



SBSTTA 25

Nairobi, Kenya

15-20 October, 2023

Agenda Item 6. Sustainable Wildlife Management

16 October, 2023

Thanks, Chair

My name is Joyce Peshu from Kenya, speaking on behalf of the CBD Women's Caucus.

In the realm of Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM), it is paramount to acknowledge that gender issues are frequently overlooked or insufficiently addressed, even within community-driven conservation efforts. We must recognize that these gender dimensions are pivotal and their neglect can undermine the very essence of effective wildlife management.

For that we urge Parties to ensure reference on gender considerations in the governance of wild species, with a particular focus on the distribution of cost and benefits in line with Targets 22 & 23 of the Framework.

Since billions of people around the planet rely on and benefit from the use of wild species with particular focus on indigenous people, local communities and women, it is critical to include a gender dimension in tackling critical challenges to sustainable wildlife management, including human-wildlife conflict, unsustainable and illegal trade, tenure rights, poverty, and food security, recognizing their diverse impacts on women and girls and the potential to perpetuate gender inequalities that require attention and resolution.

In this context, our concrete recommendations on these items are:

- In Section III. "Areas that might require complementary guidance", para 45, to add a new sub para (h) that reads as follows: **"(h) Integrate gender-responsive approaches by recognising and supporting the roles, rights, needs and contributions of women, particularly in activities such as the collection, processing and trade of wild species"**.
- Following, in para 46 to add **"women, youth, and other"** after **"indigenous peoples and local communities"**.

Additionally, we want to bring your attention to the urgency of:

1. Sustainable Wildlife Management presents multifaceted challenges, including human-wildlife conflicts, unsustainable and illegal trade, tenure rights, poverty, and food

insecurity, all of which are deeply intertwined with gender dynamics. Ignoring these aspects perpetuates gender inequalities, highlighting the need for proactive measures to address them.

2. The recognition and acknowledgement of women among other constituents as custodians of biodiversity and partners in its conservation, restoration and sustainable use as well as the fact that women and girls rely on sustainable use of wild species in most cases.
3. Underscore the collection of gender-disaggregated data is a pivotal step towards integrating gender considerations into wildlife management. This data helps establish baselines, to inform inclusive decision-making, and enables effective monitoring, resulting in more equitable and inclusive SWM programs.

As we navigate the intricacies of wildlife management, let us not forget that gender aspects are not secondary but rather integral to achieving our shared goals. By addressing these gender issues, we pave the way for more effective, equitable, and inclusive wildlife management practices.

Thanks,

Additional points:

- Beyond Bushmeat Hunting: While bushmeat hunting is often perceived as a male-dominated activity, it is essential to understand that gender relations are integral to the entire wildlife value chain. Therefore, any SWM strategy should consider these dynamics and their influence on hunting behaviors and community needs.
- Inclusive Livelihoods: We firmly advocate for the inclusion of both women and men in wildlife-related livelihood opportunities. Ensuring that everyone benefits is not only equitable but also crucial for garnering broad community support and advancing gender equality within the SWM framework
- Highlight the disproportionate impact on women and girls from Illegal trade of wild species and conflict that has significant impact on sustainable use of wild species
- The implications of the assessment to the convention specifically on the need for transformative changes with the involvement of all society should be guided by human rights based approach, and include gender considerations
- Emphasize the inclusion of both women and men in wildlife-related livelihood opportunities. Ensuring that everyone benefits is not only equitable but also crucial for garnering broad community support and advancing gender equality within the SWM framework.

For further information contact CBD Women's Caucus Coordination

Amelia Arreguin - amelia.arreguin@women4biodiversity.org