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WOMEN4BIODIVERSITY

WOMEN & ENVIRONMENT NEWSLETTER

Issue 3, June - July 2022

This issue, we celebrate our accomplishments and give a rundown of our activities in our advocacy for a gender-responsive post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF) in the [Fourth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework \(OEWG-4\)](#) in Nairobi, Kenya from 21-26 June.

We share voices of women calling for a human rights-based GBF, as well as gender equality in biodiversity policy through international meetings aside from OEWG-4. We also explore synergies between the GBF and Sustainable Development through a side event to the High-Level Political Forum on the Sustainable Development Agenda.

Also in this issue is Women4Biodiversity's site visit and online training for partner sites in its gender-responsive biodiversity governance project. At the end are recommended reports and links to stories from women on the ground. We also introduce the Women4Biodiversity team.



4th Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (OEWG-4): Continuing the fight for gender justice - Highlights



Plenary Room, June 21. Photo courtesy of Women4Biodiversity

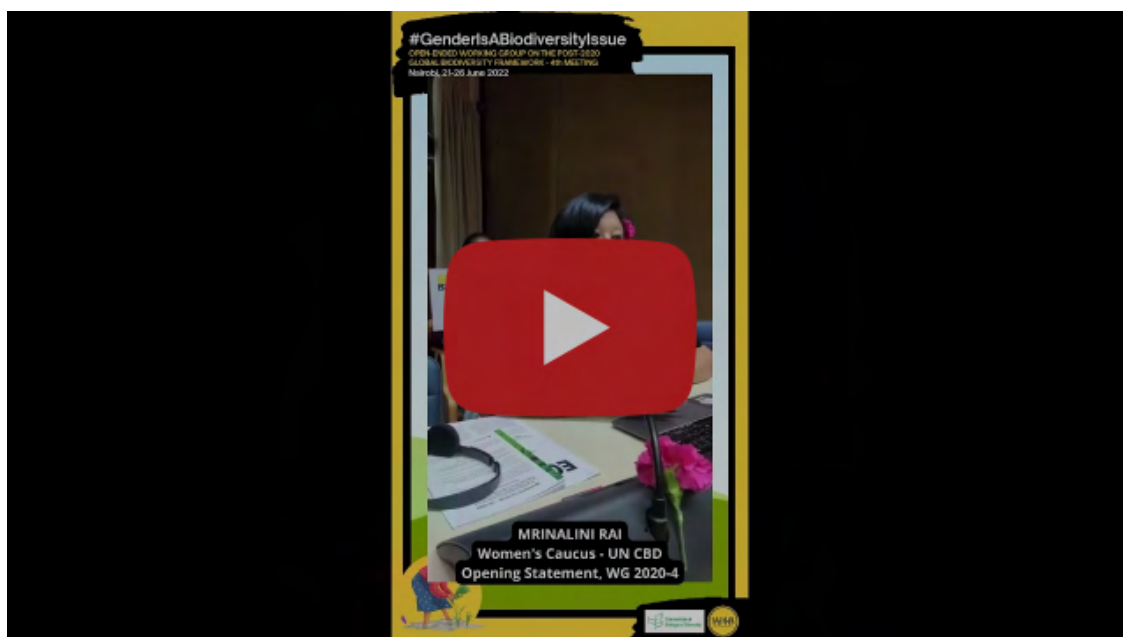


UNCBD Women's Caucus closing statement at OEWG-4. Photo courtesy of ENB-IISD

The [Fourth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework \(OEWG-4\)](#) took place in Nairobi, Kenya from 21-26 June to further the discussion on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF) from the UN Geneva Biodiversity Conference earlier in March. Despite the Covid pandemic-related challenges like limited badges for in-person attendees and the constraints of virtual modalities, participants were enthusiastic. The Women4Biodiversity team, along with other UNCBD Women's Caucus members, stayed strong and pushed for the retention of the text proposed under “New Target” as a stand-alone target on gender equality in the GBF (Target 22). As an outcome of the OEWG-4, the [current draft of the GBF](#) officially now has not 21, but 22 Targets. Target 22 is now a stand-alone target on gender equality.

