



CBD SBSTTA-28 Outcomes

A CBD Women's Caucus Analysis

As the Convention's scientific and technical body, SBSTTA plays a critical role in shaping the evidence, guidance and technical foundations that inform decisions under the CBD. At SBSTTA-28, this included consideration of the Global Report and Monitoring Framework, the IPBES Business and Biodiversity Assessment, new global guidance on sustainable wildlife management, the strategic review of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas, and scientific and technical work on marine and coastal biodiversity.

Across these discussions, important questions of gender, rights, knowledge and equity were embedded within issues often treated as primarily scientific or technical: what counts as evidence and whose knowledge is recognized; how progress is measured; how differentiated impacts are captured; what safeguards accompany technical guidance; and whether women, Indigenous Peoples and local communities are recognized as knowledge holders and contributors to biodiversity governance. This CBD Women's Caucus analysis examines selected SBSTTA-28 outcomes through this gender and justice lens, highlighting both advances and issues that remain unresolved as the recommendations move to COP17.

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ITEM 3. PLANNING, MONITORING, REPORTING AND REVIEW

WHAT WAS THE ITEM ABOUT?

In decision [15/6](#), the Conference of the Parties adopted an enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review, which included conducting a global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). In decision [16/32](#), the Conference of the Parties subsequently adopted the procedures for conducting the global review and provided guidance for the preparation of a Global Report on collective progress, which will serve as an input to the review.

Item 3 on the global review of collective progress was considered jointly by the twenty-eighth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-28) and the seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-7). Within this process, SBSTTA-28 focused on the scientific and technical assessment underpinning the Global Report and its findings, as well as related considerations concerning the Monitoring Framework and the possible establishment of an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG).

The Summary and Key Messages of the Global Report prepared by the Secretariat, with advice from the Ad Hoc Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (AHSTAG), indicated that implementation of the KMGBF is off track in several areas, particularly in addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss; that the collective ambition reflected in national targets remains insufficient; and that available means of implementation are not commensurate with identified needs. The findings also pointed to limited reporting and implementation of the whole-of-society approach, the human rights-based approach and gender-responsive implementation, particularly Target 23, as well as gaps in the incorporation of several qualitative elements of the Framework into national targets.

WHAT WERE THE MAIN OUTCOMES?

The final draft recommendation was restructured around the 'headings' of the Global Report's key messages, although not their specific language, as several Parties stressed that the Global Report is not a negotiated document. The text nevertheless provides greater detail on implementation and other gaps including elements on whole-of-society approach, equitable governance, gender-responsive, participation, traditional knowledge, also highlighted in the WC position and early submission. Under the whole-of-society heading, paragraph 5 identifies gaps in the scope and coverage of national targets related, among other issues, to rights over lands, territories and resources, traditional knowledge, the protection of environmental human rights defenders and gender-responsive biodiversity governance. The contributions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth to KMGBF implementation are acknowledged in paragraph 4, while paragraph 5(i) recognizes the constraints they face in accessing means of implementation. However, references to Section C of the KMGBF and the whole-of-society approach remain bracketed in paragraph 5(ii).

There was no support for reopening the Monitoring Framework t. Parties held a very firm line on not adding new headline indicators and maintaining the existing Monitoring Framework through 2030. Only one Party openly called for a headline indicator for Target 23 during the first plenary, which was an ask in the CBD WC early submission. The terms of reference for the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) were approved with a focus on metadata and methodologies for the use of existing indicators.

Another development was the increasing use of the formulation “actors other than national governments” in place of explicit references to Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth. This terminology originates in decision 16/32 in the context of reporting commitments by actors other than national governments

WHAT DO THESE MEAN FROM A GENDER JUSTICE PERSPECTIVE?

Language that recognizes gaps related to gender-responsive biodiversity governance, rights, traditional knowledge and the contributions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth and other right holders is in the draft recommendation . It reinforces that collective progress in the implementation of the KMGBF cannot be assessed only through quantitative aspects of targets , but must also take into account qualitative elements and considerations, especially whole-of-society, gender-responsive and human rights-based approaches in Section C of the Framework. The finding that many qualitative elements and Section C considerations are not adequately reflected in national targets is particularly significant, as it suggests that considerations like gender, rights and equity risk being lost in the translation from global commitments to national implementation.

