



Convention on
Biological Diversity

Mainstreaming Gender Considerations in the Development and Implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

Module 9 (B series)

Version 1 – July 2012



About this Series

This module forms part of a training package on the updating and revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The package is intended for National Focal Points of the Convention on Biological Diversity, those responsible for updating and implementing NBSAPs and other biodiversity planners, including those responsible for other biodiversity-related conventions. They are being used in the ongoing second series of regional and sub-regional capacity building workshops on revising and updating NBSAPs. Each module is available on the CBD Secretariat's website (<http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/training/>). The module and its contents may be freely used for non-commercial purposes, provided the source is acknowledged. The Secretariat would appreciate receiving a copy of material prepared using these modules.

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1. About this Module

At its tenth meeting in Nagoya, Japan, COP passed Decision X/19 inviting Parties to consider gender as a core cross-cutting issue in the implementation of the Convention, and urging them to mainstream gender considerations in the development, revision and implementation of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs). Decision X/2 on the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity also requests Parties to mainstream a gender perspective into the implementation of the Convention, and to promote gender equality. As Parties revise their NBSAPs in compliance with commitments made during COP 10, there is an important opportunity to integrate gender considerations thus enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of these instruments.

A review of 166 NBSAPs submitted to the Secretariat of the Convention up to July 2008, revealed that some Parties have mainstreamed gender with significant success. Gender considerations within most NBSAPs however are still largely absent or limited to haphazard references to gender equality and/or to women. This analysis makes clear that more awareness and support on gender mainstreaming is sorely needed.

Gender mainstreaming is not about “adding” or “gluing” gender into a pre-existing strategy. It implies a logical, interconnected, coherent and comprehensive inclusion of gender considerations into the process of designing and implementing the NBSAP (CBD Technical Series #49).

This module explains how to go about mainstreaming gender in the NBSAP process. Section 2 gives a brief explanation of the concepts of gender, gender equality and gender mainstreaming, showing their links with human wellbeing and poverty eradication. An outline of the mandate within the Convention for gender mainstreaming is provided. Section 3 outlines four broad goals that planners can aim at, and five specific measures that they can take in order to make their NBSAP processes and products gender responsive. The module draws on, and complements the document “Guidelines for Mainstreaming Gender into NBSAPs” (CBD Technical Series # 49) and incorporates information submitted by Parties in their 4th national reports and in their NBSAPs (including those submitted up to May 2012).

2. What is Gender Mainstreaming and Why is it Important?

There is a strong mandate for gender mainstreaming both in the text of the Convention, and in other key Convention documents and decisions. The adoption by COP 9 of the Gender Plan of Action under the CBD is a key milestone in the ongoing efforts to promote gender equality in the implementation of the Convention.

This section will explain what is gender and gender mainstreaming, and why they are important to the Convention. It will then outline the mandate within the Convention for gender mainstreaming, and the benefits that it can accrue.

2.1 What is Gender?

Gender is not the same as the sex or the biological differences between men and women. It refers to the different roles that men and women play in society. Rather than being natural, gender roles are shaped by culture, values, and norms, which determine men and women's roles, responsibilities, obligations, benefits and rights in their societies. Gender thus can have profound implications on people's access to, use, and management of natural resources. In many societies, people of different genders have different degrees, or types, of access to biodiversity. They use some different elements of biodiversity, and/or use the same elements of biodiversity in different ways. This in turn makes it such that men and women have different knowledges of biodiversity. Biodiversity policy aims to change society's interaction with biodiversity and in so doing is likely to affect the lives of women and men differently.

Despite recent advances, the reality is that gender inequality is ingrained in social structures and also expressed in unequal access to and control over biological resources and the sharing of benefits arising out of their use; land tenure systems; access to training, credit and benefits of development programmes; as well as in under-representation in decision-making.

A gender perspective is one that is aware of, and makes the necessary accommodations to address the inequalities between genders, in order to ensure that policies, programs and projects are implemented effectively and that they do not create or exacerbate gender inequalities.