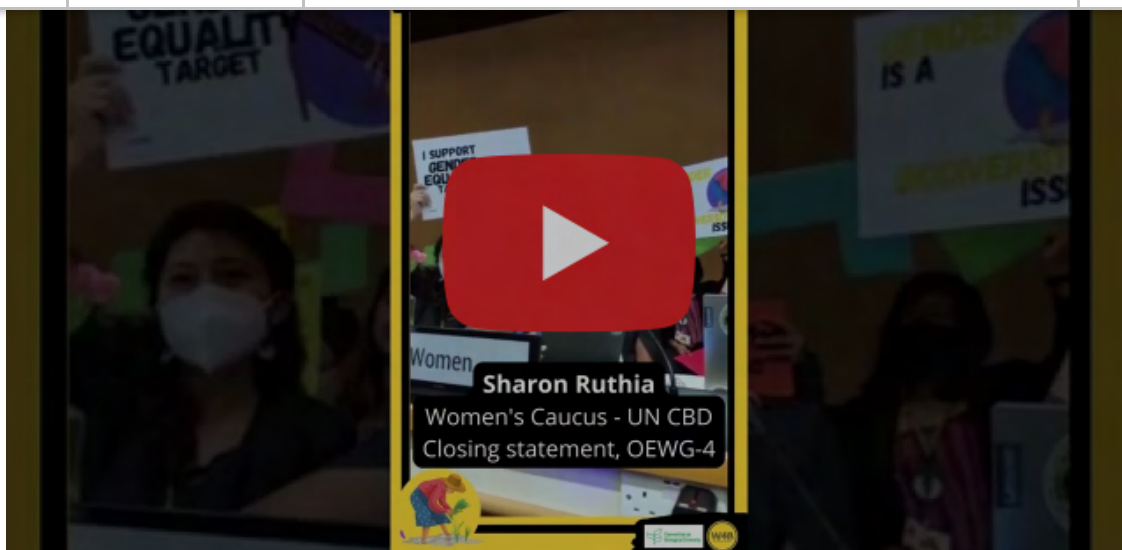
This is a great outcome from the contributions and collective efforts of UNCBD Women's Caucus members and with the growing support from Parties and from allies. In-person and

messages helped amplify the call for a gender-responsive GBF.



UNCBD Women's Caucus opening statement,
OEWG-4 Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in Nairobi

The UNCBD Women's Caucus in its [opening statement](#) last 21 June emphasized the importance of putting words and commitments into action and that it was an opportune time to strengthen synergies between the Rio Conventions and other Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs). The Caucus recommended identifying and bringing together the work on gender equality to advance women's rights, including actions proposed in the [the Abidjan declaration on achieving gender equality for land restoration](#) at the [UN Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought \(UNCCD\) that took place in Abidjan, Cote de Ivoire](#) from 9 to 20 May, and [the UN Human Rights Council resolution on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment](#).



UNCBD Women's Caucus closing statement,
OEWG-4 Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in Nairobi

In its [closing statement](#), the UNCBD Women's Caucus asked OEWG-4 delegates to imagine a world without women acting for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. With women's crucial role, a gender-responsive post-2020 GBF with a stand-alone gender equality target is essential.

In Nairobi, at the onset of the CBD meetings, UNCBD Women's Caucus members also participated in various other events, engaging in learning, sharing knowledge, lobbying and advocacy, including morning preparatory meetings (both in-person and virtual). Complementary with these in-person activities are online campaigns and media before, during, and after the meetings.

Nairobi is not the last stepping stone towards the [Fifteenth Meeting of the Conference of Parties \(COP 15\)](#) to the CBD in Montreal, Canada, on 9-17 December; the GBF, including Target 22, will be negotiated once again before the CBD COP 15 at [OEWG-5](#) on 3-5 December 2022 in Montreal.



The UNCBD Women's Caucus holds hybrid meetings in the morning to discuss the advocacy strategy for the day.



Women4Biodiversity hosted “Dinner with Friends,” a pizza party for gender equality champions of the GBF. Pictured here are the Women4Biodiversity team and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) delegates.

