

WORKING PAPER

ADVANCING GENDER-RESPONSIVE SYNERGIES ACROSS THE RIO CONVENTIONS



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Gender Equality at the Intersection of Climate Action,
Biodiversity Protection and Sustainable Land Management



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ACRONYMS

CEB	Chief Executives Board	NAP	National Action Plan (UNCCD)
COP	Conference of Parties	NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development	NFP	National Focal Point
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women	NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
EMG	Environment Management Group	OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
GAP	Gender Action Plan	SBI	Subsidiary Body on Implementation
GPA	Gender Plan of Action	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
GHG	Greenhouse Gas	UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum	UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature	UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
JLG	Joint Liaison Group	UNEA	United Nations Environment Assembly
KMGBF	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
LDN	Land Degradation Neutrality	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
LT-LEDS	Long-term Low Emission Development Strategies	UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
LWP	Lima Work Programme on Gender		
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement		
NAP	National Adaptation Plan (UNFCCC)		

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KEY MESSAGES

Recognizing the interlinkages and synergies across the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the promotion of gender equality and women's human rights, UN Women calls upon Parties to the Rio Conventions and the Conferences of their Parties to:

- 1. Address the disproportionate impacts on the rights, resources and resilience of women and girls in all their diversity** caused by the interlinked crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation.
- 2. Take coordinated, holistic measures** to address the acceleration and intensification of climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation, which are exacerbating poverty and inequalities, including gender inequalities, putting at risk all human and non-human life on earth.
- 3. Take a human rights-based and gender-responsive approach** in decisions and their implementation across the Rio Conventions, including advancing and applying relevant Human Rights Council and UN General Assembly recommendations on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.
- 4. Guarantee the human rights and security of women environmental human rights defenders** whose actions cut across the impacts of and solutions to climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation.
- 5. Realize women's land and resource rights and tenure security** as fundamental for achieving the goals and targets of the Rio Conventions.
- 6. Collaborate across the Rio Conventions to ensure women's and girls' full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership** at decision-making tables to determine and implement decisions. Grassroots women, Indigenous women, women from local communities and youth are central to climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation challenges and solutions.
- 7. Protect Indigenous women's human rights** in biodiversity and climate action, promote their full and effective participation in policy development, project design, and natural resource management, guarantee the tenure and governance of their territories, and support their practices to conserve, protect and restore biodiversity and build climate resilience.
- 8. Promote gender-responsive just transitions** away from economies based on the exploitation and extraction of fossil fuels and natural resources to mitigate climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation.
- 9. Increase gender-responsive finance** for the comprehensive and durable implementation of goals, targets, agreed plans and strategies to address climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation.
- 10. Strengthen coordination among Secretariats, Parties and stakeholders of the Rio Conventions** to harmonize relevant guidance and recommendations, including in negotiations processes, for gender-responsive implementation.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR GENDER-RESPONSIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RIO CONVENTIONS

Synergies, not silos, create solutions. Synergies represent the greater power of working together rather than separately. Nowhere is this more evident than in the three Rio Conventions—the treaties designed to protect life on earth. The UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) were adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, or Earth Summit, in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 to address global environmental challenges and provide solutions. These solutions are only viable if they are grounded in gender equality and human rights, including the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment for all.¹

Yet, despite decades of coordination initiatives, the implementation of the Rio Conventions and their gender provisions and action plans remains largely siloed, reducing opportunities and generating inefficiencies that stretch government capacities and budgets. Please see the Annex for a timeline of efforts to advance synergies, especially gender-responsive synergies, across the Rio Conventions. Existing coordination mechanisms fall short, and capacity

is insufficient. Parties to the Rio Conventions, as well as their Secretariats and stakeholders at all levels, urgently need to overcome these silos through renewed attention to the interlinkages and collaboration on strategic approaches that build gender-responsive synergies across all processes—from meetings, to negotiations, to finance, to capacity development, implementation, monitoring and reporting.² Identifying and implementing synergies would not only advance the mutual goals of the Rio Conventions but also increase efficiencies across policies, programming and financing.³

This working paper highlights the urgency of addressing gender inequalities across the Rio Conventions, provides examples of where progress has been made and identifies thematic entry points for implementing gender equality considerations across the Conventions. It makes recommendations for actions to accelerate the synergistic implementation of the gender provisions and action plans of the Conventions. Box 1 provides some examples of progress in overcoming silos towards a gender-responsive approach. Much more, however, remains to be done.

BOX 1

Promising Examples Linking Gender Equality and the Rio Conventions

- The September 2024 report of the [UN Secretary General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals](#) calls for protecting women's human rights in a just, sustainable energy transition, clearly linking climate action, the goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the principles of the UNCCD, including land rights and tenure security of Indigenous peoples and local communities.
- In July 2024, the [Rio Convention Secretariats joined with the Women's Land Rights Initiative](#), TMG Research and the Robert Bosch Stiftung to bring together 50 women on advancing synergies across the Rio Conventions through the intersecting issue of women's land rights and tenure security, with the aim of increasing overall collaboration, innovation, effectiveness and efficiency in expenditures.
- In 2018, Costa Rica established the [For All Coalition](#), which gathered key champions from governments, UN entities, international and regional organizations, think tanks and research institutions, civil society and grassroots organizations to ensure a systematic, timely and strategic action to integrate a gender perspective in multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), including the three Rio Conventions.

1. UN General Assembly 2022.

2. IUCN 2011.

3. UNEP 2024.

INTERLINKED CRISES, INTERLINKED SOLUTIONS

The cascading crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation has accelerated and intensified over the past thirty years, highlighting the urgency for concerted action. Because the crisis exacerbates underlying gender inequalities, women, girls and gender-diverse people are disproportionately affected, undermining their rights, resources and resilience and pushing them and their communities further behind.⁴ These challenges are compounding and mutually reinforcing. Human pressures are pushing one million species to extinction in the coming years, with the catastrophic risk of losing 30-50 per cent of all species by 2050.⁵ Rising greenhouse gas emissions, largely produced by burning fossil fuels and unsustainable land use, are more than 60 per cent higher than when international climate negotiations began in 1990.⁶ Human influence has unequivocally heated the atmosphere, oceans and land, while climate change exacerbates poverty and inequalities, especially those of gender, race, class, caste, age, Indigenous status, migration status and disability, putting at risk all human and non-human life on earth.