2.2 Why Worry About Gender?

Most of those made responsible for developing and/or revising their country's NBSAP have an immense task before them. They have to catalyze a process that works to implement all three objectives of the Convention, in all the regions and ecosystems of their country, while drawing on the knowledge and experience of widely differing actors of society, and ensuring the buy-in and commitment of sectors that have traditionally opposed, or at best ignored, the environmental sector. With such a large and complex task before them, many could be inclined to think that gender is a relatively low priority. This thinking is erroneous; and it is based on a misunderstanding of the meaning of gender and of the fundamental nature of gender issues to the successful and sustainable implementation of the Convention. **Box 1** explains the rationale, and the global imperative toward gender equality and how it links to biodiversity, development and the Millennium Development Goals. **Box 2** outlines the mandate for gender mainstreaming in the text of the Convention, COP decisions and in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

Box 1 Gender Equality, Poverty, and the Convention

Biodiversity, even that which is found in the remotest areas of the world, exists in a social context where economic, political, cultural and other forces determine its survival or decline. Gender is one of these forces and it is intricately interlinked with another: poverty.

Women constitute 70% of the world's poor. They are often responsible for household food and energy production, family nutrition and health, the management of natural resources, and the maintenance of biodiversity. However women are very often disadvantaged in employment, wages, resource ownership, access to credit, education, health, sanitation, and other government services.

According to UNDP's Human Development Report 2005, gender continues to be "one of the world's strongest markers for disadvantage". It is one of the deepest and most pervasive of all inequalities. When combined with other forms of inequality, including that based on age, culture, race, religion etc. (as is the case of aboriginal people), it puts women in extremely precarious situations.

This condition of disadvantage makes women more vulnerable than men to the negative consequences of the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services and to natural and human induced disasters. Therefore they suffer disproportionately from inaction and inappropriate policies.

As part of the UN system, the Convention on Biological Diversity carries the imperative to reverse gender disparities. The United Nations regards gender equality as a human right. It does not imply that women and men are the same. Rather, it means that they have equal value and should be treated equally. It means that all people, both women and men, everywhere, are entitled to freedom, well-being and dignity. The importance of gender equality is highlighted by its inclusion as one of the eight Millennium Development Goals (Goal 3) and by its intricate relationship with the other 7 MDGs. It is reiterated in the 2007 UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Women are also a huge untapped, or underutilized, asset in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Not only do they compose roughly 50% of the population, they are also parents, educators, healers, farmers, leaders, innovators, and organizers, and as such can be extremely useful in advancing the cause of biodiversity.

Box 2 The Mandate for Gender Mainstreaming in the Convention

The **thirteenth preambular paragraph of the Convention** recognizes the vital role that women play in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and affirms the need for the full participation of women at all levels of policy-making and implementation for biological diversity conservation.

The General Principles of the **Programme of work for the Implementation of Article 8(j)** “Full and effective participation of women of indigenous and local communities in all activities of the programme of work”. **Task 4 (e)**: “Promote culturally appropriate and gender specific ways in which to document and preserve women's knowledge of biological diversity”.

COP 10 Decision X/19 on Gender Mainstreaming

Invites Parties to consider gender as a core cross-cutting issue in the implementation of biodiversity-related activities;

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.

Goal D of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity aims to “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”.

The importance of gender mainstreaming in environmental and poverty eradication policies has been recognized in a **wide range of global agreements and forums**, including chapter 24 of Agenda 21 (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 1992); the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (IV World Conference on Women); the 1996 Leipzig Declaration and the Global Action Plan for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Genetic Resources; the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development; the 2000 Millennium Declaration among others (for more information, see Annex II of the Gender Action Plan at: www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-09/.../cop-09-inf-12-rev1-en.doc).