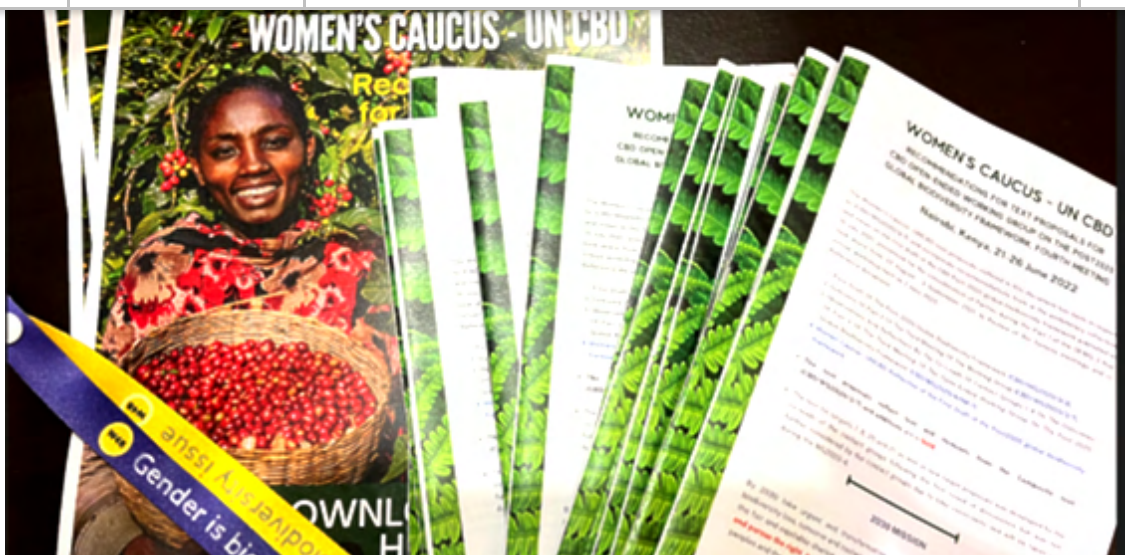


Women4Biodiversity Director Mrinalini Rai talking about Target 22 at “Thrive, Not Survive” lunch event. The event was organized by IPACC, COICA, Nashulai, and Avaaz



Women4Biodiversity team and UNCBD Women's Caucus members with Tanya McGregor (in red), gender programme officer of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD)





Copies of the policy brief and other materials for distribution in the Nairobi meeting

A virtual workshop was organized on 2 June, bringing together the UNCBD Women's Caucus members and ally organizations to review, reflect and draft text recommendations for the post-2020 GBF in preparation for OEWG-4 in Nairobi. The result is a [policy brief](#) with proposed text recommendations. This brief was used for advocacy, lobbying and sharing of the UNCBD Women's Caucus' position in negotiations and was also shared through social media, including in the [ECO](#).



PRESS CONFERENCE: Gender equality in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework



(L-R) Ana di Pangracio (CBD Alliance), Carolina Rodriguez (IIFB & ICCA), Mirna Fernandez (GYBN), Benjamin Schachter (OHCHR), Shruti Ajit (Women4Biodiversity) and Cristina Eghenter (WWF International) at the press conference on gender equality in the GBF

The UNCBD Women's Caucus (Convention on Biological Diversity), led by Women4Biodiversity, held a press conference [“Gender Equality in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework”](#) last 24 June. This event was the highlight among the Caucus’ advocacy activities for a gender-responsive post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF) at the [Fourth Open-Ended Working Group meeting \(OEWG-4\) on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework](#) in Nairobi, Kenya that took place from 21-26 June.

The representatives spoke about the need for a rights-based and gender-just post-2020 GBF, including the proposed [Target 22](#), a stand-alone gender equality target.

See some of the press coverage of the event and of UNCBD Women's Caucus’ participation in OEWG-4 below:

[Gender Remains Neglected At The Nairobi Session
Of New Biodiversity Framework](#)

BY INDIA SPEND



[Centering Gender in the Next Biodiversity Agenda: A Long
Way to Montreal](#)

BY INTER PRESS SERVICE



[UN Biodiversity: Why we came to Kenya](#)

BY UNREAD



All photos in this section are courtesy of the media organizations that published the articles.



