

**GENDER EQUALITY AND THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL  
DIVERSITY: A COMPILATION OF  
DECISION TEXT**



# FOREWORD

In every region of the world, women and men have unique relationships with, dependencies upon, and expertise regarding their environments.

In the last twenty years and more, gender equality has been and continues to be recognized as a critical crosscutting issue in the major multilateral environmental agreements. In 1992, Agenda 21 set the stage with Chapter 24: **“Women have considerable knowledge and experience in managing and conserving natural resources.”** By 2012, a great variety of legal instruments and norm-setting agreements integrate text that promotes gender equality and women’s rights, including across the outcomes of the three key United Nations environmental agreements: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

From preamble and shared vision text, to actionable language for programming and finance, this policy language has recognized that the integration of women’s rights and gender equality issues into the mitigation of biodiversity loss, climate change and desertification is not only essential but maximizes the efficacy of interventions, programs and resources. **The CBD agreements lead with an extraordinary array of text, which is compiled in the pages to follow.** Direct quotes from outcomes of the last twenty years are archived here, as a reference tool for policy-makers and practitioners alike.

Words on paper are crucial, but healthy ecosystems and gender equality both will be a lived reality only when full implementation is realized. One of the greatest challenges faced by governments, project practitioners, gender experts and other development partners is to ensure that gender sensitive policies agreed at international fora are then implemented appropriately and fully.

The Parties to the CBD, agreeing gender text in their decisions as early as 1996, at the third Conference of Parties in Argentina, are in a trail-blazing position. Committing to gender mainstreaming in CBD’s 2010 decision X/19 and integrating gender equality into its Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, Parties are in a unique position to pursue transformative implementation, including by meeting the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

The Women’s Environment and Development Organization, a women’s global advocacy organization, and the CBD Secretariat are proud to partner to provide technical support to Parties in taking next steps toward gender-responsive implementation. **It is our hope that this text compilation serves as a useful tool, to remind all stakeholders of the strong foundation upon which to continue working towards truly sustainable development.**

**Mr. Braulio F. de Souza Dias**  
*Executive Secretary*  
Secretariat, Convention on  
Biological Diversity

**Ms. Cate Owren**  
*Executive Director*  
Women’s Environment and  
Development Organization

# CONVENTION OF BIODIVERSITY (CBD)

## Text of the Convention

**Preamble** “Recognizing also the vital role that *women* play in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and affirming the need for the full participation of *women* at all levels of policy-making and implementation for biological diversity conservation,”

## CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (COP) DECISIONS

### UNEP/CBD/COP/3/38 (1996)

#### III/11. Conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity

**17. Encourages parties (...) to promote: (c)** “Mobilization of farming communities including indigenous and local communities for the development, maintenance and use of their knowledge and practices in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the agricultural sector with specific reference to *gender* roles;”

#### Annex 1 BASIS FOR ACTION A. Impact of biological diversity on agriculture

**3.** “The importance of agrobiodiversity is of widespread and complex significance to society, encompassing socio-cultural, economic and environmental elements. It is essential to food security and poverty alleviation and much of the knowledge about agrobiodiversity is maintained by farmers themselves, many of whom are *women*.”(...)



# UNEP/CBD/COP/5/23 (2000)

## V/16. Article 8(j) and related provisions

**Preamble** “Recognizing the vital role that **women** play in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and emphasizing that greater attention should be given to strengthening this role and the participation of **women** of indigenous and local communities in the programme of work,”

**10.** “Requests Parties, Governments, subsidiary bodies of the Convention, the Executive Secretary and relevant organizations, including indigenous and local communities, when implementing the programme of work contained in the annex to the present decision and other relevant activities under the Convention, to fully incorporate **women** and **women’s** organizations in the activities;”

### **Annex Programme of work on the implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity**

**I. General Principles 1.** “(...) Full and effective participation of **women** of indigenous and local communities in all activities of the programme of work.”

