



Essential Perspectives: Involving Women and Youth in NBSAPs

Insight Series: NBSAP Implementation Experiences

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) whole-of society approach recognizes that women and youth play a vital role in conserving biodiversity. While women are crucial in land and resource management, they often face significant barriers to participate in decision-making on biodiversity conservation and are disproportionately affected by biodiversity loss. These intersectional challenges can hinder both women and youth from securing land access, highlighting the need for government agencies and gender focal points in environmental ministries to address these issues. Including youth representatives in environmental governance and specifically the implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) is crucial as they represent the future generation. The effective, and meaningful inclusion of both groups leads to more comprehensive biodiversity strategies, promotes ownership and commitment throughout the phases of implementation, monitoring, and reporting. This inclusivity can be achieved through direct representation or by integrating gender and youth focal points into NBSAP implementation processes.

The Global Project “Strengthening National Implementation of Global Biodiversity Targets (GBF Implementation)”, financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), strengthens women’s and youth contribution to the revision and implementation of NBSAPs. Contributing to the objectives of the country-led NBSAP Accelerator Partnership, the project supports eight partner countries: Colombia, Peru, Brazil, Namibia, Madagascar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Laos, and Indonesia. In selected partner countries, the project supports (non-)state actors to improve women’s and youth participation.

Visit the project webpage!



Highlights from the partner countries

14%

Youth among participants in NBSAP revision in **Peru**

21

Gender focal points in the Environment Ministry trained in **DRC**

40

Women representatives trained in NBSAP implementation in **Brazil**

Youth leading the charge: Shaping Madagascar’s biodiversity future

In Madagascar, youth are at the forefront of biodiversity conservation, yet their contributions often go unrecognized. To amplify their voices, regional consultations were held to engage young people in updating Madagascar’s NBSAP. Supported by the project, 30 youth (both female and male) representatives from five regions, alongside local communities, and government representatives, participated in guided workshops on the country’s biodiversity priorities. The consultations



Co-funded by



Implemented by



As part of





revealed that many young people were unaware of their broader role in biodiversity, focusing mainly on reforestation and awareness and neglecting their capabilities for innovation and their potential to be agents of change. To address this, youth representatives drafted national position papers that formalized their priorities for the revised NBSAP, presented to the Ministry of Environment, Ecology and Forests and shared publicly to increase visibility. Strengthening youth capacity in resource mobilization and biodiversity planning remains crucial for enhancing their long-term engagement in NBSAP implementation as drivers of transformative change.

Inclusive conservation in Laos: Empowering women and youth in biodiversity action

In Laos, the project supports the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Natural Resources and Environment in promoting women's and youth inclusion in conservation action. The focus is on the active involvement of women's and youth organizations in the revision of the NBSAP, as well as local conservation initiatives through women-led Community Action Plans (CAPs). To ensure meaningful input, tailored training on the GBF is provided to women and youth. In four villages, CAPs on conservation and natural resource management were developed so as to reflect the local women's priorities and perspectives on sustainable resource management. The CAPs also serve the goal to create awareness for men and leaders at village level on the benefits of gender equality and women leadership. Women and youth organizations in Laos are represented at national, provincial, district and village levels facilitating communication and representation at each stage of NBSAP revision. At local level, collaboration with the Lao Women's Union (LWU) enhances women's rights and participation in protected area management in Khammouane Province. At national level, partnering with representatives from the Lao Women's Union and Lao Youth Union fosters ownership and provides the basis for women and youth to become partners in the NBSAP revision and implementation processes.



Reflecting forward



Working with women's and youth groups is an opportunity to increase the strength and volume of their voices. Incorporating women and youth organizations creates opportunities for exchange within the groups and amplifies their perspectives with other stakeholders.



Creating awareness of the critical role of women and youth among key state actors as well as youth and women representative themselves is crucial to enable their participation in NBSAP revision and implementation.



Synergies should be created for women and youth to share their ideas and experiences with other stakeholders. This creates opportunities to increase visibility of actions and ideas carried out by women and youth.

The project continues to provide support for women and youth as they contribute to NBSAP updating and implementation. Further technical advice to partner ministries and support to consultations and trainings will focus on ensuring women and youth representation throughout NBSAP implementation and promote opportunities, for them to participate actively and express their viewpoints and ideas as the current and future stewards of the land.

Check out the other issues of the **Insight Series**:

Local
Community
Biodiversity
Conservation



IP&LCs
shaping
NBSAPs



NBSAP and
NDC Syner-
gies



Published by



Published by: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices
Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 32 + 36
53113 Bonn, Germany
E info@giz.de
I www.giz.de

Global Project „Strengthening national implementation of global biodiversity targets“

Responsible: Lena Katzmarski

Author: Judith Schmitz, Tessa Robinson

Photo credits: GIZ/ Namfon Srithirath, GIZ/ Miguel Schmitter, GIZ/ Ekembahoaka Irajannahary, GIZ/ Rossy Heriniain

Design: Luca Feuerriegel, Bonn, 2024