OTHER EVENTS & ADVOCACY

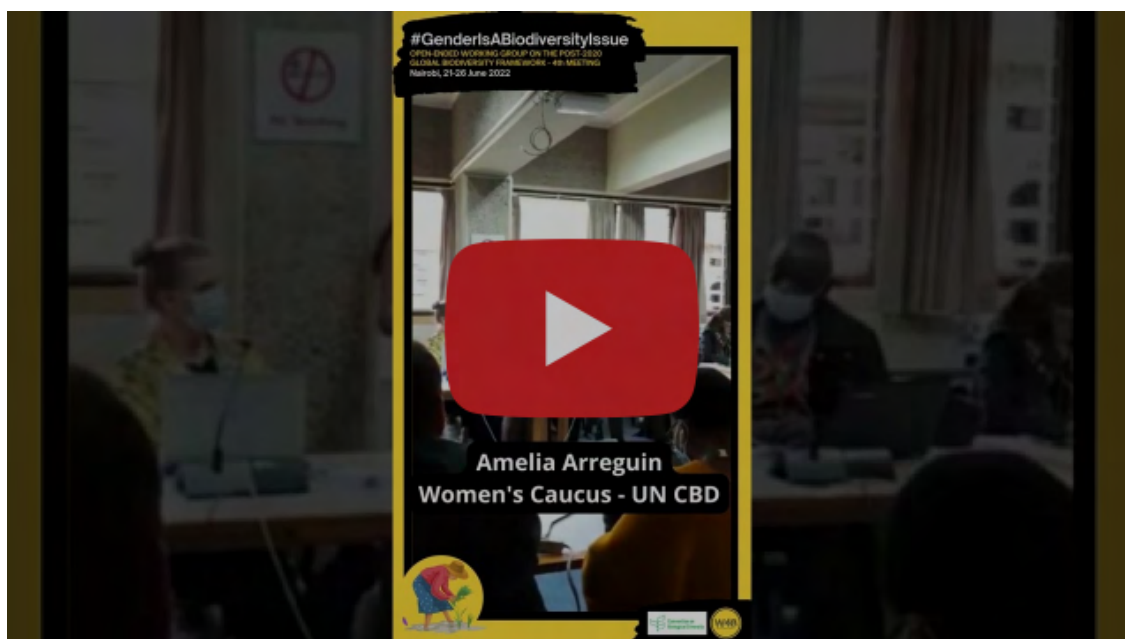
Empowering HER: Women4Biodiversity intern participation and engagement at OEWG-4



GYBN training

As part of its capacity building initiative, Women4Biodiversity invited its new policy intern Sharon Nyambura Ruthia to attend the OEWG-4. In preparation prior to the official meeting, Sharon joined [a training on the CBD](#) by Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN). The training brought together participants from the different GYBN chapters across the world to fully sensitize them on the CBD and the role the youth play as a major group engaging with the CBD. The youth's call to the Nairobi delegates was to bring to action a just, implementable and impactful GBF. GYBN also demanded the lifting of brackets on the matters of rights, equity and youth participation.

This was Ruthia's first time engaging with the CBD, and at the end of the Nairobi meetings, she also delivered the UNCBD Women's Caucus closing statement.



Amelia Arreguin at the roundtable on IPLCs and Finance

For financing to be gender-responsive, Amelia Arreguin, representing Women4Biodiversity, says that [women have to be seen as partners and collaborators, not beneficiaries](#). This is what she emphasized when she spoke at the event “**OEWG-4 Roundtable on IPLCs and Finance: Ensuring GBF Funding Supports Locally-led Action by IPLCs**” in Nairobi last 21 June. The event was organized by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB). Following the event, Arreguin also wrote her reflections on gender-responsive biodiversity action financing in a [blog post](#).

