



GENDER HEALTH AND BIODIVERSITY INTER- LINKAGES

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GENDER

Gender

- Different Roles that men and women play in society

Society

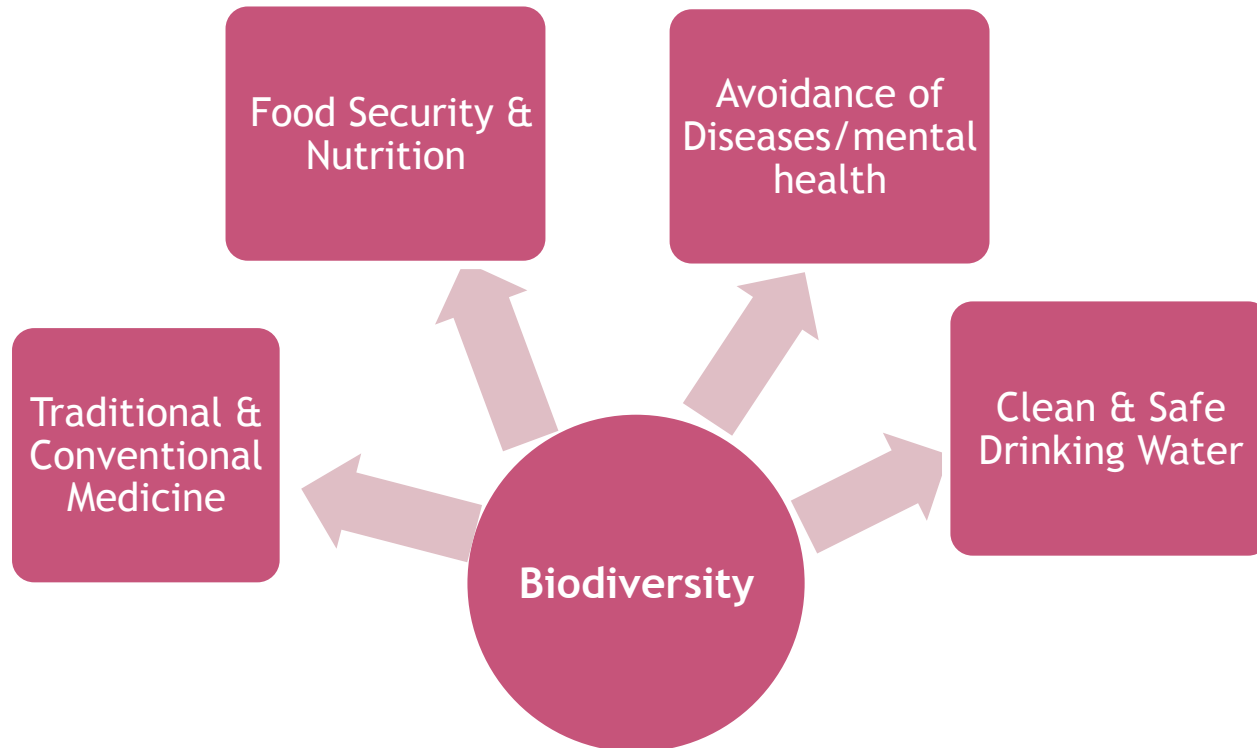
- Shaped by culture, values, and norms
- Determines roles, responsibilities, obligations, benefits and rights