At COP17, a key priority will be to resolve the remaining bracketed language on considerations in Section C. It will also be important to find consensus on maintaining explicit references to Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth where their distinct rights, roles and contributions are relevant, and delete the proposed broader category of “actors other than national governments” which would result in rights holders and constituencies being rendered invisible in critical operative provisions.

The decision to maintain the existing Monitoring Framework through 2030 also means that strengthening accountability for Target 23 will depend on making effective use of the existing monitoring architecture and ensuring that gender-responsive implementation remains visible within the Global Review. In this context, it will be particularly important to bring the findings of the mid-term review of the Gender Plan of Action into closer dialogue with the findings of the Global Review, so that progress and gaps in gender-responsive implementation are reflected in the broader assessment of collective progress under the KMGBF.



ITEM 4. MATTERS RELATED TO THE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

WHAT WAS THE ITEM ABOUT?

This item considered matters related to the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), with particular attention to the newly adopted IPBES Business and Biodiversity Assessment and its implications for implementation of the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). The Assessment is particularly relevant to Targets 14, 15, 16, 18 and 19, addressing the integration of biodiversity into decision-making, business impacts and dependencies, sustainable consumption, harmful incentives and biodiversity finance.

SBSTTA-28 was invited to consider the Assessment and its relevance for implementation of the Convention and the KMGBF, as well as future cooperation between the CBD and IPBES and potential capacity-building and technical support related to biodiversity and business.

WHAT WERE THE MAIN OUTCOMES?

The outcome made progress towards stronger public governance of business and biodiversity, while leaving several politically important issues unresolved for COP17. A central tension in the negotiations concerned whether implementation should rely primarily on voluntary business action and disclosure, or whether governments should establish and enforce policy, legal and regulatory frameworks capable of changing business behaviour and holding companies and financial institutions accountable for their impacts on biodiversity.

The recommendation encourages Parties to create or strengthen enabling environments for sustainable business practices, including through policy, legal and regulatory frameworks that can provide incentives or mandate action by businesses and financial institutions, alongside greater transparency and disclosure of biodiversity-related impacts, dependencies, risks and opportunities. The text also strongly encourages businesses, financial institutions and other financial actors to use existing methods to measure and, subject to remaining brackets, manage and disclose, their biodiversity impacts and dependencies.

The recommendation further connects business action to fair and equitable benefit-sharing arising from genetic resources, digital sequence information and associated traditional knowledge. It also advances stronger CBD-IPBES cooperation and proposes capacity-building and technical guidance, particularly for developing countries, to support the integration of biodiversity into business and the financial sector.

However, several issues remain unresolved. Even the level of endorsement of the Business and Biodiversity Assessment remains bracketed (“welcomes” versus “takes note with appreciation”). More substantively, language on strengthening and enforcing regulatory frameworks, mandatory business action, disclosure, management of impacts and benefit-sharing obligations remains subject to negotiation. During the contact group, Parties also deleted proposed language explicitly encouraging businesses to integrate information on biodiversity impacts and dependencies into decision-making and investment decisions.