Climate change induces extreme heat, fires and floods, for example, which destroy ecosystems that would normally help to stabilize weather patterns, support pollinator species and sequester carbon. In each of these impact and loss cycles, women and girls play crucial roles, as they are often the most affected because of threats to health, education and livelihoods, intensified care responsibilities and greater risks of gender-based violence. At the same time, their environmental knowledge and practices can help to mitigate and prevent these cycles and contribute to improved decision making and leadership for adaptation and just transitions to sustainable systems.

Changes to ecosystems affect women and men in different ways, with gender inequalities rooted in social, economic and legal norms shaping roles and responsibilities related to environment and natural resources. This impinges on how women and men access and benefit from resources, affecting livelihoods and resilience. Women worldwide are often among the first to experience the devastating

impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation. The lack of social protection, public services and sustainable infrastructure across urban, rural and remote areas compromises women's and girls' ability to provision food, water, energy and care for their families and communities. In contexts of drought, water scarcity and eroding resources, women and girls are forced to spend more time traveling greater distances to collect water⁷ and biomass for fuel and to forage for food and medicine. This, in turn, sets them further back in having the time and resources to go to school and earn an adequate income and makes it harder for them to have a say in the conservation and management of natural resources.⁸

It is important to remember, however, that women are not only vulnerable to climate change and environmental degradation, but they are also effective agents of change. Women often have a strong body of knowledge, expertise and practice that can be applied for climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity protection, sustainable land and resource management and disaster risk reduction. Evidence indicates that more equitable participation and leadership of women not only fulfil women's human rights but make climate, environmental and disaster risk governance and peace and security efforts more effective. Higher women's representation in national parliaments leads countries to adopt more stringent climate change policies, resulting in lower emissions. Women's participation in local natural resource management leads to better governance and conservation outcomes, and the application of gender quotas, for example in land governance and forest user groups, enhances sustainability and equal sharing of benefits.⁹

Despite significant steps forward in acknowledging women's contributions to climate action, biodiversity conservation, and land management, women's leadership and participation are not systematically integrated into efforts at the grassroots, national, or multilateral levels. But when women have access to resources, including climate and environmental finance, when they have rights to land and tenure security, and their leadership

4. United Nations Economic and Social Council 2022.

5. United Nations 2019.

6. Stoddard et al. 2021.

7. Carr et al. 2024.

8. World Economic Forum 2021.

9. UN Economic and Social Council 2022.

and participation in public and political life and movements for change are recognized and valued, it leads to more effective climate and environmental policies, more efficient and sustainable management of resources, improved food systems and food security, as well as increased power to make decisions and effect change.

Women’s full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership in decision-making and implementation is clearly outlined in Agenda 21 of the Earth Summit, the Rio Convention gender action plans, the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

GROWING MOMENTUM FOR GENDER-RESPONSIVE SYNERGIES

The 1992 Earth Summit saw the adoption of [Agenda 21](#), which called for “Global Action for Women Towards Sustainable and Equitable Development,” seeking to “establish mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels to assess the implementation and impact of development and environment policies and programmes on women and to ensure their contributions and benefits...” This formed the basis for the interlinked and gender-responsive implementation of the three Rio Conventions in concert with one another.

Over the next three decades, Rio Convention Secretariats, national governments, civil society organizations and the UN system acted to achieve these goals by leading numerous collaboration and coalition building initiatives and engaging in research and analysis on the linkages between gender equality and better environmental,

economic and social outcomes, as well as the adoption of gender action plans in all three Rio Conventions. The launch of key surveys on Rio Conventions synergies in [2010](#) and gender mainstreaming in [2017](#) and the 2024 [Bern III Conference](#) cross-mapping of KMGBF targets, including on gender equality, across multilateral environmental agreements provided further evidence of collective will, including among nations, to harmonize implementation of the Rio Conventions in a gender-responsive manner (please see the Annex for an annotated timeline). But despite these efforts, no formal umbrella mechanism exists to ensure a coordinated, gender-responsive approach to the implementation of the Rio Conventions. However, the collective efforts to date do provide the basis for identifying entry points for pursuing a synergistic approach (please see Box 2).

BOX 2

Key Entry Points for Gender-responsive Implementation of Rio Conventions

<p>Human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UN General Assembly recognized the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment,¹⁰ which spans the three Rio Conventions, in 2022. More than 150 nations have embedded it into agreements, laws and policies. The protection of the environment is recognized as a “necessary enabling condition” for the enjoyment of human rights guaranteed to all without discrimination based on sex or gender.¹¹ • Without access to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, women and girls are disproportionately susceptible to poverty, loss of livelihoods, hunger, poor health, gender-based violence, including child, early and forced marriage, displacement and conflict.
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10. UN General Assembly 2022

11. OHCHR, UNEP and UN Women 2023.

<p>Women environmental human rights defenders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of January 2022, some 3,500 socioenvironmental conflicts worldwide were documented, of which almost a quarter involved women environmental human rights defenders and 81 led to their assassinations.¹² • The link between protection for women environmental human rights defenders and gender-responsive implementation must be mainstreamed across the Rio Conventions. • By linking gender-responsive representation and protections for women environmental human rights defenders, the Rio Conventions can lay the groundwork to formally address this intersection in the implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Long-term Low Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS), National Action Plans (NAPs), Land Degradation Neutrality targets (LDNs) and other national mechanisms and plans.
<p>Women’s full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership in public life and decision making</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s and girls’ voices, agency, leadership and participation continue to be under-represented and under-valued in climate and environmental policies and decision-making processes. The proportion of women in COP delegations has stagnated far below parity. For example, in UNFCCC COPs, 36 per cent of delegates and 27.5 per cent of heads or deputy heads of delegation were women in 2023,¹³ compared to 40 and 27 per cent, respectively, in 2019.¹⁴ At the national level, the proportion of environmental ministers globally who are women has increased but remains well under 30 per cent.¹⁵ At the local level, 41 per cent of 68 countries have quotas for women’s participation in land governance, and only 22 per cent of 104 countries have high levels of women’s participation in integrated water management.¹⁶ • The Rio Conventions provide key opportunities to increase women’s voice, agency and leadership across all areas of climate and environmental action, from local to global, and for their engagement in decision making-processes.
<p>Women’s land and resource rights and tenure security</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s land and resource rights and tenure security are critical for their empowerment, livelihoods, resilience and participation in sustainable natural resource management. • About a quarter of employed women worldwide work in agriculture, forestry and fishing,¹⁷ demonstrating their dependency on healthy ecosystems, and comprise 38 per cent of all workers in these areas, but less than 15 per cent of agricultural landholders globally are women.¹⁸ They are therefore excluded from decisions regarding sustainable land management and sustainable natural resource use, which can exacerbate environmental crises.
<p>Environment and women’s and girls’ unpaid care, domestic and communal work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s and girls’ unpaid care, domestic and communal work is an issue that cuts across objectives in the Rio Conventions.¹⁹ Integrated efforts to recognize, reduce, redistribute, and in the case of paid work, represent and reward it appropriately, are necessary. Its role in building climate and environmental resilience is fundamental.²⁰

