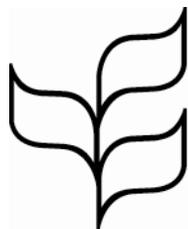




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THE ENVIRONMENT-GENDER INDEX

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In May 2008, the Conference of the Parties welcomed the Gender Action Plan under the Convention on Biological Diversity through its decision IX/24 at its ninth meeting in Bonn. The Gender Action Plan was put in place to “define the role that the Convention Secretariat will play in stimulating and facilitating efforts, both in-house and with partners at the national, regional and global levels, to overcome constraints and take advantage of opportunities to promote gender equality. It is also a reflection of the increasing awareness that gender equality and women’s empowerment are important prerequisites for environmental conservation and sustainable development”.¹ By decisions X/19, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to enhance efforts to fully implement the Plan of Action in order to mainstream gender considerations in all aspects of the work under the Convention and to formulate clear indicators to monitor progress.

2. The Environment-Gender Index (EGI), a tool being proposed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and strategic partners, is designed to monitor progress toward gender equality and women’s empowerment in the context of global environment agreements. This tool could help the Convention on Biological Diversity monitor the implementation of national gender related policies as well as gender related aspects of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

3. The Index aims to provide information and quantitative data on government’s performance translating the gender and environment mandates in the three Rio conventions and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) into national policy and planning. This document outlines the structure of the Environment-Gender Index, its methodology, and its principal partners and stakeholders.

II. THE STRUCTURE AND METHODOLOGY OF THE INDEX

4. Users of the Index will be able to use this tool to analyze performance trends and guide future direction in decisions related to gender and environment. The Index will monitor specific indicators of already existing data at the national and international level, for example:

* UNEP/CBD/COP/11/1.

¹ Gender Plan of Action located at: <http://www.cbd.int/programmes/cross-cutting/gender/cop-09-inf-12-rev1-en.pdf>

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- (a) The inclusion of gender in national plans or reports linked to the three Rio conventions:
 - (i) National biodiversity strategic action plans (CBD);
 - (ii) National Adaptation Plan of Action (UNFCCC);
 - (iii) National Action Plans (UNCCD).
- (b) The inclusion of environment in gender related plans, such as national CEDAW reports;
- (c) The number of women heads of delegation to the Conferences of the Parties of the Rio conventions;
- (d) The ratio of women to men in environmental parliamentary committees; and
- (e) Other relevant indicators.

5. The Index will be divided into the measurement of two streams: gender-responsive policy and women's participation in decision-making. While the methodology of the Index is still being finalized, its proposed methodology includes:

- (a) Data collection based on official country reports and information;
- (b) Indicators chosen based on their ability to demonstrate data that is sound and practical, and relevant to advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in the environmental context;
- (c) Baseline scenario drawing from globally legally binding conventions that recognize the linkages between gender and environment – including the gender action plans of CBD and UNCCD, the UNFCCC Bali Action Plan, and CEDAW; and
- (d) Correlation to Human Development Index, Global Gender Gap report of the World Economic Forum, and the Millennium Development Goals, among others, to show relationships between gender equality and economic, development, and environmental trends.

6. The resulting data will be compiled in a “Summary for Policymakers” with accompanying analysis and policy implications.

III. THE STAKEHOLDERS AND USERS OF THE INDEX

7. This Index can be used by national and local governments, particularly ministers of environment and ministers of women's affairs, but also other ministries and departments. The Index will also be freely accessible to civil society, which will be of interest and use to environmental or gender related organizations needing to monitor these issues. The Convention on Biological Diversity, amongst other United Nations Agencies, Academic Institutions, and Multilateral Institutions could be key users of the tool.

8. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is among the group of Parties and institutions that have collaborated in the development of the Index.

IV. NEXT STEPS

9. The pilot phase of the Environment-Gender Index is currently underway. The Index was part of IUCN's official contribution to Rio+20, and was launched at several high level side events there, including a meeting of the Network of Women Ministers and Leaders for the Environment.