Implication

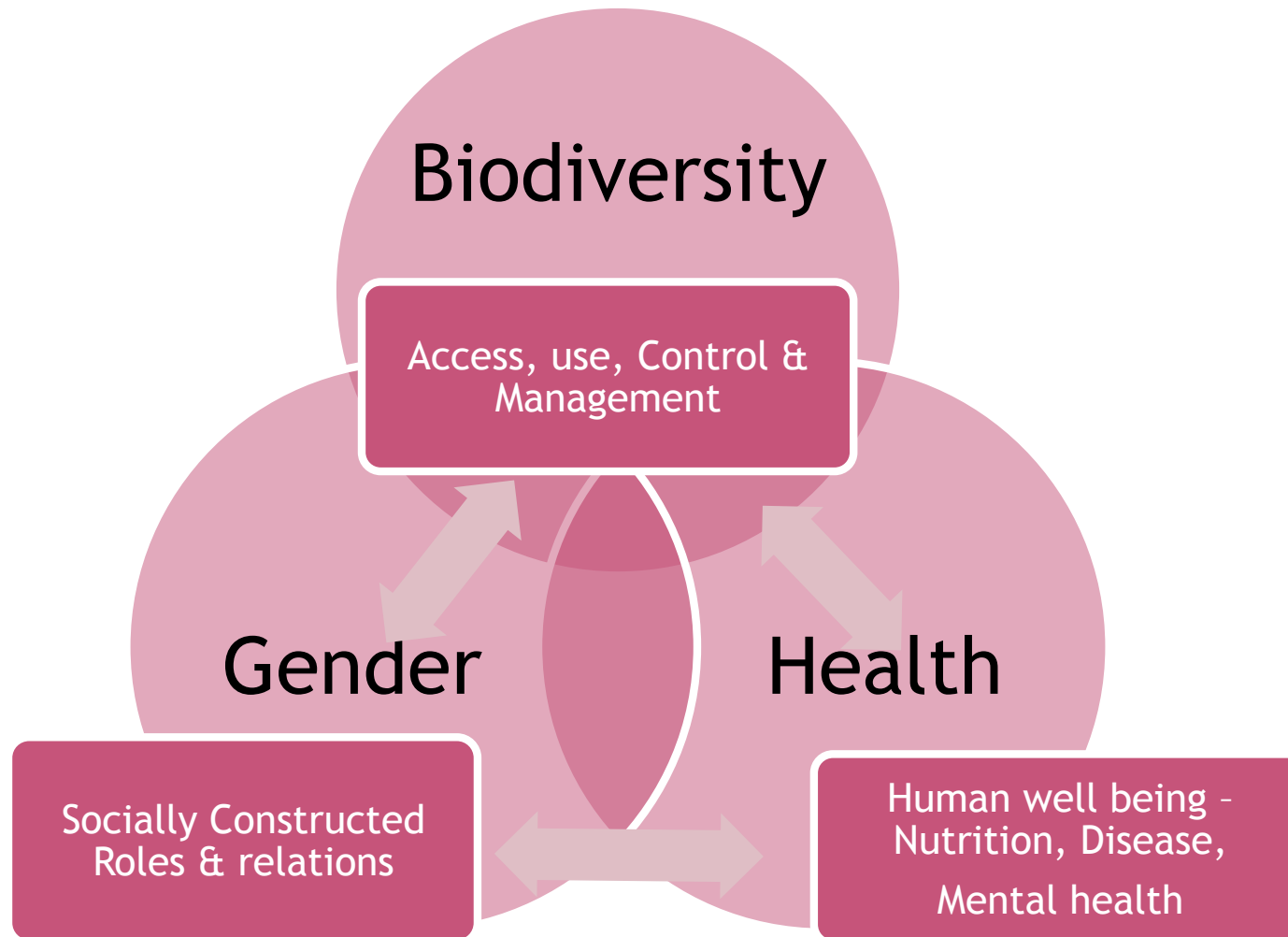
- Peoples access to, use, and management of biodiversity which in turn has differential gender health impacts
- Different elements of biodiversity in different ways

BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY & HUMAN HEALTH

- Biodiversity important for Human health well being & survival because of the ecosystem services that it provides



INTER-LINKAGES



EXAMPLE - FOOD

-Cash crops
-High yielding -hybrids
-Commercial trade in wildlife & fish

Differentials in Access, Use and control to land for growing crops - mostly decision makers; property rights holders

Differential Health impacts - usually less impacted

MEN - Diverse Economic Activities - Bread winners; Providers

-Food crops - agro-biodiversity maintenance
-Subsistence use of wildlife and fish for food