12. UN Women 2023a.

13. UNFCCC 2024.

14. UNFCCC 2020.

15. UN Women 2024.

16. FAO 2023.

17. World Bank n.d.

18. FAO. 2023.

19. UN Women 2023b.

20. UN Women 2022.

<p>Gender-responsive financial mechanisms to implement the Rio Conventions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main climate and environmental finance mechanisms now integrate gender equality considerations, often requiring gender action plans when deciding on funding, but performance indicators and assessment of benefits for women and girls are lacking. • Climate official development assistance (ODA) with gender equality as a principal objective, as designated by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), has declined since 2015 when the Paris Agreement was signed.²¹ In 2022, just 2 per cent of mitigation ODA and 4 per cent of adaptation ODA had a principal gender equality objective.²² • Out of the \$2.4 billion of climate ODA channeled via civil society organizations, mostly in donor countries, only \$43 million went to feminist and women’s organizations and movements.²³ • Ensuring more public finance and resources are channeled to gender equality, mainstreaming gender considerations in new funds, and directly funding women’s rights and grassroots organizations are necessary. • While private finance is important, it must be seen as a supplement to public finance. The pursuit of private finance should not detract from the urgency of meeting environmental goals and the full engagement of those who are affected by the implementation of and benefits from these goals.
<p>Gender-responsive just transitions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 1.2 billion jobs worldwide are dependent on environments at risk from human activities,²⁴ and women are at risk due to their high dependence on sectors especially vulnerable to climate change related disasters, land degradation and biodiversity loss—like agriculture and care work. • Estimates indicate that with supportive policy measures, a shift to low-carbon and circular economies could create some 100 million jobs by 2030, although mostly in male-dominated sectors, and some 80 million jobs could be lost due to intensifying impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.²⁵ • Just transitions can rectify such gender inequalities in the labour market through the creation of decent jobs for women in the green, blue and care economies more broadly, accompanied by gender-responsive social protection to support climate and environmental resilience. • The Rio Convention gender action plans call for women and girls at all levels to have access to finance and resources to participate in and shape just transitions.
<p>Gender, health and environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-functioning ecosystems provide goods and services essential for human health. Increasingly unsustainable practices are having disproportionate impacts on women’s and girls’ health, including extreme heat-related illnesses and potential death, increased exposure to unsafe water and infectious diseases, poor mental and physical health associated with lack of access to green and blue spaces, exposure to hazardous substances and a greater risk of unhealthy diets.²⁶ • Ambient outdoor pollution and household air pollution together lead to 6.7 million premature deaths annually. Every year 3.2 million deaths, disproportionately women and children, are attributable to household air pollution produced by inefficient and polluting fuels and technologies.²⁷ • Concerted efforts are needed across the Rio Conventions to strengthen collaborative, cross-sectoral research to address the impacts of the environmental crisis on women’s and girls’ health.

21. OECD 2023.

22. Cichocka et al. 2024.

23. OECD 2022.

24. ILO 2018.

25. ILO 2023.

26. WHO n.d.

27. WHO 2024.

<p>Gender and environment data</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The absence of gender and environment data, information and statistics has been identified as a key constraint to gender-responsive implementation and reporting of the Rio Conventions, highlighted in the Call to Action of the Global Conference on Gender and Environment Data at UNFCCC COP28. • Gender and environment data should not be siloed as it reveals the intersections between gender inequalities, climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation. This is especially evident in issues such as food system sustainability, which is closely related to women’s limited land rights and tenure security. Integrated data collection across the gender and environment nexus is needed.
<p>Gender and climate security</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Security Council Resolution 2242 (2015) recognized the threat to peace and security posed by climate change and environmental degradation and the particular impact on women. • Systematic discrimination towards women decreases their environmental and climate resilience during times of conflict and crisis and increases their vulnerability to gender-based violence.²⁸ • When women contribute to climate resilient communities, they also foster peace and security.²⁹
<p>Disaster risk reduction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is critical to leverage synergies and align policy objectives to build on the Rio Conventions and their gender action plans and the Gender Action Plan to Support Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 to address women’s resilience to disasters.

RIO CONVENTION GENDER ACTION PLANS

The goals of the Rio Conventions are interconnected in both theory and practice. As such, any gender-responsive approach should be fully integrated in each Convention and across the Conventions. The preambles of the UNCBD and the UNCCD explicitly recognize women’s roles and underscore the need for their full participation in the implementation of the Conventions. While the UNFCCC does not include any gender-specific references, the Paris Agreement recognized gender equality and women’s empowerment and the need to consider these in all actions on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Rio Convention processes also consider gender issues in their intergovernmental sessions, with the UNFCCC process standing out as having a dedicated agenda item to address gender and climate change. As a result, Parties to the Conventions have adopted gender action plans and established workstreams under each Convention for

Parties, Secretariats, relevant organizations, and other stakeholders to coordinate efforts to address gender inequalities and mainstream gender considerations throughout their work.

Coordinated implementation of the Rio Convention gender action plans would be more efficient in benefiting women and girls in three broad areas: financing, thematic areas covered and monitoring and reporting (please see Box 3 for key areas of synergy across the plans and alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development). The Rio Convention gender action plans make linkages between implementation and financing, but do not have the same level of urgency or inclusiveness of women and girls in stakeholder organizations. These are key gaps that should be addressed in concert in upcoming gender plan updates and reviews.