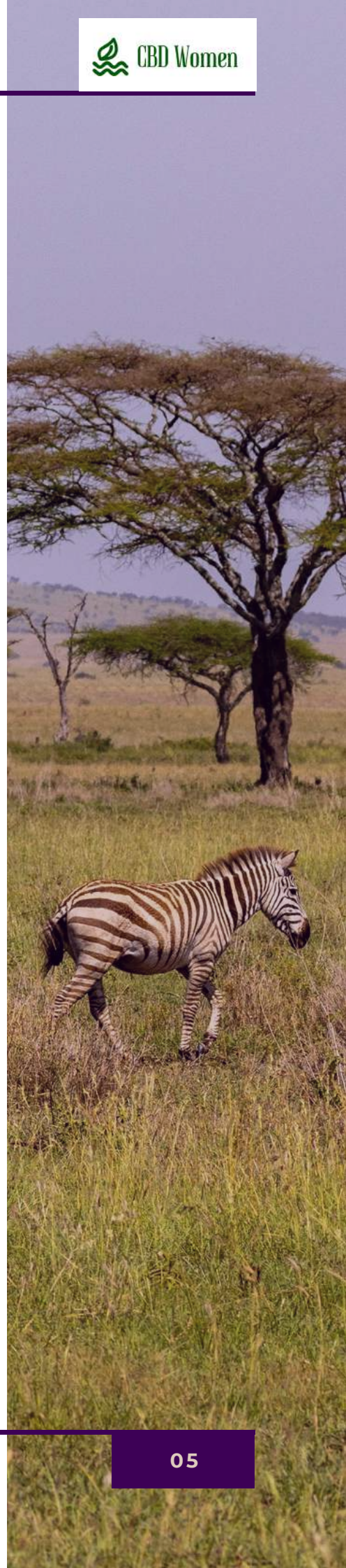
COP17 will therefore need to resolve both the level of recognition given to the IPBES Assessment and the extent to which its findings are translated into stronger expectations for governments, businesses and financial institutions.

WHAT DO THESE MEAN FROM A GENDER JUSTICE PERSPECTIVE?

The recognition of stronger government regulation is particularly important. Business impacts on biodiversity are also impacts on people, rights, livelihoods and territories, and they are not distributed equally. Women, particularly Indigenous women, women from local and Afro-descendant communities, rural women and women whose livelihoods depend directly on biodiversity, can experience differentiated impacts from extractive activities, land-use change, pollution, ecosystem degradation and loss of access to natural resources. A framework centred only on corporate biodiversity risks and dependencies risks overlooking who bears the social and ecological costs of business activities, who benefits from them, and who has the power to influence the decisions that produce them.

The outcome nevertheless remains insufficient from a gender and justice perspective. Disclosure of biodiversity impacts is important, but disclosure is not the same as preventing harm, undertaking due diligence, providing remedy or changing investment decisions. Likewise, encouraging business action does not substitute for governments requiring companies and financial institutions to identify, prevent, mitigate and remedy adverse biodiversity and human rights impacts throughout their operations, value chains and portfolios. The references to fair and equitable benefit-sharing are also relevant: benefit-sharing arrangements should recognize the rights, knowledge and contributions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including women, and ensure their effective participation in decisions concerning the use of genetic resources, digital sequence information and associated traditional knowledge.

For COP17, the priority should therefore be to retain and strengthen the regulatory and accountability dimensions of the SBSTTA outcome. Parties should support effective policy, legal and regulatory frameworks; move beyond measuring and disclosing impacts towards preventing, reducing and remedying them; ensure biodiversity information informs corporate and financial decision-making; and connect business accountability with human rights, gender equality, safeguards, access to information, participation and access to remedy. Particular attention should also be paid to the capacity of developing countries to regulate transnational businesses and financial institutions, so that responsibility for addressing biodiversity impacts is not shifted onto countries and communities with the fewest resources.



ITEM 6. SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

WHAT WAS THE ITEM ABOUT?

Item 6 concerned the development of the first global CBD guidance on sustainable wildlife management applicable to multiple species and practices. It expands the scope of previous CBD guidance, which focused primarily on the wild meat sector, to cover terrestrial, inland-water, coastal and marine systems and activities including fishing, gathering wild plants and fungi, logging, harvesting animals, wildlife trade and wildlife-based tourism.

COP16 mandated the development of guidance focusing on three main areas: inclusive and participatory decision-making; multiple knowledge systems and recognition of rights; and equitable distribution of the costs and benefits of wildlife management. The guidance is intended to support implementation of several KMGBF targets, particularly Targets 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 15, 21, 22 and 23. SBSTTA-28 was tasked with considering the proposed guidance and its application across different forms of wildlife use and management, as well as implementation support and possible future work under the Convention on the sustainable use of biodiversity.

