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ANALYSIS OF GENDER INTEGRATION IN FIFTH NATIONAL REPORTS

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present information note serves as an accompaniment to document UNEP/CBD/COP/13/08/Add.3 on progress in implementing the gender plan of action: update on mainstreaming gender considerations in national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Further to the discussion on mainstreaming gender in national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) presented in that document, the present note provides the results of an analysis of gender integration in fifth national reports. In decision XII/7, the Conference of the Parties requests Parties to report on actions undertaken to implement the Gender Plan of Action.¹

2. This note presents a summary of the findings of an analysis undertaken by the Global Gender Office of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to assess the extent of reporting pertaining to gender equality and women's empowerment in Fifth National Reports transmitted by Parties to the Secretariat of the Convention between March 2014 and October 2016.

3. The analysis was undertaken in conjunction with a project generously supported by the Japan Biodiversity Fund, to build capacity of developing country Parties to integrate gender considerations into their biodiversity policy, plans and programmes. This analysis represents the second component of a global analysis undertaken by IUCN, the first component of which examined the integration of gender considerations in NBSAPs received by the Secretariat between 1993 and mid-2016. Other elements of the project included a series of pilot project initiatives with the Governments of Mexico, Uganda and Brazil, to support the integration of gender perspectives into their draft NBSAPs, being revised to align with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and reflect the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

II. OVERVIEW OF ANALYSIS FINDINGS

4. The analysis undertaken by IUCN involved the review of 173 Fifth National Reports available through the Convention's search portal, which were received between March 2014 and October 2016.²

5. The analysis involved quantitative and qualitative methods, following the methodology of the IUCN Environment and Gender Information (EGI) portal, to enable comparability with analyses of

* UNEP/CBD/COP/13/1.

¹ Decision XII/7 para 12

² Technical limitations prevented the review of nine documents. These limitations included: primary language of document (review restricted to those available in English, French and Spanish); and technical errors rendering the document unreadable.

reports from other Conventions and international policy frameworks. Quantitative analysis included a keyword search³ following guidelines to reduce duplications and illustrate unique references to gender keywords. National Reports containing gender keywords were qualitatively analysed using a variety of topics, from how women are characterized (as vulnerable, beneficiaries, stakeholders and/or agents of change), whether sex-disaggregated data and indicators are used and whether there are funded and monitored activities that explicitly include or empower women.

6. The quantitative assessment of NBSAPs revealed that 67 per cent of all Fifth National Reports (116 of 173) contain at least one reference to “gender” and/or “women”, while the remaining 33 per cent do not contain any mention of either “gender” or “women”. This is higher than the number of references contained in the global review of NBSAPs undertaken by IUCN⁴.

A. Characterization of the role of women

7. Women are most commonly characterized as beneficiaries in the fifth national reports, wherein 30 per cent of reports discuss programmes or policies that include women as recipients of economic, social or other benefits, including educational and capacity building opportunities. Twenty-eight per cent of reports characterize women as stakeholders, while 19 per cent reference women as managers specifically of resources or species. Women are represented as vulnerable in 17 per cent of reports, and less than one per cent (one country report) refers to women as agents of change.

8. Examples of women’s key role as stakeholders include in Zimbabwe’s fifth national report, which states that “most natural resource management programmes have encouraged the active participation of women by involving them in decision-making positions on natural resource management committees and community ownership trusts”. In contrast, Cameroon’s national report states that the planning and decision-making processes related to biodiversity have a low representation of women, which excludes the determination of the priorities and needs of women, and planning does not benefit from women’s knowledge. Fifteen Parties (nine per cent) include women’s organizations or ministries as contributors to the development of the fifth national report, while 14 Parties (eight per cent) include women’s organizations or ministries as implementing partners.