#### **II. Tasks of the first phase of the programme of work**

**Task 4.** “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 taking into account the need to: (...) (e) Promote culturally appropriate and **gender** specific ways in which to document and preserve **women’s** knowledge of biological diversity”

## V/25 Biological diversity and tourism

**Annex Assessment of the interlinkages between tourism and biological diversity. II. Potential impacts on biological diversity of tourism. B. Socio-economic and cultural impacts of tourism.**

**29. Impacts on cultural values** “Tourism has a highly complex impact on cultural values. (...). Furthermore, they may affect **gender** relationships through, for example, offering different employment opportunities to men and **women**.”



# UNEP/CBD/COP/6/20 (2002)

## VI/9 Global Strategy for plant conservation

**Annex Global Strategy for plant conservation. E. Further work required to develop and implement the Strategy. 19 (c)** “In addition to the Parties to the Convention, the design, development and implementation of the strategy should involve a range of actors, including: (c) Communities and major groups (including indigenous and local communities, farmers, **women**, youth);“

## VI/10. Article 8(j) and related provisions

**Preamble** “Emphasizing the need for dialogue with representatives of indigenous and local communities, particularly **women** for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity within the framework of the Convention,“

**A. Report on progress in the integration of relevant tasks of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions into the thematic programmes of the Convention on Biological Diversity. 3 (b)** “Measures taken to enhance the participation of indigenous and local communities, particularly that of **women** from such communities, and their relevant organizations in the implementation of national work programmes in each of the thematic areas;“

**B. Review of progress in the implementation of the priority tasks of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions Preamble** “Recalling paragraph 6 of decision V/19, (...) requests Parties to ensure that indigenous and local communities, as well as **women** are included in the consultative process, particularly in relation to the preparation of those sections of the national report dealing with Article 8(j) and related provisions and the programme of work,“

**C. Outline of the composite report on the status and trends regarding the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity 11.** “Further requests the Executive Secretary to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, particularly **women**, (...)“

**D. Recommendations for the conduct of cultural, environmental and social impact assessment regarding developments proposed to take place on, or which are likely to impact on, sacred sites and on lands and waters traditionally occupied or used by indigenous and local communities**

**16.** “Requests Parties and Governments to undertake education and awareness-raising and develop communication strategies that allows indigenous and local communities, with special attention to indigenous and local community **women**, (...)“

**19.** “Further invites international funding and development agencies and relevant nongovernmental organizations, (...) to consider providing assistance to indigenous and local communities, particularly **women**, for the conduct of cultural, environmental and social impact assessments (...)“

## E. Participatory mechanisms for indigenous and local communities

21. “ (...) invites Parties and Governments to use the report as a basis for the establishment and/or strengthening of mechanisms at the national and local levels aimed at promoting full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, especially **women**, in the decision-making process regarding the preservation, maintenance and utilization of traditional knowledge relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;”

23. “Urges Parties and Governments to strengthen their efforts to support capacity-building aimed at the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, particularly **women**, in decision-making processes regarding the preservation, maintenance and utilization of traditional knowledge relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity at all levels (local, national, regional and international); (...)”

### **Annex I Outline of the composite report on the status and trends regarding the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and the plan and timetable for its preparation**

#### **4. Identification of national processes that may threaten the maintenance, preservation and application of traditional knowledge**

6. “A number of factors that may threaten the maintenance of traditional knowledge also occur at the local community level, by disrupting the processes of intergenerational transmission of languages, cultural traditions and skills. (...)These issues would be explored under the following headings: 5.4 Social factors (including demographic, **gender** and familial factors)”

7. “(...). Many indigenous and local communities, particularly **women**, have also taken their own initiatives to preserve, protect and promote the use of their traditional knowledge. (...)”

### **Annex II Recommendations for the conduct of cultural, environmental and social impact assessments regarding developments proposed to take place on, or which are likely to impact on, sacred sites and on lands and waters traditionally occupied or used by indigenous and local communities.**

**C. Socio-economic impact assessments. 14.** “In socio-economic impact assessments, social development indicators consistent with the views of indigenous and local communities should be developed and should give consideration to **gender** (...)”

**II. General Provisions 17.** “The vital role that **women** play, in particular indigenous **women**, in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the need for the full and effective participation of **women** in policy-making and implementation for biological diversity conservation should be fully taken into consideration, in accordance with the Convention.”

