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Gender Based Review of the Key National Biodiversity Related Strategies and Reports in South-East Europe

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The analysis, conclusions and recommendations in this paper represent the opinion of the author and are not necessarily representative of the position of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

On behalf of the

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

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ABBREVIATIONS

ALB	Albania
BD	Biological Diversity (Biodiversity)
BIH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
CBD	United Nations' Convention on Biological Diversity
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
COP	Conference of the Parties
CRO	Croatia
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
EGI	Environment and Gender Information
EU	European Union
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Development Agency)
GMS	Gender Mainstreaming Strategy
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KSV	Kosovo
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MKD	Macedonia
MNE	Montenegro
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
ORF BD	Open Regional Fund for South East Europe - Biodiversity
SDC	Swiss Development Cooperation SDG
SDG	Strategic Development Goal
SEE	South-East Europe
SRB	Serbia
TEK	Traditional ecological knowledge
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNWOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

1. BACKGROUND

The Open Regional Fund for South-East Europe - Biodiversity (ORF BD) aims at strengthening the capacities of the Biodiversity (BD)-relevant institutions and organizations in South-East Europe in improving application of the regional cooperation tools for implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020.

Targeting the 6 SEE economies (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia) with Croatia as mentor economy, ORF BD is putting efforts in mobilizing institutions in charge of Biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, universities, CSOs, international organizations and nature conservation practitioners in joining their efforts for improving the nature conservation status in the region.

Currently ORF BD is providing its support through 4 components that are focused on: (i) establishment of regional network of BD related CSOs; (ii) improving the Biodiversity information management and reporting, (iii) assessing the economic value of Biodiversity and ecosystem services, and (iv) strengthening the transboundary management of ecosystems in SEE. During the process of implementation, the team has recognized the relevance and importance of mainstreaming gender within the plan of operations and has committed to invest in implementation of gender specific measures. In addition, ORF BD has decided to go beyond screening of projects and to develop a more comprehensive approach within given resources.

Building upon the recommendations provided by the corporate GIZ Gender Strategy, and realizing the current gender based needs and challenges in nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, ORF BD raised commitment for developing a Gender Mainstreaming Strategy (GMS) 2017 – 2018. Moving from the regular gender equity to more substantive gender equality and gender mainstreaming based approach, the GMS places a strong framework for ensuring appropriate mainstreaming of gender perspective within its work, thus guiding the team towards substantive inclusion of the gender components within the ORF BD's processes of planning, decision making and implementation.

As part of its work plan, the GMS is considering development of gender based review of the main Biodiversity related documents produced by the 7 economies that are subject of ORF BD's interest. This document gives a gender perspective to the main ongoing BD related documents hereby represented by the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and Report to the Convention of the Biological Diversity.

The Gender Based Review explores how women and gender equality considerations are included and addressed by SEE economies within their National Biodiversity Strategies and their Fifth national reports to Convention on Biological Diversity. Since the reporting guidelines do not include a component on gender considerations, this document puts efforts to provide recommendations for improving the quantity and quality of the gender based information mainstreamed within the two main BD related documents.

This document contributes to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (5a) by enabling environment for gender equality and women empowerment through placing equal roles of men and women in Biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. Agenda 2030 is also relevant to this review due to its open commitment “to conserve and sustainably use oceans and seas, freshwater resources, as well as forests, mountains and drylands and to protect biodiversity, ecosystems and wildlife”.

2. METHODOLOGY

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and Reports presented by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD reports) provide information on: (i) measures that are planned, (ii) measures that are taken for the implementation of the Convention, and (iii) the effectiveness of these measures. Since the level of integration of gender perspectives in those two documents is unsatisfactory this document is focused on the planning and implementation measures without evaluation of the effectiveness of the measures implemented (due to the fact that there are no practices that could be used as a good practice or at least representing a starting point).

For this purposes ORF BD has built upon the Environment and Gender Information (EGI) platform analysis that represent a methodology which conveys the value of gender-responsive environmental conservation by exploring how women and gender equality considerations are included and addressed in given strategic documents.

As part of the EGI methodology, keywords (“gender” and “women”, extended to sex, female, girls, equity and equality) are being analyzed not only for measuring the quantity and quality of the integrated gender aspects, but also categorization of the gender perspectives into four themes, identifying whether women are characterized as vulnerable; as specific beneficiaries of Biodiversity policies or programs; as stakeholders of Biodiversity management; and/or as agents of change, including by driving conservation outcomes. These categories are not mutually exclusive, a country may characterize women as all four of these, or as none.

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) are the principal mechanisms through which governments and their stakeholders implement the goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at national level. This document presents the key findings regarding women and gender equality considerations included and addressed in the latest NBSAPs of the 7 economies.

The reports presented by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) provide information on measures taken for the implementation of the Convention and the effectiveness of these measures. This review explores how women and gender equality considerations are included and addressed in the Fifth national reports submitted by the 6 economies in the SEE region¹.