28. UNEP, UN Women, UNDP and UNDP/PA/PBSO 2020.

29. Smith et al. 2021.

The UNFCCC's Gender Action Plan (GAP), for example, frames finance for implementation in terms of sharing experiences about gender-responsive budgeting and raising awareness about available financial support, including access for grassroots women's organizations, Indigenous peoples and local communities. This framing does not directly support funding for gender-responsive implementation and capacity development, although the importance of gender mainstreaming, sex-disaggregated gender and environment data, engagement with gender institutions and women's groups and their capacity needs in national climate plans and strategies, including nationally determined contributions (NDCs), are highlighted.

The UNCBD's Gender Plan of Action (GPA) takes a stronger position on finance, calling for ensuring women's and girls' equal access to financial services and credit and specific funding allocations for gender-responsive Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) implementation, in addition to applying gender-responsive budgeting. Grassroots women, Indigenous peoples and local communities are included, but the connection between finance, implementation, capacity development and women working at the local level should be strengthened and financing for gender-responsive implementation prioritized. The GPA emphasizes the need for disaggregated gender and environment data and integration of gender equality considerations into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and in monitoring and reporting of KMGBF and NBSAP implementation, as well as adequate financial resources for these activities.

The UNCCD's Gender Action Plan (GAP) emphasizes the importance of Indigenous and rural women in implementation, including through strategic partnerships for mobilizing women, leveraging women's knowledge and strengthening women's land rights. However, the connections between women's contributions to implementation, capacity development and finance are only lightly made. It should be noted that the GAP does call for addressing care as a priority issue for gender-responsive implementation. The GAP indicates that gender equality and women's empowerment should be included in national reporting on implementation and gender-responsive budgeting increased.

The gender caucuses of the UNFCCC and the UNCBD have called for gender-responsive synergies among the Rio Conventions and helped build momentum for the gender action plans and their financing and implementation. The review and updating of these plans would benefit from a coordinated approach with women from multiple stakeholder groups, especially with reference to priority areas, timeframes, implementation, and collaboration activities. Such practice would contribute to the synergistic and gender-responsive implementation of the Rio Conventions.

BOX 3

Synergies across Rio Convention Gender Action Plans and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Key Area for Synergies	UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) <u>Gender Plan of Action</u>	UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) <u>Gender Action Plan</u>	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) <u>Gender Action Plan</u>	<u>2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</u>
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Support and promote the gender responsive implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The Plan of Action will also support a gender responsive approach to applying the implementation mechanisms associated with the Framework.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Make the implementation of the Convention and the UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework gender-responsive and transformative, and thus more effective, efficient and successful, by providing guidance to Parties and other actors on policies and measures to mainstream gender and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Advance knowledge and understanding of gender-responsive climate action and its coherent mainstreaming in the implementation of the UNFCCC and the work of Parties, the secretariat, United Nations entities and all stakeholders at all levels, as well as women’s full, equal and meaningful participation in the UNFCCC process.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “We reaffirm all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development...The challenges and commitments contained in these major conferences and summits are interrelated and call for integrated solutions...Sustainable development recognizes that... preserving the planet, creating sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and fostering social inclusion are linked to each other and are interdependent.”
Integrate gender equality considerations in implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop national capacity to produce and use gender and environment data. • Strengthen evidence, understanding and analysis of gender-related impacts of the KMGBF implementation and the role of women and girls in achieving its goals. • Ensure coherent gender responsive implementation of the KMGBF through synergies. • Ensure that national reports under the CBD provide information on gender-responsive implementation of the KMGBF. • “Provide capacity-building and development opportunities for governments at all levels and other relevant stakeholders on gender responsive development, planning, implementation, budgeting, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of NBSAPs.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include gender equality and women’s empowerment in national reports on implementation. • Promote women’s economic empowerment for rural women. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance systemic integration of gender considerations into climate policy and action. • Strengthen capacity-building for governments and stakeholders to mainstream gender in formulating, monitoring, implementing and reviewing national climate change policies, plans, strategies and action, including for NDCs, NAPs, and national communications. • Promote Parties’ information exchange on integrating gender into national policies, plans, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote mechanisms for raising capacities for effective climate change planning and management in least developed countries, including focusing on women, youth, local and marginalized communities. • “Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels” • “Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals”

Key Area for Synergies	UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) <u>Gender Plan of Action</u>	UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) <u>Gender Action Plan</u>	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) <u>Gender Action Plan</u>	<u>2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</u>
Mobilize financial resources for gender-responsive implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocate adequate human and financial resources to support rights-based, gender-responsive KMGBF implementation. Apply gender-responsive budgeting. Take “measures to facilitate equal access of women to financial services and credit.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase gender-equal participation in budgeting that is gender-responsive. Resource gender-related initiatives and promote gender equality through expenditures. “Seek partnerships with experts, development partners, and relevant government and private sector agents which can enable women and girls to obtain resources.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support capacity-building to integrate gender-responsive budgeting into national budgets to advance gender-responsive policies and actions. Raise awareness of good practices for grassroots women, Indigenous peoples and local communities’ access to climate finance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems.”
Develop and build capacity for women and girls to fully participate in decision making and leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase opportunities and strengthen the meaningful and effective participation of women at all levels of action, engagement and decision-making related to the Convention’s objectives. Enhance meaningful and effective participation and leadership of women in CBD processes, including with women’s groups and women delegates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build capacities for local women to implement the Convention. Strengthen women’s participation and leadership in decision making at all levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage women —groups, institutions, national women—in processes for developing, implementing and updating climate policies, plans and actions at all levels. Strengthen monitoring and reporting on women in leadership positions in the UNFCCC. Strengthen capacity, tools and resources for Gender and Climate Change National Focal Points and also promote capacity-building and leadership of women delegates to participate in negotiations and UNFCCC processes. Promote travel funds to support women’s participation in national delegations, as well as the participation of grassroots, local, Indigenous peoples, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life.” “Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.”