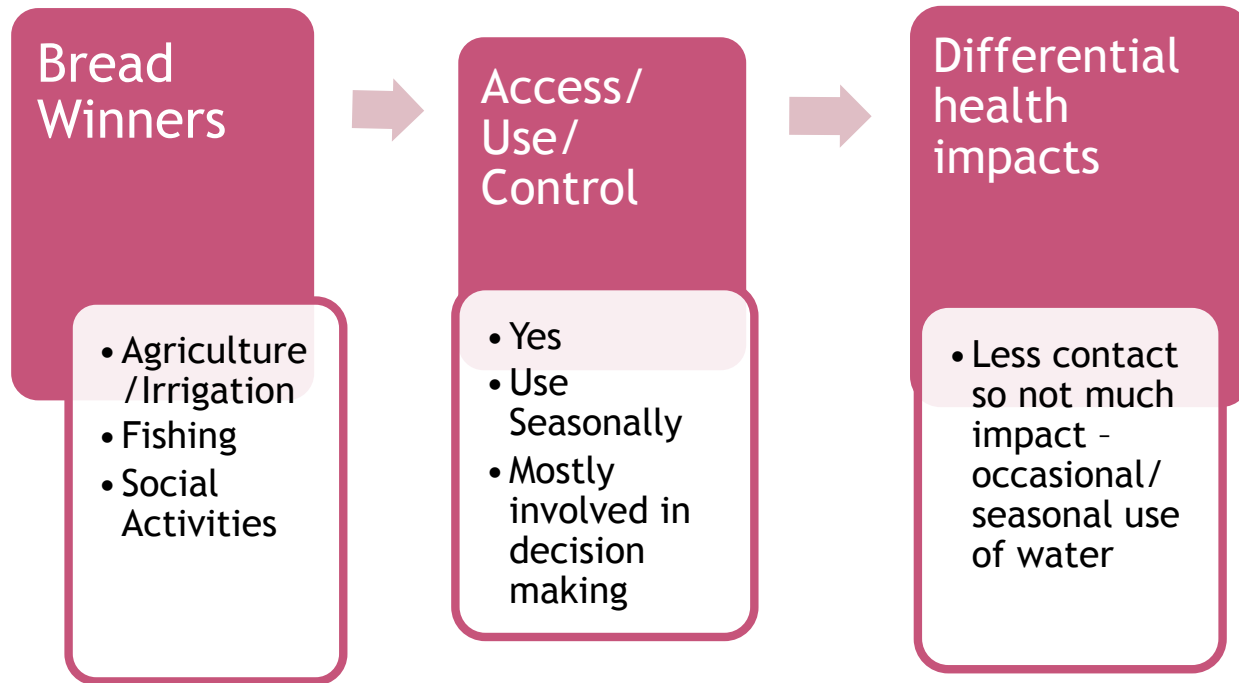
Differentials in access, use, control and Management - limited access & use; less decision making; lack property rights;

Differential Impacts on Health