WHAT WERE THE MAIN OUTCOMES?

SBSTTA-28 forwarded the annexed voluntary global guidance on sustainable wildlife management to COP17 for adoption. The guidance significantly expands the scope and practical application of the CBD's work on sustainable wildlife management, although several politically sensitive provisions remain bracketed and its final adoption will be decided at COP17.

The guidance strengthens attention to policy coherence, cross-sectoral coordination, ecological sustainability, climate change, human-wildlife conflict, wildlife crime, zoonotic risks, restoration, monitoring and adaptive management. It recognizes the role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in biodiversity stewardship and retains provisions addressing customary governance, tenure and access rights, traditional knowledge, community-based monitoring and free, prior and informed consent, where applicable. Participation is also framed as extending beyond consultation to approaches including shared decision-making, co-management and co-design, supported by measures on access to information, adequate time and resources for participation, representation, grievance mechanisms and transparent governance.

The guidance also addresses the distribution of costs and benefits associated with wildlife conservation, use and coexistence. It includes provisions on gender-differentiated impacts, women's participation and leadership, compensation and relief in the context of human-wildlife conflict, transparent revenue allocation, grievance and remedy mechanisms, and support for enterprises led by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth. Measures aimed at strengthening accountability for wildlife revenues include audits, disclosure of revenue flows and protection against retaliation.

However, several provisions were weakened or remain unresolved. The original objective of promoting “inclusive, gender-responsive and participatory decision-making” was reduced to “inclusive and participatory decision-making”. The heading referring explicitly to a human rights-based approach remains bracketed, as does the provision recognizing women’s roles, knowledge and practices and securing their rights and safety. Language concerning environmental human rights defenders and gender-differentiated violence also remains unresolved. “Distributional impacts” was removed from the safeguard concerning major wildlife-related interventions; the reference to supporting “community- and rights-based approaches” was removed from the implementation-support paragraph; and “evaluate” remains bracketed in the monitoring provision. No explicit requirement for gender-disaggregated monitoring was secured.

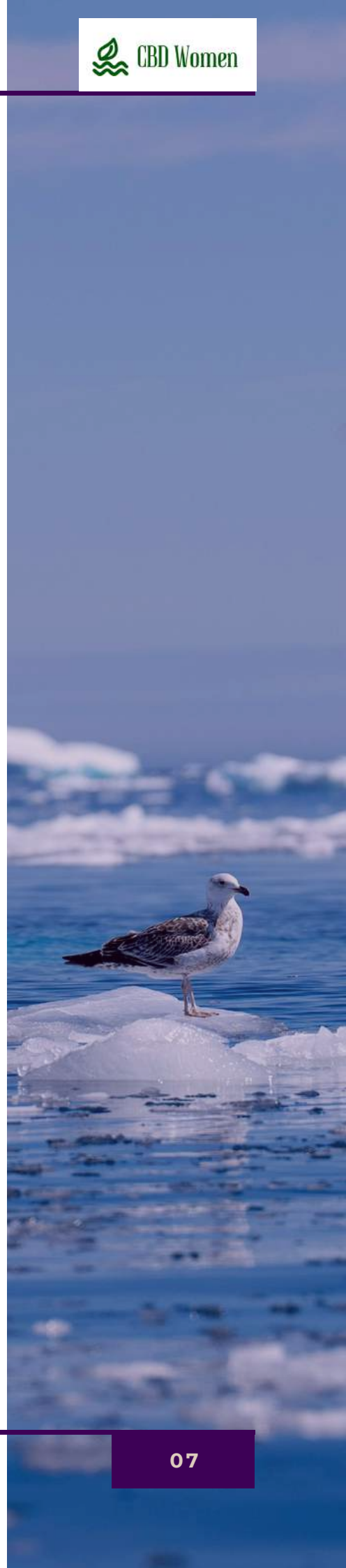
Implementation and means of implementation also remain important issues. While Parties are encouraged to provide capacity-building, technical cooperation, technology transfer and financial resources, particularly for developing countries, the recommendation does not establish firm financing commitments. The proposed consultation process towards a broader programme of work on the sustainable use of biodiversity also remains bracketed. These issues, together with the unresolved rights- and gender-related provisions, will therefore require further consideration at COP17.