Key Area for Synergies	UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) <u>Gender Plan of Action</u>	UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) <u>Gender Action Plan</u>	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) <u>Gender Action Plan</u>	<u>2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</u>
Realize women's and girls' rights to land and natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Increase all women and girls’ rights to, ownership and control over land and access to natural resources and to water, to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.” • Compile data and research on the relationship between conservation, sustainable use, and women’s and girls’ land rights and access to natural resources and water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Increase women’s land rights by 2030 through diverse and innovative approaches.” • Build women’s capacities to access resources to improve their livelihoods, sustainably manage land and be drought resilient. • Increase education and training connected to sustainable land management and for Land Degradation Neutrality targets for women and girls. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote dialogue on leadership and solutions of local communities and Indigenous women on ways to enhance their participation in climate policy and action. • Strengthen gender consideration coordination by subsidiary bodies under the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement and other UN entities, especially the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to, ownership of and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance, and natural resources in accordance with national laws.”
Advance economic and technological opportunities for women and girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote women’s entrepreneurial opportunities in biodiversity-based supply chains and sectors that support sustainable management and production practices. • Ensure “equal access for all women and girls to resources, services and technologies to support their engagement in the governance, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (including financial services, credit, education, training and relevant information among others).” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase women’s opportunities for quality income earning. • Build stakeholders’ technical capacities at every level for designing and implementing plans and programmes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote use of gender-responsive technological solutions to address climate change, including protecting and preserving local, Indigenous and ancestral knowledge. • Promote “fostering women’s and girls’ full participation and leadership in science, technology, research and development.” • Enhance “capacity-building for governments and other relevant stakeholders to collect, analyse and apply sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis in the context of climate change.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure “full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.” • “Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.” • “Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.”

RECOMMENDATIONS

A gender-responsive and human rights-based approach is fundamental to identifying and advancing synergies across the Rio Conventions and their implementation. These synergies protect women's human rights, including Indigenous women's rights, in biodiversity and climate action, and promote women's land rights and tenure security, among other thematic priorities, across the Rio Conventions. Governments should build upon progress towards this synergistic approach that began with the Earth Summit in 1992 and include women and girls and their organizations at all levels in this process. Equally necessary is significantly increased and sustained financing to implement gender-responsive synergies and support national capacity development, gender and environment constituencies and women's rights organizations.

Formal, coordinated leadership and action across the Rio Conventions would be cost-effective and efficient, bringing multiple co-benefits for women and girls. Globally, the Rio Convention Secretariats and the UN system are identifying concrete areas of cooperation to advance gender issues across the Conventions. At the national level, there is a clear benefit to enhancing collaboration among Rio Convention national focal points and other national officials. This allows for knowledge sharing, complementary programming, stakeholder engagement and gender-responsive reporting, including in alignment with the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

National Focal Point coordination will strengthen outreach and interaction with relevant national ministries and women's organizations on integrating gender considerations in Rio Convention processes, decisions and gender action plans and gender-responsive national implementation. This will also facilitate implementation, finance and monitoring mechanisms, such as the UNFCCC NAPs and NDCs, UNCCD NAPs and Land Degradation Neutrality Targets, and the UNCBD KMGBF monitoring plan and NBSAPs. Please see Box 4 for global opportunities to advance Rio Convention synergies through gender-responsive approaches.



Foster long-lasting leadership and capacity for the Rio Convention Secretariats, Parties, National Focal Points, and stakeholders to build gender-responsive synergies

- Promote women's and girls' voice, agency, leadership and participation, including grassroots women, Indigenous women and women in rural, urban and local communities, to foreground their lived experiences across the Rio Conventions.
- Convene Parties, partners and stakeholders to review challenges and barriers to gender-responsive synergies and undertake concrete measures to overcome them.
- Leverage Parties' collective voice as champions of gender equality to integrate and implement cross-cutting gender perspectives.
- Secure commitments at the highest level to devote capacity, staff, communications and time for Rio Conventions Secretariat coordination and stakeholder engagement.
- Ensure National Focal Point capacity, coordination and exchange of information, including with relevant national ministries and women's groups, to integrate gender-responsive objectives in Rio Conventions processes and implementation.

Establish a formal coordination mechanism to support synergistic planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting

- Identify and integrate common gender equality goals and language in Rio Conventions negotiations and decisions.
- Build on previous and existing joint coordination efforts towards gender-responsive synergies across Rio Convention Secretariats, governments and agencies.
- Seek alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on gender-responsive implementation, monitoring and reporting.
- Ensure integration of gender action plans with overall implementation of the Rio Conventions.
- Generate comparable and gender-responsive indicators for monitoring and evaluation.
- Coordinate with National Focal Points to identify opportunities to increase efficiency and improve gender integration in national plans and programmes.
- Institute long-term formal coordination oversight.

Engage financing mechanisms to enable synergies and gender-responsive action

- Increase funding from all sources for gender-responsive initiatives that cut across the Rio Conventions, ensuring that public finance is primary and private finance supplementary.
- Develop national capacities to finance gender-responsive initiatives across the Rio Conventions.
- Fund gender and environment constituencies to work jointly across the Rio Conventions.
- Increase financing and direct access to funding for women in all their diversity and their organizations at all levels.

Harmonize communications, outreach opportunities and advocacy

- Build momentum and support for cohesive and gender-responsive implementation of the Rio Conventions.
- Increase efficiency through a coordinated communications and advocacy strategy with common messaging on the gender and environment nexus.
- Develop a communications, outreach and advocacy platform in collaboration with civil society and other stakeholders on gender-responsive Rio Convention synergies, offering data, evidence, knowledge and tools.