- loss of nutritional agro-biodiversity, fish animal protein leads to malnutrition
Depletion of fish - vector borne disease increase

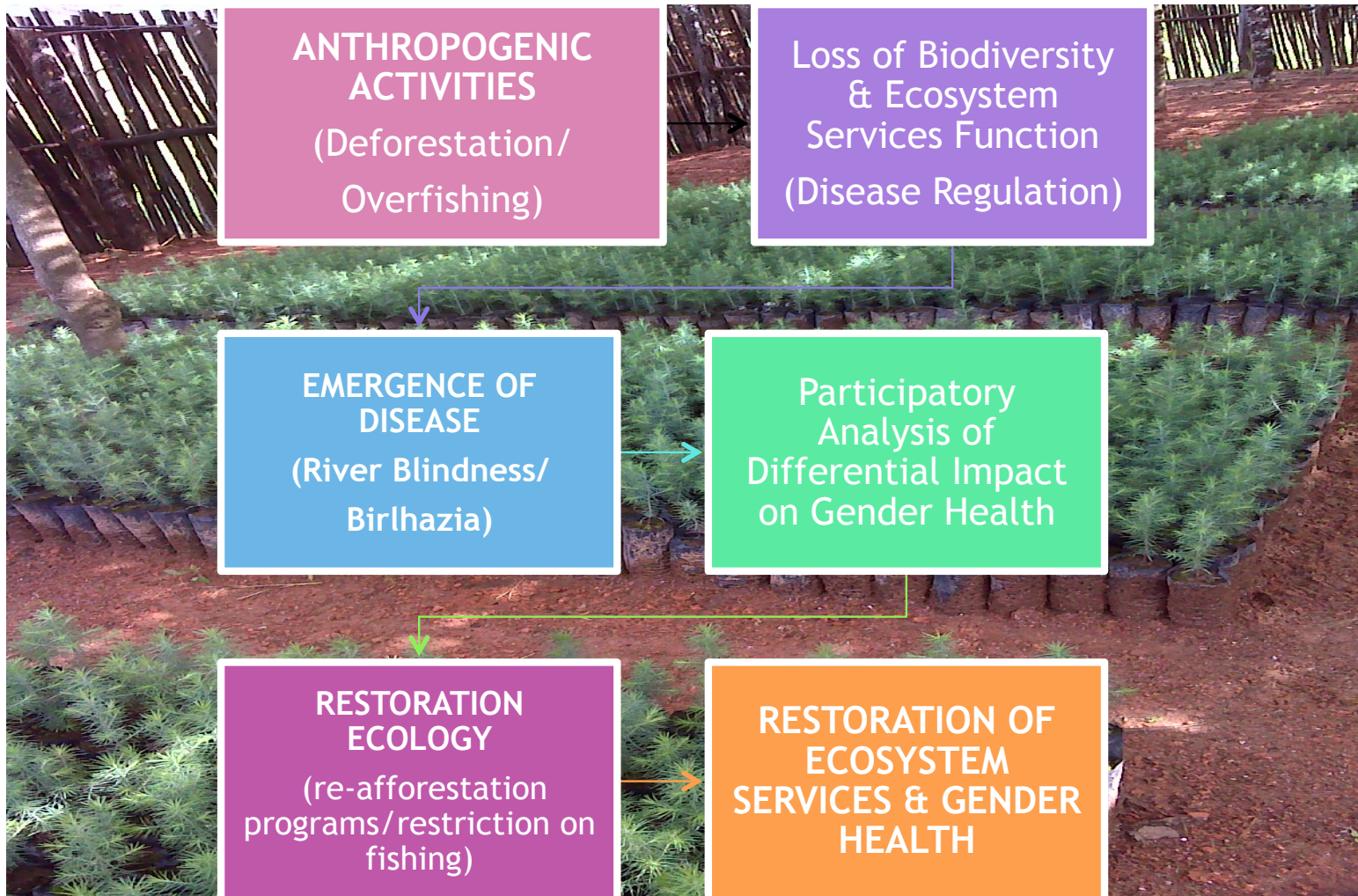
WOMEN - Household chores/gatherers for home use, mostly in agricultural production

