

Paragraph 15. 1. Endorses the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and stresses that, to achieve the targets and 2030 mission of the Framework, the gaps and challenges described in its concise summary need to be addressed with urgency and by strengthening a whole-of-society and gender-responsive approach and building on the recognition, coordination, and integration of efforts by indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and other stakeholders.

Paragraph 15. 4.bis Emphasizes that there are major gaps related to targets and elements of the Framework related to whole-of-society approach, equitable governance, gender responsiveness, participation, traditional knowledge, including the implementation of targets 22 and 23 of the Framework, and weak integration of the contributions of actors other than national governments, which undermine the effectiveness, equity and sustainability of the implementation of the Framework.

Paragraph 15. 7. Urges developed country Parties, and invites other Parties and organizations in a position to do so, to provide support for addressing the technical and financial challenges faced by developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition in relation to the data and knowledge gaps noted in the national reports and in the global report, and in particular to enhance support for the development and strengthening of national monitoring, including qualitative and quantitative dimensions, data disaggregation by sex/gender, age and indigenous people and local communities, persons with disabilities, and knowledge management systems through related capacity-building initiatives for all actors including women and women's organizations, and the responsible and ethical use of digital technologies.

Paragraph 15. 9. Notes that the technical updates to the metadata for the headline indicators, as contained in document CBD/SBSTTA/28/INF/4, and the possible additional component and complementary indicators, and headline indicators and/or change in indicator category for the monitoring framework identified in document CBD/SBSTTA/28/2/Add.2 can serve as a basis for addressing some of the substantial methodological gaps identified in the global report

Paragraph 15. 10. *Decides to establish an ad hoc technical expert group, with the terms of reference contained in the annex to the present decision, to provide advice to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on the further operationalization of the monitoring framework, including consideration of additional indicators that have clearly developed and tested methodology and that would help address gaps in the monitoring framework;*



Refer to [CBD/SBSTTA/28/2](#) for a full set of textual recommendations.

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

What do we recommend?

- Strengthen policy and regulatory frameworks to support the implementation of the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. While voluntary initiatives can complement implementation efforts, they should not substitute legally enforceable measures. Achieving Targets 15 and 18 requires mandatory corporate accountability, including human rights and environmental due diligence, the elimination of harmful incentives, effective compliance mechanisms, and measures to ensure that business and financial institutions respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women and other rights holders while contributing to biodiversity-positive outcomes.
- Disclosure drives accountability and systemic change. Target 15 must not be limited to measuring and disclosing biodiversity impacts. Businesses and financial institutions must be required to assess, disclose, prevent, reduce, mitigate and remedy adverse impacts across operations, value chains, supply chains and financial portfolios. At the same time, implementation should move beyond approaches that place responsibility primarily on consumers and instead address the structural drivers of biodiversity loss embedded in business models, production systems and financial markets.
- Take into account the IPBES Assessment through the lens of existing CBD commitments. The actions identified in the IPBES Business and Biodiversity Assessment should not be implemented in isolation, but in accordance with Parties' existing commitments under the Convention, particularly Target 23 of the KM-GBF and the Gender Plan of Action. This requires a whole-of-society, human rights-based and gender-responsive approach that recognizes rights holders as key partners in implementation, monitoring and accountability.

Key textual suggestions for document CBD/SBSTTA/28/3

In section “IV. Recommendation for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice”

Paragraph 35. 2. (b) (iii).bis Ensuring the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth, and the respectful integration of traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and customary sustainable use, with their free, prior and informed consent.

Paragraph 35. 2. (c) To identify gaps in knowledge and the application of knowledge for measuring business impacts and dependence on biodiversity, including cumulative impacts, impacts on Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth, and impacts across transboundary value chains and financial portfolios;

Paragraph 35. 2. (d) (i) ~~Facilitating~~ **Requiring** the uptake and consistent application by businesses and financial actors of existing methods and knowledge for measuring, managing, and disclosing business impact and dependence on biodiversity, while ensuring that disclosure informs concrete action to prevent, reduce, mitigate and remedy adverse impacts;

Paragraph 35. 2. (e) To strengthen engagement and collaboration with business and financial sectors and other actors, including indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, consumers, non-governmental organizations, international organizations and academia, to address gaps in knowledge and the application of knowledge, as described in the assessment, and to engage in conservation restoration or the sustainable use of biodiversity, explicitly recognizing the need for intergenerational justice by preventing the transfer of long-term corporate ecological debt for future generations;



Refer to [CBD/SBSTTA/28/3](#) for a full set of textual recommendations.



Item 5. Synthetic biology

What do we recommend?

