

Financing the gender-responsive implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

Towards the achievement of biodiversity and gender equality outcomes

-Discussion paper-
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1. Key Messages

This discussion paper aims to support deliberations during the Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 15) regarding the financing necessary to ensure the gender-responsive implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the associated gender plan of action for the post-2020 period. Key messages are that:

- Financing and investing in the implementation of the gender plan of action for the post-2020 period will be critical for the achievement of the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
- The implementation of the different actions outlined in the gender plan of action for the post-2020 period will require financing from multiple sources, including from national budgets, bilateral and multilateral development finance, and from the private sector
- Parties to the CBD, OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and financing and investment institutions (public and private), should all consider taking measures to ensure that funding allocations address gender equality, biodiversity, and climate objectives in an integrated manner
- Parties to the CBD should consider exploring measures to enhance coordination among relevant focal points, agencies, and institutions (national and multilateral) to achieve greater impact and efficiency through facilitating the gender-responsive implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
- Development co-operation and official development finance (ODF) is a key source of financing to drive action towards meeting gender equality, biodiversity, and climate objectives in an integrated manner

2. Introduction

Women's vital role in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and the need for their participation at all levels of policy-making and implementation is recognised in the preamble of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).¹ The relevance of gender equality and women's empowerment in environmental matters is also highlighted in other conventions and intergovernmental processes, including the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

¹ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/legal/cbd-en.pdf>

and its Paris Agreement, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

However, despite global commitments towards gender equality and realising women's rights, limited progress and action has been taken at local and national levels to effectively address gender equality gaps related to biodiversity. For example, women's involvement in policy and decision-making at all levels (local, national, global) remains unsatisfactory, and women's access to and control over natural resources continues to be severely limited.²

The implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework provides an important opportunity for addressing gender-biodiversity gaps and for empowering women as agents of transformative change. However, this will require gender-responsive financing (funding that has effectively integrated gender considerations), policy coherence to ensure that gender is a core element of post-2020 implementation, and measures to enhance coordination among relevant focal points, agencies, and institutions (national and international).

3. Background

Gender equality is a prerequisite for sustainable development and for the achievement of the three objectives of the CBD.³ Evidence suggests that targeted action on gender equality leads to transformative and sustainable biodiversity outcomes.⁴ For example, inclusively governed land and seascapes, with women's full and effective participation in policy and decision-making processes, lead to multiple benefits for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use,^{5,6} climate mitigation and adaptation,⁷ and sustainable livelihoods.^{8,9}

The gender-responsive implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is expected to be guided by the gender plan of action for the post-2020 period.¹⁰ The plan will be a key instrument to drive action towards global commitments related to the CBD and to ensure coherence with other gender equality commitments and mandates.

Findings from the review of the implementation of the 2015-2020 Gender Plan of Action highlighted that financing and capacity development are critical gaps that need to be addressed in the post-2020 period to ensure gender-responsive implementation at the national level.¹¹ Financing may be channelled through different sources and mechanisms, including funds directed through official development finance (ODF, which includes official development assistance and other official flows), multilateral development finance (such as the Global Environment Facility), national allocations (gender and biodiversity budgets), and other sources (e.g., from the private sector). Therefore, measures to ensure policy coherence and enhanced coordination among relevant agencies and

² <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2019/Progress-on-the-SDGs-The-gender-snapshot-2019-two-page-spreads-en.pdf>

³ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/0919/6830/6fe8d737b8192a39f3378e23/sbi-03-04-add2-rev2-en.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.cbd.int/gender/publications/CBD-Best-practices-Gender-Biodiversity-en.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/2a29/307a/3235fdabd9edd01b9576e42b/sbi-03-02-add3-en.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.cbd.int/gender/publications/CBD-Best-practices-Gender-Biodiversity-en.pdf>

⁷ <https://environmentalevidencejournal.biomedcentral.com/counter/pdf/10.1186/s13750-016-0057-8.pdf>

