



Gender and Biodiversity Linkages and Considerations for Action



Objectives

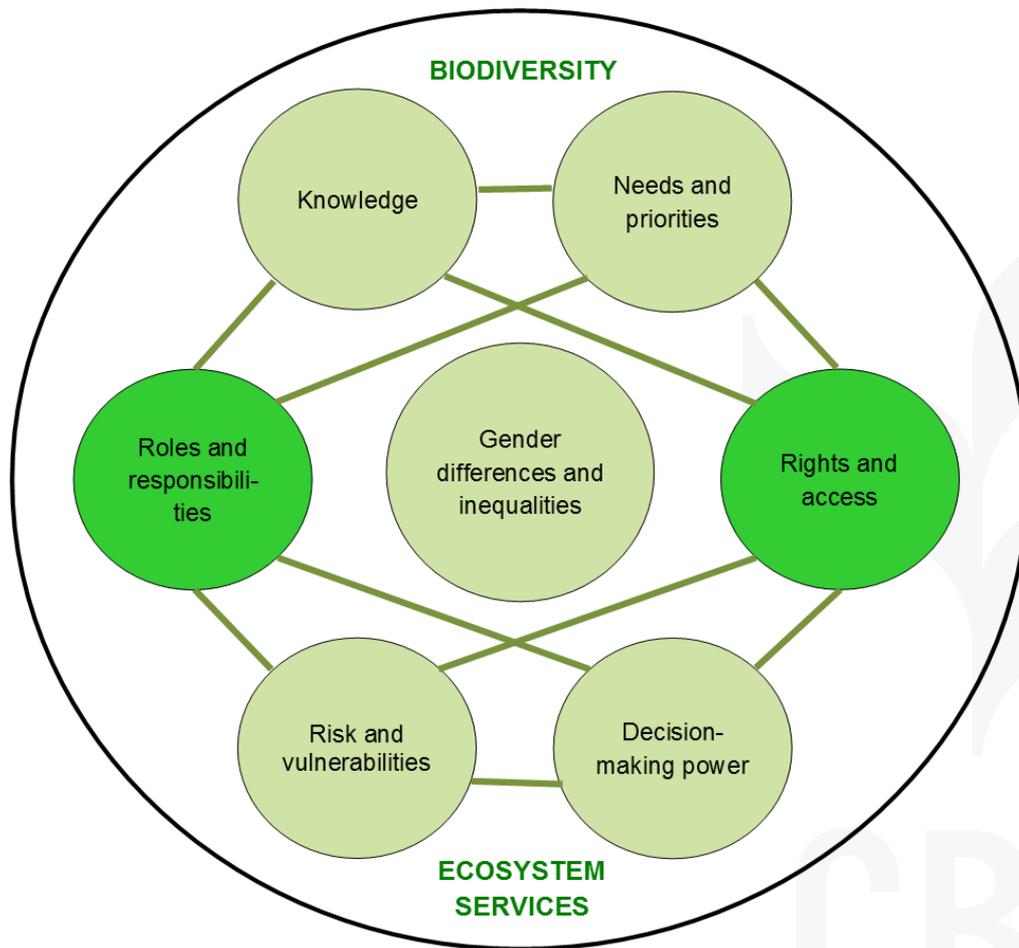


- To introduce gender and biodiversity linkages
- To provide an overview of key gender elements under the Convention on Biological Diversity
- To highlight gender issues relevant to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and actions that can be taken to address them



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Gender Considerations for Biodiversity



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Gender and Biodiversity Linkages



Roles and Responsibilities

Gender differences: different “gender” roles of women and men, boys and girls = differences in reliance on biodiversity and ecosystem services
→ develop distinct biodiversity knowledge

Knowledge

Women and men therefore have different capacities to contribute to biodiversity goals and are also **vulnerable** to changes in ecosystems and biodiversity initiatives in different ways

Needs and Priorities

Risks and Vulnerabilities

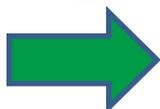
- **Gender inequalities:** globally, women’s **rights and access to land, biological resources**, and other productive assets is much less than that of men. “Gender gaps” also exist in relation to education, technology, services, as well as **decision-making** in natural resource management, at all levels.

Rights and Access

Gender roles are often at the root of these inequalities – for example, women’s time constraints limit their engagement in biodiversity decision-making

Decision Making

Gender-responsive biodiversity policy and programming: takes into account differences, gaps and capacities in order to address unequal access to ecosystem services and biodiversity management, and build on the unique capacities of women and men in relation to biodiversity



Gender and Biodiversity – Objectives



- Ensuring equitable access, control and share of benefits between women and men
- Analyzing the different realities and factors that influence people's relationship with nature
- Maximizing opportunities to empower women and men in decision-making processes, to ensure they have capacity – agency

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International Context – SDGs



Target 1.4: ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as ... **ownership and control of land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources,...**



Target 2.3: double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, **in particular women**, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, **including through secure and equal access to land**, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge,...



