



Biodiversity is life



2010 International Year of Biodiversity

Biodiversity is our life

## Gender and Biodiversity

The importance of biodiversity to individuals varies according to gender. Based upon the social roles of and power relations between men and women, gender is shaped by culture, social relations, and natural environments. For this reason, we need to incorporate gender dimensions into our understanding of biodiversity and its conservation, sustainable use and the sharing of benefits.

Gender roles affect economic, political, social and ecological opportunities and constraints faced by both men and women. Recognizing women's roles as primary land and resource managers is central to the success of biodiversity policy. For example, women farmers currently account for 60-80% of all food production in developing countries, but gender often remains overlooked in decision-making on access to and the use of biodiversity resources.

Just as the impact of biodiversity loss is disproportionately felt by poorer communities, there are also disparities along gender lines. Biodiversity loss affects access to education and gender equality by increasing the time spent by women and children in performing certain tasks, such as collecting valuable resources and services such as fuel, food and water.

To conserve biodiversity, we need to understand and expose gender-differentiated biodiversity practices, gendered knowledge acquisition and usage. Various studies demonstrate that projects integrating gender dimensions generate superior results. Gender considerations are not solely a women's issue; instead, this outlook could yield advantages for whole communities and benefit both sexes.

CBD developed a Gender Plan of Action that defines the Secretariat's role in stimulating and facilitating efforts on national, regional, and global levels to promote gender equality and mainstream a gender perspective. The Millennium Development Goals emphasize clear linkages between gender equality, poverty alleviation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. Such insights should be included into our outlook and approach to reversing biodiversity loss, reducing poverty and improving human wellbeing.



Convention on  
Biological Diversity

[www.cbd.int/gender](http://www.cbd.int/gender)



## Fast Facts

- ▶ Exposing and understanding gender-differentiated biodiversity practices and knowledge of women and men enhances biodiversity conservation
- ▶ Biodiversity conservation efforts become more effective and efficient when women and vulnerable groups are empowered to participate as equals in:
  - ▶ information sharing and generation
  - ▶ education and training
  - ▶ technology transfer
  - ▶ organizational development
  - ▶ financial assistance
  - ▶ policy development.
- ▶ The Government of the United Kingdom has contributed £10,000
- ▶ The Government of Norway has pledged \$25,000
- ▶ HIVOS the Humanist Institute for Development Cooperation, of the Netherlands has contributed \$300,000
- ▶ Swiss Development Corporation 30,000 for women's participation in COP 9
- ▶ The International Union for Conservation of Nature through the Office of the Global Senior Gender Advisor secured funding for the elaboration of the CBD Gender Plan of Action and continues to give technical support, advise and resource mobilization to the Secretariat including the elaboration of the *Guidelines for Mainstreaming Gender into the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans*

Support to the implementation of the CBD Gender Plan of Action welcomed by the Conference of the Parties through decision IX/24:

- ▶ The Government of Finland has contributed €190,00 for the establishment of a full-time Gender Programme Officer, including support to the other Rio Conventions on gender mainstreaming

## Learn More

CBD work on Gender ▶ [www.cbd.int/gender](http://www.cbd.int/gender)

Gender and the Environment ▶ [www.unep.org/gender\\_env](http://www.unep.org/gender_env)

Facts from the UN Millennium Development Goals Report 2008

▶ [www.millenniumpromise.org/site/DocServer/MDG\\_FastFacts.pdf](http://www.millenniumpromise.org/site/DocServer/MDG_FastFacts.pdf)

IUCN ▶ [www.genderandenvironment.org](http://www.genderandenvironment.org)

Gender and Women's empowerment ▶ [www.undp.org/women](http://www.undp.org/women)

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