

Correspondence to Nature 6th December 2022

Prioritize gender equality to meet global biodiversity goals

Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity will meet this month to finalize the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the text for the stand-alone target on gender equality (Target 22). This target aims to reshape conservation policy and practice to make them more inclusive, equitable and effective. Despite their central role in natural-resource management, women are often sidelined in conservation decision-making (see R. James *et al.* *Oryx* 55, 860–867; 2021). However, there is growing evidence of positive outcomes for both nature and community wellbeing when women have access to and control over natural resources, have the same benefits as men and participate in biodiversity-related decision making (see, for example, B. Vollan and A. D. Henry *Nature Clim. Change* 9, 258–259; 2019). Conservationists must learn from gender-research specialists and from one another and listen to women's experiences — particularly to those of women in the most marginalized groups. We call on decision makers to adopt and implement Target 22, and encourage all conservation actors to work towards gender equality using evidence from successful interventions. This will require gender-responsive budgeting and reporting, supporting women's rights to land and resources, and addressing social barriers to women's participation.

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