



# Gender & Ecosystem Restoration: unlocking resilience for a post-2020 world

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# The time is now

- Biodiversity underpins the **ecosystems and their services that are vital to life** as we know it
- Urgency of degradation is unprecedented and unrelenting
- Land degradation affects 1.5 bn people – from drylands to forests to coasts – and 2 bn hectares prime for restoration
- Inequality and degradation = a vicious cycle, reinforcing poverty
  - And yet, IPCC 1.5-degree report asserts: **tackling poverty & inequality key to a safe and just space for humanity**
- As usual, gender gaps are pervasive – and undermine restoration goals, **while gender-responsive action delivers results**



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Alamy

# Restoration '101'

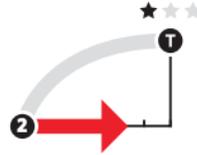
- Restoration is **reversing the degradation of ecosystems** – e.g., forest landscapes, mangroves, watersheds, drylands – to regain their functionality for the planet and for people
  - Opportunity for **transformational systems change**
- Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, 2021-2030: harnessing importance of **nature-based solutions to meet *all* global goals**, including combatting climate change
- Opportunity for enhanced **harmonized action & results** (Rio Conventions, Ramsar, SDGs)
- Directly relevant to Aichi Targets 14 & 15, but also cross-cutting
  - Progress toward these targets **lags behind** – with cause & effect across others





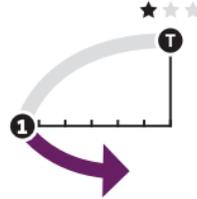
TARGET 14

Ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded ...



High variation across ecosystems and services. Ecosystems particularly important for services, e.g. wetlands and coral reefs, still in decline

... taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable

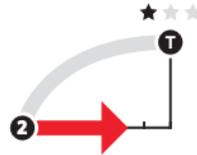


Poor communities and women especially impacted by continuing loss of ecosystem services



TARGET 15

Ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks have been enhanced through conservation and restoration



Despite restoration and conservation efforts, there is still a net loss of forests, a major global carbon stock

At least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems are restored, contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and to combating desertification



Many restoration activities under way, but hard to assess whether they will restore 15% of degraded areas

***“...moving in the wrong direction..”***

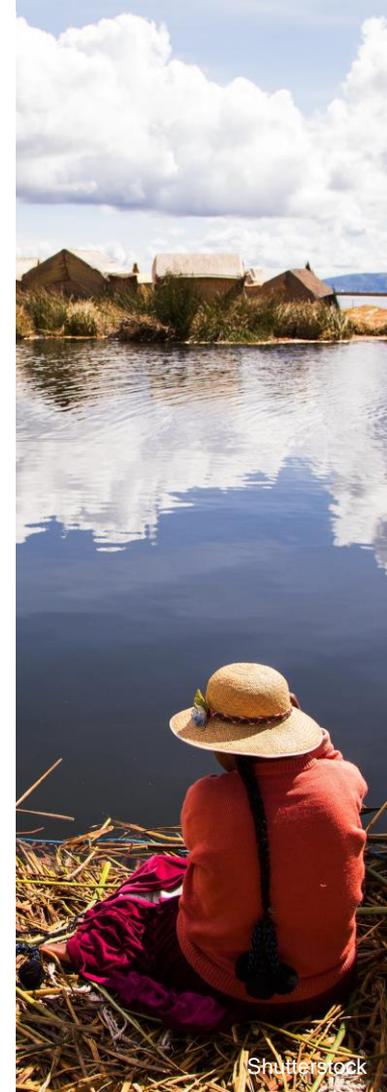
*From 4<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Outlook*

# without addressing gender inequality

- Data is clear: **gender gaps persist**, pervade across sectors
- Women's knowledge, needs, priorities, experiences, capacities (not least as primary natural resource users and managers) still **undervalued – or ignored**
- Roles and responsibilities are **differentiated**, as are strategies and solutions; women tend to have fewer livelihood alternatives due to sociocultural barriers
- **Access, control and benefits** remain wildly inequitable, while impacts of degradation affect those already vulnerable most acutely
- Legal frameworks and and customary norms **entrench gender inequalities**
- Women's **participation and representation still low** – e.g., 15% of top fisheries ministries positions

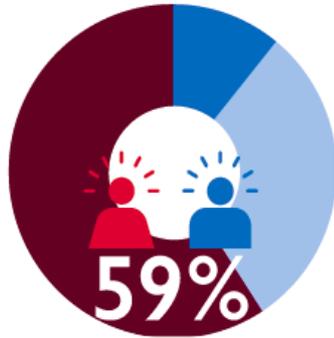


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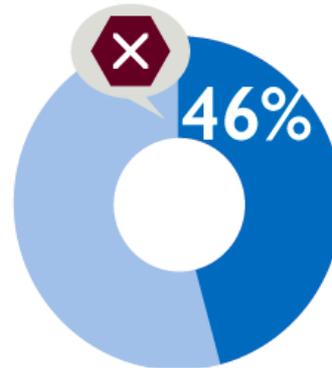


# Restoration without gender responsiveness poses risk: gender-based violence

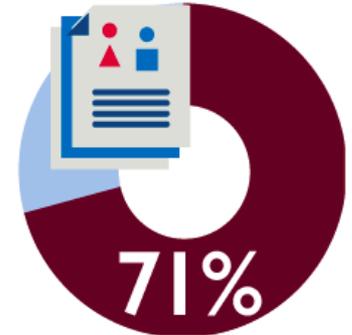
Results from a 2018 IUCN survey to gender & environment practitioners to ID GBV in environment projects found that:



Shared they have observed GBV in project implementation.



Note GBV is not a priority in their office or program.