2.3 What is Gender Mainstreaming?

Gender mainstreaming in biodiversity planning is intended to bring the diverse roles, needs and knowledges of women and men to bear on national strategies to reverse the loss and unsustainable use of biodiversity. Gender mainstreaming is “(t)he process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women’s as well as men’s concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated.”¹ **Box 3** gives some examples of measures taken by Parties towards the mainstreaming of gender considerations and some of the outcomes that have been achieved.

As with “biodiversity mainstreaming” into national development and sectoral planning, **gender mainstreaming has to be a two-way process. It is not only about integrating gender into biodiversity planning, it is also about integrating biodiversity into national gender planning.** Many countries have ministries or agencies responsible for enhancing the status, representation and well-being of women in their societies, and most of these agencies have planning processes in which they plan interventions in various spheres of importance to women and having important gender implications. It is important that the biodiversity community raise awareness within these agencies of the importance of integrating biodiversity concerns into their programming, and that they equip them with the necessary information, communication products and backstopping to facilitate this (see Module 3). In this way, the ministry responsible for women’s well-being can become an important ally for the NBSAP process.

Integrating a gender perspective into biodiversity planning does not necessarily require replacing or annulling other guiding principles or perspectives of a national strategy. Rather, a gender perspective can help to enrich, and can be an excellent complement to these principles and perspectives (e.g. Ecosystem Approach). Likewise, integrating a gender perspective does not preclude an emphasis on engaging a broad spectrum of rights- and stakes-holders in the biodiversity process. On the contrary, gender cuts across all societal groups.

¹ Report of the Economic and Social Council. United Nations, 1997. – Cited in CBD Technical Series # 49

Box 3 What does gender mainstreaming look like?

Some examples of concrete measures taken towards gender mainstreaming

- Representatives from the ministry/agency responsible for women's affairs form part of the NBSAP Steering Committee (Niue Islands, Mexico, 4thNR, 2009)
- Women are among the specific target stakeholders for biodiversity education/ capacity-building (Timor Leste, 2012, Solomon Islands, 2010)
- Designing the communication relating to the NBSAP in a gender sensitive manner (United Republic of Tanzania, 2010)
- Recognition of women's biodiversity related knowledge (Palau, 2008, Chile, 2009, Cuba 4th NR, 2009, Equatorial Guinea, 2009, Guatemala, 4thNR, 2009)
- Principal of gender equality incorporated in plan to increase stakeholder participation in the management of national protected areas (El Salvador, 4th NR, 2011)

Some examples of outcomes achieved

- Gender mainstreaming included among strategic targets of the NBSAP, with specific action items elaborated to achieve it (Botswana, 2010)
- Gender equality promoted in the access and distribution of benefits deriving from the use of biological resources (Costa Rica, 4th National Report 2009)
- Women included in national plans to achieve the Aichi targets (Targets 1, 14 Timor Leste, 2012)
- Ministry responsible for biodiversity has a gender equality policy (Guatemala, 4th NR, 2009, Mexico, 4th NR, 2009)
- Inclusion of gender equity among the guiding principles of the NSBAP (Venezuela, 2011)

Sources: Parties' NBSAPs and 4th National Reports

2.4 Benefits of Gender Mainstreaming

Integrating a gender perspective into biodiversity planning can **allow for a more efficient and effective implementation of the Convention**. It can also **ensure that biodiversity objectives are not pitted, needlessly, against human well-being** – a scenario which has often been seen in conservation practice and which, in the long run, can undermine progress on the biodiversity front. The potential benefits can be summarized as follows:

- ✓ Avoiding the risk of further engraining or worsening existing gender inequalities through biodiversity policies, programs and projects. The idea is to maximize the positive impact of conservation policies and programs and to minimize negative impacts.

- ✓ Gaining the buy-in, support and engagement of women, who form approximately 50% of the population.
- ✓ Benefiting from women's specific knowledges regarding components of biodiversity, their uses and their conservation.
- ✓ Contributing to the broader goal of improving the well-being of women and, by consequence, of the poor; and of ensuring their equal representation and treatment.