BOX 4
Advancing Gender-responsive Synergies in Global Forums through 2025

Global Forum	Key Opportunities	Dates
UN Convention on Biological Diversity – 16th Conference of Parties (UNCBD COP16)	<p>COP16 considered steps to advance synergies in draft decisions* on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations (CBD/COP/16/L.30) invites Rio Convention Parties to strengthen synergies and cooperation in implementation. • Biodiversity and climate change (CBD/COP/16/L.24) invites Parties to consider integrating nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based and non-market-based approaches and Mother Earth-centric actions to climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction in revised NBSAPs through national coordination, planning, review and reporting processes, in a complementary and synergistic manner. • Establishment of the subsidiary body on Article 8(j) (CBD/COP/16/L.6) offers opportunities to embed synergies and harmonized approaches. • Capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer (CBD/COP/16/L.13) requests the Executive Secretary and the informal advisory group to implement joint capacity-building activities with the Secretariats of the Rio conventions and the biodiversity-related conventions. • Multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties (CBD/COP/16/L.23) to consider the midterm review of the Gender Plan of Action (2023-2030) at COP17 in 2026 which will provide an entry point to discussing synergies across Rio Convention gender action plans. 	October 2024-2025
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change – 29th Conference of Parties (UNFCCC COP29)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 10-year extension of the Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender (Decision -/CP.29 (advanced unedited version)) presents an opportunity to create a new Gender Action Plan that is more aligned with the implementation of the other Rio Convention gender action plans. 	November 2024
UN Convention to Combat Desertification – 16th Conference of Parties (UNCCD COP16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Degradation Neutrality targets linked to gender equality and women’s land rights to be updated and implemented. • Discussions on strengthening relationships with Rio Conventions: link with GAPS and harmonize gender integration. 	December 2024
Commission on the Status of Women – 69th Session (CSW 69)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thirtieth anniversary of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+30) review assesses gender equality in context of climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation and implementation of the SDGs and Rio Conventions. 	March 2025
High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development – 113th Session (HLPF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HLPF to review: SDG 3 on health; SDG 5 on gender equality; SDG 8 on decent work and sustainable economic growth; SDG 14 on oceans; SDG 17 on partnerships, cutting across climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation. • Reviews through an environmentally synergistic and gender-responsive lens will enable stronger solutions. 	July 2025
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change – 30th Conference of Parties (UNFCCC COP30)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Gender Action Plan (GAP) is due for renewal by Parties, building on the 10-year extension of the Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender at COP29 in 2024. • Opportunities to discuss increased financing and strengthened coordination in the GAP for Rio Convention synergies on key common issues, including human rights, inclusive processes, capacity, land rights and tenure security, care and climate, gender-responsive financing, gender and environment data, sustainable food systems, nature-based solutions, peace and security and gender-based violence. 	November 2025

* Please note that decisions on these points are pending adoption and may change by the time of publication of this working paper.

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ANNEX

Timeline of Select Efforts to Advance Synergies Across Rio Conventions, 1992-2024

When	Action	Relevance
1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)	<p>Agenda 21, adopted by 178 nations, calls for “Global Action for Women Towards Sustainable and Equitable Development” and seeks to, “...establish by the year 1995 mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels to assess the implementation and impact of development and environment policies and programmes on women and to ensure their contributions and benefits...” Agenda 21 also establishes the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).</p> <p>The three Rio Conventions are launched with gender specifically mentioned in the preamble of the UNCBD and in both the preamble and convention text of the UNCCD.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda 21 establishes an umbrella approach to Rio Convention implementation inclusive of sustainable development and gender equality objectives. • The CSD establishment highlights the necessity of a body linking environmental and sustainable development objectives. • Gender considerations are a founding Conventions principle.
1995 4th World Conference on Women	<p>At the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, leaders from 189 countries adopt the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a global policy framework and blueprint for realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls everywhere. It sets strategic objectives and actions in 12 critical areas of concern including women and the environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cements the importance of linking gender equality with environmental action and decision making at every level.
1997 UN General Assembly (UNGA) 19th Special Session	<p>UNGA's 19th Special Session for the further implementation of Agenda 21 gives priority to collaboration among the Conventions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration across the Rio Conventions is prioritized. The focus on Agenda 21, with its gender equality mandate, is central.
2001 Rio Convention Secretariats	<p>The Secretariats establish the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) between the Conventions as an informal forum for exchanging information, exploring opportunities for synergistic activities and increasing coordination: “The mandate of the [JLG], which comprises the Executive Secretaries of the CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC, is to enhance coordination among the three Rio Conventions and explore options for further cooperation. The JLG supports Parties in the achievement of national-level synergies and coordination in the implementation of the Conventions.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The JLG presents an opportunity to meet goals for collaboration and integration of gender-responsive processes. • Although the JLG has strong potential it cannot enforce collaboration or synergies. • Two bodies, the JLG and CSD, now have some level of coordination mandate.
2001 Environment Management Group (EMG)	<p>Environment Management Group (EMG) is established by the UNGA as a UN system coordination body for interagency cooperation on the international environment and the human settlement agenda.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EMG is another opportunity for gender-responsive coordination across the Conventions. • The EMG, JLG and CSD now have some level of coordination mandate.

When	Action	Relevance
2002 Network of Women Ministers and Leaders of the Environment (NWMLE)	The NWMLE is founded. This Creates opportunities to advance women’s leadership and engagement in negotiations and decision making across the Conventions, as well as knowledge on gender equality and environmental health intersections.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centers women’s leadership on the environment and across conventions.
2004 UNCBD SBSTTA	UNCBD SBSTTA Executive Secretary note on “ Options for Enhanced Collaboration Among the Three Rio Conventions. ”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revisits the need for Conventions collaboration.
2004 UNCBD COP4	UNCBD adopts decision to “promote synergies at the national level between the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol and the UNCBD, when implementing climate-change activities and their relation to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity” and “requests the Executive Secretary to strengthen relationships with, in particular, the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, and the UNCCD in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, with a view to making implementation activities and institutional arrangements mutually supportive.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advances leadership by calling for synergies in the implementation of the Rio Conventions.
2008 UNCBD COP9	First Gender Plan of Action is adopted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first gender plan.
2010 Rio Conventions Joint Activities Survey	Rio Conventions Joint Activities Survey indicates strong support for joint groups and action between the Conventions and coordinated national planning on climate change, land degradation and biodiversity. Support indicated for addressing common drivers, joining capacity building efforts and complementary implementation mechanisms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Underscores an appetite for synergies. Issue areas for synergies, such as poverty reduction, intersect with gender-equality mandates.
2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development: Rio+20	At Rio+20 , the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) is adopted (and the CSD retired) and planning for the post-2015 development agenda commences. “ The Future We Want ” outcome document emphasizes “the importance of the three Rio conventions for advancing sustainable development.” This document also establishes the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) from the membership of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council and states, “We encourage parties to multilateral environmental agreements to consider further measures...to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels, improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication and enhance coordination and cooperation among the multilateral environmental agreements, including the three Rio conventions, as well as with the United Nations system in the field.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A key moment for the sustainable development agenda but also marks a shift away from centering Rio Conventions synergies in sustainable development. While the CSD is retired, the JLG and EMG remain and UNEA is launched.

