

# GENDER BALANCE & WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION

Katherine Despot-Belmonte - Senior Programme Officer  
Nature Gender Rights Initiative, UNEP-WCMC

# Why is it important to include gender considerations in a national ecosystem assessment?

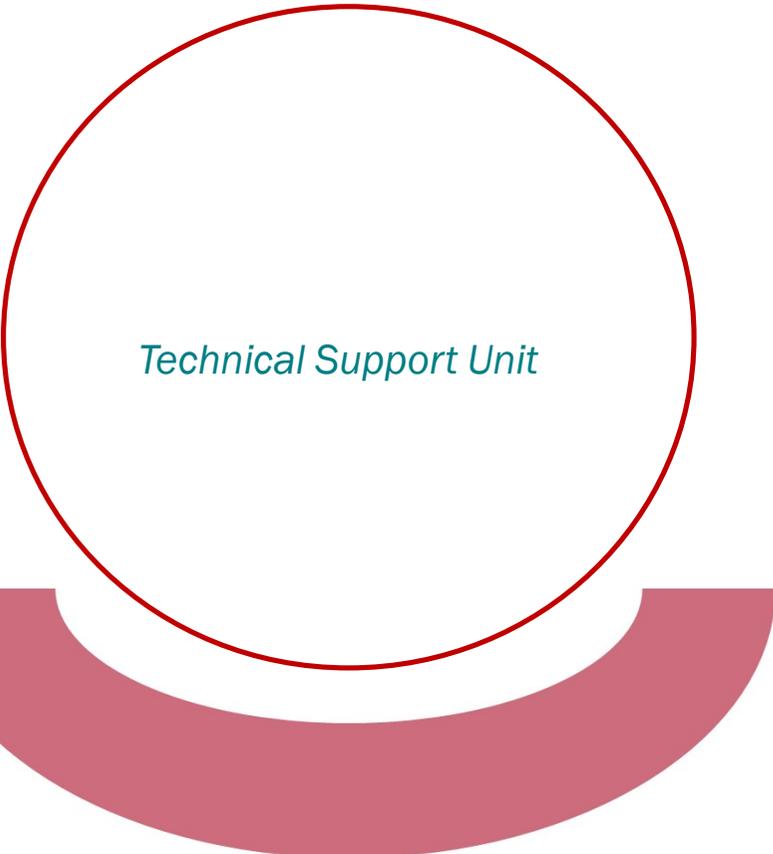


Source: World Bank, 2019

# WHEN?



# WHO?

A diagram for the Technical Support Unit consisting of a red circular outline and a pinkish-red semi-circular base.

*Technical Support Unit*

A diagram for the Management/Steering Committee consisting of a gold circular outline and a gold semi-circular base.

*Management/  
Steering Committee*

# HOW?

Scoping

Evaluation

Approval

Use of findings

# Scoping stage

Gender balance

- Establish gender quotas
- Monitor that the target is met (e.g., 50% men, 50% women)