## **VI/13. Sustainable use**

**Preamble** “Recognizing further the important role played by **women** in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity,”



## VI/15. Incentive measures

### Annex 1 Proposals for the design and implementation of incentive measures

**A. Identification of the problem: purpose and issue identification. 7. “Identification of relevant experts and stakeholders.** As well as including policy-makers, experts and scientists, the range of stakeholders should include the private sector, *women*, and local communities (...)

## VI/21. Annex to The Hague Ministerial Declaration of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

### Annex Contribution from the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to the World Summit on Sustainable Development

**B. Experience gained and lessons learned in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity 16.** “ The world’s poor (...) Unless they are fully involved in decision-making and benefit-sharing, it is unlikely that long-term solutions to the problem of biodiversity loss can be found. In developing mechanisms to ensure such involvement, it is vital that issues of *gender* and social structure are properly addressed (...)

## VI/22. Forest biological diversity

**32.** “Urges Parties to recognize in particular the vital role that *women* in indigenous and local communities play in the sustainable use and conservation of forest biological diversity, especially but not limited to the sustainable use and conservation of non-timber resources, and values;”



# UNEP/CBD/COP/7/21 (2004)

## VII/1. Forest biological diversity

11. “Urges the Executive Secretary to facilitate the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities and other relevant stakeholders in implementing the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity by developing local capacities and participatory mechanisms, including *women*, in assembling, disseminating, and synthesizing information on relevant scientific and traditional knowledge on forest biological diversity”

## VII/11. Ecosystem approach. Annex I Refinement and elaboration of the ecosystem approach, based on assessment of experience of parties in implementation

**Principle 1: The objectives of management of land, water and living resources are a matter of societal choice. Implementation guidelines** “1.5 Ensure that the decision-making process compensates for any inequities of power in society, in order to ensure that those who are normally marginalized (e.g. *women*, the poor, indigenous people) are not excluded or stifled in their participation.”

**Principle 2: Management should be decentralized to the lowest appropriate level. Implementation guidelines.** “2.5 In choosing the appropriate level of decentralization, the following are relevant factors that should be taken into account in choosing the appropriate body: the effect on marginalized members of society (e.g. *women*, marginalized tribal groups)”

## VII/12. Sustainable Use (Article 10)

6. “Invites Parties and Governments, (...) the compilation and analysis of case-studies and existing literature on sustainable use consistent with practical principle 6: (b) The role of indigenous and local communities, and *women* in the sustainable use of components of biodiversity;”

## VII/14. Biological Diversity and tourism

**Annex. International guidelines for activities related to sustainable tourism development in vulnerable terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems and habitats of major importance for biological diversity and protected areas, including fragile riparian and mountain ecosystems.**

**5. Impact assessment 42.** “Socio-economic and cultural impacts related to tourism may include: (f) Intergenerational conflicts and changed *gender* relationships;”

## VII/16. Article 8(j) and related provisions

**Annex Elements of a plan of action for the retention of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for conservation and sustainable use of diversity. E. Capacity-building, education and training**

**26.** “Specific capacity-building activities should be targeted at indigenous *women* and *women* in rural or otherwise marginal communities, and at traditional knowledge, innovations and practices.”



**Annex Akwé: Kon voluntary guidelines for the conduct of cultural, environmental and social impact assessments regarding developments proposed to take place on, or which are likely to impact on, sacred sites and on lands and waters traditionally occupied or used by indigenous and local communities**

**I. Purpose and approach 3(b)** “Properly take into account the cultural, environmental and social concerns and interests of indigenous and local communities, especially of **women** who often bear a disproportionately large share of negative development impacts;”

**III Procedural considerations 8 (c)** “Establishment of effective mechanisms for indigenous and local community participation, including for the participation of **women**, the youth, the elderly and other vulnerable groups, in the impact assessment processes;”

**IV. Integration of cultural, environmental and social impact assessments as a single process C. Social impact assessments**

**39.** “In order to effectively undertake a social impact assessment with respect to an indigenous or local community that is or is likely to be affected by a proposed development, the screening and scoping phases should take into account **gender** and demographic factors, (...)”