3. How to Mainstream Gender into Biodiversity Planning

Gender mainstreaming should, ideally, occur concurrently with, and be integrated as part of, the NBSAP development/revision process. That said, if/when there is a political will to mainstream gender, the opportunity should not be passed up if the NBSAP is not being revised at the time. In such cases, a gender expert should go through the NBSAP and suggest the best ways of integrating gender considerations, ensuring that they get integrated into priorities, strategies, action items and financing.

There can be many ways of approaching gender issues in the NBSAP and each Party will need to figure out what makes the most sense given the country's circumstances. Regardless of the specific steps taken, and the particular areas where each country may focus, there are four broad goals that planners should aim to meet in making their NBSAP processes and products gender responsive:

1. **Ensure women's participation in decision-making and in action**
2. **Prevent negative impacts on women**
3. **Promote benefits for women**
4. **Promote gender equality**

Box 4 provides a checklist that can be useful in thinking more specifically about each of these goals.

Box 4 Checklist of Gender Mainstreaming Goals for NBSAPs

Ensure women's participation in decision-making and in action

- Are women adequately represented among the social actors that contributed to the development of the strategy and action plan?
- Are women's inputs to the planning process given serious consideration and integrated appropriately?
- Is the contribution of women to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity considered?

Prevent negative impacts on women

- Are the impacts on women (and their livelihoods) brought on by the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services considered?

- Are the impacts on women (and their livelihoods) of planned conservation strategies (policies, programs, projects) considered?

Promote benefits for women

- Are women considered among the rightful targets and/or beneficiaries of conservation and sustainable use initiatives?
- Are women considered in the distribution of benefits arising from the use of biodiversity?

Promote gender equality

- Do we make the best of opportunities to eliminate gender-based disadvantages (such as improving women's ownership and access to land, water and credit)?
- Do we make the best of opportunities to promote gender equality?

Beyond these broad goals, there are some **specific measures** that the NBSAP team can take to increase the likelihood of success in gender mainstreaming. They are:

1. **Communicate strategically and effectively**
2. **Ensure there is gender balance and expertise on the Steering Committee.**
3. **Enable the equal participation of women and men in planning and implementation.**
4. **Seek disaggregated data.**
5. **Set a gender and biodiversity target.**

Each one of these measures will be discussed in the pages that follow.

3.1 Communicate Strategically and Effectively

The need to mainstream gender into biodiversity planning is not immediately obvious to all people, particularly those whose areas of work and expertise do not expose them to the socio-economic, cultural, political and legal issues pertaining to the Convention. This puts the NBSAP Steering Committee that wants to mainstream gender into national biodiversity planning in the position of having to “make the case” for gender mainstreaming to colleagues, partners, superiors, other ministries, etc. As is explained in Module 7, the NBSAP team needs to develop a communications and advocacy strategy, which is *strategic*. It needs to be backed by solid evidence and information, and it needs to emit clear messages to targeted audiences, in forms and times that are carefully planned. With regards to gender mainstreaming, it can be useful to weave the following key messages into the communications strategy:

- Paying attention to the knowledges, priorities, needs and vulnerabilities of women (in addition to those of men) will lead to a more effective, efficient and sustainable implementation of the Convention.

- Not paying attention to gender in biodiversity planning poses a real risk that conservation policies contribute to the further marginalization and disadvantaging of women (who are often the most disadvantaged and vulnerable social group)².
- If biodiversity policy is to contribute to development and human well-being, it necessarily has to be gender responsive as the majority of the world's poorest and those most vulnerable to environmental decline are women.

It is important to make sure that gender does not look and feel like an “add on” that is not an integral part of the NBSAP, nor that it seeks goals other than the effective and efficient implementation of the Convention. The latter can provoke the sentiment that gender interests are gratuitously picky-backing on the NBSAP which is not the appropriate vehicle for such goals.

Apart from strategic communication, efforts to mainstream gender will benefit tremendously from contact and/or partnerships with individuals and organizations that have already mainstreamed gender into their work in the environmental, or in another, field. Such contacts can prove invaluable to the NBSAP process.

