



CBD Women

# Exploring the Impacts of Invasive Species on Island Communities and Women

**Training course for Pacific Small Island Developing States on Invasive Alien Species**

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# THE CBD WOMEN'S CAUCUS

## About Us

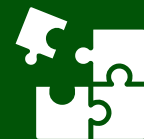
The CBD Women's Caucus (CBD-WC) is the official women's major group under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). As a self-organized global platform, the CBD-WC advocates for the rights of women and girls in biodiversity-related decision-making processes at all levels. Our mission is to promote gender justice and the empowerment of women and girls, ensuring their voices are integral to global biodiversity policies.

**+ 800 Members**  
**+ 350 Organisations**  
**+90 Countries**

Policy and  
advocacy



Capacity  
development



Knowledge  
production

**FOCUS AREAS**



Community  
building



Awareness  
and Outreach





# Impacts of IAS on Women and Girls

- Disrupt access to land, water, and forest resources critical for women's livelihoods.
- Increase unpaid labor and caregiving burdens due to reduced food, firewood, and water sources.
- Erode traditional ecological knowledge and cultural practices linked to native species.
- Example: African Tulip in Fiji and Water Hyacinth in the DRC limit resource access and increase labor.





# Women's Role in Managing IAS

- Women lead early detection due to close interaction with ecosystems.
- They apply traditional land and water stewardship practices in nursery work and restoration.
- Example: Indigenous women in Fiji lead climate-resilient nurseries restoring native trees (Fijian totems) and fruit trees like Vesi and Kavika.
- Example: Pygmy women in DRC engage in manual removal of IAS like water hyacinth and reforestation activities.





# Priorities for Gender-Responsive IAS Policies

- Recognize and integrate Indigenous women's traditional ecological knowledge in IAS strategies.
- Ensure full, equal participation of women in all IAS policy and program stages.
- Secure Indigenous land and resource rights to enable sustainable IAS management.
- Provide finance, capacity building, and justice access for women affected by IAS.
- Apply sex-disaggregated data and gender indicators in monitoring IAS impacts and progress.



# CBD Women's Caucus Key Messages



- ✓ **Adopt gender-responsive IAS approaches: inclusive impact assessments and community benefits.**
- ✓ **Promote traditional knowledge and leadership of Indigenous and local women.**
- ✓ **Integrate gender targets and budgets in NBSAPs and biodiversity programs.**
- ✓ **Support women-led conservation through dedicated funding and capacity-building.**
- ✓ **Track gender outcomes in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.**

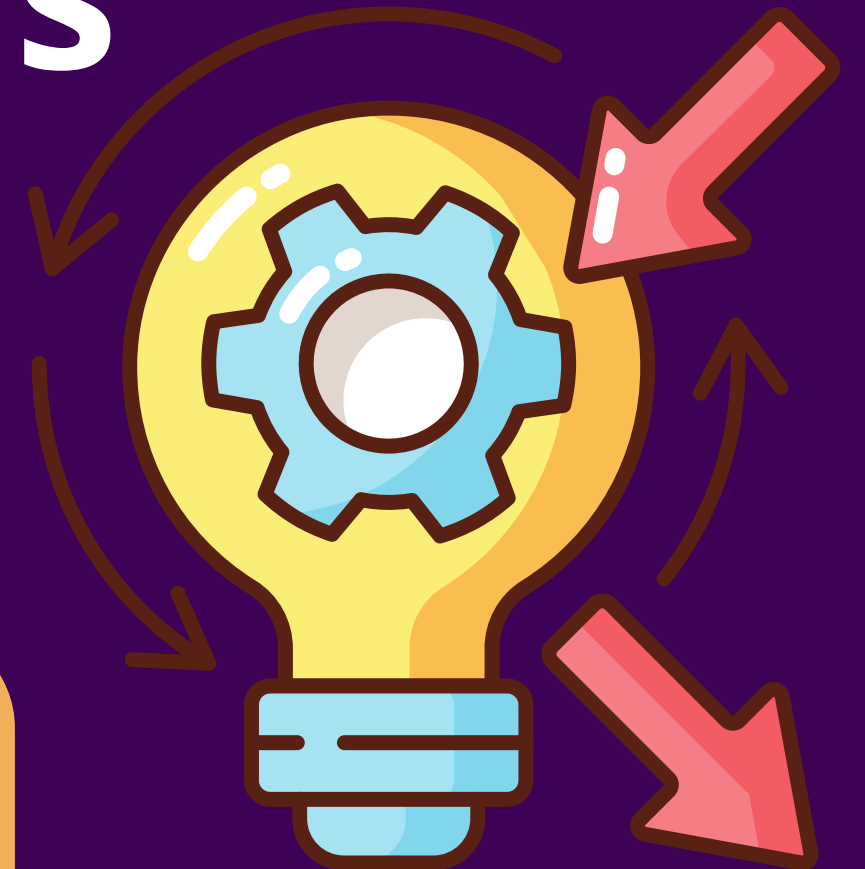


# Closing Reflections

**IAS management is incomplete without Indigenous women's knowledge, participation, and leadership.**

**Empowering women builds ecological resilience, cultural identity, and sustainable solutions.**

**Let us root policy in justice, equity, and the lived realities of Indigenous women and girls.**







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**Thank You!**