WHAT DO THESE MEAN FROM A GENDER JUSTICE PERSPECTIVE?

The guidance makes important progress by recognizing that wildlife management is not only an ecological or technical issue, but also a question of rights, knowledge, governance and the distribution of costs and benefits. Provisions recognizing traditional knowledge, customary governance, tenure and access rights, community-based monitoring, gender-differentiated impacts and women’s participation and leadership provide important entry points for more equitable wildlife governance. Participation that extends beyond consultation towards shared decision-making, co-management and co-design is particularly relevant to ensuring that those who live with, depend upon and contribute to the stewardship of wildlife can influence the decisions that affect them.

At the same time, some of the clearest gender- and rights-related provisions remain unresolved or were weakened during the negotiations. The removal of “gender-responsive” from the overarching objective on decision-making, together with the bracketing of the provision recognizing women’s roles, knowledge and practices and securing their rights and safety, risks reducing women’s inclusion to participation without adequately recognizing their rights, knowledge and decision-making roles. Similarly, the unresolved human rights-based approach and the removal of references to distributional impacts and community- and rights-based approaches weaken the safeguards surrounding implementation.

The unresolved language on environmental human rights defenders and gender-differentiated violence is particularly significant. Gender-differentiated violence identifies a harm that needs to be recognized, prevented and remedied; it should not be substituted by general references to gender-responsive approaches, which describe how action should be designed rather than the harm itself. Failure to explicitly recognize differentiated risks can weaken safeguarding, monitoring, accountability and access to remedy, particularly for women defending territories, resources and wildlife.



The voluntary character of the guidance and the absence of firm commitments on means of implementation also raise justice concerns. Effective participation, community-based monitoring, compensation, safeguards and equitable governance require finance, capacity, technology and functioning institutions. Without adequate implementation support, particularly for developing countries and community institutions, there is a risk that stronger expectations are established without the resources necessary to implement them equitably.

For COP17, priorities should therefore include securing adoption of the guidance while retaining and strengthening its gender, rights and accountability foundations: restoring explicit recognition of gender-responsive decision-making and the human rights-based approach; retaining recognition of women's roles, knowledge, leadership, rights and safety; protecting environmental human rights defenders and recognizing gender-differentiated violence; strengthening safeguards and monitoring; and ensuring adequate finance, capacity-building and technology transfer for implementation.

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 WAS THE ITEM ABOUT?

The Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) was adopted by COP7 in 2004 as a framework to support the establishment and management of protected areas and cooperation among governments, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, civil society and other actors. While its implementation has been reviewed by successive meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Programme of Work has not been formally updated since its adoption.

Under decision 16/12, COP16 requested the Secretariat to conduct a strategic review and analysis of the Convention's programmes of work in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). For the PoWPA, this included consideration of how the Programme of Work should be updated and aligned with the KMGBF, particularly Target 3, including through complementary activities to support its implementation.

SBSTTA-28 therefore considered the strategic review and proposed update of the PoWPA, including its scope and possible name; its alignment with protected areas, other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) and Indigenous and traditional territories; ecological connectivity; governance and implementation approaches; monitoring; means of implementation; and technical and scientific support.

WHAT WERE THE MAIN OUTCOMES?

SBSTTA-28 advanced a substantive update of the Programme of Work, bringing it more clearly into alignment with the KMGBF and Target 3, while leaving several important questions unresolved for COP17. The proposed complementary activities broaden the Programme's focus beyond the traditional protected-area model to reflect OECMs, Indigenous and traditional territories, governance, ecological connectivity, monitoring, finance and other dimensions of Target 3 implementation.