Building upon the results of the review, this document puts some efforts to provide pragmatic recommendations to the institutions in charge of Biological Diversity as a guideline for strengthening the capacities for gender mainstreaming into nature conservation and improving the processes of planning, decision making and implementation by substantive inclusion of gender perspectives.

In order to ensure proper transfer of findings, knowledge and experience, this document will be presented to the nature conservation practitioners in the region and specific sessions on mainstreaming gender into nature conservation will be conducted within the events organized by ORF Biodiversity.

¹ Kosovo has not been included in this assessment as it is not an UN member states and thus no signatory of the Convention on Biological Diversity. However, they have developed NBSAP that is considered as relevant for this review.

3. REVIEW

The preamble of the Convention on Biological Diversity highlights the vital role of women in Biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, as well as the importance of women's full participation at all levels of policymaking and implementation.

Over the years, Parties to the CBD have made numerous decisions to address and advance gender equality and women's empowerment in Biodiversity initiatives.

The CBD became the 1st multilateral environmental agreement to have a Gender Plan of Action, which was adopted by Parties in 2008 and laid out actions to support the promotion of gender equality in measures to implement the Convention.

In 2014, Parties agreed the 2015-2020 Gender Plan of Action, reaffirming previous objectives, proposing actions for Parties and strengthening the Secretariat's framework for supporting actions. A key aspect is enhanced gender mainstreaming in NBSAPs.

As NBSAPs are key instruments for defining priorities and modalities for effective, efficient and equitable Biodiversity management at national level and across key sectors, they provide important opportunities to recognize and integrate women's empowerment and gender equality considerations. However, the national institutions and organizations working in the area of nature protection are still considerably lacking capacities to integrate gender perspectives into NBSAPs.

Attention to women and gender considerations in NBSAPs in the region has not considerably fluctuated over the last two decades. The major change happened when the international organizations had put efforts in influencing the institutions to mainstream gender and women empowerment in the NBSAPs. However, the international organizations also lacked capacities to substantively integrate gender perspectives, so the results was that there is no NBSAP or CBD report in the region that really reflects the Country's needs for ensuring gender equality and apply active measures for addressing gender equality gaps. In that regards the key Biodiversity related documents rarely mentioning the relevance of gender equality and refers to the needs for women empowerment, hence coming up with only simple quotation (copy) of the Millennium Development Goal or the Aichi Target focused on ensuring gender equality and empowering women.

This gives a wide range of opportunities for improvement that could be achieved very fast. Namely, the zero standing point lets the floor open for: (i) establishment of progressive cross-sectoral mechanism for mainstreaming gender into nature protection; (ii) include the national gender machinery within the processes of planning and implementation of the national strategic BD related documents; (iii) strengthening the national capacities, especially the capacities of the nature conservation practitioners (ministry of environment, environmental agencies, national parks, leading BD related CSOs, universities, national BD related experts etc.); (iv) applying the theory in practice, hence developing lessons learned and good practices; etc.

Within this chapter the review will provide quantitative analysis of women and gender considerations in NBSAPs and CBD reports in the SEE economies and will put efforts in providing set of recommendations for improved processes of mainstreaming gender into nature conservation initiatives in the region.

3.1 General overview of the keywords-based analysis

The general overview of the keywords-based analysis is providing a regional perspective of the quantity of used gender related keywords within the official biodiversity related documents in the SEE economies. The region covered by this task is represented by the 7 South-East European economies that are subject of strong interest to Open Regional Fund for Biodiversity. Gender related keywords are hereby represented by “gender” and “women” due to the decision to follow the methodology of the Environment and Gender Information (EGI) platform analysis that has been also used by the IUCN Global Gender Office who developed the global Inclusion and Characterization of Women and Gender Equality Considerations in NBSAPs and CBD Reports. The official biodiversity related documents are represented by the latest National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and National Reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD reports).

The keywords based analysis have been applied on July 2017 and the general results are presented in the following table:

Economy	“Gender” in NBSAP	“Gender” in CBD Report	“Women” in NBSAP	“Women” in CBD Report
ALB	0	0	0	0
BIH	0	0	2 (1 quoting Aichi)	1
CRO	0	0	0	2 (1 quoting Aichi)
KSV	0	N/A	0	N/A
MKD	1	1 (quoting MDGs)	1	1 (quoting MDGs)
MNE	0	0	0	0
SRB	1 (quoting MDGs)	1 (quoting MDGs)	0	0

Figure 1: Keywords based analysis of the NBSAPs and CBD reports of the economies in the SEE

The Figure 1 clearly indicates that:

1. The quantity of the gender keywords usage in the region is unsatisfactory;
2. There are economies that are not even mentioning the gender keywords; and
3. Most of the gender keywords are used by simple quotation of the MDG and Aichi target focused on gender and women empowerment.

The general findings lead to the conclusion that there is a wide space for quantitative and qualitative improvement of the processes for mainstreaming gender and women empowerment into the biodiversity related documents.

This should also represent an indicator to the international organizations present in the region that there is an open floor for their support towards strengthening the capacities in the region and investing in application of practical tools for ensuring gender sensitive processes of planning and implementation of biodiversity conservation initiatives.