**42.** “In social impact assessments, social development indicators consistent with the views of indigenous and local communities should be developed and should include **gender**, (...)”

**43.** “In determining the scope of a social impact assessment, the following should be considered: d) **Gender** considerations;”

**1. Baseline studies 44.** “In the conduct of baseline studies, the following areas should, inter alia, be addressed: (h) Traditional systems of production (food, medicine, artefacts), including **gender** roles in such systems;”

**45.** “In particular, in relation to subsistence-based indigenous and local communities, the following additional social factors should also be taken into consideration, including impacts thereon: (c) Importance of **gender** roles and relations;”

**4. Gender considerations 48.** “In social impact assessments, there is a particular need to examine the potential impacts of a proposed development on **women** in the affected community with due regard to their role as providers of food and nurturers of family, community decision-makers and heads of households, as well as custodians of biodiversity and holders of particular elements of (**gender**-specific) traditional knowledge, innovations and practices.”

**V. General considerations**

**52.** “The following general considerations should also be taken into account when carrying out an impact assessment for a development proposed to take place on, or which is likely to impact on, sacred sites and on lands and waters traditionally occupied or used by indigenous and local communities: (b) **Gender** considerations;”

**B. Gender considerations 54.** “The vital role that **women** and youth play, in particular **women** and youth within indigenous and local communities, in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the need for the full and effective participation of **women** in policy-making and implementation for biological diversity conservation should be fully taken into consideration.”

## **G. Participatory mechanisms for indigenous and local communities**

**Preamble** “Recognizing further the vital role that *women* play in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and affirming the need for the full participation of *women* at all levels of policymaking and implementation for biological diversity conservation, as recognized in the preamble of the Convention,”

6. “Invites Parties and Governments, in consultation with indigenous and local communities, where they have not already done so, to: (b) Establish national, subregional and/or regional indigenous and local community biodiversity advisory committees, taking into account *gender* equity at all levels;”

## **VII/27. Mountain biological diversity. Annex. Programme of work on mountain biodiversity**

**Goal 2.2. To respect, preserve, and maintain knowledge, practices and innovations of indigenous and local communities in mountain regions 2.2.3.** “Promote networking, collaborative action and participation of indigenous and local communities in decision-making processes, paying particular attention to the empowerment of *women*, in order to maintain mountain biodiversity and its sustainable use.”

**Goal 3.5. To increase public education, participation and awareness in relation to mountain biological diversity 3.5.5.** “Further promote the education of *women* and their role in the conservation and dissemination of traditional knowledge.”

## **VII/28. Protected areas (Articles 8 (a) to (e)). Annex. Programme of work on protected areas**

**Goal 2.2 – To enhance and secure involvement of indigenous and local communities and relevant stakeholders Suggested Activities of the Parties. 2.2.1.** Carry out participatory national reviews of the status, needs and context-specific mechanisms for involving stakeholders, ensuring *gender* and social equity, in protected areas policy and management, at the level of national policy, protected area systems and individual sites.

## **VII/29. Transfer of technology and technology cooperation (Articles 16 to 19)**

**Preamble** “Recognizing the vital role of indigenous and local communities, in particular the role of *women*, and the value of traditional knowledge related to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity,”

## **VII/32. The programme of work of the Convention and the Millennium Development Goals**

**Preamble** “The Conference of the Parties, Recognizing that world leaders at the Millennium Summit have established the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as the focus of global efforts to combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against *women*, and that the Millennium Development Goals agenda provides the framework for the entire United Nations system to work coherently toward these common ends,”

# UNEP/CBD/COP/8 (2006)

## VIII/5. Article 8(j) and related provisions

### **B. Composite report on status and trends regarding the knowledge innovations and practices relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity**

**13.** “Requests the Executive Secretary to collaborate with Parties in convening, subject to the availability of financial resources, regional and subregional workshops to assist indigenous and local communities in capacity-building, education and training, with particular emphasis on the participation of **women** from indigenous and local communities.”