Human Rights in the Post-2020 GBF



Meanwhile, on 24 June, the Human Rights in Biodiversity Working Group organized an informal exchange “**Entry Points for Human Rights in the Post-2020 GBF**” to explore opportunities and key entry points for strengthening human rights in the post-2020 GBF. During the exchange, Women4Biodiversity programme officer Shruti Ajit spoke about the need to recognize women’s tenorial rights, equitable access and benefits from sustainable use of biodiversity’s resources, and equal participation of women and girls, emphasizing that [gender is indeed a biodiversity issue](#) and critical to recognize women’s rights and gender equality for living in harmony with nature. These also make up the key elements of the gender equality target. Ajit pointed out that countries can already work in collecting gender-disaggregated data to be able to monitor and implement the core areas of the proposed Target 22.

Video: Is the GBF transformative enough?



Is the GBF transformative enough to halt and reverse biodiversity loss? How should it be improved? These are the questions [this Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework - EU Support video](#) aimed to answer by featuring representatives from environment ministries and organizations.

Women4Biodiversity representative Amelia Arreguin was among those interviewed in this video. She advocated for a GBF that respects and recognizes human rights.

An ambitious GBF: Reflections after OEWG-4



Women4Biodiversity team and UNCBD Women's Caucus delegates holding carnations to give to Parties supporting the stand-alone gender equality target

UNCBD Women's Caucus delegates to OEWG-4 and allies continued to advocate for a gender-responsive post-2020 GBF through their written reflections after the event.

[A truly ambitious post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework \(GBF\)](#)

BY CRISTINA EGHENTER, WWF INTERNATIONAL



[How access and benefit sharing can be implemented in the Post-2020 GBF to fully realize CBD objectives](#)

BY SHARON RUTHIA,
POLICY INTERN, WOMEN4BIODIVERSITY



[Leadership urgently needed to deliver an equitable and comprehensive global biodiversity framework](#)

BY ICCA CONSORTIUM



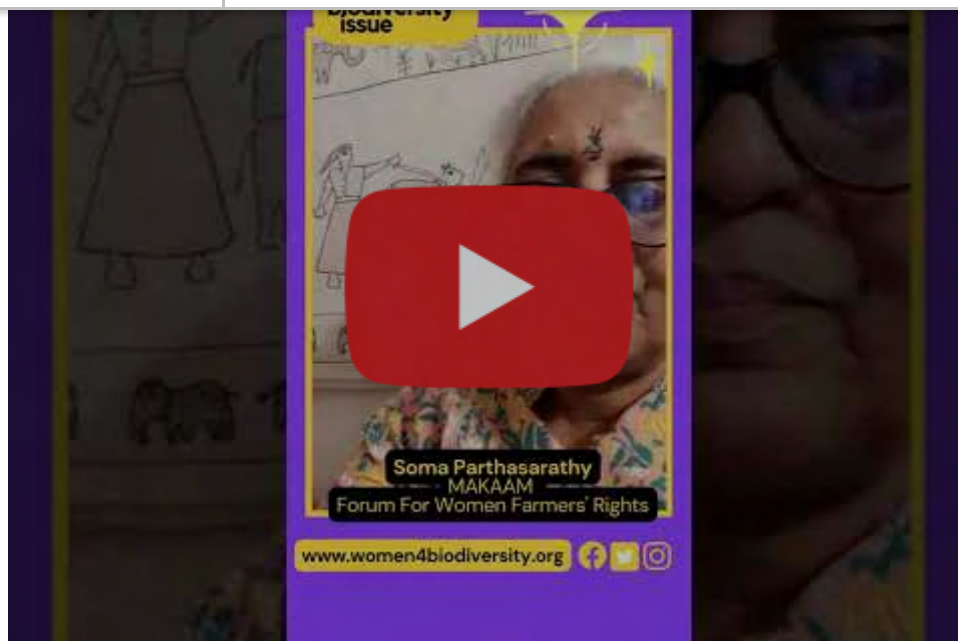
TwitterChat highlights gender equality in post-2020 GBF

To amplify its messages on Target 22 and a gender-responsive post-2020 GBF in preparation for OEWG-4, Women4Biodiversity spearheaded the [#GenderIsABiodiversityIssue TwitterChat](#) last June 13. The Twitter event, co-convened by 13 other organizations, drew out insights on the importance of women's roles in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and a gender-responsive post-2020 GBF with an emphasis on Target 22.

