**Women and biodiversity**

[May 22, 2020: Women, Nature and Culture: Gender responsive solutions to biodiversity conservation](https://youtu.be/hma7ks4_XFw)

<https://www.women4biodiversity.org/women-culture-nature/>

Many of these notes are drawn from the webinar above on 22.05.20. This also gives the link to the Women’s Caucus in the CBD

**Some points about the vital role of women in protecting healthy ecosystems**

* Women are on the frontline regarding environment, land, cultural rights
* Misogynist thinking, so common still, really affects them.
* They often have limited representation in: decision-making, studies on their role in society and access to resources. Bad policies and poor implementation are responsible.
* Their participation in customary systems is also often limited, due to patriarchal structures etc.
* We need to disaggregate data on sex and ethnicity for just benefit sharing.
* In many parts of the world, women do a lot of forest conservation work and they obtain much of their food from the forest.
* Women have been able to help to feed local communities during the Covid pandemic because of this.
* Indigenous women (eg: in Kenya) protect and ensure replenishment of watersheds – actually equivalent to a considerable proportion of Kenya’s water. They protect critical ecosystems, eg drylands.
* In many parts of the world they are gatherers and custodians of seed and seed exchange. They provide food to the community and hold seedbanks.
* They also conserve medicinal plants and are healers.
* In Mali and Burkina Faso: they stopped deforestation and destruction of soils: they also practice restoration in drylands.
* In many parts of Africa, forests are sacred sites for communities.
* In Cameroon the Baka protect the forest by allowing replenishment which also helps with carbon sequestration.
* Efforts are needed to secure collective territories, plus landrights for women.
* It is vital to defend the rights of women to participate in policy processes at every level.
* Implement rights at local level.
* Women have fewer rights in decision-making than men and their participation must be promoted.
* National laws in many countries still privilege men.

**Some useful instruments mentioned**

* **The Biocultural Community Protocols** (<https://naturaljustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Brief-intro-BCP.pdf> ) only recognised by the Nagoya Protocol in Access and Benefit Sharing. Nagoya is the framework for biocultural documents produced. The BCP is a vital bridge between local/national/international legal frameworks
* **The Escazu Agreement**: Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, pened for signature 2018:
* <https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/43583/1/S1800428_en.pdf>
* Escazu provides protection for environmental defenders in clause 9.

**Videos**

[*https://youtu.be/grm2Hinv8lE*](https://youtu.be/grm2Hinv8lE)

[*https://youtu.be/uXjlYcbNQ2o*](https://youtu.be/uXjlYcbNQ2o)

[*https://youtu.be/0eqMiPVfB1I*](https://youtu.be/0eqMiPVfB1I)

[*https://youtu.be/kwv9WSlWnhw*](https://youtu.be/kwv9WSlWnhw)

<https://youtu.be/yLb-KZ1B5xw>

**Blogs**

[Framing biodiversity policy for Post-2020: W4B reflections on Nature-based solutions](https://www.women4biodiversity.org/framing-biodiversity-policy-for-post-2020-w4b-reflections-on-nature-based-solutions/)

[If there is a way out, taking care of Nature is the door](https://www.women4biodiversity.org/if-there-is-a-way-out-taking-care-of-nature-is-the-door/)

**Webinars**

[May 22, 2020: Women, Nature and Culture: Gender responsive solutions to biodiversity conservation](https://youtu.be/hma7ks4_XFw)

[May 26, 27 and 28: Seeds and Biodiversity organized by FIAN](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FwtoqXj4qaM).