WATER (VECTOR BORNE DISEASE)

Men



GENDER HEALTH & BIODIVERSITY ISSUES (CASE STUDIES)



GENDER HEALTH & BIODIVERSITY CASE STUDIES CONTINUED.....

Women's traditional gender role of selecting crop seeds using indigenous Knowledge
Men's traditional role of providing shelter

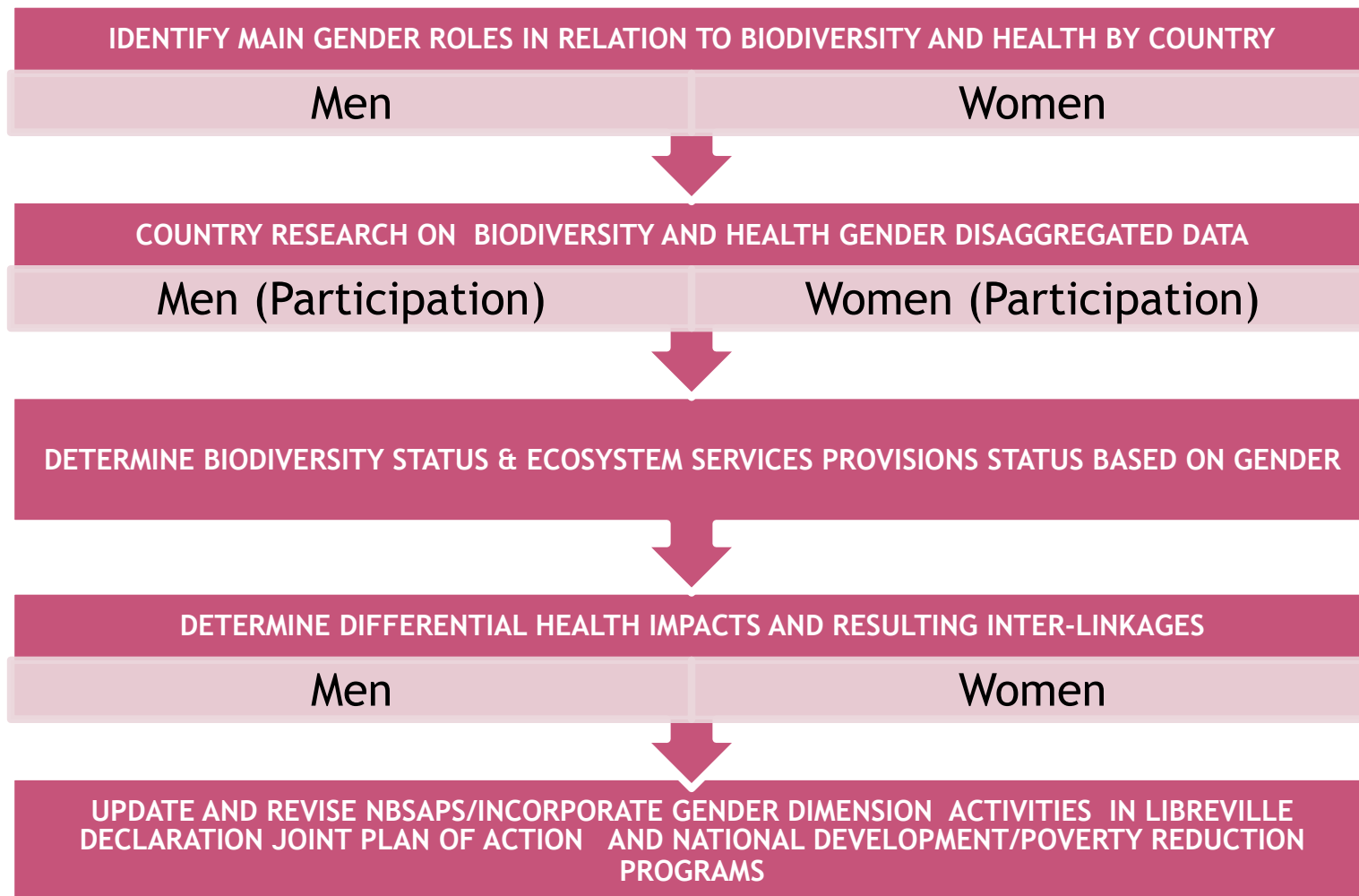
Project Activities

- Establish Gender Groups with at least 50% women
- Encourage planting of indigenous nutritious plants (Bambara nuts, vegetables, & medicinal plants)
- Train them in plant breeding
- Establishment of community seed banks - locally built houses

Positively Contributed to both biodiversity conservation and gender health

- Biodiversity - conservation of agro-biodiversity both *in situ* and *ex situ* at community level that are important for health and conservation of traditional knowledge relevant for conservation
- Gender Health - contributed to nutrition of both genders especially women and children (and HIV/AIDS patients (nutritious plants raised Hb and essential nutrients uptake) ; Medicinal plants used to raise immunity & treat diseases;

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE (RESEARCH OF DATA)



DIFFERENT LEVELS



OPPORTUNITIES

- ◉ Regional Groupings with experts already in existence
- ◉ Global/regional strategies already in existence e.g. Aichi Targets , Libreville Declaration, NBSAPs
- ◉ Global & regional institutional and legal frameworks exist (UN; AU)
- ◉ Country strategies and policies already exist relevant to gender health & biodiversity- incorporate joint strategies through review & update
- ◉ Existence of gender policies & gender mainstreaming programmes
- ◉ Institutional & legal frameworks of environment and health already exists - collaborative strategies - HOW TO STRENGTHEN
- ◉ Learning from other countries' experiences and already existing traditional knowledge
- ◉ Country programmes already exist that may act as springboards especially health programmes - e.g. links to achievement of MDGs

GLOBAL/REGIONAL

NATIONAL

CHALLENGES

- ◉ Collecting Regional Gender Disaggregated data
- ◉ Diversity of Cultures - coming up with generic strategies
- ◉ Implementation of international law/ policy difficult -
- ◉ Different levels of achievements of targets in different countries
- ◉ Tailoring strategies to national & local contexts - copy & paste
- ◉ Institutional and Legal Frameworks
- ◉ Enabling environment - Political & technical will
- ◉ Lack of gender disaggregated data on biodiversity access use & control - resulting differential gender health impacts
- ◉ Diverse cultures in some countries - differential gender roles - health impacts
- ◉ Less Women involved in decision making & less participation in biodiversity & health issues