Target 5.A: Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as **access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property**, financial services, inheritance and **natural resources**, in accordance with national laws

Other targets refer to related issues such as women's participation and leadership in decision-making, and the need for sound policies and legislation to promote gender equality (1.b, 4.7, 5.5, 5.b, 5.c, 10.2, 13.b, 14.b, 15.6, and 16.7)

Gender Linkages – Strategic Plan, Aichi Targets



Strategic Plan

- Requests Parties to mainstream gender considerations, where appropriate, in the implementation of the Plan
- Calls for capacity building on gender mainstreaming to be supported

Aichi Biodiversity Target 14 highlights the needs of women, indigenous and local communities and the poor and vulnerable in the restoration and safeguarding of ecosystems

→ Considering and addressing **gender differences and inequalities** can increase the effectiveness of measures aimed at achieving the

Aichi Biodiversity Targets

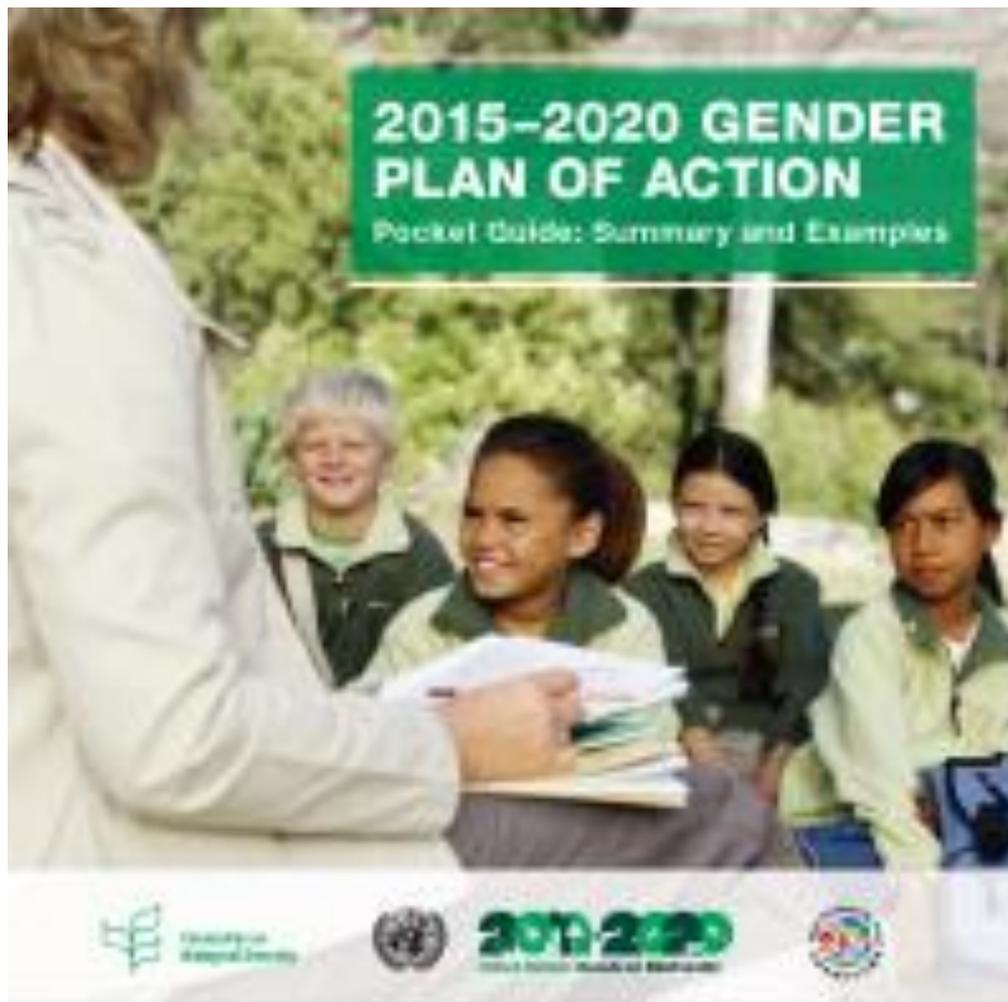
→ Gender is relevant for all Aichi Targets, and needs to be considered for the implementation of all Targets

COP 12 Decision XII/7 Mainstreaming gender considerations

The Conference of the Parties,

1. *Recognizes* the importance of gender considerations to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

2015-2020 Gender Plan of Action



2015-2020 Gender Plan of Action



Provides a framework for the Secretariat to take action, and proposals for Parties to integrate gender into their work under the CBD

Strategic Objectives:

- mainstream a gender perspective in implementation;
- promote gender equality;
- demonstrate the benefits of gender mainstreaming; and
- increase the effectiveness of the work under the CBD

The Plan sets out four spheres of action – Policy, Organisational, Delivery and Constituency – which outline possible mainstreaming actions to be undertaken by the Secretariat and Parties

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Proposed Objectives for Parties



Policy Sphere:

- Mainstream gender into NBSAPs
- Identify potential policy obstacles
- Ensure political will

Organizational Sphere:

- Provide adequate support to staff on gender issues
- Finance gender mainstreaming

Delivery Sphere:

- Gain full and effective participation of men and women in implementation
- Consider women's and men's needs in design and implementation

Constituency Sphere:

- Build partnerships, ensure consistency with relevant conventions
- Benefit from lessons learned and good practice examples from related sectors



Framework for Actions by the Secretariat



Policy Sphere:

- Make gender and biodiversity a strategic priority of the Convention

Organizational Sphere:

- Strengthen gender-specific capacities of all Secretariat staff

Delivery Sphere:

- Collect and disseminate information on gender and biodiversity
- Link gender, biodiversity and poverty eradication
- Establish the basis for Parties to integrate gender into national biodiversity planning

Constituency Sphere:

- Build partnerships and establish networks
- Build awareness of biodiversity issues among gender-related and women's organizations
- Build capacity of women, particularly indigenous women, to participate in processes and decision-making

Overview of Actions to Implement Gender Plan



Actions by the Secretariat

- Capacity building Activities
 - Supporting gender-responsive NBSAPs – Mexico, Brazil, Uganda
 - Developing training tools with a regional focus
 - Developing information and guidance material
- Inter-agency collaboration
 - GEF gender policy, development of online training
 - UNFCCC and UNCCD gender plans development
- Internal support to Secretariat
 - Performance management, internal capacity

Actions by Parties

- NBSAPs and National Reports
- Updates on progress to implement Gender Plan of Action



Gender and the Aichi Targets

Strategic Goal A



Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity

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

Issues

- Biodiversity often means different things to women and men because of their daily roles and social norms.
 - For example, women in Madre de Dios, Peru, tend to value fruits and other non-timber forest products more than men, while men attribute more value to timber species.
- Women and men may have different attitudes in relation to biodiversity
 - For example, a study of undergraduates in 14 countries found females had stronger environmental attitudes and behaviours than males

Actions

- Conduct sex-disaggregated assessments of awareness of biodiversity issues
- Target women and men differently in sensitization campaigns, and promote equal access to environmental education
- Collaborate with ministries for gender and women's groups for outreach

Gender and the Aichi Targets

Strategic Goal B



Strategic Goal 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

Issues

- Gender inequalities in access to and use of land, natural resources, farming inputs
 - For example, women farming already marginal lands with poor quality inputs may not be able to carry out sustainable agricultural practices, even if they understand the benefits
- Unequal participation in community-based natural resources management – powerful groups dominate
 - Evidence shows that including women in forestry management groups can improve resource governance and conservation outcomes

Actions

- Carry out gender analyses of access to/ use of land and natural resources
- Engage both women and men in natural resource management

Gender and the Aichi Targets

Strategic Goal C



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

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

Issues

- Gender differences in species conservation
 - Women in developing countries manage home gardens, conserve wild crop relatives
- Responsibilities for seed management
 - For example, women farmers in Jordan and Lebanon are responsible for 75% and 100% of seed selection, respectively

Actions

- Support women as well as men in traditional *in situ* conservation
- Promote equality in tenure rights

Gender and the Aichi Targets

Strategic Goal D



Strategic Goal 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

Issues

- Gender roles and priorities with regard to ecosystem services
 - For example, in Uganda, women were more affected by wetland degradation than men due to their use of wetlands for firewood, handicraft materials, water and herbal medicine
- Unique knowledge of women and men regarding regulating and supporting ecosystem services
 - For example, among the Rarámuri, an indigenous people of Mexico, women have more knowledge of medicinal plants, while men have more knowledge of plants used in construction and making tools and handicrafts

Actions

- Conduct gender analysis on use of ecosystem services
- Support equitable participation in ecosystem management institutions
- Improve women's land rights

Gender and the Aichi Targets

Strategic Goal E



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

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... should increase substantially from the current levels

Issues

- Budgets are not “gender-neutral” – need to account for the specific needs and interests of women and men
 - For example, many agricultural service programs have failed to reach women and men farmers effectively, and to address the different obstacles they face

Actions

- Adopt gender-responsive budgeting
 - For example, the Government of Liberia allocated US \$500,000 in the budget of its NBSAP to micro-credit projects to support women’s empowerment

Gender and the Aichi Targets – Critical Actions



Gender-responsive measures to achieve the targets include to:

- Collect and apply sex-disaggregated data
- Carry out gender analysis and qualitative research to clarify differences in roles, values, behaviours
- Ensure equal rights to use, access, control and derive benefits
- Promote equal participation and decision-making power between women and men
- Take into account gender-differentiated knowledge, needs and priorities
- Allocate resources, including gender expertise and finance



India - Solar engineering trainer © UN Women/Gaganjit Singh



Guinea - Rural Women's Cooperative © UN Women/Joe Saade

Looking Ahead – the global post-2020 biodiversity framework



- Process to be determined at CBD COP14 – November 2018
- Advice on a gender-responsive approach
- Opportunity to embed gender considerations in the post-2020 biodiversity agenda – strengthened emphasis and implementation

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Thank you!

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