3.2 Ensure Gender Balance and Expertise

Various entities and individuals will be involved in facilitating, catalyzing, and overseeing the NBSAP development/revision process. Ensuring gender awareness and expertise, and women's representation among them is fundamental to gender mainstreaming.

The **Steering Committee** is a team of people selected or appointed to coordinate the NBSAP process. Oftentimes this committee or team takes on the function of a national coordination mechanism, which also oversees the longer-term implementation of the NBSAP. In order to effectively mainstream gender into the NBSAP process, it is important that the members of the Steering Committee have a sound understanding of gender issues and their connection to poverty eradication and to the Convention. There should be at least one experienced gender expert on this team. When feasible, it is very beneficial to have a representative of the ministry responsible for women's affairs and a representative of at least one NGO that works on gender issues on the Steering Committee. It is also important that the Steering Committee have access to gender experts that they can call upon for specific expertise.

It is **strongly advisable that there be an even gender balance within the Steering Committee**, and that the roles of the women on this team are not subordinate, but of equal stature to those of men. Achieving gender balance on the NBSAP Steering Committee will be most natural if there is already such a balance, or a clear movement towards it, and towards gender equality more generally, in the human resources of the

² As discussed in Module 3, this point is also valid for the poor in general – not paying attention to their needs may lead to conservation policies further disadvantaging them.

ministry responsible for the environment and/or other entity ultimately responsible for the NBSAP. This is a fundamental part of gender mainstreaming. **Box 5** describes the Program for Gender Equality and Environmental Sustainability, established in SEMARNAT, Mexico's ministry responsible for the environment.

Box 5 Mexico's Program for Gender Equality and Environmental Sustainability

In 2007, Mexico's Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) began taking firm steps towards the inclusion of a gender perspective in the policies, programs, projects and actions of the sector through the program "Towards Gender Equality and Environmental Sustainability 2007-2012". The goal of the program is to achieve gender equality by strengthening women's access to natural resources and their roles in environmental management. The program is aligned with Mexico's National Development Plan 2007-2012, and with different programs and laws that address gender issues including the National Programme for Equality between Men and Women 2009-2012 (PROIGUALDAD), the General Law on Equality between Men and Women, and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). It has had generous funding US\$750K (9.5 million Mexican pesos in 2010) through the national budget.

The program has four specific objectives, each having strategic actions and indicators:

1. The creation of a gender unit within SEMARNAT, having its own structure, program of work and budget in order to mainstream gender
2. The redefinition of operational norms in order to guarantee women's access to the use, management, control and benefits from natural resources
3. The integration of methodological and procedural considerations that make women's roles in natural resource management and conservation visible
4. To transform the institutional culture and provide equal opportunities to women and men

As a result of this program, SEMARNAT is better equipped and organized to mainstream gender in all environmental policies. Some of the results achieved in 2010 include:

- Inclusion of gender perspective in programs related to protected areas, indigenous communities, forests and water;
- Strengthening of women's participation in forums on water, soil, biodiversity and climate change;
- Creation of a gender indicators system, related to environmental management, in order to plan, implement and evaluate strategies in a holistic manner;

- Strengthening of the Technical Committee on Gender Mainstreaming.

In 2010, the program supported 51 women’s groups in organizational processes and project management, undertook 35 actions (forums, workshops, events, exchanges) to incorporate a gender perspective in environmental policy, trained 364 civil servants in gender and environment issues, and benefited 2789 women through direct support to their environment-related projects promoting gender equity in the management and conservation of natural resources.