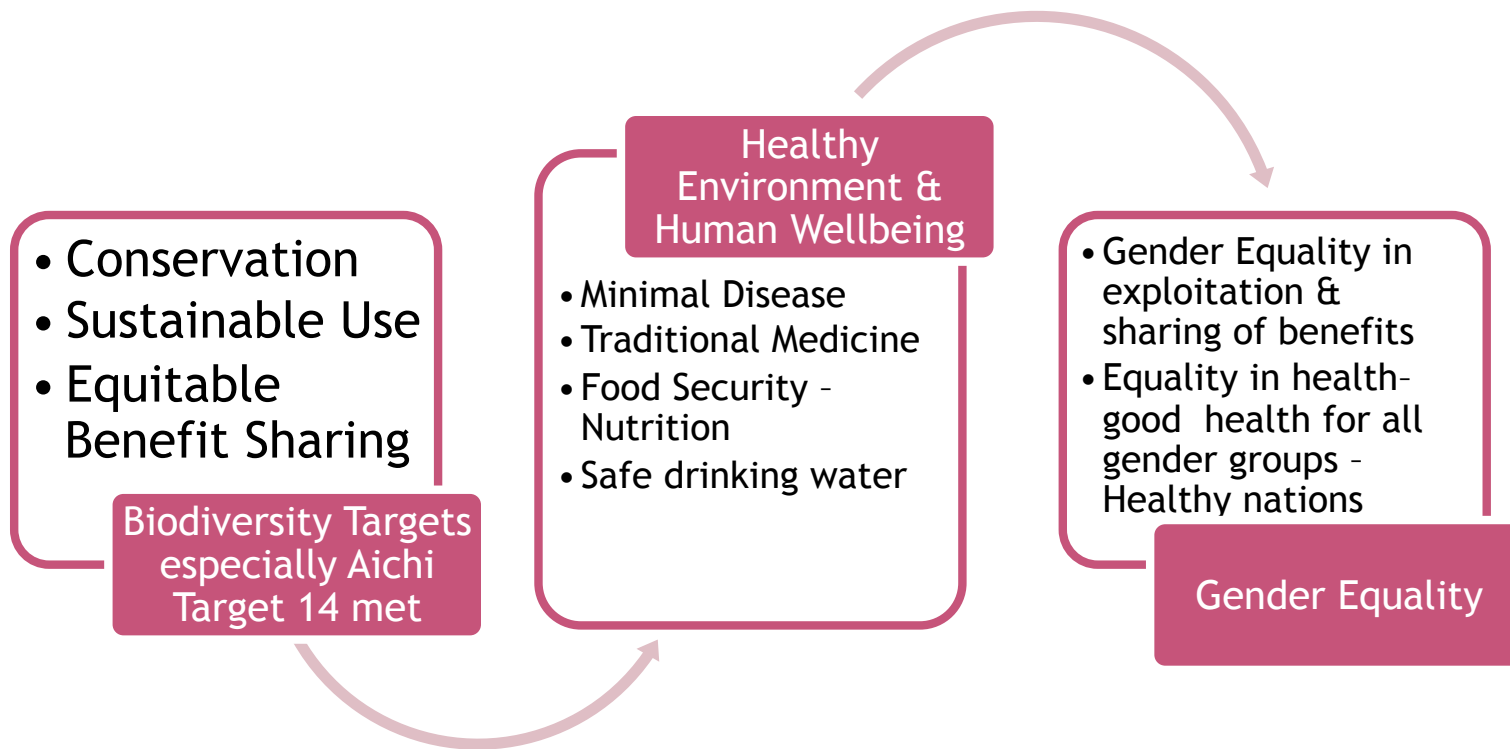
REGIONAL

NATIONAL

CONCLUSION - NEED TO ACT

- ◉ Joint NBSAP reviews/ Libreville Declaration will ensure comprehensive gender health impact analysis - leading to joint actions that promote gender health & Conserve biodiversity
- ◉ Both gender groups enjoy right to a healthy environment - each gender group understands priorities & needs of other
- ◉ Joint Actions on gender health and biodiversity will be more effective in meeting SD objectives & MDGs - double & multiple issues tackled simultaneously
- ◉ Social & Gender equality in terms of access, use rights and benefit sharing- conserved biodiversity; healthy ecosystems; healthy nations

WHY LINK GENDER HEALTH - BIODIVERSITY



ISSUES TO CONSIDER FOR GENDER HEALTH - FOOD & WATER SYSTEMS

- ◉ Reflect on Country Progress - NBSAPs/Libreville Declaration/MDGs - what needs update, review & implementation
- ◉ Gender Disaggregated data availability or means of compiling it to clearly understand inter-linkages - and consequences on biodiversity conservation & gender health
- ◉ Institutional & Legal Frameworks - how can they be useful in joint strategy implementation
- ◉ What joint Activities based on context analysis in specific countries can be starting points as wayforward

THANK YOU!!