### **Annex. Draft Criteria for the operation of the voluntary funding Mechanism**

**A. Administrative context, structure and processes of the fund (j) Collaboration with other Trust Funds** “The Secretariat will remain in contact with other relevant funds to ensure complementarity, to achieve **gender**, (...)”

### **B. Proposed recommendations for selection criteria for beneficiaries of the fund.**

**(i) Main Criteria (b)** “**Gender** balance should be applied, recognizing the special role of indigenous and local community **women** (in knowledge, innovations and practices) from indigenous and local communities;”

**(iii) Requirements (b)** “(...) Nominating bodies are strongly encouraged to ascertain the availability of individuals before they are nominated and to nominate a number of candidates in priority order taking into account geographic, age and **gender** equity;” **and (f)** “The Secretariat only considers a maximum of two (2) applicants per organization or community and organizations or communities submitting two names are requested to consider **gender** balance (and where possible, to submit both a male and a female applicant);”

## VIII/10. Operations of the Convention

### **Annex III Consolidated *modus operandi* of the subsidiary body on scientific, technical and technological advice**

**H. Ad hoc technical expert group meetings (b)** “(...) The ad hoc technical expert groups shall be composed of no more than fifteen experts nominated by Parties competent in the relevant field of expertise, with due regard to geographical representation, **gender** balance (...)”

## VIII/23. Agricultural biodiversity

### **Annex Proposed framework for a cross-cutting initiative on biodiversity for food and nutrition**

**D. Elements Element 3. Conserving and promoting wider use of biodiversity for food and nutrition Rationale** “(...) Indigenous and local communities, and the preservation of their local socio-cultural traditions and knowledge, play a critical role, as do **women**, for the maintenance of diverse food systems.” (...)”

## UNEP/CBD/COP/9/29 (2008)

### IX/8. Review of implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan

**National biodiversity strategies and action plans 8.** “Recalling the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties (...), urges Parties in developing, implementing and revising their national and, where appropriate, regional, biodiversity strategies and action plans, and equivalent instruments, in implementing the three objectives of the Convention, to: Meeting the three objectives of the Convention: (d) Promote the mainstreaming of *gender* considerations;”

### IX/11. Review of implementation of Articles 20 and 21

**A. In-depth review of the availability of financial resources** “Resolving to significantly reduce the gaps in funding for biological diversity, 7. Urges Parties, the Global Environment Facility, and relevant organizations to include *gender*, indigenous peoples and local communities perspectives in the financing of biodiversity and its associated ecosystem services;”

### **Annex Strategy for resources mobilization in support of the achievement of Convention’s three objectives for the period 2008-2015.**

**III. Guiding Principles. 9.** “The strategy calls for special consideration to the following guiding principles during its implementation: (f) Take into account *gender* and socio-economic perspectives.”

### IX/13. Article 8(j) and related provisions

**B. Composite report on the status and trends (...) Noting the research made available by the Secretariat, (...) 4.** “Notes also the unique value of biodiversity related traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, especially those of *women*, in contributing to the understanding and evaluation of impacts of climate change, including vulnerabilities and adaptation options and other forms of environmental degradation, and encourages Parties, Governments, and relevant international organizations, with the full and effective participation and prior informed consent of indigenous and local communities, to document, analyse and apply, as far as possible and where appropriate, and in accordance with Article 8(j) of the Convention, such knowledge in ways that complement science-based knowledge;”

**D. Plan of action for the retention of traditional knowledge: measures and mechanisms to address the underlying causes for the decline of traditional knowledge. 4.** Invites Parties and Governments, with the input of indigenous and local communities, to report on positive measures for the retention of traditional knowledge in areas relevant for the conservation and the sustainable use of biological diversity, such as those contained in but not limited to the annex hereto. “ (j) Initiatives bringing together *women*, youth and elders;”

## E. Participatory mechanisms for indigenous and local communities in the Convention

5. “Encourages Parties, Governments and relevant international organizations, (...) to develop, including in local languages, as appropriate, alternative means of communicating public information on traditional knowledge related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in plain language and diverse community-friendly formats, (...), in order to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, including **women** and youth, at local, national and international levels, while supporting the development by indigenous and local communities of their own media tools;”

7. “Requests the Executive Secretary to: (c) Monitor the use of the Convention website and, in particular, the Article 8(j) homepage and the Traditional Knowledge Information Portal, and to consult with Parties, indigenous and local communities, and their organizations, including youth and **women**, (...)”

