

Target 23:

Ensure Gender Equality and a Gender-Responsive Approach for Biodiversity Action



WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Women and girls – especially Indigenous women and girls – face discrimination in biodiversity action and decision-making. This target aims to ensure that the Global Biodiversity Framework is implemented in ways that support gender equality.



Yanesha women's meeting, Central forest, Peru. Credit: CHIRAPAQ

Target 23, which aims to ensure gender equality and a gender-responsive approach to biodiversity action, is another cross-cutting target that is relevant to all the goals and targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework.

There are many considerations in considering how this target applies in the context of Indigenous Peoples. An important starting point is recognising the intersectional discrimination that Indigenous women and girls experience – this means that they are discriminated against both because they are Indigenous and because they are women.

For example, they may be more vulnerable to violence in contexts where external actors take actions that harm biodiversity on their territory, or when their community is resisting dispossession. They may also be excluded from consultations that only involve men, meaning their priorities and knowledge are not taken into account. Women's knowledge, practices and innovations – sometimes distinct from those of men – may not be understood or considered by researchers who do not make an active effort to ask for women's views.

Ensuring just outcomes for Indigenous men and women requires understanding and analysing how different biodiversity laws, policies, processes and measures can affect them differently. It is also critically important that implementation of this target respects and understands the relationship between women's rights and collective rights in the context of Indigenous Peoples, including in relation to land.

There may sometimes also be a role for Indigenous Peoples to advance this target in their own internal arrangements, through collectively discussing and reviewing their own internal rules and practices and making changes where this is needed to ensure gender justice.

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OFFICIAL CBD TARGET TEXT

Ensure gender equality in the implementation of the framework through a gender-responsive approach where all women and girls have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention, including by recognizing their equal rights and access to land and natural resources and their full, equitable, meaningful and informed participation and leadership at all levels of action, engagement, policy and decision-making related to biodiversity.