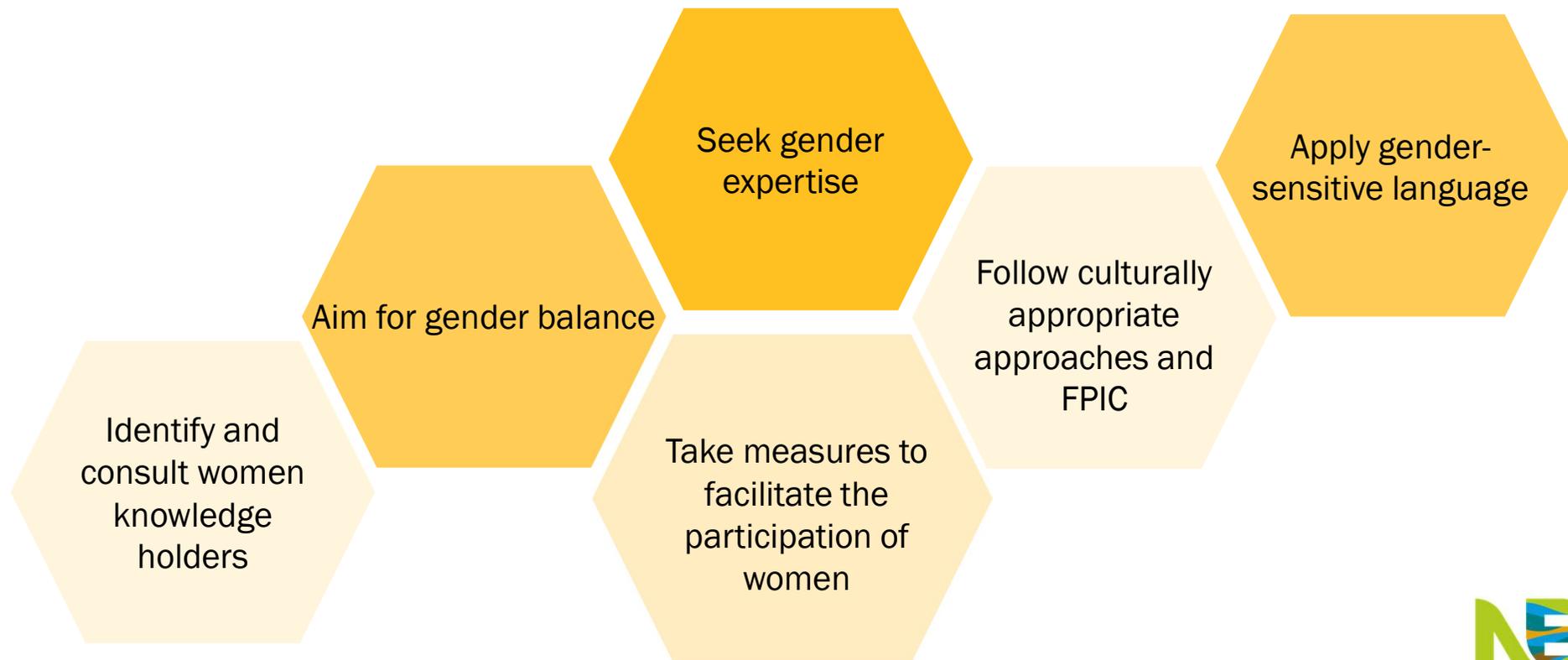
Identify experts and knowledge holders

- Gender experts
- Women knowledge holders
- Follow culturally sensitive approaches

Gender considerations

- Stakeholder engagement approach
- Communication strategy

# Evaluation stage



# Approval Stage

# Use of Findings Stage

Ensure the participation of relevant gender experts, women stakeholders and knowledge holders

Communicate the outcomes of the assessment to relevant women stakeholders and knowledge holders

Engage women stakeholders and knowledge holders in the co-creation of policies and actions

Use the assessment to communicate gender-related knowledge gaps

# Further considerations



Identify relevant stakeholders and knowledge holders from early stages in the process