Click on each graphic below to see the corresponding TwitterChat discussion.



60 Seconds Matter: Messages amplifying why
[#GenderIsABiodiversityIssue](#)



Women4Biodiversity's latest featured video of its #GenderIsABiodiversityIssue video campaign is of Dr. Soma Parthasarathy of [MAKAAM](#), an alliance on women farmers' rights.

The video is part of the ongoing campaign launched before the UN Biodiversity Conference in Geneva, where Women4Biodiversity shares short videos from allies and Parties to the CBD expressing their support for Target 22.

Watch the complete "[Adopt Target 22](#)" [playlist](#) on Women4Biodiversity's YouTube channel. You can also find the videos on Women4Biodiversity's social media accounts: [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#).

For more relevant links and photos, see:

Women4Biodiversity in CBD Nairobi meeting



Voices of Women (VOW) in Advocacy

Building for women's guaranteed participation in small-scale artisanal fishing and biodiversity conservation: Reflections on the UN Oceans Conference



Some small-scale artisanal fishers at the UN Oceans Conference

Costa Rica-based human rights and conservation cooperative CoopeSoliDar R.L, Member of the UNCBD Women's Caucus and project partner of Women4Biodiversity, highlighted the need for women's genuine participation in small-scale artisanal fishing at the [UN Oceans Conference](#) (UNOC) in Lisbon, Portugal last 27 June - 1 July. Read their reflections in original Spanish [here](#) and in English [here](#).

During UNOC, Women4Biodiversity also posted a [short video](#) with CoopeSoliDar's content of a woman fisher sharing about the ocean's importance in her daily life.

The Need for Women's Representation: Reflections on the Africa Protected Areas Congress



Women are lacking in numbers as a major constituency at the [Africa Protected Areas Congress \(APAC\)](#) in Kigali, Rwanda last 18-23 July, observes [Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment \(SWAGEN\)](#) Executive Director Gertrude Kabusimbi Kenyangi in her [post-Congress reflection](#). However, Kenyangi finds the July 23 [Kigali Call to Action for People and Nature](#) promising for women's rights, with phrases such as "gender-responsive participation of all rights-holders and stakeholders, including IPLCs and youth."

Research and evidence important to advocate for gender equality in policy



At the London's Global University (UCL) workshop on conservation research, practice, and policy.

Photo courtesy of Emily Woodhouse/ UCL

Evidence and research are important, as these can be used to negotiate in policy spaces to ensure a just, equitable, and transformative change in society. This applies to advocating for gender equality in biodiversity policy, too, said Women4Biodiversity Director Mrinalini Rai. It is important, however, to recognize and respect the diverse knowledge and value systems.

Rai was a panelist at the **"Progressing Gender Equity in Conservation Research, Practice and Policy: An International Cross-Disciplinary Workshop"** held on 14-15 July in London, UK.

The 2-day workshop was organized by the School of Slavonic & Eastern European Studies [London's Global University \(UCL\)](#). Among its objectives was to identify opportunities to



INFORMATION IS POWER: Webinars and Events

**SDGs HLPF Side Event: Advancing gender equality and human rights
to stop the biodiversity crisis**

ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS TO STOP THE BIODIVERSITY CRISIS

A SIDE EVENT TO THE

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

7 JULY 2022

7:30 to 9 hrs – NY
11:30 to 13 hrs – UTC

REGISTER AT

bit.ly/genderrights

LIVE ON facebook @Women4Biodiv

Speakers:

- Sylvia Hordosch, UN Women
- Shruti Ajit, Women4Biodiversity
- Cristina Eghenter, WWF
- Benjamin Schachter, OHCHR
- Katherine Despot-Belmonte, UNEP-WCMC
- Amelia Arreguin, *Moderator

Logos: UN WOMEN, UN environment programme, WCMC, UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, WWF, FARN (FUNDACIÓN AMBIENTE Y RECURSOS NATURALES), W4B (WOMEN4BIODIVERSITY)

[“Advancing Gender Equality and Human Rights to Stop the Biodiversity Crisis”](#) last 7 July.

