

Mainstreaming Gender in the Work of the Convention

Convention on Biological Diversity
10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CBD-COP10)
Nagoya, Japan 18-29 October 2010

Summary of Recommendations:

Post-2010 goals and targets (agenda item 4.2.)

IUCN calls upon Parties and other Governments to:

- ✓ Ensure that gender considerations are fully taken into account in the Strategic Plan, its outcome-oriented goals and targets, and associated indicators, for the period beyond 2010.

Marine and Coastal Biodiversity (agenda item 5.2.)

Acknowledging the importance of the regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, IUCN calls upon COP10 to:

- ✓ Ensure that in socio-economic analyses, data is disaggregated by gender in order to demonstrate the different needs, uses and knowledge that women and men have.

Mountain Biodiversity (agenda item 5.3.)

IUCN calls on COP10 to:

- ✓ Ensure that gender considerations are mainstreamed in the adoption of the long-term vision and holistic approaches to the conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity.

Protected Areas (agenda item 5.4.)

IUCN recommends that COP10:

- ✓ Ensures that in the development of a long-term action plan or in the reorientation of relevant existing plans in relation to protected areas, women are involved as major stakeholders.

Biodiversity and Climate Change (agenda item 5.6.)

IUCN calls on COP10 to urge Parties to:

- ✓ Assess the impacts of climate change on biodiversity-based livelihoods, with a view to identify adaptation priorities in a gender-sensitive way;
- ✓ Implement, where appropriate, gender-sensitive ecosystem-based adaptation measures; and
- ✓ Ensure that women are fully integrated in the implementation of a portfolio of land-use management activities.

Administrative and Budgetary Matters (agenda item VII)

IUCN recommends that COP10 encourages Parties and the Secretariat of the Convention to:

- ✓ Continue efforts to fully implement the Plan of Action in order to mainstream gender considerations in all aspects of the work under the Convention; and
- ✓ Contribute to the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action, including through the provision of financial and other support.

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Introduction

The importance of gender mainstreaming in policies related to the environment and to poverty alleviation has been recognized in a wide range of global agreements and fora, including chapter 24 of Agenda 21 (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 1992), the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Millennium Declaration, and the requirements and agreements set out in the 1975 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Other instances within the United Nations system have also called for gender equality, including: the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in 2004 and 2005; the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly—the 2005 World Summit (General Assembly resolution 60/1, paragraphs 58, 59 and 116); the Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/31 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system.

In addition, the Beijing Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, calls upon Governments, at all levels, including municipal authorities, as appropriate, to take actions to “*encourage, subject to national legislation and consistent with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the effective protection and use of the knowledge, innovations and practices of women of indigenous and local communities (...); in addition, safeguard the existing intellectual property rights of these women as protected under national and international law (...).*”

In the thirteenth preambular paragraph of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Parties recognize “*the vital role that women play in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and affirm the need for the full participation of women at all levels of policy making and implementation for biological diversity conservation*”.

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) has mentioned in its recommendations to COP women’s practices, knowledge, and gender roles in food production. Various CBD decisions

have also incorporated gender issues including: SBSTTA recommendation II/7, on agricultural biological diversity and the role of women in managing practices and knowledge; COP decision III/11, para.17, on promotion of women’s knowledge and practices in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the agricultural sector; the annex to COP decision III/14 on Article 8(j): gender balance in workshop organization; Annex I to SBSTTA recommendation IV/7, on potential impacts of tourism on cultural values, including gender; SBSTTA recommendation V/14, paragraph 2 (i) and annex; and annex III to COP decision VIII/10, on gender balance in the composition of ad hoc technical expert groups, subsidiary body and roster of experts; COP decision V/16 –element 1 of the programme of work of Article 8(j) on promotion of gender-specific ways in which to document and preserve women’s knowledge of biological diversity; COP decision V/20, on gender balance in the roster of experts; COP decision V/25, on Socio-economic and cultural impacts of tourism : the fact that tourism activities may affect gender relationships (through employment opportunities for example); annexes I and II to COP decision VI/10; annex to COP decision VII/1: Gender as a social factor that may affect traditional knowledge.

Under the “General Principles” the programme of work on the implementation 8(j), Parties call for: “*Full and effective participation of women of indigenous and local communities in all activities of the programme of work*”. Task 4 calls on Parties to develop, as appropriate, mechanisms for promoting the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities with specific provisions for the full, active and effective participation of women in all elements of the programme of work.

However, all of the above refer to “women’s” participation in activities under the Convention and not directly to gender equality. Encouragingly, particularly since 2007, a more focussed approach to gender mainstreaming has been undertaken within the Convention. For example, at its third meeting, held in May 2010, the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention “*(...) requests Parties to the Cop 10 to mainstream gender*

considerations, where appropriate, in the implementation of the Strategic Plan and its associated goals, targets and indicators". In UNEP/CBD/COP/10/4, annex II recommendation 3/5, under the "Integration of biodiversity into poverty eradication and development" the Working Group "recommends that the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting adopt a decision along the following lines" (...) and "notes, in efforts to integrate biodiversity into poverty eradication and development processes, the importance of: Mainstreaming gender considerations and promote gender equality".