9. Cuba’s national report specifically refers to women as agents of change, stating “Prior to 2008, when the project *Development of the Forestry Sector in Cuba* introduced the theme of gender equality in the forestry sector, gender was little addressed. The strategic interests of the Forestry Directorate aimed to reverse this situation, and the implementation plan included the general objective of addressing women as agents of change, on an equal basis to men, in the contribution to the sustainable management of the country’s forestry resources.” Cuba’s report highlights the role of women in the agricultural and forestry sector, as a fundamental pillar in the management of biodiversity.

B. Inclusion of gender consideration

10. Thirty-four per cent of Parties include activities for women or to address gender issues. Activities include those led by women, activities focused on women’s participation and those aimed at gender mainstreaming. Ethiopia’s national report includes an activity that aims to “develop and implement [a] national gender mainstreaming guideline on biodiversity resources and ecosystem services”. Specific gender actions identified in Cuba’s national report include strengthening the leading role of women in the National Association of Small Farmers, achieving gender equity in the organization, and increasing the training and awareness of gender issues in all the management structures of the association and others. Only four Parties’ reports include allocated budgets for activities specific to women or gender. Ten national reports specifically mention the inclusion of gender considerations in their NBSAPs, or gender contributions to the CBD. Namibia’s report includes reference to decision X/19⁵ to mainstream gender

³ Keyword list included, in English, French and Spanish, the words: a. Gender(s); b. Sex(es); c. Women, woman, girl(s), female(s); d. Men, man, boy(s), male(s); e. Gender equality and; f. Gender equity.

⁴ The quantitative assessment of NBSAPs revealed that 56 per cent of all NBSAPs (143 of 254) contain at least one reference to “gender” and/or “women”, while the remaining 44 per cent do not contain any mention of either “gender” or “women”.

⁵ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-10/cop-10-dec-19-en.pdf>

within NBSAPs and CBD programmes of work, stating that disaggregated gender data is now collected through the community-based natural resource management programme, showing that women made up 30% of conservancy management committee members in 2012. The report also states that women are predominantly involved in the management of indigenous plants, such as Marula and Commiphora.

11. Sixteen Parties have included Aichi Biodiversity Target 14⁶ as one of their national targets, with different degrees of modification. Six of these countries further mention women or gender in relation to the national target. Brazil's national report describes a food conservation activity that takes into account the needs of women, traditional communities, and the poor and vulnerable, by enhancing awareness, supporting capacity-building and promoting regional products. Cameroon's report mentions how the national reforestation programme benefits women and Mali's explains how programmes for decentralized forest and delta management improve women's empowerment by enhancing their participation. Uganda and Mexico's reports highlight the importance of mainstreaming the needs of women and gender considerations, while Zimbabwe notes that the gender policy promotes the need for decent livelihoods of the poor and vulnerable, especially women.

12. There is no specific reference to the 2015-2020 Gender Plan of Action in national reports reviewed, although several countries referenced national gender policies.

13. Twenty-eight per cent of Parties include sex-disaggregated data in their national reports, such as in relation to the Millennium Development Goals, the inclusion of demographic and social sex-disaggregated data, activities with sex-disaggregated indicators or sex-disaggregated data in relation to natural resource management. For example, Benin's national report includes sex-disaggregated data about the number of men and women who participate in the management of natural resources.

III. CONCLUSIONS

14. Overall, the fifth national reports reflect gender considerations in multiple ways which demonstrate attention to mainstreaming gender and women's empowerment issues in efforts to implement the Convention. It is relevant to note that the reporting guidelines for the fifth national reports⁷ do not include a component on gender considerations. Guidance on gender mainstreaming for national reporting, such as in reference to decisions on gender and the 2015-2020 Gender Plan of Action, could further enhance how gender considerations are understood and included within biodiversity policies and programmes. As Parties have been called upon in decision XII/7 to report on actions undertaken to implement the 2015-2020 Gender Plan of Action, further attention is needed in national reports to share progress on effective gender mainstreaming under the Convention.

⁶ 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.

⁷ <https://www.cbd.int/reports/guidelines/default.shtml#nr5>