⁸ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0921800909001852>

⁹ <https://ageconsearch.umn.edu/record/42509>

¹⁰ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/recommendations/sbi-03/sbi-03-rec-03-en.pdf>

¹¹ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/2a29/307a/3235fdabd9edd01b9576e42b/sbi-03-02-add3-en.pdf>

institutions (e.g., national, multilateral and from the private sector) will be required to ensure the gender-responsive implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

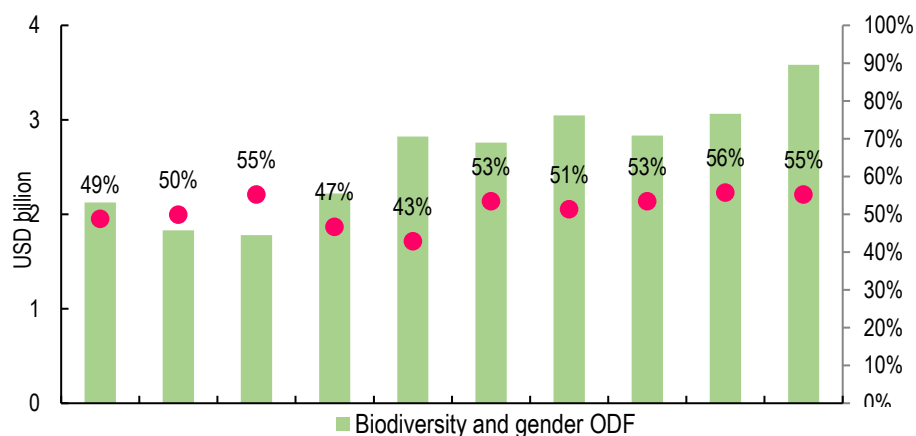
4. Financing the gender and biodiversity nexus

Data regarding the level of gender-responsive financing is scattered and not easily accessible.¹² There are also data gaps regarding the level of financing required to ensure gender-responsiveness in the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The Panel of Experts on Resource Mobilisation estimated that the resources needed to implement the post-2020 global biodiversity framework range between USD 403 billion to USD 711 billion annually.¹³ However, the reports produced by the Panel do not specify if resources required to implement the post-2020 gender plan of action were considered in the calculations.

There is publicly available data on public development finance from the OECD Creditor Reporting System (CRS). Data from the CRS can help to illustrate funding commitments over time and potential synergies in financing the gender-biodiversity-climate nexus. The OECD recently assessed development finance with biodiversity-related objectives over 2011-2020 – the implementation period of the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets - looking at how these cut across gender equality objectives.^{14,15} OECD findings show that members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) have been increasingly integrating gender equality and biodiversity considerations in their ODF over time (see Figure 1), while the volume of ODF increased from USD 2.1 billion in 2011 to USD 3.6 billion in 2020 – the share of biodiversity and gender out of total biodiversity ODF also grew from 49% to 55%.

Figure 1. Biodiversity-related and gender mainstreaming in development finance

2011-2020 annual average, bilateral DAC member commitments, USD billion, 2020 prices, estimates with coefficients



¹² There are different sources and mechanisms that aim to provide gender-responsive financing, including funds directed through official development finance (ODF), multilateral development finance (such as the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund), national allocations (gender and biodiversity budgets), and from the private sector (e.g. those committed to [the 2X Challenge](#))

¹³ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/d6df/7cc2/0fe75538dc7109ed9d866c9f/sbi-03-inf-47-en.pdf>

¹⁴ OECD (2022), ODA for climate, biodiversity and gender equality: A snapshot

¹⁵ Casado Asensio, J., D. Blaquier and J. Sedemund (forthcoming). “Taking stock and forging ahead: recent biodiversity-related development finance trends”, OECD Development Co-operation Report, OECD Publishing, Paris.

