

051 Mainstreaming gender equality in biodiversity policies, programmes, actions and funding

RECALLING the interconnectedness of environmental and social challenges, as recognised by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the role of societal and economic dynamics as indirect drivers of biodiversity loss, as established by Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES);

RECOGNISING that women and girls, in particular those from Indigenous peoples and Local communities, and marginalised groups are key stakeholders and rights-holders in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, often being critical stewards of the environment and holders of traditional ecological knowledge, playing a main role in its intergenerational transmission;

RECALLING ALSO that all genders have an equal right to a healthy environment; yet AWARE that women and girls disproportionately suffer from biodiversity loss, which exacerbates gender-based violence, deepens inequalities, scarcity, conflicts and displacement, reinforcing privileges and control over resources and undermining efforts for a healthy environment, as noted by UN Women and IUCN; and CONCERNED by the lack of post-project data within IUCN projects to assess gender-based violence and gender-equality outcomes, limiting efforts to address these impacts;

RECOGNISING ALSO the need to strengthen the full and effective participation, leadership and capacity of women and girls, to act as agents of change in preserving and sustainably using biodiversity, as well as the need to fully protect environmental human-rights defenders and park rangers of all genders;

WELCOMING the commitments of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), including Target 23, with a gender-responsive approach, and its Gender Plan of Action by 2030; and RECALLING that the Parties have acknowledged, in section C of the KMGBF, that achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls, as well as reducing inequalities, are essential for its successful implementation; and

ALSO RECALLING that IUCN has long worked to integrate gender and biodiversity issues, and that better integration of this work by public and private decision-makers is needed;

The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates:

1. INVITES States to:

a. adopt gender-responsive approaches in revising, implementing and reporting on national biodiversity strategies, action and financing plans;

b. dedicate funding and programmes to the gender-responsive implementation of the KMGBF and the CBD Gender Plan of Action, as well as other relevant commitments (e.g. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)); and

c. eliminate and prevent all forms of gender-based discrimination and violence, particularly in relation to control, ownership and access to biodiversity;

2. ALSO INVITES IUCN, public and private decision-makers, funders and practitioners, including implementation agencies, local authorities, companies, philanthropies, academia and civil society, to mainstream gender in their biodiversity programmes, projects and funding, including by:

a. adopting gender-responsive budgeting and earmarked funds for gender-specific provisions ensuring equal access to resources, services and technologies;

b. upholding a rights-based approach and ensuring full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive participation in decision-making and access to justice and information;

c. collaborating with civil society organisations and ensuring access to flexible funds for relevant local-level organisations;

d. implementing mandatory organisational gender action plans, including staff training and capacity building; and

e. systematically integrating gender-specific indicators and collecting and using gender-disaggregated data, including on gender-based violence, in monitoring, evaluation and reporting frameworks.