

HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER CONSIDERATIONS

IN ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENTS

Quiz time!



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Human Rights-based Approaches and gender in National Ecosystem Assessments

Opi Outhwaite, UNEP-WCMC
Sofia Delger, UNESCO

A 'human rights-based approach'

- HRBA goes beyond 'do no harm' to *positive* action/ promotion of human rights
- Language: rights-holders and duty bearers
- States have a duty to respect, protect and fulfil human rights obligations under international law
- Human rights apply to all people but members of some groups are more vulnerable to human rights abuses
- Biodiversity policies, activities, processes (and absences of those) can have human rights impacts (positive or negative) *and*
- Respect for human rights can lead to more effective outcomes for biodiversity

HRBA and the R2HE

HRBA includes the Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment **but the scope extends beyond that specific right.**



Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Section C (g) Human rights-based approach

"The implementation of the Framework should follow a human rights-based approach, respecting, protecting, promoting and fulfilling human rights. The Framework acknowledges the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment"

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Target 3: focus on rights of IP&ICs (discussed separately).

Target 15: reflects the duty of states in relation to business-and human rights (creating enabling environment for accountability of business for human rights impacts)

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

- *Target 22: language reflects HRBA with a focus on members of historically vulnerable groups*
 - *inclusivity, access to information, access to justice all aspects of human rights including R2HE*
 - *Specific rights of IP&lcs*
 - *Language reflects other rights such as rights to life and non-discrimination*
- *Target 23*
 - *As well as reflecting specific rights of women and girls this reflects broader human rights obligations relating to non-discrimination, rights to own property, participation in decision making*



Thank you!

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HRBA, NEAs and Gender

Sofia Delger
BES-Net ILK Support Unit
UNESCO
s.delger@unesco.org



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HRBA and NEAs

NEAs: an enabling force for a human rights-based approach by **promoting human rights and integrating diverse knowledge systems** through the **MEB approach**

Key to implementation:

- ▶ Enhance **meaningful participation** (monitoring, reporting, evaluation) of key right holders: Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and girls, and youth and promote their leadership
- ▶ Ensure/Respect **FPIC**
- ▶ Ensure **recommendations and key messages** do not violate human rights, and that they actively seek ways to respect, promote and fulfill human rights
- ▶ Facilitate the integration and/or revitalization of **ILK** and management systems
- ▶ Promote **gender equality** and the consideration of Indigenous and Local-defined **value systems** through the assessment
- ▶ Recognize **key vital and distinct roles, responsibilities and potential** Indigenous Peoples and Local communities, including women, girls and youth play in biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation
- ▶ Identify power, political, and gender **dynamics** that affect biodiversity



HRBA and NEAs



Actions to ensure HRBA in the NEA:

- ▶ **ILK TWG**
- ▶ **Gender and youth working group and/or gender expert/focal point**
- ▶ **ILK fellows**
- ▶ **IPLCs led research, women led research**
- ▶ **Household dialogues, separate women focus group discussions**
- ▶ **Policy and/or sub policy questions on ILK, gender, and other human rights matters related to BES (i.e., right to a healthy environment)**
 - **Key messages on ILK, gender, and other human rights matters related to BES**
- ▶ **National Biodiversity Platforms that include Indigenous Peoples and women**
- ▶ **Consider key right holders in communication plans**

Gender considerations



In relation to natural resources women play **important roles** as:

- ▶ Managers
- ▶ Leaders
- ▶ Defenders
- ▶ Stewards
- ▶ Agents of Change

However, they face **challenges and limitations**:

- ▶ Accessing financial and other resources
- ▶ Accessing ownership of land
- ▶ Gender-based violence
- ▶ Discrimination and inequality
- ▶ Multiple responsibilities
- ▶ Colonial legacy
- ▶ Underrepresentation

Therefore, women need **more actions** to ensure their:

- ▶ Respect, recognition and visibility
- ▶ Access to education and rights
- ▶ Representation and participation
- ▶ Decision-making
- ▶ Capacity-building

Indigenous and Local women's knowledge

In some cultures, environmental knowledge is held differently between men and women, and across different generations

**“The knowledge of Indigenous women is crucial for the conservation of biological diversity and for the mitigation and adaptation to climate change. Indigenous women are guardians and transmitters of knowledge for the management of the forest, the production and preparation of food, traditional medicine, among others, all of which contribute to the protection and conservation of Mother Earth”
(Edith Bastidas, UN Women 2022)**



IPBES SPM key Messages on ILK and gender

► Regional Assessment / Asia & the Pacific

Women in the Pacific islands have an **important role in supporting sustainable fisheries** through their engagement in early childhood development, when children's moral and cultural norms are formed

► Sustainable Use of Wild Species Assessment

About half of the people involved in **small-scale fisheries** are women

In many countries, women perform the bulk of **gathering and processing wild plants** for food, medicine, fuel and handicrafts for subsistence purposes and sale in local markets