Sources: Mexico’s Fourth National Report: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/mx/mx-nr-04-es.pdf>

Programa “Hacia la igualdad de género y la sustentabilidad ambiental” 2007-2012: http://www.semarnat.gob.mx/programas/semarnat/igualdaddegenero/Documents/PR_OIGESAM.pdf

Programa “Hacia la igualdad de género y la sustentabilidad ambiental”, Informe de Actividades 2010:

<http://www.semarnat.gob.mx/programas/semarnat/igualdaddegenero/Documents/Informe%202010.pdf>

3.3 Enable the Equal Participation of Women and Men in Planning and Implementation

Biodiversity planning needs to count on the active participation and input of a broad range of societal actors. In order to effectively mainstream gender into the NBSAP, women need to be adequately represented among those contributing to its development and implementation. Here, it is important to keep in mind that one woman (for example the minister’s wife, or a woman farmer from the highlands) cannot necessarily represent all of the women in a country. A broad range of women’s realities, needs, and interests should be represented, and this can only be accomplished by calling on the participation of women, and of a range of stakeholders with gender expertise (**Box 6** lists some of the stakeholders that may be helpful in this regard).

Box 6 Potential Stakeholders with Gender Expertise

- Gender focal points in other ministries or departments
- Gender expert(s) involved in planning and implementation of other Rio Conventions
- Development agencies with gender equality mandates
- A governmental or independent economist with gender expertise
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or advocacy groups focusing on gender issues
- An umbrella organization for NGOs focusing on gender issues
- Relevant sectoral or “special interest” NGOs that have an interest or experience in gender issues

- Human rights groups or advocates
- Think tanks or policy analysts with experience and expertise in gender issues
- Academics or researchers from university gender studies or other relevant departments

Source: CBD Technical Series # 49, pg 37

When planning to include women and their representatives in the NBSAP planning process, **it is not sufficient to merely count the number of women participating.** The *quality* of their participation should also be considered and the expression of their concerns, their propositions, and their knowledges, be taken into account. Ensuring an adequate and equal participation of women and men in this process is a solid contribution towards reversing one of the most significant inequalities between genders – that of participation in decision-making that affects their lives and surroundings.

It is also important to enable women’s equal participation in implementation. There can be many ways of doing this including, but not limited to, targeting women specifically in conservation programs and projects, or counting on women to monitor and report on the status and trends of the biodiversity components they use. **Box 7** describes a project in Ecuador that worked with impoverished women who prepared and sold bush meat from endangered wildlife from the Yasuní Biosphere Reserve.

Box 7 Working with Women to Reduce the Extraction of Bush Meat from Ecuador’s Yasuní Biosphere Reserve

The Yasuní Biosphere Reserve is one of the world’s most biodiverse areas. Its extraordinary biodiversity is threatened however by a number of factors including the extraction of increasing amounts of bush meat. Although Ecuadorean legislation recognizes rural populations’ rights to subsistence hunting, massive amounts of bush meat are commercialized to feed the growing Amazonian urban populations. While most of the hunters are indigenous men, those who benefit the most from this illegal hunting are the owners of restaurants and eateries who buy the meat at very low prices and sell at a significant markup. Nevertheless, the economic opportunity that this illegal trade offers undermines the local indigenous population’s long term food sovereignty (bush meat is their principal source of protein) and the region’s wildlife.

In order to address this situation, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)/TRAFFIC and two of its strategic partners developed the project: “Reduction of the Illegal Trade in Wildlife in the Yasuní Biosphere Reserve” with funding from the Spanish development cooperation (AECID). The project uses a gender approach recognizing the strategic role of indigenous women in the sustainable use of Amazonian biodiversity, and the clear resistance of a large number of them to bush meat commercialization due to a genuine preoccupation for the future of their territory. The project’s strategy has been to work directly with Waorani women to strengthen their political leadership and to generate economic alternatives to illegal

bush meat. From the outset, the project also included Waorani men (the principal hunters) seeking a consensus on the selection of sustainable economic alternatives to develop and a commitment to not extract bush meat for commercial purposes.

