

Mainstreaming Gender in the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

Linking Gender Equality and Biodiversity



Convention on Biological Diversity

Gender inequalities and differences play an important role in the use, management and conservation of biodiversity at the local and national levels.

Mainstreaming gender equality in respect to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use involves identifying and addressing unequal relationships between women and men. These inequalities are created by socio-cultural norms which dictate expected roles and responsibilities. Mainstreaming gender issues involves supporting informed and equal participation of women in decision-making processes related to biodiversity, which is a necessary requirement for equitable and sustainable outcomes. Ensuring equal access to, control over, and sharing of benefits derived from land and natural resources are central preconditions to achieve biodiversity objectives and sustainable development.

Gender mainstreaming is therefore important for all stages of policy development, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Attention to the synergies between gender issues, biodiversity, poverty alleviation and national development offers opportunities to strengthen interventions and results. As reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals, gender equality and women's empowerment are crucial cross-cutting components to achieve a sustainable future.

C



Gender-sensitive Responses

11. Consider women's and men's different values and perceptions of protected area conservation, and address the gendered distribution of costs and benefits in local communities, particularly those with existing land claims. Support women's participation in protected areas management.
12. Addressing disproportionate and inequitable costs and benefits, as well as designing initiatives targeted for women, can improve the effectiveness of species conservation efforts.
13. Strategies to minimize genetic erosion need to support the knowledge and work of indigenous and local women who safeguard traditional species, notably through seed selection, cultivation, and food preparation.

Gender differences in the use of, values associated with, and benefits received from biodiversity and its conservation all influence the effectiveness of protected areas conservation.

Women often bear a disproportionately high burden of costs from human-wildlife conflicts (HWC). In addition to equity considerations, this may lessen their compliance with policies enforcing wildlife protection.

There are often gender differences in the types and varieties of species chosen for cultivation, typically due to differences in use. Further, women, particularly indigenous women in many countries, traditionally play an important role in seed selection and management.

A



Women and men may attach different environmental, cultural, spiritual, economic, and intrinsic values to biodiversity, due to differences in use, perceptions, costs, and benefits associated with biodiversity.

Gender equality is integral to poverty alleviation, as entrenched gender imbalances, such as limitations to women's assets and rights, contribute to perpetuating and deepening poverty. Gendered poverty, in turn, undermines development and biodiversity conservation efforts.

Due to gender related differences in economic, educational and political opportunity and empowerment, women and men may respond to and be affected by incentive measures differently.

Women typically have much lower levels of ownership, control over and access to assets and resources, particularly in regards to land, financial services, and technology. This gap results in both increased socio-economic inequalities and less sustainable production and consumption.

Gender-sensitive Responses

1. Awareness-raising campaigns should reflect socio-cultural contexts and concerns, including the different uses and attitudes of women and men associated with biodiversity. Understanding and addressing gender-specific values and drivers of demand for biodiversity resources can increase the success of advocacy for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.
2. Addressing gender issues in relation to biodiversity provides an entry point to incorporate biodiversity values and concerns in national and local development and poverty reduction processes.
3. Taking into account national socio-economic conditions when developing, applying, or reforming biodiversity incentives involves addressing women's and men's different uses, priorities and needs related to biodiversity. This analysis can help identify incentive measures that benefit both biodiversity and gender equality.
4. Develop non-discriminatory property laws, equity-promoting programs, participatory strategies, and gender-sensitive technologies to counteract disparities between women and men in access and control over the means of production.

B



Pressures on natural habitats often differ by gender. There are typically gender differences in use of and dependence on forest products as a source of livelihoods.

Real and perceived differences in women's and men's involvement in fisheries can lead to an inaccurate understanding of the pressures on marine and coastal ecosystems.

Despite their roles as labourers and resource users, women often have limited access to inputs and services and are excluded from decision-making.

Biological and socially-constructed differences often result in women and men experiencing different exposure to and risks from pollution.

Both women and men are involved in the introduction and control of alien species, yet women tend to be underrepresented in invasive species management projects.

Women from coastal communities often rely on coral reefs for food and livelihood security, yet these links are often ignored.