Note a knowledge gap on GBV and environment programming links

**(Coming soon (2019):**

Paper on GBV-Environment Linkages, with guidance for environmental projects)

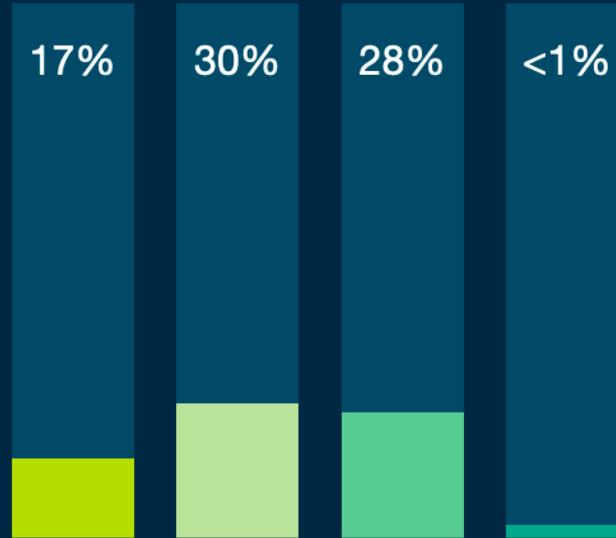
# Women's empowerment and gender equality makes a difference for restoration – and vice versa

- Women and men **contribute** differently to restoration options and **value** benefits differently – opening **new possibilities** for restoration (e.g., in Malawi)
- Restoration can be a crucial opportunity for **women's economic empowerment**, together with climate resilience (e.g., in St. Kitts & Nevis)
- Gender-responsive restoration secure **land and resource rights**, toward more sustainable livelihoods, ecosystem management & outcomes (e.g., in Nicaragua)



# HOW PARTIES TO THE CBD CHARACTERIZE WOMEN IN NATIONAL REPORTS, BY PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PARTIES

(2016 analysis of 173 national reports)



- Vulnerable
- Stakeholders
- Beneficiaries
- Agents of change

# Promising practice in NBSAPs

- *Very few* include strategies for Aichi Target 14 specifically, but Sudan and Botswana modify it as a **national sub-target**
- Dominican Republic NBSAP: women as agents of change leading '**restoration brigades**'
- Uganda's NBSAP: **disaggregated indicator** to track women and men in development of and participation in forest and fishery management plans
- While only 9% of NBSAPs (2016) demonstrate gender-responsive budgets, some **allocate resources** to women's groups and gender activities (e.g., management & planning in Trinidad & Tobago)



# Strategies & tools



**Gender-responsive  
Restoration Guidelines** (2017)

- ✓ Conduct gender analysis
- ✓ Ensure equitable decision making
- ✓ Improve land and resource rights
- ✓ Partner with women
- ✓ Collect disaggregated data and use gender indicators
- ✓ Facilitate dialogue on access, control, grievance mechanisms
- ✓ Develop gender-responsive policies and plans
- ✓ Exchange knowledge, share information

# Strategies & tools



IUCN Water: SUSTAIN *GreAct* tool; BRIDGE Lake Titicaca Champions Network



**Mangroves for the Future  
Gender Toolkit (2019)**

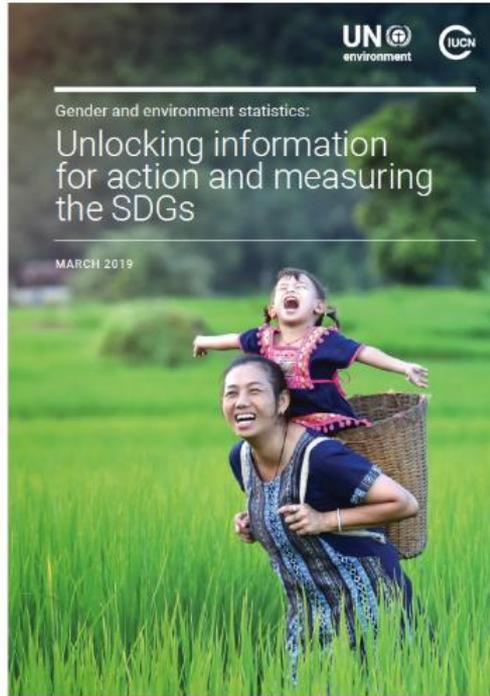
# Strategies & tools: Applicable sectoral guides for WEGE & enviro outcomes in tandem

- Ensuring equal land & resource tenure rights
- Supporting visibility of women's roles and of participation, representation & leadership
- Unlocking access to information, training, tools
- Improving equitable access to financial tools
- Understanding gender considerations through value chains
- Strengthening women's organizing and bargaining power – key for WEE



**Gender in Fisheries (2019)**

# Gender & environment data & indicators



**Gender & Environment Statistics** (2019)

## Aichi 14-related indicators:

- ✓ *Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure (SDG 5.a.1)*
- ✓ Time spent collecting plants, mushrooms, flowers and wild fruits; fishing and hunting for household consumption, by sex
- ✓ Time spent collecting water, by sex
- ✓ Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services, by type of household (*Similar to SDG 6.1.1*)
- ✓ Women in governmental **environmental** decision-making: a.) Proportion of women as heads of **environmental ministries, by sector**

# Some recommendations

We need to...

- Integrate gender responsiveness throughout framework and throughout targets; Target 14 is insufficient (and it shows)
- Identify and ensure data gaps are filled, including through raising awareness and building capacities in participatory, cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder fashion, and via gender indicators
- Improve NBSAPs processes, implementation and budgets to better integrate gender, including toward restoration outcomes
- Find and champion the importance of synergies; projects can help, and so can finance / donor mechanisms
- Continuously improve how we characterize and communicate on gender considerations, including victimization of women but also on GBV



**Thank you**