When	Action	Relevance
<p>2012 Rio Convention Secretariats</p>	<p>The Secretariats publish "The Rio Conventions Action on Gender" which stated, "The integration of gender into actions against biodiversity loss, climate change impacts and desertification will maximize the results of interventions, efforts and resources spent and will hopefully lead to gender-sensitive policymaking with optimal outcomes."</p> <p>The Secretariats also discuss the "Road map for 2012-2014 that the Rio Conventions have developed on collaborating on gender issues to assist them in harmonizing action, creating new opportunities for synergy and improving responsiveness efforts, cooperation and resource efficiency."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key publication for the idea of advancing gender in a cohesive manner across the Conventions.
<p>2013 UNCCD</p>	<p>UNCCD's Advocacy Policy Framework on Gender emphasizes the work of women on the ground as key to gender mainstreaming and implementation, including enabling "coordinated and effective input from women to decision-making under the UNCCD."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis increases on mainstreaming gender with the inclusion of women at the ground level in decision-making processes, including within the Convention processes.
<p>2013 UNEP, UN Women, PBSO, UNDP</p>	<p>"Women and Natural Resources: Unlocking the Peacebuilding Potential" report is launched.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicates a concerted effort to address the intersection of gender inequality, environmental degradation and conflict.
<p>2015 High Level Political Forum (HLPF)</p>	<p>HLPF adopts the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2030 Agenda is inclusive of gender and environmental priorities, but these become more separated from each other in HLPF and Conventions processes and implementation.
<p>2015 UNFCCC</p>	<p>The Paris Agreement, a legally binding international treaty on climate change, is adopted by 196 Parties. The Preamble states, "Acknowledging that climate change is a common concern of humankind, Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on...gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Paris Agreement links environment and gender equality for climate action.
<p>2016 UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB)</p>	<p>CEB adopts "Common Core Principles for a UN System-wide Approach to Climate Action." The mandates include joining Conventions synergies and gender synergies, facilitating "integrated climate action that maximizes synergies and co-benefits across the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," "integrating human rights, gender- and age-responsive approaches; and advancing women's empowerment," and "Prioritizing interagency collaboration and joint action for greater collective impact."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender-responsive approaches to climate action are embraced, laying groundwork for enhanced integration of these issues.

When	Action	Relevance
2016 UN Environment Programme and partners	Global Gender and Environment Outlook (GGEO) launched in response to a call from the NWMLE. The GGEO was “developed and written by a global team of almost 50 experts, with inputs from major groups and international organizations...”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milestone linking the necessity of gender equality for successful sustainable development and environmental health outcomes.
2016 UNEP, UN Women, UNDP, PBSO	Joint Programme on Women, Natural Resources and Peace launches practical pilots for good practices for “natural resource-based interventions” for women to participate in decision making, governance, and resolve conflicts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key project for implementing solutions at the nexus of gender, conflict and environment.
2017 Environment Management Group	Environment Management Group publication on “2016-2017 System-wide Collaboration on the Environment” calls for greater collaboration on reaching environmental goals and showcases results of the UN System-wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment (SWFS) Survey is adopted. The publication notes, “As sustainable development cannot be possible without equity, it is critical to address gender equality for environmental conservation, sustainable development and human security.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Momentum builds for synchronizing gender-responsive approaches across all environmental goals.
2017 UNCCD COP13	UNCCD Gender Action Plan is adopted to accompany implementation of the 2018-2030 UNCCD Strategic Framework.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The second gender action plan. • Tied directly to the implementation mechanism.
2017 UNFCCC, UNCBD, UNCCD	UNCBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC conduct a joint survey on joint capacity-building needs for gender mainstreaming , which was open to Parties and stakeholders. The results attached importance to gender mainstreaming in national government institutions (where most respondents were based). Opportunities flagged for joint capacity-building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific recommendations take shape from national government teams on gender mainstreaming and the Conventions.
2017 UNFCCC COP23	Gender Action Plan is adopted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All three Conventions now have gender plans, increasing opportunities to collaborate on gender goals and synchronize implementation.
2018 UNFCCC COP24	A coalition of Parties led by Peru present a Ministerial Declaration on Gender Equality and Climate Change , renewing commitment and calling to step up action for gender equality momentum in UNFCCC processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlights the role national government collaboration must play for advancing gender-responsive environmental synergies.

When	Action	Relevance
<p>2018 Government of Costa Rica</p>	<p>Costa Rica establishes the “For All Coalition.” The initiative aimed to gather champions from governments, UN entities, international and regional organizations, think tanks and research institutions, civil society and grassroots organizations to ensure a systematic, timely and strategic action to integrate a gender perspective in MEAs, including the Conventions, and at the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA). Although short-lived, the Coalition actively raised the visibility of gender perspectives in the CBD and the UNCCD COPs in 2018 and 2019, respectively, resulting in the adoption of decisions mandating gender-specific actions. UNEA and the Ramsar Convention adopted gender-specific decisions for the first time at their 2018 meetings, in large part due to Coalition leadership.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An initiative like the Coalition can make a difference in advancing collaborative advocacy and outreach on gender issues in the global policy-making space. • The Coalition evidences the critical role of national government coalitions working together to promote action on gender and environment. • The short-lived nature of the Coalition makes it clear a mechanism for longevity and continuity must be explored and established.
<p>2019 UNCCD COP14</p>	<p>UNCCD Decision 24/COP.14 requests the UNCCD Secretariat, the Global Mechanism and appropriate UNCCD bodies to continue their support to UNCCD country Parties on gender mainstreaming and the implementation of the Gender Action Plan, to continue collaboration and partnership-building with the other Rio Conventions, UN Women, other UN entities, international organizations and other relevant organizations, and to strengthen gender-related knowledge and capacity, both in the Secretariat and the Global Mechanism, by providing training to all staff on gender mainstreaming methods, tools and techniques on a regular basis to enhance systematic gender mainstreaming in all work areas and support the implementation of the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UNCCD leads for gender-responsive synergies across the Rio Conventions.
<p>2019 UNCCD, IUCN and UN Women</p>	<p>Launch of “A Manual for Gender-Responsive Land Degradation Neutrality Transformative Projects and Programmes” that “provides step-by-step guidance to Parties on integrating gender issues and promoting gender equality in the design of LDN projects. It builds on work launched by UN Women, the Global Mechanism of the [UNCCD] and the [IUCN] in advising governments on integrating gender perspectives in the development of LDN initiatives, as mandated by the UNCCD Gender Action Plan (GAP), the Science Policy Interface LDN Conceptual Framework and related decisions adopted by the [COP].”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More detailed efforts to integrate gender into implementation processes, along with collaboration of UN Women with the Secretariats and partner organizations.
<p>2019 UN General Secretary’s Climate Action Summit</p>	<p>At the Summit, Peru and Spain, as the co-leads of the “coalition on social and political drivers in the fight against climate change”, together with UN Women, lead the effort for a dedicated gender equality and climate change initiative which garners the support of 51 countries at the time of the Summit. The initiative calls for the rights, needs and contributions of women and girls to be integrated into all actions, promotes support for women and girls in developing innovative tools and participating in mitigation and adaptation efforts, and for accountability in tracking progress towards achieving these goals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries partner with UN Women to call for integration of gender equality and climate action, that is inclusive of the rights and economic empowerment of women and girls.