The scope and possible renaming of the Programme of Work remain under consideration. Parties discussed whether its name should be revised to better reflect its expanded scope and how concepts such as "protected and conserved areas" should relate to protected areas, OECMs, Indigenous and traditional territories and other forms of conservation. These discussions raised questions about whether a new definition would be required and how different governance models and territories would be recognized.

Ecological connectivity emerged as another major negotiating issue. Proposals included establishing connectivity as a fifth programme element, addressing it through complementary cross-cutting activities, or considering further guidance at COP18 in light of implementation experience and the forthcoming IPBES assessment. No consensus was reached on establishing a new programme element, leaving the issue for further consideration.

The recommendation and complementary activities retain important provisions related to governance and rights, including the participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, free, prior and informed consent, governance systems, access to justice and elements of a human rights-based approach. However, several of these provisions remain bracketed. Paragraph 9, for example, includes references to Section C of the KMGBF, Article 8(j), full, equitable, inclusive and effective participation, Indigenous governance systems, women, girls and youth, and environmental human rights defenders, but significant parts of the paragraph remain unresolved.

Gender-responsive implementation also remains under negotiation. Parties considered references to Target 23, the Gender Plan of Action, gender- or sex-disaggregated indicators and gender-based violence, with some of this language retained and other elements remaining bracketed. Environmental and social safeguards also remain unresolved.

The outcome further addresses means of implementation and technical support. The text considers mobilization of financial resources, particularly for developing countries; continued support for the Target 3 Community of Practice; support from regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation centres; and compilation of experiences, scientific information and good practices related to Target 3 implementation. However, formulations concerning finance, technology transfer and capacity-building remain contested.

Overall, SBSTTA-28 moved the PoWPA towards a broader framework for implementing Target 3 that encompasses not only conservation coverage but also governance, connectivity, rights, monitoring and means of implementation. COP17 will nevertheless need to resolve significant brackets concerning the scope of the Programme, ecological connectivity, rights and safeguards, gender-responsive implementation and resources for implementation.



WHAT DO THESE MEAN FROM A GENDER JUSTICE PERSPECTIVE?

the proposed update is significant because it moves the Programme of Work beyond a predominantly technical focus on protected-area coverage towards greater attention to governance, rights, participation, Indigenous and traditional territories, access to justice, safeguards and the distribution of conservation impacts. This is particularly important for women in Indigenous Peoples and local communities, as decisions concerning protected areas, OECMs and other conservation measures can simultaneously affect land and resource rights, livelihoods, customary institutions, access to commons, food systems, mobility and political participation.

However, participation alone does not ensure gender-responsive or equitable conservation governance. Women may participate in protected-area planning while continuing to face insecure land and resource rights, limited influence over decision-making, inadequate access to information and grievance mechanisms, or weak implementation of FPIC. The remaining brackets around the human rights-based approach, Indigenous governance systems, women and girls, environmental human rights defenders and environmental and social safeguards are therefore particularly important. Without these protections, area-based conservation can reproduce the very inequalities and rights violations that equitable governance under Target 3 is intended to address.

The treatment of gender in monitoring also requires attention. Sex-disaggregated data can help identify differences in participation or impacts, but they are not equivalent to gender-responsive monitoring or governance. Implementation of Target 23 and the Gender Plan of Action requires attention not only to who participates, but also to rights, decision-making power, access to resources, differentiated impacts and the conditions that enable meaningful and effective participation.

Ecological connectivity also has important gender and justice implications. Corridors and landscape- or seascape-level conservation can intersect with customary territories, farms, grazing lands, forests, fisheries and commons. For pastoralist women, forest-dependent women, fisherwomen and other resource-dependent communities, connectivity planning can directly affect access to lands and resources. It should therefore be accompanied by rights-based and gender-responsive spatial planning, FPIC where applicable, meaningful participation, safeguards and accessible grievance mechanisms.

Finally, equitable implementation depends on adequate means of implementation. Expanding expectations around governance, monitoring, connectivity and participation without corresponding finance, capacity-building, technology transfer and technical cooperation risks placing additional implementation responsibilities on developing countries and communities without the resources required to fulfil them.