- The alignment between the illustrative benefits, and potential positive impacts with the GBF targets remains insufficiently substantiated. More robust multidisciplinary scientific evidence and greater transparency in the underlying evidence base are needed before these can effectively inform national guidelines, implementation plans and resource allocation. To support credible and evidence-based outcomes, all documents informing the future AHTEG, including submissions to the Online Forum, should rely primarily on peer-reviewed, multidisciplinary scientific literature. This evidence base should encompass ecological, social, political, cultural and ethical dimensions, while also drawing, as appropriate, on Indigenous Peoples', traditional and local knowledge and experiences, consistent with the Convention and its decisions.
- Alongside potential benefits, greater attention should be given to identifying, assessing and communicating potential risks, uncertainties and adverse impacts associated with the technologies and approaches under consideration. In line with the precautionary approach and the objectives of the Convention, recommendations should systematically consider possible ecological impacts, including transboundary, cumulative and long-term effects, as well as socio-economic, cultural, and ethical impacts. Strengthening these elements would enhance the credibility, inclusiveness and policy relevance of future work under the Convention and support more informed and responsible decision-making by Parties.
- The CBD's Thematic Action Plan should recognize that strengthening national capacities for independent assessment, biosafety, monitoring, governance, regulation and precautionary decision-making is a prerequisite for the responsible consideration of synthetic biology technologies. Capacity-building, technology transfer and knowledge-sharing should therefore prioritize independent multidisciplinary risk assessment, horizon scanning, transparent and evidence-based decision-making, and the meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women and other rights holders, drawing on both scientific and relevant traditional and local knowledge systems. The TAP should explicitly address risks, uncertainties, knowledge gaps and potential adverse impacts alongside potential benefits, and ensure that investments in synthetic biology complement—rather than divert resources from—proven, low-risk and cost-effective biodiversity conservation approaches.

Key textual suggestions for document CBD/SBSTTA/28/4

In section “III. Recommendations”

Paragraph 29. 2. Adopts the thematic action plan to support capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing in the context of synthetic biology for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, with particular emphasis on strengthening capacities for independent multidisciplinary assessment, monitoring, biosafety, governance and informed decision-making prior to implementation activities, consistent with the objectives of the Convention and the precautionary approach, as contained in annex I to the present decision;

In section “Annex I Current benefits of synthetic biology in relation to the targets...”

Paragraph 2. (a) The following considerations are relevant with respect to the information presented in the table: There is a lack of clear mechanisms or agreed methodology for identifying or quantifying benefits associated with applications of synthetic biology in the context of the Framework, as well as to aligning applications or benefits to targets;

Key textual suggestions for document CBD/SBSTTA/28/4/Add.1

In section “Annex Draft thematic action plan to support capacity-building and...”

Paragraph 2. (c) Enhanced knowledge-sharing, including traditional knowledge following FPIC, on synthetic biology, including its development, assessment, governance and regulation.

Paragraph 19. (b) Adopt a multidisciplinary science-based approach and inclusive of traditional knowledge systems;

Paragraph 19. (c) Consider, on the basis of multidisciplinary evidence, the potential positive and potential negative impacts of synthetic biology applications on the three objectives of the Convention and the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

 Refer to CBD/SBSTTA/28/4, and CBD/SBSTTA/28/4/Add.1 for a full set of textual recommendations.

Item 6. Sustainable wildlife management

What do we recommend?

- The guide for the sustainable management of wildlife in support of biodiversity conservation, human well-being, and equitable governance must also be grounded in the principles of Section C and Targets 22 and 23 of the Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as the provisions of the Gender Action Plan. Therefore, the parties should be urged to integrate the approaches, guidelines, and directives established in these instruments.
- Ensure the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation of women in wildlife management requires essential enabling conditions such as: mainstreaming a gender and rights-based approach, transforming power structures, eradicating all forms of violence and sociocultural barriers, developing and strengthening capacities, implementing care and co-responsibility policies, and establishing support networks, among others.
- The equitable distribution of benefits derived from the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife must recognize gender-differentiated knowledge, practices, contributions, costs and benefits, ensuring that women, Indigenous Peoples and local communities who share territory and cohabit with wildlife receive fair and equitable benefits.

Key textual suggestions for document CBD/SBSTTA/28/5/Rev.1

In section “II. Recommendation”

Paragraph 6. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Convention, subject to the availability of resources and in consultation with interested Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, and members of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management:



In section “Annex Global guidance on the sustainable management of wildlife...”

Paragraph 9. (a) To promote inclusive, gender-responsive and participatory decision-making;

Paragraph 13. Table 1. Principles and approaches

<i>Principles and approaches</i>	<i>Key considerations</i>	<i>Basis</i>
Human rights-based approach and inclusive participation	Parties must consider <u>ensure</u> women's roles, <u>contributions</u> , knowledge and, practices with respect to wildlife management, and apply the gender-responsive approach, while securing their rights, <u>access and benefits from the sustainable use of resources</u> and safety,	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 22 <u>and Target 23</u>), <u>CBD Gender Plan of Action</u>

Paragraph 14. Table 2. Safeguards

<i>Thematic areas</i>	<i>Safeguards</i>	<i>Basis</i>
Social equity and human well-being	Benefit-sharing arrangements should be transparent, equitable and based on clear rules, and should not exacerbate existing inequalities, <u>violence and discrimination</u> including gender-based disparities.	<u>CBD Gender Plan of Action</u>

Paragraph 21. (k) Advancing targeted education, awareness-raising and capacity-building initiatives in response to specific implementation needs, through training of trainers and partnerships with academic institutions, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres and community institutions;



Refer to [CBD/SBSTTA/28/5/Rev.1](#) for a full set of textual recommendations.