Consider the time and locations of meetings



Use relevant methods to ensure participation



Seek local guidance

# Gender and Indigenous and local knowledge

**Sofia Delger**  
BES-Net ILK Support Unit  
UNESCO  
s.delger@gmail.com



UN   
environment  
programme

WCMC

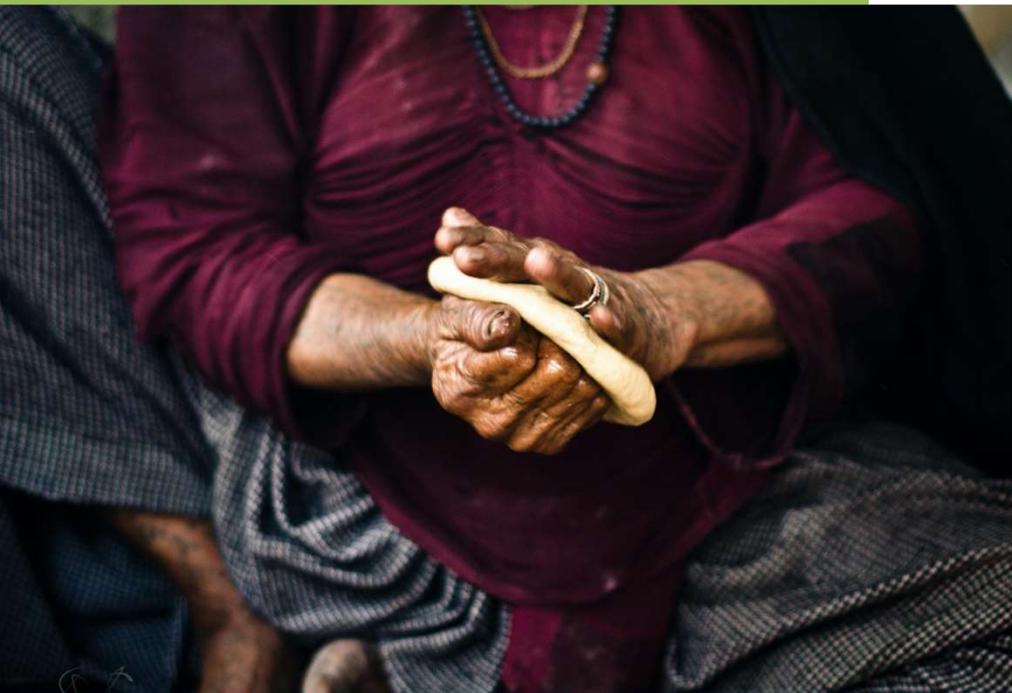


SUPPORTED BY



SwedBio  
A programme of the Swedish Research Council

## Gender and ILK



- ▶ Indigenous and local women hold unique ILK and worldviews
- ▶ ILK is often held differently across gender
- ▶ Indigenous and local women play a fundamental role in the preservation and transmission of traditional Knowledge
  - ▶ I.e., food systems and medicines
- ▶ Gender difference with respect to resource access, use and decision-making
- ▶ Socio-ecological related gender vulnerability aspects
- ▶ Challenges: under-representation, under-recognition, land and resource tenure, discrimination and violence, multiple responsibilities (breadwinners, caretakers, knowledge keepers, leaders and human rights defenders)

## Cultural considerations



- ▶ Gender norms are different in different cultures:
  - ▶ In some cultures, environmental knowledge is held differently between men and women, and across different generations
- ▶ Important to take into consideration gender dynamics and protocols, and also how knowledge is held and shared throughout the community

# Gender balance in practice



# The Dominican Republic NEA

## Regional Awareness dialogues (March–May 2022):

- ▶ 143 participants, 33.81 % were women
  - ▶ San Juan: 30 participants, 23.33% - women
  - ▶ Barahona: 21 participants, 51.14% - women
  - ▶ Jarabacoa: 20 participants, 45% - women
  - ▶ Santiago: 23 participants, 15.04% - women
  - ▶ Sanchez: 29 participants, 34.48% - women

## National dialogue workshop (Aug 2022):

- ▶ 25 knowledge holders, 44% were women
- ▶ Women took a leading role as facilitators and bridges mostly within working groups
- ▶ Challenges: multiple household responsibilities, distance



## Malawi NEA

- ▶ **Regional framing workshops (December 2021)**
  - ▶ Only 11% women managed to attend
  - ▶ Challenges: multiple household responsibilities, distance
- ▶ **ILK follow-up field activities (Aug 2022):**
  - ▶ Tailored to facilitate elders and women participation
  - ▶ 130 knowledge holders, over 50% were women
  - ▶ Household dialogues
  - ▶ Separate women focus group discussions
  - ▶ Women gave a detailed outlook of intergenerational knowledge transfer practices, esp. among young girls
  - ▶ Community cultural protocols researched in advance and observed during field activities (i.e., dress code)



## Kenya: Eburu walking workshops

- ▶ **Farm walking workshop (Sept 2022):**
  - ▶ 35 participants, 46% - women knowledge holders and scientists
- ▶ **Forest walking workshop (Sept 2022):**
  - ▶ 35 participants,  $\frac{1}{3}$  women knowledge holders and scientists
  - ▶ Women had detailed knowledge about medicinal herbs for treating common childhood diseases



# INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION:

1. What opportunities do we see for strengthening gender balance and women's participation in our assessment process?
2. What are some of the biggest challenges we anticipate on strengthening gender balance and women's participation in our assessment process?
3. What kind of capacity support would be needed to enhance gender balance and women's participation in your assessment?