For COP17, the priority should therefore be to ensure that the updated Programme of Work fully operationalizes the rights-based and gender-responsive dimensions of Target 3, including through strong language on the human rights-based approach, FPIC, equitable governance, women's meaningful participation and decision-making, environmental and social safeguards, environmental human rights defenders, gender-responsive monitoring and adequate means of implementation.

ITEM 8. MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY

WHAT WAS THE ITEM ABOUT?

This item addressed two main areas: ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) and the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity. The draft recommendation also included two annexes: Annex I, setting out processes for the description of new EBSAs and the modification of existing EBSA descriptions, and Annex II, containing proposed terms of reference related to cooperation concerning the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement).

Previous CBD discussions had addressed the procedures for identifying new EBSAs and modifying existing descriptions. SBSTTA-28 considered the further implementation of these processes, the future role of the Informal Advisory Group on EBSAs, and possible arrangements for cooperation and coordination between the CBD and the BBNJ Agreement following its entry into force and in advance of its first meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

WHAT WERE THE MAIN OUTCOMES?

The outcome advanced work on EBSAs and marine and coastal biodiversity, while leaving important questions concerning future CBD–BBNJ cooperation unresolved. The Informal Advisory Group on EBSAs will continue its work until COP18 and will report on its activities at that meeting.

The relationship between the CBD and the BBNJ Agreement became an important area of discussion. Some Parties supported stronger cooperation between the two instruments, including as a means of promoting coherence and avoiding duplication, while others stressed the distinct mandates of different international instruments relevant to marine biodiversity and sought additional qualifications to the proposed cooperation.

The proposed establishment of an informal advisory group on matters related to the BBNJ Agreement, together with its proposed terms of reference in Annex II, remains bracketed. Some Parties considered the establishment of such a mechanism premature before the first COP of the BBNJ Agreement.

The negotiations also addressed the relationship between the scientific description of EBSAs and decisions concerning marine protected areas. Language was included emphasizing that the identification of EBSAs is a scientific and technical exercise and safeguarding the authority and sovereignty of Parties in relation to decisions concerning marine protected areas, including in the context of the emerging BBNJ regime.



WHAT DO THESE MEAN FROM A GENDER JUSTICE PERSPECTIVE?

The EBSA process is important not only because of who participates in advisory bodies, but also because of whose knowledge informs the scientific and technical processes through which ecologically and biologically significant marine areas are identified and described. Recognition of traditional knowledge and different knowledge systems creates an important entry point for the knowledge and contributions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including women, whose relationships with marine and coastal ecosystems may otherwise remain insufficiently visible in formal scientific processes.

Meaningful participation therefore needs to go beyond representation. Women, Indigenous Peoples and local communities should be able to contribute their knowledge and perspectives to EBSA processes and related marine biodiversity governance under conditions that respect rights, free, prior and informed consent where applicable, equitable participation and transparency. The decreasing use of explicit references to particular rights holders and groups is consequently a concern where broader terminology risks making their distinct rights, knowledge and contributions less visible.

The future institutional relationship between the CBD and the BBNJ Agreement also has gender and justice implications. If a new informal advisory mechanism on BBNJ-related matters is established at COP17, gender balance and the meaningful participation of women, Indigenous Peoples and local communities should be reflected in its composition and work, together with appropriate recognition of different knowledge systems. This will be particularly important as cooperation between the two instruments develops and begins to shape implementation across areas such as area-based conservation, marine genetic resources, capacity-building and technology transfer.

More broadly, stronger coherence between marine biodiversity processes should not focus only on avoiding institutional duplication. It should also help ensure that the rights, participation, knowledge and equity commitments reflected across the CBD and emerging BBNJ implementation reinforce one another. For COP17, a key priority will therefore be to ensure that any future CBD–BBNJ cooperation arrangements incorporate these considerations from the outset rather than treating gender and participation as issues to be added later.

The CBD Women's Caucus (CBD WC) is the women major group 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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