

There are three critical elements for a policy to be gender responsive:

1) Understanding the linkages between gender justice and biodiversity.

Identify the roles, responsibilities, rights, resources and access of women and men, respectively, and constraints to women's full involvement in, contribution to, and benefits from biodiversity policies.

2) Investigating gender justice - biodiversity linkages in specific socio-cultural contexts.

Effective gender mainstreaming must be context-specific; no single 'blueprint' fits all contexts. Cooperation with local women's organizations can provide access to critical information, network and avenues to make policies more effective.

3) Assessing the potential implications of planned interventions on gender justice.

To avoid maintaining or exacerbating existing inequalities and to ensure positive impacts for both women and men. This requires an understanding of women's contributions and ways these could be positively built upon, as well as awareness of areas in which women's rights need to be specifically promoted and protected.

References:

1. Interagency Gender Working Group (IGWG) (2022) Gender integration continuum.
2. Kabeer, N. and Subrahmanian, Ramya (1996) Institutions, relations and outcomes: framework and tools for gender-aware planning.
3. UN Women (2018) Towards a gender-responsive implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Further information

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Is my policy gender-blind or gender- responsive?

WHAT IS THIS?

A guide to help anyone involved in the CBD COP 15 negotiations, and in any biodiversity decision to self-assess whether your proposal is gender blind or gender responsive.

WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE?

To help everyone involved in the CBD discussions find out if their proposal increases gender imbalances, or if, on the contrary, it promotes gender justice and women's empowerment.

**UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES
COP15 SHOULD
PERPETUATE GENDER
INEQUALITIES.**

How to use it?

1. Bearing in mind your proposed decision, answer the following sections.
2. If your answer is yes to any question in the "gender-blind" section, it allows you to rethink your intervention.
3. If your answer is no to any question in the "gender-responsive" section, it gives you the opportunity to strengthen your proposal.

Is my proposal being gender-blind?

Gender blind:

"Policies and programs which are designed without prior analysis of the culturally-defined set of economic, social, and political roles, responsibilities, rights, entitlements, obligations, and power relations associated with being female and male and the dynamics between and among men and women, boys and girls" (IGWG, 2017).

- ⚠ Have I analysed the differentiated gender dynamics interrelated to the topic I am making decisions about?
- ⚠ Does my proposal promote that one gender has more opportunities than the other?
- ⚠ Does my proposal perpetuate the privileges of men over women and boys over girls?
- ⚠ Does my proposal reinforce gender stereotypes, or will it increase inequalities or work burdens?
- ⚠ Does my proposal take advantage of rigid gender norms and existing imbalances in power to achieve the set objectives?

Would my proposal be gender-responsive?

Gender-responsive:

A policy that deliberately examines and addresses the anticipated gender-related outcomes during design and implementation by actively examining, questioning, and changing the imbalance of power between genders (IGWG, 2017).

- ✅ Does my policy address the different interests and needs of women and men?
- ✅ Does my proposal acknowledge the contextual gender differences, norms, and relations?
- ✅ Does my proposal contribute to limiting any harmful impact on gender relations?
- ✅ Does my policy avoid gender-neutral language that could lead to the exclusion of women?
- ✅ Does my proposal create or support a scenario that promotes gender justice?