Note: this figure reflects biodiversity and gender development finance commitments by DAC members: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, European Union institutions, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The figure shows coefficients applied to the information reported to the OECD. Source: (Casado Asensio, J., D. Blaquier and J. Sedemund, forthcoming)

UNEP-WCMC conducted a rapid review of project descriptions available in CRS from projects funded by a sample of donors during 2020.¹⁶ The rapid review helped to assess if projects currently funded through ODA are already addressing some of the objectives and actions outlined in the draft gender plan of action for the post-2020 period. The purpose of the review was to identify potential synergies between specific objectives from the draft gender plan of action and projects already being funded through ODA. Table 1 below is an indicative mapping of the objectives of the draft gender plan of action¹⁷ and funding provided by 14 DAC members via ODA for relevant projects that can help to meet specific objectives outlined in the gender plan (see highlighted in green and yellow)¹⁸. Table 1 also provides information on the amount committed for relevant projects out of 14 donor countries reviewed, the number of recipient countries that are implementing these projects, and the number of donor countries. More information regarding the methodology used is provided in Annex 1.

Table. 1 Indicative mapping of the objectives from the draft post-2020 gender plan of action and ODA funding commitments by 14 DAC members for the year 2020 for projects that are relevant to meet these objectives

Objectives from the draft gender plan of action for the post-2020 period (CBD/SBI/REC/3/3)	USD million**	Recipient countries	Donor countries (out of 14)
1.1 Increase women and girls' [rights to ownership and control over land and natural resources and access to water,] to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.	167	74	4
1.2 Ensure equal access for women and girls to resources, services and technologies to support their engagement in the governance, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (including financial services, credit, education, training and relevant information among others).	700	117	10
1.3 Ensure gender equitable access in relation to access and benefit-sharing instruments, as appropriate.	19	11	1
1.4 Promote women's empowerment and entrepreneurial opportunities in biodiversity-based supply chains and sectors, that support sustainable management and production practices.	464	103	6

¹⁶ Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, and United States. These countries have a Foreign Feminist Policy and/or have made the highest funding commitments for gender equality in 2019-2020.

¹⁷ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/recommendations/sbi-03/sbi-03-rec-03-en.pdf>

¹⁸ Green indicates funding commitments of more than 100 million (USD) during 2020, yellow indicates funding commitments within the range of 10 to 99 million (USD)

1.5 Identify and eliminate, prevent and respond, to all forms of gender-based discrimination and violence in particular in relation to control, ownership and access to sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, including protecting women environmental human rights defenders and park rangers.	198	71	9
2.1 Increase opportunities and strengthen the meaningful and effective participation and leadership of women at all levels of action, engagement and decision-making related to the three objectives of the Convention.	499	101	9
2.2 Enhance the meaningful and effective participation and leadership of women in processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity, including through the engagement of women's groups and women delegates.	0	0	0
2.3 Integrate [human rights][women's rights] and gender equality considerations into national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs).	0	0	0
3.1 Develop national capacity to produce and use gender and biodiversity data, including relevant data disaggregation (e.g. sex, age, ethnicity and other demographic factors).	34	38	9
3.2 Strengthen the evidence base, understanding and analysis of the gender-related impacts of the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the role of women and girls as agents of change in achieving its goals and targets, including insights from traditional knowledge of women and girls from indigenous peoples and local communities.	0	0	0
3.3 Support access to information and public participation of women and girls' organisations, networks, leaders and gender experts in the resourcing, implementation, monitoring and reporting on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.	0	0	0
3.4 Ensure coherent gender responsive implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, through identifying synergies and drawing on relevant experience from related United Nations and international processes.	467	112	11
3.5 Ensure that national reports and submissions under the Convention on Biological Diversity provide information on the implementation of the gender plan of action and gender-responsive implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.	0	0	0
3.6 Allocate adequate human and financial resources to support rights-based gender-responsive implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including by tracking and reporting resource allocations for gender initiatives, and applying gender-responsive budgeting.	0	0	0

*Colour coding: green indicates funding commitments of more than 100 million (USD) for the year 2020, yellow indicates funding commitments in the range of 10 to 99 million (USD) for the year 2020

** Total amounts from sample of projects reviewed have been rounded for easy reading

The information provided in Table 1 helps to illustrate potential alignment and synergies across projects already funded (in this case via ODA) that relate to gender equality and biodiversity objectives. For example, projects that focus on enhancing women's access to resources, strengthening women's engagement and participation in governance processes, promoting women's economic empowerment, addressing gender-based discrimination, and ensuring alignment/synergies with relevant processes. However, there are a number of objectives in the draft gender plan of action that relate specifically to the CBD and post-2020 implementation, which are likely to require funding from different sources and mechanisms.