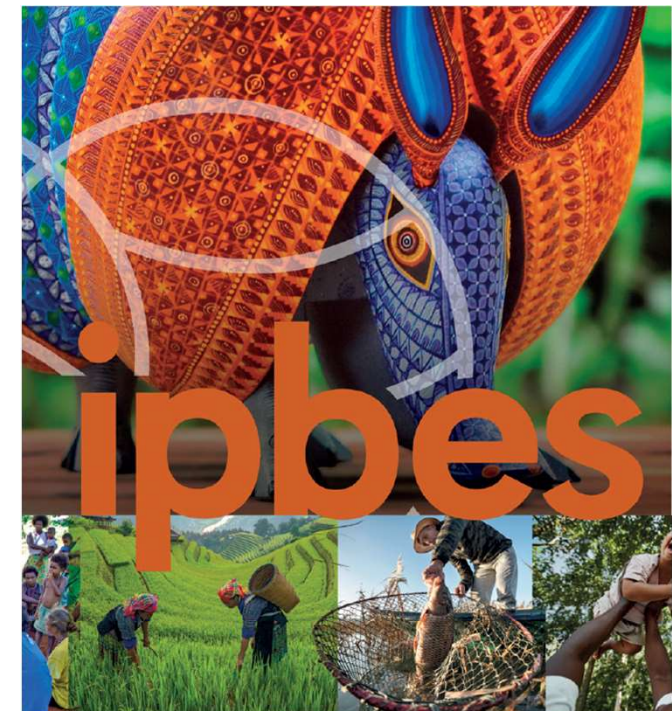
Securing **women's participation in decision-making** leads to better resource governance outcomes, sustainable livelihoods and resilience

► Invasive Alien Species Assessment

In East Africa, **management of the invasive alien plant** *Opuntia* spp. (prickly pear) requires repeated weeding by hand, which is often undertaken by women and children and has in many cases become their most time-consuming activity

► Methodological Assessment of The Diverse Values and Valuation of Nature

Recognizing the **role of women in the stewardship of nature** and overcoming power asymmetries frequently related to gender status can advance the inclusion of the diversity of values in decisions about nature



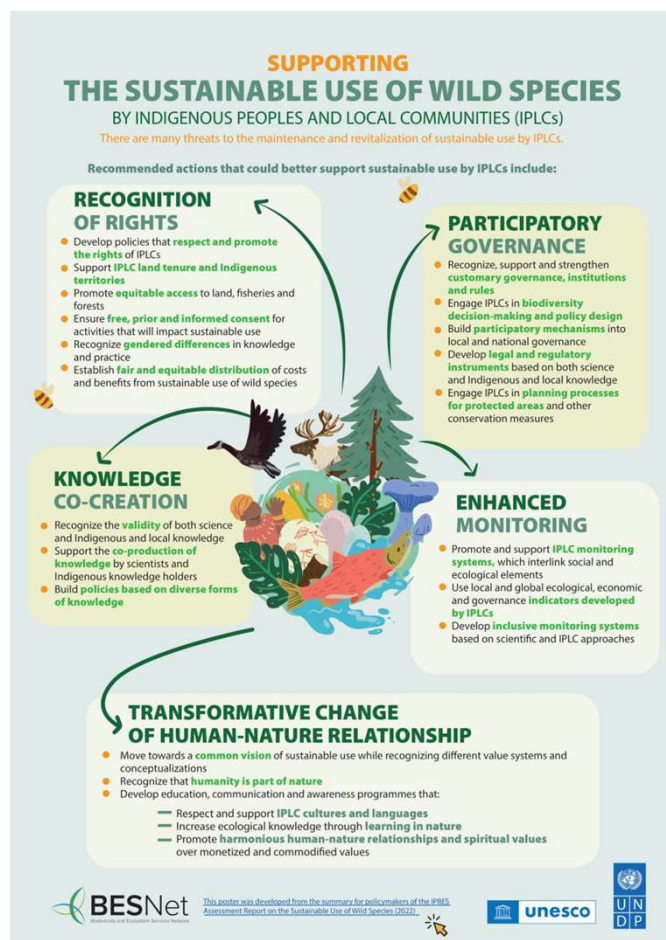
The methodological assessment report on

THE DIVERSE VALUES AND VALUATION OF NATURE

SUMMARY FOR POLICYMAKERS



IPBES Sustainable Use of Wild Species Assessment Posters





Thank you



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HRBA in NEA

World Café

Seek to understand where there are interactions and dependencies between human rights and BES at points throughout the NEA process, and related capacity needs:

- **Table 1** - Have you identified any human rights issues in the process of development of your NEA? What are the barriers/ what would limit you in looking at human rights within the NEA process? **(Joseph)**
- **Table 2** - How have/are you including gender considerations in your assessment? **(Sofia/Santhuri)**
- **Table 3** - What opportunities do you envision to include other vulnerable groups (e.g., youth) in the development of your assessment? **(Yuko/Juanita)**
- **Table 4** - Has your assessment identified / will it aim to identify actions carried out in your country to implement a HRBA for BES conservation and sustainable use? **(Carla)**
- **Table 5** - What type of support would you require to strengthen your understanding of HRBA and its links to national ecosystem assessments? **(Noor)**