### **Annex Draft elements of a code of ethical conduct to [promote][ensure] respect for the cultural and intellectual heritage indigenous and local communities relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity**

**Section 3 Ethical principles. A General ethical principles Non-discrimination 9.** “The ethics and guidelines for all activities/interactions should be non-discriminatory, taking into account affirmative action, particularly in relation to **gender**, disadvantaged groups and representation.”

**Section 4 Methods Gender considerations 28.** “Methodologies should take into account the vital role that indigenous and local community **women** play in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, affirming the need for the full and effective participation of **women** at all levels of policy-making and implementation for biological diversity conservation, as appropriate.”

## **IX/24. Gender Plan of Action**

“The Conference of the Parties Welcomes the development by the Executive Secretary of the **Gender** Plan of Action under the Convention on Biological Diversity, (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/INF/12/Rev.1), and invites Parties to support the implementation of the Plan by the Secretariat.”



# UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27 (2010)

## X/1. Access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization

### Annex 1. Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity

**Preamble** “Recognizing also the vital role that *women* play in access and benefit-sharing and affirming the need for the full participation of *women* at all levels of policy-making and implementation for biodiversity conservation,”

**Article 12. Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources. 3.** “Parties shall endeavour to support, as appropriate, the development by indigenous and local communities, including *women* within these communities, (..)”

#### Article 22. Capacity

**3.** “As a basis for appropriate measures in relation to the implementation of this Protocol, (...) such Parties should support the capacity needs and priorities of indigenous and local communities and relevant stakeholders, as identified by them, emphasizing the capacity needs and priorities of *women*.”

#### **5. Measures in accordance with paragraphs 1 to 4 above may include, *inter alia*:**

**(j)** “Special measures to increase the capacity of indigenous and local communities with emphasis on enhancing the capacity of *women* within those communities in relation to access to genetic resources and/or traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources.”

**Article 25 Financial Mechanism and Resources 3.** (...)in providing guidance with respect to the financial mechanism referred to in paragraph 2 above, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties, shall take into account (...) the capacity needs and priorities of indigenous and local communities, including *women* within these communities.

## X/2. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

### Preamble

**3.** “Urges Parties and other Governments, with the support of intergovernmental and other organizations, as appropriate, to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and in particular to: (a) Enable participation at all levels to foster the full and effective contributions of *women*, indigenous and local communities, civil-society organizations, the private sector and stakeholders from all other sectors in the full implementation of the objectives of the Convention and the Strategic Plan;”



8. “Recalls decision IX/8, which called for *gender* mainstreaming in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and decision IX/24, in which the Conference of the Parties approved the *gender* plan of action for the Convention, which, among other things, requests Parties to mainstream a *gender* perspective into the implementation of the Convention and promote *gender* equality in achieving its three objectives, and requests Parties to mainstream *gender* considerations, where appropriate, in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its associated goals, the Aichi Targets, and indicators;”

#### **Annex. Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets “Living in harmony with nature”**

**IV. Strategic goals and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets Strategic goal D. Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services Target 14:** “By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of *women*, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.”

**V. Implementation, Monitoring, Review and Evaluation. 17.** “Partnerships at all levels are required for effective implementation of the Strategic Plan, (...). Partnerships with (...) *women*, will be essential to support implementation of the Strategic Plan at the national level. (...)”

**VI. Support Mechanisms 20.** “Capacity-building for effective national action: (...). Capacity-building on *gender* mainstreaming in accordance with the Convention’s *gender* plan of action, and for indigenous and local communities concerning the implementation of the Strategic Plan at national and subnational levels should be supported.”

