

**The informal preparatory session of the third meeting of the CBD's Subsidiary Body on  
Implementation (SBI-3)**

**Talking points – Izabella Teixeira (Co-Chair of the International Resource Panel – IRP/UNEP)**

First, I'd like to thank Madame Elizabeth Mrema, the Executive-Secretary of the CBD, for the invitation to join this meeting, particularly on International Women's Day. It is critical to discuss the relevance of women's leadership to achieve the Convention's objectives, particularly considering the strategic discussion of the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and the deepening inequalities that the Covid-19 pandemic has brought to the fore.

The Covid-19 crisis has brought the debate about the future to the present. We need to consider the opportunities available for a new future, and not (only) look for the "new normal" or to re-establish the *status quo*. We need to ensure that we have strong and inclusive leadership, that reflects diverse voices and perspectives, to bring everyone on board to build a better relationship between humankind and nature. And sustainability is key for this purpose.

The International Resource Panel - IRP recognizes the importance of advancing women's leadership, enabling equitable decision-making, and the critical necessity of ensuring equal access to natural resources. The IRP has been working based on robust and powerful scientific evidence to clarify the importance of natural resources management approaches to acknowledge, understand and address the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss crisis-for climate, nature, and for socially just economic and social development. Sustainability brings countries and societies together. And is an important tool to strengthening the multilateralism and the international cooperation.

Resource management is the link between sustainable and inclusive prosperity and the survival/protection of the natural world. It means turning the underlying drivers of biodiversity loss into opportunities to enable the active protection, restoration, and regeneration of biodiversity as a key driver for inclusive socio-economic and sustainable development. This means ensuring that women and girls can contribute to and benefit equally from actions to protect biodiversity and promote sustainable development.

In the context of the IRP Co-Chairs' Think-Piece addressing leaders putting into action the new global biodiversity agreement, it seems relevant to emphasize that biodiversity supports humanity in all its needs, yet we neglect its value. It is clear that biodiversity is also critical for health.

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It is essential in 2021 to seize the political momentum and focus global biodiversity governance on the drivers of biodiversity loss. And to address this, we must take a natural resource management approach, considering four principles: (a) know your real impact (value-chain transparency); (b) plan together (integrated landscape planning) (c) Grow with nature (NBS and circular solutions), and (d) value nature (nature benefits).

This approach can only succeed with the full and effective engagement of women and girls. We cannot expect that continuing to leave the heaviest burdens and the smallest share of benefits to one half of the population will lead to better results for biodiversity, or human well-being. The critical role of women and girls in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity must be clearly reflected in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Furthermore, to halt biodiversity loss, and in so doing, to contribute to a green and inclusive recovery, the new gender plan of action should (must) play an important political role at global and local levels.

The new gender plan of action provides an opportunity to establish a common set of goals, objectives and actions to address the fundamental inequalities in the ways that we have conducted the business of biodiversity, and biodiversity protection. This includes addressing the gaps in leadership, where women need to be playing a more central role in decision-making at all levels of biodiversity governance. Diversity of voices also means women from indigenous and local communities, from rural areas and from different racial and ethnic groups - all need to have a voice in charting a new course forward.

Finally, we cannot put aside the requirements for implementation of a new gender plan of action. We must discuss the key action arrangements now. Don't postpone the debate about the tools and mechanisms and the political arrangements to bring people on board. The Covid-19 crisis has made it all too clear - it is essential to clarify our co-responsibility to act today because there is no time to postpone any decision to halt the biodiversity loss. It is time to be ambitious, and the time to ensure women can take their place at the table. It is the urgency of the future!!!