Source: Personal communication with Ana Puyol, IUCN-TRAFFIC. Género, alternativas productivas y soberanía alimentaria: Estrategias políticas para lograr cambios positivos y disminuir la cacería comercial en Yasuní http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/informe_avance_caceria_fauna_silvestre_2_.pdf

3.4 Seek Disaggregated Data

The development/revision of the NBSAP will involve stocktaking and assessment on the status and trends of the country's major biodiversity components and the major drivers of change³. This information will be the basis on which priorities and strategy elements will be decided and, therefore, the more complete and accurate this information is, the more relevant and effective the NBSAP can be. The stocktaking must therefore include information about the social, economic and cultural relations of the country's different social groups, including men and women, with biodiversity. **Box 8** lists some of the types of information that can be useful in mainstreaming gender.

Module 2 explains that the assessment should not involve conducting new research but should rather concentrate on bringing together existing information. However, gender disaggregated data (data on women and men collected separately), when they exist, are not likely to emerge unsolicited. It is important that the Steering Committee deliberately seek out this type of information from the ministry responsible for women's affairs, researchers, NGOs, development cooperation entities, among others. When this data is not available within the country, which is often the case, the Steering Committee should seek this type of information, or parts thereof, from other countries that may have similar cultures, ecosystems and political systems. While this data will not be 100% reflective of the national situation, it will shed light on the gender issues that may need attention in the country. In such cases, an important activity to include within the Action Plan is the collection of gender disaggregated biodiversity data.

Box 8 Useful Information for Gender Mainstreaming

- Access to, control and ownership of biodiversity components by men and by women.
- Use of biodiversity components by men, and by women (which components, rates and sustainability of use, how they are used).
- Women's and men's knowledges regarding biodiversity, its management and conservation.
- Threats posed to biodiversity and ecosystem services by men, and by women.
- The underlying causes of the threats posed to biodiversity.

³ See Module 2 for a more complete list of components of the biodiversity assessment

- Vulnerabilities of men, and of women, to decline in biodiversity components and ecosystem services
- Distribution of benefits arising out of the use of biodiversity by women and by men.
- Impacts on the well-being and livelihoods of women, and of men, of existing conservation and resource use policies.

Source: CBD Technical Series # 49, pg 28

3.5 Set a Gender and Biodiversity Target

One of the commitments that Parties made during COP 10 is to set national targets within the framework of the 20 Aichi Targets. Of particular relevance to gender, **Goal D of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity** aims to “enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services” and **Target 14** aims that “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”. Parties wanting to mainstream gender into their revised NBSAP may want to set a national target that contributes toward Goal D and/or Target 14. **Box 9** showcases Botswana’s gender mainstreaming target.

What is important in setting targets is that they be SMART: strategic, measurable, ambitious, realistic, and time-bound. It is also important that indicators be established to measure progress towards the target. Module 4 explains how to set national targets within the framework of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.

Box 9 Botswana’s Gender Mainstreaming Target

Target

Gender issues mainstreamed into the biodiversity planning framework to enhance participation

Justification

The future of biodiversity conservation depends on the active involvement of all groups of society, including women and youth. There is an increase in the number of female-headed households for whom biological resources provide livelihoods opportunities.

Actions to achieve target

6.5.1 Evaluate gender access and ownership of natural resources with regards to the current institutional and policy environment, with the aim of addressing gaps or inequalities in national policy

6.5.2 Improve women's access to credit facilities in order to utilize natural resources such as veld products and medicinal plants

Outputs/products

Gender related statistics on resource utilization
Gender sensitive credit schemes

Source: Botswana NBSAP 2010

Conclusions

This module has explained the need and potential benefits for gender mainstreaming in biodiversity planning. It has outlined four broad goals and several specific measures that biodiversity planners can use in making their NBSAPs more gender responsive. What is important to emphasize is that incorporating gender perspectives and concerns in the NBSAP is in the interest of all. Done in a genuine way, it can greatly enhance the relevance and effectiveness of the NBSAP and, by extension, of efforts to implement the Convention at the national level. Importantly, it can be extremely instrumental in ensuring that such efforts do not perpetuate and/or aggravate the chronic disadvantages that women face in their societies, and that make them the majority of the planet's people living in poverty.