The main purpose of the session was to highlight opportunities on how applying a rights-based approach can help advance synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the post-2020 GBF to build back better from COVID-19. A key insight from the session is the need to align the post-2020 GBF with the SDGs, especially SDG 5 on gender equality.

Read the policy summary [here](#) and see key quotes from the resource persons [here](#).



Supporting Gender-Responsive Local Initiatives

West Pokot community shares traditional knowledge and practices during Women4Biodiversity visit to project partner site



Women4Biodiversity's initial visit in West Pokot, Kenya, one of the pilot partner sites in its gender-responsive biodiversity governance project. In the photo is the Women4Biodiversity

The Women4Biodiversity team visited one of the areas for restoration in Kamatira Forest in West Pokot County, Kenya under the organization's project "**Building resilience and weaving gender-responsive approaches to biodiversity governance**" last June 24. Women4Biodiversity is working with its partner [Pastoral Communities Empowerment Programme \(PACEP\)](#) in the project sites in Kenya.

During the visit, the West Pokot community shared their traditional knowledge and practices on their biodiversity, like the use of medicinal plants, pastoralist practices and mobility, crafts from forest resources, honey and its harvesting. They also shared the vision for sustainable and democratic management and governance of Kamatira forest, which in recent times had been degrading due to encroachment and afforestation programmes aimed at planting trees of timber value.

The "**Building resilience and weaving gender-responsive approaches to biodiversity governance**" project follows a three-year practice to policy roadmap with the objectives of building resilience and weaving gender-responsive actions in ecosystem restoration approaches into national goals and international commitments through supporting six pilot sites in different regions. Kenya is one of the sites. The project is implemented with the funding support of Sida through SwedBio at Stockholm Resilience Centre.

Training: Basic Zoom for project pilot site partners



Participants from project partner sites and the Women4Biodiversity team at the "Organizing and running meetings via Zoom" training last June

governance,” Women4Biodiversity’s communications team held a training “Organizing and running meetings via Zoom” in June 8 and 15. The training was held for partners in Solomon Islands, Kenya, and Cameroon.



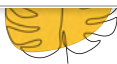
Campaigns for International Days

World Environment Day (5 June 2022 | Theme: #OnlyOneEarth). The video emphasizes the crucial role of women in biodiversity conservation, especially since we have #OnlyOneEarth. Watch in [English](#) or [Spanish](#).

World Oceans Day (8 June 2022 | Theme: Revitalization: Collective Action for the Ocean). Indigenous women in the eastern islands of Indonesia practice bameti, a sustainable way of gathering seafood. Watch the [video in English](#).

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (17 June 2022 | Theme: Rising up from Drought Together). United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Land Hero Patricia Kombo explains why women are important for everyone to rise up from drought together. Watch the [video in English](#).

International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem (26 July 2022). In the community of Chomes in Costa Rica, a cooperative of mollusk-gathering women are aware of the need to take care of the mangroves because it is their main source of work and access to food security. However, these women have urgent needs that must be addressed, as expressed by Aracelly Jiménez, president of CoopeMolusChomes R.L. Watch the [video in Spanish](#).



Announcements

Meet the Women4Biodiversity team! Find out more about them [here](#).



Related Resources

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) [summary for policymakers of the thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species](#) (Find links to all communication materials [here](#).)

IPBES [summary for policymakers of the methodological assessment of the diverse values and valuation of nature](#) (Find links to all communication materials [here](#).)

Women's stories from the ground

[Doyennes of Chizami, Nagaland, India](#). The story of how one organization is empowering women through traditional weaving and farming practices in Chizami, Nagaland.

[Is the Gender Agenda of Nepal's Community Forestry at Risk due to Commercial Transitions?](#)
Nepal's 40-year community forestry management with an emphatic focus on gender equality is threatened with the current discourse on shifting from subsistence to commercial models of forest management across community forests.

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