

# Mainstreaming Gender in the work of the Convention

**Convention on Biological Diversity  
Fourteenth Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific,  
Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA14, 10-21 May 2010,  
Nairobi, Kenya) and Third Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Open-Ended  
Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention  
(WGRI3, 24-28 May 2010, Nairobi, Kenya)**

## **Main recommendations on selected issues in the agenda:**

### **Post-2010 goals and targets (SBSTTA agenda item 3.4 and WGRI agenda item 5.1)**

IUCN calls upon SBSTTA 14 and WGRI3 to encourage Parties and other Governments to:

- ✓ Ensure that gender considerations are fully taken into account in the examination of the outcome-oriented goals and targets, and associated indicators, for the period beyond 2010.

### **Mountain Biological Diversity (SBSTTA agenda item 3.1.1)**

IUCN calls on SBSTTA14 to:

- ✓ Encourage Parties to ensure that gender considerations are mainstreamed in the adoption of the long-term vision and holistic approaches to the conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity.

### **Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity (SBSTTA agenda item 3.1.3)**

Acknowledging the importance of the regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, IUCN calls upon Parties to:

- ✓ Ensure that in socio-economic analyses, data is disaggregated by gender in order to identify the different needs, uses and knowledge that women and men have.

### **Protected Areas (SBSTTA agenda item 3.1.4)**

IUCN recommends that SBSTTA14:

- ✓ Calls upon Parties to ensure that in the development of a long-term action plan or in the reorientation of relevant existing plans in relation to protected areas, women are involved as mayor stakeholders.

### **Biodiversity and Climate Change (SBSTTA agenda item 3.1.5)**

IUCN calls on SBSTTA14 to invite Parties to:

- ✓ Assess the impacts of climate change on biodiversity-based livelihoods, with a view to identify adaptation priorities in a gender-sensitive way;
- ✓ Implement, where appropriate, gender-sensitive ecosystem-based adaptation measures;
- ✓ Ensure that women are fully integrated in the implementation of a portfolio of land-use management activities.

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## Introduction

The importance of gender mainstreaming in environmental and poverty alleviation policies has been recognized in a wide range of global agreements and forums, including chapter 24 of Agenda 21 (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 1992), the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Millennium Declaration, and the requirements and agreements set out in the 1975 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). In other instances within the United Nations system have also called for gender equality, including: the substantive sessions of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in 2004 and 2005; the outcome of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly—the 2005 World Summit (General Assembly resolution 60/1, paragraphs 58,59 and 116); the Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/31 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system.

In addition, paragraph 253 (c) under strategic objective K.1 of the Beijing Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, calls upon Governments, at all levels, including municipal authorities, as appropriate, to take actions to *“encourage, subject to national legislation and consistent with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the effective protection and use of the knowledge, innovations and practices of women of indigenous and local communities (...); in addition, safeguard the existing intellectual property rights of these women as protected under national and international law (...).”*

In the thirteenth preambular paragraph of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Parties recognize *“the vital role that women play in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and affirm the need for the full participation of women at all levels of policy making and implementation for biological diversity conservation”*.

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) has mentioned in its recommendations to COP women's practices, knowledge, and gender roles in

food production. Various decisions of the Conference of the Parties have also included gender issues. Some of these recommendations and decisions include: SBSTTA recommendation II/7, on agricultural biological diversity and the role of women in managing practices and knowledge; COP decision III/11, para.17, on promotion of women's knowledge and practices in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the agricultural sector; the annex to COP decision III/14 on Article 8(j): gender balance in workshop organization; Annex I to SBSTTA recommendation IV/7, on potential impacts of tourism on cultural values, including gender; SBSTTA recommendation V/14, paragraph 2 (i) and annex; and annex III to COP decision VIII/10, on gender balance in the composition of ad hoc technical expert groups, subsidiary body and roster of experts; COP decision V/16—element 1 of the programme of work of Article 8(j) on promotion of gender-specific ways in which to document and preserve women's knowledge of biological diversity; COP decision V/20, on gender balance in the roster of experts; COP decision V/25, on Socio-economic and cultural impacts of tourism : the fact that tourism activities may affect gender relationships (through employment opportunities for example); annexes I and II to COP decision VI/10; annex to COP decision VII/1: Gender as a social factor that may affect traditional knowledge.

Under the “General Principles” the programme of work on the implementation 8(j) Parties call for: *“Full and effective participation of women of indigenous and local communities in all activities of the programme of work”*. Task 4 of the programme of work calls on Parties to develop, as appropriate, mechanisms for promoting the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities with specific provisions for the full, active and effective participation of women in all elements of the programme of work.

All of the above refer to “women's” participation in activities under the Convention and not directly to gender equality however. Encouragingly, particularly since 2007, a more focussed approach to gender mainstreaming has been undertaken within the Convention. For example, at its second meeting, held

in July 2007, the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Implementation on the Convention (WGRI) recommended that the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting should urge Parties, in developing, implementing and revising their national biodiversity strategies and action plans to, inter alia, promote the mainstreaming of gender considerations (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/4, annex, recommendation 2/1, annex, paragraph 8 (d)).