The Gender Plan of Action

CBD COP9 approved the "The Gender Plan of Action under the Convention on Biological Diversity". The Plan of Action's strategic objectives are:

- To mainstream a gender perspective into the implementation of the Convention and the associated work of the Secretariat;
- To promote gender equality in achieving the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the 2010 Biodiversity Target;
- To demonstrate the benefits of gender mainstreaming in biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing from the use of genetic resources; and
- To increase the effectiveness of the work of the Secretariat at the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Gender mainstreaming has been the primary approach for integrating gender equity and equality principles into any development or environmental effort. Gender mainstreaming is intended to bring the diverse roles and needs of women and men to bear on the development agenda. Rather than adding women's participation and a gender approach onto existing strategies and programmes, gender mainstreaming aims to transform unequal social and institutional structures in order to make them profoundly responsive to gender. Achieving gender equality is a matter of shifting existing power relationships to benefit those that are less empowered.

In light of the above IUCN puts forward several recommendations for consideration for the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting. These fall within several agenda items as follows.

Post-2010 goals and targets (agenda item 4.2.)

IUCN calls upon Parties and other Governments to:

- ✓ Ensure that gender considerations are fully taken into account in the Strategic Plan, its outcome-oriented goals and targets, and associated indicators, for the period beyond 2010.

Marine and Coastal Biodiversity (agenda item 5.2.)

Acknowledging the importance of the regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, IUCN calls upon COP10 to:

- ✓ Ensure that in the socio-economic analyses, data is disaggregated by gender in order to demonstrate the different needs, uses and knowledge that women and men have.

IUCN also recommends that COP 10:

- ✓ Calls upon the Executive Secretary to ensure, through the gender focal point of the Secretariat, that gender considerations are fully integrated in the study in consultation with the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions in order to "identify specific elements for integrating the traditional, scientific, technical and technological knowledge of indigenous and local communities, consistent with Article 8(j) of the Convention, and social and cultural criteria and other aspects for the identification of marine areas in need of protection as well as the establishment and management of marine protected areas".

Mountain Biodiversity (agenda item 5.3.)

IUCN calls on COP10 to:

- ✓ Ensure that gender considerations are mainstreamed in the adoption of the long-term vision and holistic approaches to the conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity.

Protected Areas (agenda item 5.4.)

IUCN recommends that COP10:

- ✓ Ensures that in the development of a long-term action plan or in the reorientation of relevant existing plans in relation to protected areas, women are involved as mayor stakeholders.

Acknowledging the strategic objectives of the CBD Gender Plan of Action, IUCN recommends that:

- ✓ The Parties ensure that the Secretariat of the CBD:
 - a) Strives to include within regional and subregional capacity-building workshops in relation to protected areas, specific components which include the importance of gender consideration for conservation and protected areas;
 - b) Provides additional technical support for gender mainstreaming through the development of toolkits, best practices and guidelines related to the Programme of Work on Protected Areas, in collaboration with partners, in particular on Element 2 (governance, participation, gender, equity and benefit sharing); and
 - c) Increases awareness of the gender differentiated benefits of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas to health, water and other sectors, climate change adaptation and mitigation, poverty alleviation and the Millennium Development Goals, by holding workshops to bring key actors from these sectors to discuss ways of collaborating to develop mutually beneficial responses to the PoWPA.

Biodiversity and Climate Change (agenda item 5.6.)

IUCN calls on COP10 to urge Parties to:

- ✓ Assess the impacts of climate change on biodiversity-based livelihoods, particularly with regards to livelihoods within those ecosystems that have been identified as being particularly vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change, with a view to identify adaptation priorities in a gender-sensitive way;
- ✓ Implement, where appropriate, gender-sensitive ecosystem-based adaptation measures which use biodiversity and ecosystem services in an overall adaptation strategy

including through the sustainable management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems to provide services that help men and women adapt to the adverse effects of climate change, including disaster risk reduction and sustainable land management strategies, with a view to achieving co-benefits for biodiversity and climate change adaptation. This comprises generating multiple social, economic and cultural co-benefits for women and men from local communities;

- ✓ Ensure that women are fully integrated in the implementation of a portfolio of land-use management activities, including the protection of natural forest and peatland carbon stocks, the sustainable management of forests, the use of native assemblages of forest species in reforestation activities, sustainable wetland management, restoration of degraded wetlands, sustainable agricultural practices and soil management.

Finally, IUCN calls on COP 10 to:

- ✓ Request Parties to convene, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and as soon as possible, an expert workshop on gender, biodiversity and climate change with a view to enhance the coordination of capacity-building efforts on gender under these two Rio Conventions.

Administrative and Budgetary Matters (agenda item VII)

IUCN recommends that COP10 encourages Parties and the Secretariat of the Convention to:

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