#### **X/6. Integration of biodiversity into poverty eradication and development**

**6. Notes, in efforts to integrate biodiversity into poverty eradication and development processes, the importance of: (b)** “Mainstreaming *gender* considerations and the promotion of *gender* equality;”

#### **X/16. Technology transfer and cooperation**

**1. Recognizing the potential contribution of a Biodiversity Technology Initiative (BTI) to promoting and supporting the effective access to and transfer of relevant technology (...) emphasizes that: (a) Such a Biodiversity Technology Initiative needs to: vii)** “Take into account that the participation, approval and involvement of *women*, indigenous and local communities and all relevant stakeholders is key for the successful transfer of technology of relevance to the Convention;”

#### **X/17. Consolidated update of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020**

##### **Annex Update Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020.**

**G. Implementation of the Strategy. 16.** “(...) in addition to the Parties to the Convention, further development and implementation of the strategy should involve a range of actors, including(...) (iv) communities and major groups (including indigenous and local communities, farmers, *women*, youth) (...)”

## X/19. Gender mainstreaming

“The Conference of the Parties, Recalling its decision IX/24, in which it welcomed the development by the Executive Secretary of the *Gender Plan of Action* under the Convention on Biological Diversity, 50 and invited Parties to support the Secretariat’s implementation of the Plan,

Emphasizing the importance of *gender* mainstreaming in all programmes of work under the Convention in order to achieve the objectives of the Convention and its Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Government of Finland for its generous financial contribution that made it possible for a position of *Gender Programme Officer* to be established within the Secretariat;
2. Requests the Executive Secretary, subject to availability of resources, in cooperation with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to enhance efforts to fully implement the Plan of Action in order to mainstream *gender* considerations in all aspects of the work under the Convention and formulate clear indicators to monitor progress;
3. Encourages Parties and other Governments to contribute to the implementation of the *Gender Plan of Action*, including through the provision of financial and other support;
4. Invites Parties to consider *gender* as a core cross-cutting issue in the implementation of biodiversity-related activities;
5. Recalling its decision IX/8, urges Parties to promote the mainstreaming of *gender* considerations in developing, implementing and revising their national and, where appropriate, regional, biodiversity strategies and action plans, and equivalent instruments, in implementing the three objectives of the Convention, taking into account the guidance provided in the Technical Series No. 49.”

## X/22. Plan of action on subnational governments, cities and other local authorities for biodiversity

### Annex Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, cities, and other local authorities for biodiversity (2011-2020).

**D. Indicative list of activities.** (p) “In line with the communication, education and public awareness programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity, encourage local authorities to reach out to major groups such as children and youth, *women*, (...)”

## X/24. Review of guidance to the financial mechanism

### Annex Consolidated guidance to the financial mechanism of the Convention

**E. Review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism. 2. The Global Environment Facility should take the following action to further improve the effectiveness of the financial mechanism: 2.8 “*Gender* (a) Including *gender*, indigenous peoples and local communities’ perspectives in the financing of biodiversity and ecosystem services;”**

## **X/25. Additional guidance to the financial mechanism**

**Article 8(j) and related provisions 12.** “Invites the Global Environment Facility, international funding institutions and development agencies and relevant non-governmental organizations, where requested, and in accordance with their mandates and responsibilities, to consider providing assistance to indigenous and local communities, particularly **women**, to raise their awareness and to build capacity and understanding regarding the elements of the code of ethical conduct;”

## **X/35. Biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands**

**2. Urges Parties and other Governments, where appropriate, to: (a) “Develop and implement, or revise existing, drought-management plans and early-warning systems at all levels, (...) seeking: (ii) To direct biodiversity management for the prevention of desertification, including through the involvement of all stakeholders, particularly **women** (...) in accordance with traditional community-based strategies, particularly through customary use systems;”**

## **X/40. Mechanisms to promote the effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the work of the Convention A. Capacity-building efforts**

**3.** “Encourages the Secretariat to continue its efforts to facilitate the effective implementation of decisions regarding capacity-building<sup>102</sup> through workshops using a train-the-trainer methodology and extending opportunities to all regions, with a view to increasing the number of indigenous and local community representatives, particularly **women**, who are familiar with and participate in the work of the Convention, including its implementation at the national and local level;”

**4.** “Invites Parties, Governments and relevant organizations, including indigenous and local community organizations, to consider collaborating with the Secretariat to establish similar initiatives in other regions, with the view to building and strengthening the capacity of indigenous and local community representatives, particularly **women** and young people, to effectively participate in the work of the Convention”

