

Inclusion and characterization of women and gender equality considerations in the fifth national reports to the CBD

Gender and Biodiversity

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National reports presented by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) provide information on measures taken for the implementation of the Convention and the effectiveness of these measures.¹ This Environment and Gender Information (EGI) platform analysis explores how women and gender equality considerations are included and addressed in the fifth national reports from 173 countries.²

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Purpose: Formed in 1992, the CBD has three main goals: conservation of biodiversity; sustainable use of the components of biodiversity; and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

Breadth: 196 Parties (168 signatory Parties)

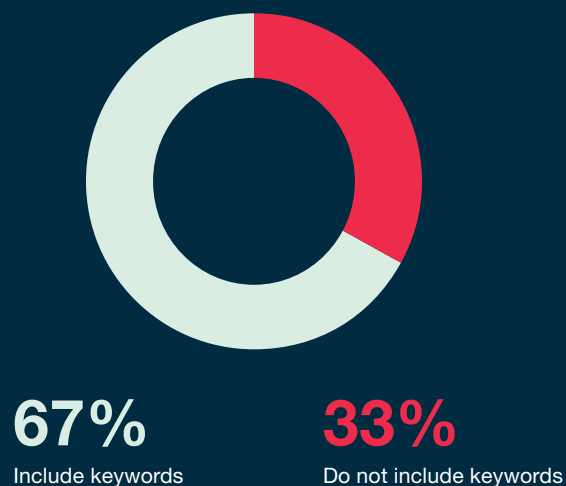
Reports: The fifth national reports review countries' progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the contribution towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as well as other complementary progress markers, such as how countries have met Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Gender overview: With gender considerations in the preamble to the Convention itself, and dozens of decisions addressing gender over its history, Parties to the CBD adopted a Gender Plan of Action in 2008 to support the promotion of gender equality in measures to implement the Convention. A 2015-2020 Gender Plan of Action reaffirmed previous objectives, proposed actions for Parties and strengthened the Secretariat's framework for supporting actions. Fifth national reporting guidelines, however, have not specifically included gender components.

INCLUSION OF GENDER KEYWORDS IN FIFTH NATIONAL REPORTS

Of the 173 fifth national reports analyzed, 116 (67%) contain at least one *women* and/or *gender* keyword.³

FIGURE 1. INCLUSION OF WOMEN AND/OR GENDER KEYWORDS IN FIFTH NATIONAL REPORTS



1 <https://www.cbd.int/reports/intro.shtml>; <https://www.cbd.int/nr5/default.shtml>

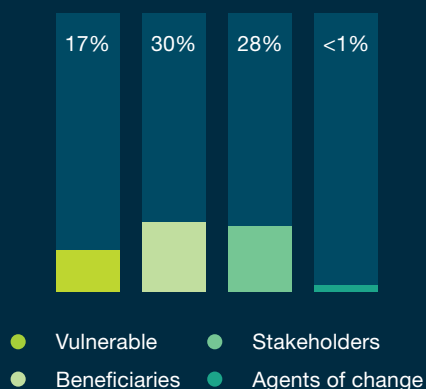
2 National reports from eight Parties were excluded from this study due to language barriers, one Party's fifth national report was excluded due to technical difficulties, and 14 Parties have not presented a fifth National Report at the time of this study.

3 To learn more about the EGI methodology, see *Gender and biodiversity: Analysis of women and gender equality considerations in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)* www.genderandenvironment.org/EGI ; https://portals.iucn.org/union/sites/union/files/doc/egi_nbsap_report_dec2016.pdf

CHARACTERIZATION OF WOMEN

As part of the EGI methodology, keywords are analyzed for context and categorized into four themes, identifying whether women are characterized as vulnerable; as specific beneficiaries of biodiversity policies or programmes; as stakeholders of biodiversity management; and/or as agents of change, including by driving conservation outcomes. These categories are not mutually exclusive; a country may characterize women as all four of these, or as none.

FIGURE 2. HOW PARTIES CHARACTERIZE WOMEN, BY PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PARTIES



Including women as beneficiaries, stakeholders and agents of change are key steps towards developing gender-responsive biodiversity policies and programmes at all levels. **Bangladesh**, for example, reports an achievement towards Aichi Target 14 that forest ecosystems have been “restored through implementing [a] social forestry system with the involvement of women...as beneficiaries.” **Zimbabwe** includes women as stakeholders: “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.” Only one country, **Cuba**, explicitly considers women as agents of change in its fifth national report.

INTEGRATION OF GENDER CONSIDERATIONS

Women and/or gender keywords are used in various contexts and sections of the national reports; for example:

- 9% identify women’s organizations/ ministries as involved in the development of fifth national reports
- 28% include sex-disaggregated data
- 5% include considerations of women’s traditional ecological knowledge
- 34% include activities for women/gender
- 19% include women as managers specifically of resources or species
- 8% identify women’s organizations/ ministries as implementing partners
- 2% include gender within activity budgets

MOVING FORWARD

The Reporting Guidelines for fifth national reports do not include a component on gender considerations. Strengthening the reporting mechanism—e.g., by linking to Parties’ decisions on gender and the Gender Plan of Action—is an opportunity to further enhance how gender considerations are understood and included within biodiversity policies and programmes.

THE ENVIRONMENT AND GENDER INFORMATION (EGI) PLATFORM

The International Union for Conservation of Nature’s (IUCN) Environment and Gender Information (EGI) platform aims—through data and analysis—to convey the value of gender-responsive environmental conservation and sustainable development. By providing new evidence-based information and knowledge products, the EGI platform guides action toward a more just world. From its inception in 2013, the EGI has evolved into a source for new knowledge creation and dissemination—and for revealing progress and challenges in meeting commitments to women’s empowerment and gender equality in environmental spheres.

CONTACT

IUCN Global Gender Office
1630 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20009, USA
globalgenderoffice@iucn.org

For more information, visit
genderandenvironment.org/EGI
www.iucn.org