5. Recommendations

The following recommendations are intended to help ensure that financing and investing in the gender-responsive implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is considered by Parties to the CBD, other governments, and relevant financial institutions (national, multilateral and from the private sector):

Recommendations relevant to all Parties to the CBD:

- 1) Consider increasing the level of financing for the implementation of indicative actions from the gender plan of action for the post-2020 period
- 2) Consider integrating gender considerations into National Biodiversity Finance Plans (NBFPs) to help ensure gender-responsive financing
- 3) Explore measures to enhance coordination among relevant agencies/institutions (national and multilateral) to achieve greater impact and efficiency towards meeting gender equality and biodiversity objectives in an integrated manner

Recommendations relevant to OECD DAC members:

- 4) Consider increasing the amount of annual official development finance for gender equality and biodiversity – notably by making sure that co-benefits are sought in each intervention
- 5) Take measures to ensure that development financing is guided by policy frameworks and interventions that can deliver on the gender-biodiversity-climate nexus effectively

Recommendations relevant to institutions:

- 6) In implementing the GEF-8 biodiversity strategy, consideration should be given to gender-responsive financing for the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
- 7) Financial institutions and investment funds (public and private) could channel funding towards activities that address gender equality, biodiversity, and climate objectives in an integrated manner

Annex 1. Methodology

Note: this discussion paper is a working document that has been developed to support deliberations at the CBD COP 15. The document has not been reviewed by OECD DAC members. Further work will be carried out in early 2023 with inputs from OECD DAC members and the OECD research collaborative.

The data provided in this document derives from publicly available data obtained through the OECD Creditor Reporting System (CRS).¹⁹ Project descriptions in the CRS are voluntary and not comprehensive and as such there may have been information from relevant projects for the period 2020 that was not included in the rapid review and indicative mapping (Table 1). The rapid review of project descriptions only considered information from a sample of OECD DAC members due to time constraints. Table 1. provides summarised information regarding bilateral ODA funding committed for the year 2020 from 14 OECD DAC country members (Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, and United States) who have an explicit Foreign Feminist Policy and/or have made the highest funding commitments for gender equality during 2019-2020. Project descriptions available in the CRS regarding ODA commitments for the year 2020 were reviewed, this included screening project descriptions that had been tagged against the OECD-DAC Rio markers²⁰ and the OECD-DAC gender equality policy marker²¹. All projects reviewed for the period 2020 were then mapped against the objectives and actions outlined in the draft gender plan of action for the post-2020 period.²² If projects were relevant for meeting specific objectives (i.e., the project addressed the core elements of the objective or actions proposed in the draft gender plan of action) then data regarding funding commitments, number of countries implementing projects and country donors were compiled, the total amounts from the sample reviewed are displayed in Table 1.

The findings provided in Table 1 are not comprehensive and do not reflect all ODA or DAC contributions for the year 2020. The purpose of the rapid analysis and the indicative mapping provided in Table 1 was simply to highlight potential synergies from ODA contributions towards specific objectives of the gender plan of action for the post-2020 period. The mapping also serves to highlight the gaps, meaning that there are several actions outlined in the draft gender plan of action that are likely to require funding from different sources and via different mechanisms (e.g., GEF, national gender and biodiversity budgets, and other public and private sources).

For more information, contact

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¹⁹ <https://stats.oecd.org/>

²⁰ For more information about the Rio markers, see: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/rioconventions.htm>

²¹ For more information about the gender equality policy marker, see: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/dac-gender-equality-marker.htm>

²² <https://www.cbd.int/doc/recommendations/sbi-03/sbi-03-rec-03-en.pdf>