Item 7. Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: strategic review of and update to the programme of work on protected areas

What do we recommend?

- Ensure rights-based, gender-responsive and equitable governance of protected and conserved areas. The updated Programme of Work should fully operationalize a human rights-based and gender-responsive approach, aligned with Section C and Targets 22 and 23 of the KMGBF, the Article 8(j) Programme of Work, and the Gender Action Plan. This includes guaranteeing the full, effective and meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women in all their diversity, youth and children, recognizing diverse governance systems, and ensuring Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) for all conservation actions affecting traditional lands.
- Transform governance systems through dedicated gender-responsive and human-rights based implementation mechanisms. Protected and conserved areas require dedicated gender-responsive implementation instruments that move beyond participation to address structural inequalities. These should include gender assessments, inclusive governance mechanisms, capacity strengthening, affirmative measures, the transformation of unequal power relations, the elimination of violence and socio-cultural barriers, care and co-responsibility policies, and long-term support for the leadership of rights holders in conservation governance.
- Parties should ensure direct, accessible and gender-responsive financing for rights holders, while recognizing the value of Indigenous and traditional knowledge systems on an equal footing with Western science. This should be complemented by gender-responsive monitoring and accountability frameworks that generate disaggregated quantitative and qualitative data and support Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women in all their diversity, youth and children to lead biodiversity knowledge, monitoring and conservation efforts.

Key textual suggestions for document **CBD/SBSTTA/28/6/Rev.1**

In section “VI. Recommendations”

Paragraph 5. *Encourages* Parties to apply a human rights-based approach in the implementation of the updated programme of work on protected and conserved areas, including by ensuring the full and effective participation of rights holders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, and the recognition of diverse governance systems, in a manner consistent with the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030 as well as with section C, and targets 22 and 23 of the global biodiversity framework;

Paragraph 6. (a) To further support the Target 3 Community of Practice as a flexible, inclusive and voluntary platform, with a view to facilitating coordination, knowledge exchange and implementation support, and to invite indigenous peoples, local communities, women, youth and relevant organizations to participate in the Community;

Paragraph 6. (c) (i) Human rights-based and equitable governance approaches, including the recognition of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, as rights holders;

Paragraph 6. (c) (x) Sustainable finance approaches, innovative financial mechanisms and direct and accessible financing for indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth;



Refer to CBD/SBSTTA/28/6/Rev.1 for a full set of textual recommendations.



Item 8. Marine and coastal biodiversity

What do we recommend?

- We highlight the relevance of traditional knowledge to the scientific exercise underpinning the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs), particularly with regard to two bodies of knowledge that remain neglected in current practice: traditional knowledge concerning the connectivity of species and marine and coastal ecological processes, and historical and ongoing knowledge on the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources held by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including the specialized knowledge of women.
- The recognition of traditional knowledge as a legitimate source of information throughout the EBSA and peer-review processes must be matched by clear, verifiable procedures for documenting and confirming the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples and local communities at every stage where such knowledge is used, referenced or synthesized.
- Finally, We underscore the importance of the meaningful involvement of women in this new path towards scientific and technical cooperation opened by the entry into force of the The Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) and by the establishment of the new Informal Advisory Group on Work conducted under the Convention in relation to marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Key textual suggestions for document CBD/SBSTTA/28/7

In section “V. Recommendations”

Paragraph 19. 3. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and other stakeholders to contribute to the work on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas under the Convention using the best available scientific information and traditional knowledge in order to increase the number ~~and~~, coverage, as well as to ensure gender-responsive approaches and equitable access to the scientific enterprise underpinning the identification of such areas around the world;

Paragraph 19. 6. Also requests the Executive Secretary to facilitate and support, as appropriate, efforts to develop submissions for the modification of descriptions of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the description of new areas, and, subject to the availability of resources, to convene a global expert workshop to synthesize the best available scientific information, including the traditional knowledge on such areas beyond national jurisdiction, identify capacity gaps in the development of submissions, and strengthen the capacities and the scientific and technical cooperation of Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, in support of the potential development of future submissions;

In section “Annex I Voluntary guidelines on peer-review processes for the description..”

Paragraph 11. (i) Reporting in any public documentation discussions and information provided during the process, including the traditional knowledge verifying the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples and local communities



Refer to [CBD/SBSTTA/28/7](https://www.cbd.int/sbstta/28/7) for a full set of textual recommendations.