## **X/42 The Tkarihwaí:ri code of ethical conduct to ensure respect for cultural and intellectual heritage of indigenous and local communities**

### **Relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.**

**Preamble 6.** “Invites the Global Environment Facility, international funding institutions and development agencies and relevant non-governmental organizations, where requested, and in accordance with their mandates and responsibilities, to consider providing assistance to indigenous and local communities, particularly **women**, to raise their awareness and to build capacity and understanding of the elements of the code of ethical conduct.”

## Annex The Tkarihwaí:ri code of ethical conduct to ensure respect for cultural and intellectual heritage of indigenous and local communities Relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

**Section 2 Ethical Principles. A. General Ethical Principles. Non-discrimination 9.** “The ethics and guidelines for all activities/interactions should be non-discriminatory, taking into account affirmative action, particularly in relation to *gender*, disadvantaged groups and representation.”

**B. Specific Considerations. Recognition of indigenous and local community social structures -Extended families, communities and indigenous nations 21.** “For indigenous and local communities all activities/interactions, take place in a social context. The role of elders, *women*, and youth is paramount in the process of cultural dissemination, which depends upon intergenerational transfer of knowledge, innovation and practices. Therefore, the societal structure/s of indigenous and local communities should be respected, including the right to pass on their knowledge in accordance with their traditions and customs.”

**Section 3 Methods. Gender considerations 29.** “Methodologies should take into account the vital role that indigenous and local community *women* play in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, affirming the need for the full and effective participation of *women* at all levels of policy-making and implementation for biological diversity conservation, as appropriate.”

### X/43. Multi-year programme of work on the implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

**Participation. b) Local Communities 21.** “Noting that the involvement of local communities in accordance with Article 8(j) has been limited for various reasons, decides to convene an ad hoc expert group meeting of local-community representatives, bearing in mind geographic and *gender* balance, (...)”

**Capacity-building, community education and public awareness 23.** “Further requests the Executive Secretary to continue to develop communication, education and public awareness activities and products, including with the contributions of indigenous and local communities, to assist in the community education of indigenous and local communities about the work of the Convention and also raising awareness of the general public about the role of indigenous and local communities, especially the role of indigenous and local community *women* knowledge in conservation, sustainable use of biodiversity and other global issues, including climate change;”

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## DECISION LINKS

### TEXT OF THE CONVENTION

<http://www.cbd.int/convention/text/>

### UNEP/CBD/COP/3/38 (1996)

<http://www.cbd.int/decisions/cop/?m=cop-03>

### UNEP/CBD/COP/5/23 (2000)

<http://www.cbd.int/decisions/cop/?m=cop-05>

### UNEP/CBD/COP/6/20 (2002)

<http://www.cbd.int/decisions/cop/?m=cop-06>

### UNEP/CBD/COP/7/21 (2004)

<http://www.cbd.int/decisions/cop/?m=cop-07>

### UNEP/CBD/COP/8 (2006)

<http://www.cbd.int/decisions/cop/?m=cop-08>

### UNEP/CBD/COP/9/29 (2008)

<http://www.cbd.int/decisions/cop/?m=cop-09>

### UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27 (2010)

<http://www.cbd.int/decisions/cop/?m=cop-10>







Convention on  
Biological Diversity

World Trade Centre · 413 St. Jacques Street,  
Suite 800 | Montreal, Quebec Canada | H2Y 1N9  
Tel: 1(514) 288 2220 | Fax: 1 (514) 288 6588  
email: [secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int)  
[www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int)

**WE DO** Women's Environment  
& Development Organization

355 Lexington Avenue, 3rd Floor | New York, NY | 10017-6603  
Tel 212.973.0325 | fax 212.973.0335 | email [wedo@wedo.org](mailto:wedo@wedo.org)  
Like us on [facebook.com/WEDOworldwide](https://www.facebook.com/WEDOworldwide)  
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Compilation and Photos: Andrea Quesada Aguilar  
Design and layout: Pablo Porta Barrantes