CBD COP9 approved the “The Gender Plan of Action under the Convention on Biological Diversity”. The Plan of Action strategic objectives are:

- To mainstream a gender perspective into the implementation of the Convention and the associated work of the Secretariat;
- To promote gender equality in achieving the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the 2010 Biodiversity Target;
- To demonstrate the benefits of gender mainstreaming in biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing from the use of genetic resources; and
- To increase the effectiveness of the work of the Secretariat at the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Gender mainstreaming has been the primary approach for integrating gender equity and equality principles into any development or environmental effort. Gender mainstreaming is intended to bring the diverse roles and needs of women and men to bear on the development agenda. Rather than adding women’s participation and a gender approach onto existing strategies and programmes, gender mainstreaming aims to transform unequal social and institutional structures in order to make them profoundly responsive to gender. Achieving gender equality is a matter of shifting existing power relationships to benefit those that are less empowered.

In light of the above, IUCN puts forward several recommendations for consideration at SBSTTA14 and WGRI3 on the issue of gender mainstreaming. These fall within several agenda items as follows.

### **Post-2010 goals and targets (SBSTTA agenda item 3.4 and WGRI agenda item 5.1)**

IUCN calls upon SBSTTA 14 and WGRI3 to encourage Parties and other Governments to:

- ✓ Ensure that gender considerations are fully taken into account in the examination of the outcome-oriented goals and targets, and associated indicators, for the period beyond 2010.

### **Mountain Biological Diversity (SBSTTA agenda item 3.1.1)**

IUCN calls on SBSTTA14 to:

- ✓ Encourage Parties to ensure that gender considerations are mainstreamed in the adoption of the long-term vision and holistic approaches to the conservation and sustainable use of mountain biological by developing specific gender-sensitive actions, and capacity-building activities directed to women needs.

### **Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity (SBSTTA agenda item 3.1.3)**

Acknowledging the importance of the regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, IUCN calls upon Parties to:

- ✓ Ensure that in the socio-economic analysis data is disaggregated by gender in order to demonstrate the different needs, uses and knowledge that women and men have.

IUCN also recommends that SBSTTA14:

- ✓ Calls upon the Executive Secretary to ensure, through the gender focal point of the Secretariat, that gender considerations are fully integrated in the study in consultation with the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions in order to “identify specific elements for integrating the traditional, scientific, technical and technological knowledge of indigenous and local communities, consistent with Article 8(j) of the Convention, and social and cultural

criteria and other aspects for the identification of marine areas in need of protection as well as the establishment and management of marine protected areas” as indicated in the suggested recommendation article 20 in UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/4.

### **Protected Areas (SBSTTA agenda item 3.1.4)**

IUCN recommends that SBSTTA14:

- ✓ Calls upon Parties to ensure that in the development of a long-term action plan or in the reorientation of relevant existing plans in relation to protected areas, women are involved as mayor stakeholders.

Acknowledging the strategic objectives of the CBD Gender Plan of Action, IUCN recommends that SBSTTA14:

- ✓ Requests to the Parties to ensure that the Secretariat of the CBD:
  - a) Strives to include within regional and subregional capacity-building workshops in relation to protected areas, specific components which include the importance of gender consideration for conservation and protected areas;
  - b) Provides additional technical support for gender mainstreaming through the development of toolkits, best practices and guidelines related to the Programme of Work on Protected Areas, in collaboration with partners, in particular on Element 2 (governance, participation, gender, equity and benefit sharing); and
  - c) Increases awareness of the gender differentiated benefits of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas to health, water and other sectors, climate change adaptation and mitigation, poverty alleviation and the Millennium Development Goals, by holding workshops to bring key actors from these sectors to discuss ways of collaborating to develop mutually beneficial responses to the PoWPA.

### **Biodiversity and Climate Change (SBSTTA agenda item 3.1.5)**

IUCN calls on SBSTTA14 to invite Parties to:

- ✓ Assess the impacts of climate change on biodiversity-based livelihoods, particularly with regards to livelihoods within those ecosystems that have been identified as being particularly vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change, with a view to identify adaptation priorities in a gender-sensitive way;
- ✓ Implement, where appropriate, gender-sensitive ecosystem-based adaptation measures which use biodiversity and ecosystem services in an overall adaptation strategy including through the sustainable management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems to provide services that help men and women adapt to the adverse effects of climate change, including disaster risk reduction and sustainable land management strategies, with a view to achieving co-benefits for biodiversity and climate change adaptation. This includes generating multiple social, economic and cultural co-benefits for women and men from local communities;
- ✓ Ensure that women are fully integrated in the implementation of a portfolio of land-use management activities, including the protection of natural forest and peatland carbon stocks, the sustainable management of forests, the use of native assemblages of forest species in reforestation activities, sustainable wetland management, restoration of degraded wetlands, sustainable agricultural practices and soil management.

Finally, IUCN calls on SBSTTA14 to:

- ✓ Request Parties to convene, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as soon as possible, and in any case, prior to the sixteenth Conference of the Parties of UNFCCC, an expert workshop on gender, biodiversity and climate change with a view to enhance the coordination of capacity-building

efforts on gender under these two Rio Conventions.