

## Target 22: Gender Equality

### Scope of the target

It is of utmost importance from a human rights perspective and for the success of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to place gender equality at its core. Parties have agreed that the GBF will be gender transformative; only a specific target will ensure the dedicated policy support and institutional capacity to guarantee the GBF is based on the rights, priorities, contributions and needs of women and girls in all their diversity.

### Elements that should be part of the target

- Women's and girls' full and effective participation in decision-making and implementation of biodiversity policies.

Because of their multiple roles in using, protecting, restoring, and caring for biodiversity, Women and girls have acquired and passed down specific traditional, local and technical knowledge about biodiversity including agricultural biodiversity. When women are included in biodiversity decision-making, better outcomes are achieved.

This also contributes to eradicating gender-differentiated impacts of the biodiversity crisis, which include: violence and criminalisation due to gender-blind conservation policies; unequal distribution of unpaid domestic and care work burdens; deficient access to health, safety, education and employment, and at the same time lack of rights to information, participation and justice, including decision-making, where women and girls are underrepresented and ignored.

- Fair and equitable access and benefit sharing for women and girls resulting from the use of genetic and biological resources and their associated traditional knowledge.

There are multiple positive outcomes, ecological, social and economic, related to guaranteeing a gender-responsive ABS. Therefore, recognition of women's traditional knowledge, innovations and practices in sustainable use and management of genetic diversity must not be postponed. Furthermore, administrative or policy measures should be set up to ensure that their contributions are not treated as non-monetary or voluntary.

- Equitable access to rights over land and natural resources

Research shows that increasing women's control over land increases their local-level decision-making ability, boosting women's power as changemakers for persuading others in their households and communities to protect biodiversity. Furthermore, when women have greater economic power, including direct control over land, they are more likely to have enhanced political voice and power and, in turn, a more significant presence and influence in national and global policymaking on biodiversity.

**Further reading on this target:**

*Local sustainable development solutions for people, nature, and resilient communities, UNDP & Ecuador Initiative, 2020 <https://www.equatorinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Mujeres-y-Ambiente-Case-Study-English-FNL.pdf>*

*Women's rights to land and communal forest tenure: A way forward for research and policy agenda in Latin America [Bose et al, 2017](#);*

*Women's land rights as a pathway to poverty reduction: A framework and review of available evidence [Meinzen-Dick et al, 2017](#)*

*Advancing Women's Rights, Gender Equality and the Future of Biodiversity in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, Women4Biodiversity, Rai, 2021*

*<https://www.ifpri.org/publication/womens-land-rights-pathway-poverty-reduction-framework-and-review-available-evidence>*