When	Action	Relevance
2019 UNFCCC COP25	UNFCCC adopts Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan (GAP) . This new 5-year GAP builds on the first GAP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UNFCCC increases its action on gender and climate with a 5-year plan.
2021 UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB)	CEB endorses a UN Common Approach to Biodiversity to integrate biodiversity and nature-based solutions for sustainable development into United Nations policy and programme planning and delivery. This approach is designed to strengthen implementation across the UNCBD, UNFCCC and SDGs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The common approach creates an opportunity to synergize UN system work streams and capacity development that intersect with biodiversity.
2021 Human Rights Council	In its landmark decision, the Human Rights Council adopts resolution (48/13) recognizing the human right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment , including respect for gender equality and the rights of environmental human rights defenders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the first time, the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a human right laying the groundwork for advancing human-rights based and gender-responsive approaches across the Rio Conventions.
2022 Commission on the Status of Women's (CSW) 66 th Session	CSW66 Agreed Conclusions call to "Ensure the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation, representation and leadership of women at all levels of relevant climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction decision-making bodies and processes," and "emphasizes that legal, policy and programme frameworks and all decision-making processes regarding climate and environmental action and disaster risk management should provide a cohesive basis for gender-responsive governance that respects, protects and fulfills all human rights and responds to the needs of all women and girls in diverse situations and conditions as agents and beneficiaries of change."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSW 66 makes a strong and thorough case for links and synergies for gender-responsive implementation of environmental goals.
2022 UN General Assembly (UNGA)	UNGA adopts the landmark resolution recognizing a Clean, Healthy, Sustainable Environment as Human Right , with 161 votes in favor and 8 abstentions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core mechanism to link human rights, gender and environment across environmental goals and agreements is now established.
2022 UNCCD	UNCCD adopts Gender Action Plan Roadmap to accelerate GAP implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the UNFCCC's increased attention on gender, the UNCCD takes action to accelerate gender equality goals.
2022 UNCBD COP15	UNCBD post-2020 Gender Plan of Action is adopted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UNCBD renews and expands its gender goals.

When	Action	Relevance
<p>2023 UNFCCC COP28</p>	<p>Joint Statement on Climate, Nature and People is signed by the UNFCCC COP28 and COP30 Presidencies, CBD COP15 and COP16 Presidencies, and the UNCCD COP15 Presidency as well as 25 nations, calls for “fostering stronger synergies, integration and alignment in the planning and implementation of national climate, biodiversity and land restoration plans and strategies, with specific emphasis on ambition, comprehensiveness and coherence between the next round of [NDCs], updated [NAPs], and forthcoming revised [NBSAPs]... and the implementation of a whole-of-government approach that mainstreams coherence, coordination and the efficient use of resources within and between relevant ministries and departments.” It also calls for “full and equitable participation” of women and girls and “Promoting a whole-of-society approach in the synergetic planning and implementation of national climate, biodiversity and land restoration plans and strategies that draws upon and includes the contributions of...women and youth” among others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Joint Statement is a key moment for embracing synergies, especially in advance of upcoming climate COPs.
<p>2023 UNFCCC COP28</p>	<p>Joint Capacity-building Programme of the Rio Conventions is launched. This “aims to strengthen the capacities of relevant national institutions and individual policymakers and practitioners to integrate and foster synergies between the three Rio Conventions and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).” The programme seeks to produce briefs and training modules on synergies and to strengthen systemic capacities in areas such as effective national integration of the Rio Conventions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building and development is a key need identified for gender-responsive synergies. • The joint capacity program is an opportunity to ensure that gender considerations are integrated in briefs, trainings, and communications.
<p>2024 Bern III Conference</p>	<p>Bern III Conference on Cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions for the implementation of the KMGBF provides a cross-mapping of KMGBF Targets and MEAs, showing precisely the areas of overlap, inclusive of gender equality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bern III’s cross-mapping of the KMGBF Targets across MEAs necessitates an inclusive review of gender goals as Target 23 focuses on gender equality.
<p>2024 6th Session of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6)</p>	<p>UNEA-6 Resolution 6 calls for “Fostering national action to address global environmental challenges through increased cooperation between the United Nations Environment Assembly, the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements.” Resolution 4 also emphasizes “Promoting synergies, cooperation or collaboration for national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant environmental instruments.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The call to foster national action on environment through increased MEA cooperation is another opportunity to include gender as a core throughline.
<p>2024 UNCCD</p>	<p>UNCCD “Gender Equality Policy and Plan 2024-2030” is published.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNCCD continues to showcase detailed approaches to gender integration in implementation.
<p>2024 UNGA 79</p>	<p>The Rio Convention Presidencies launch the “Rio Trio Initiative” to coordinate efforts and action for implementation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlights increasing push for synergies across the Conventions.

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MEETING THEIR NEEDS WORLDWIDE.**

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. It works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four strategic priorities: Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems; Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy; All women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence; Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.



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