Gender-sensitive Responses

5. Ensure the equitable participation of both women and men in forest management groups as well as in community consultation activities so that their distinct needs and priorities are taken into account.
6. Undertake gender analysis to inform data collection, to more accurately assess the state of fisheries, and to better understand the diverse effects of fisheries changes and management practices on different populations.
7. Consider existing gender-related constraints in order to facilitate access for both women and men to the knowledge, inputs, technologies and resources, including land, needed to increase the sustainability of agriculture, aquaculture and forestry management. Promote and facilitate the participation of women in resource management decision-making.
8. Design pollution-reducing solutions which take into account how gender roles contribute to pollution and affect exposure, for example energy-efficient clean-burning cook stoves to reduce women's exposure to indoor air pollution.
9. Mainstream gender in all phases of invasive species management programs, from data collection to employment for species control.
10. Recognize the role of women as fishers. Engage both women and men from coastal communities in increasing the sustainability of existing livelihood activities and developing alternative opportunities which respond to the needs of both women and men.

D



Gender-sensitive Responses

14. Take into account the needs of women by identifying and addressing the roles, norms, priorities, responsibilities, and interests of both women and men in policy, planning and implementation processes. This requires facilitating the participation of women and men in ecosystem conservation and restoration decision-making processes.
15. Review new and existing restoration and conservation projects for possible gender-differentiated impacts, and promote the active involvement of men and women in all aspects of restoration and conservation efforts.
16. Establish measures to make women's knowledge and contributions visible and valued; facilitate women's access to information; as well as support their participation in Prior Informed Consent procedures and negotiation of Mutually Agreed Terms for the use of biodiversity.

There are gender differences in exposure to ecosystem degradation and reliance upon natural resources due to: gender inequalities in access, control and ownership of land and natural resources; as well as sociocultural barriers to economic opportunities.

Women and men have different and often specialized knowledge of species, ecosystems and biodiversity, which can impact the effectiveness of conservation and restoration efforts. Including both perspectives can help enhance the effectiveness of climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as support combating desertification.

Customary practices, gender bias of external parties, as well as time constraints may lead to the exclusion of women from decision-making processes regarding the use of and access to local biodiversity and traditional ecological knowledge.

E



Gender-sensitive Responses

17. Gender considerations should be mainstreamed within NRSAPs to ensure the integration of gender issues relevant to biodiversity, including gender-responsive actions.
18. Recognize the importance of traditional knowledge and customary practice of indigenous and local women and men in the protection of biodiversity, and ensure the full participation of women in related decision-making processes.
19. Put in place measures to facilitate increased participation of women in science and technology fields; encourage the contributions of women to science and technology; and facilitate the transfer of knowledge and technologies to women.
20. Fully budgeting gender actions in national budgets for biodiversity, and mainstreaming biodiversity in the budgets of women's affairs ministries could enable Parties to seek financial resources for biodiversity from donors interested in addressing gender equality.

Women and men have different knowledge and experiences related to biodiversity, making them both equally important stakeholders in national biodiversity planning processes. However, women's equal participation and access to benefits under these processes are often limited.

Traditional knowledge of biodiversity use and management is typically differentiated by gender. Women's knowledge, innovations and practices are often overlooked when women are not included in national and local decision-making processes.

Women are underrepresented in science and technology fields. This means that the knowledge and perspectives of men tend to dominate scientific advancement while women usually have less access to and awareness of the available science and technologies.

Synergies between efforts to address gender equality and biodiversity conservation and sustainable use present an opportunity to mobilize international and national funding allocated to both causes to achieve shared objectives.



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AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS STRATEGIC GOALS

A Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society

- Target 1: By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.
- Target 2: By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.
- Target 3: By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.
- Target 4: By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

B Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use

- Target 5: By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.
- Target 6: By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.
- Target 7: By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.
- Target 8: By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.
- Target 9: By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.
- Target 10: By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.

C To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

- Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.
- Target 12: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.
- Target 13: By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.

D Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services

- Target 14: By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.
- Target 15: By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.
- Target 16: By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.

E Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building

- Target 17: By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.
- Target 18: By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.
- Target 19: By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.
- Target 20: By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.