Inclusion of the keywords in the NBSAPs and CBD report respectively could be quantitatively described through the following figure:

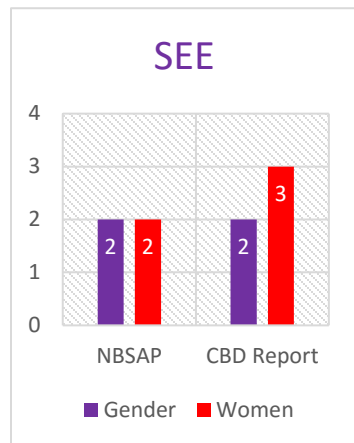


Figure 2: Inclusion of the keywords in the NBSAPs and CBD report

The results show that two (MKD and SRB) out of seven economies have included the keyword “gender” in their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

Also, two (BIH and MKD) out of seven economies are mentioning the keyword “women” in their NBSAP.

The keyword “gender” has been included in the Reports to Convention on Biological Diversity in two (MKD and SRB) out of six economies while the keyword “women” has been addressed in three (BIH, CRO and MKD) out of six economies.

Hereby we should be aware that in four cases the gender related keywords (gender and/or women) are appearing only due to the simple quotation of the gender related MDG target.

The graphic presentation of the findings is given in the following figure:

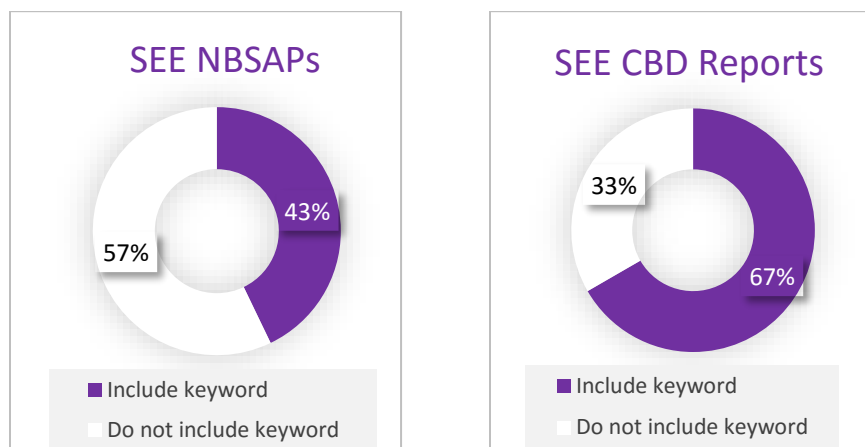


FIGURE 3. Inclusion of the keywords (“women” and/or “gender”) at least once in NBSAPs and CBD reports in the SEE

In comparison with the global figures, the level of integration of gender related keywords in the NBSAPs of the SEE economies is lower while the inclusion of the keywords in the CBD reports is equal.

In figures, out of the 254 total NBSAP reports from 174 countries, 143 reports (56% of total documents) from 107 countries (61% of total countries examined) contain at least one women and/or gender keyword.²

116 (67%) out of 173 fifth national reports analyzed contain at least one women and/or gender keyword.³

² EGI Factsheet: “Inclusion and characterization of women and gender equality considerations in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)”, December 2016.

³ EGI Factsheet: “Inclusion and characterization of women and gender equality considerations in the Fifth national reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity”, December 2016.

The results of the global analysis of the quantitative level of integration of gender related keywords in the NBSAPs could be graphically presented through the following figure:

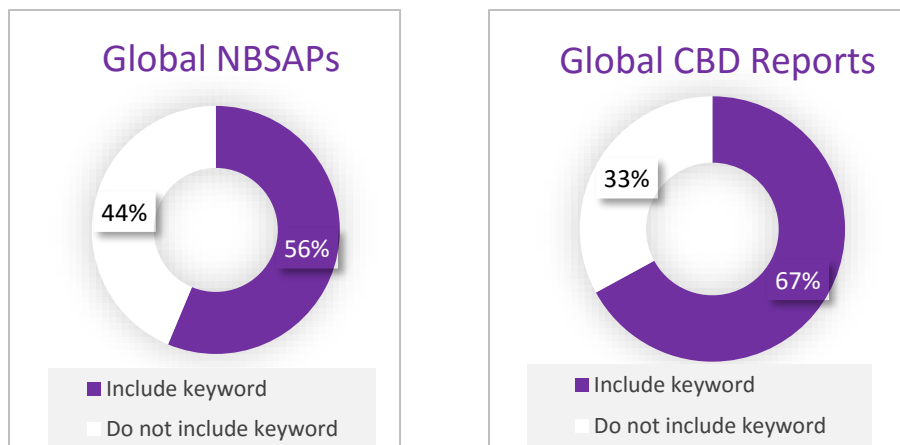


FIGURE 4. Inclusion of the keywords (“women” and/or “gender”) at least once in NBSAPs and CBD reports worldwide

The global analysis made by IUCN Global Gender Office says that: “Since 1993, attention to women and gender considerations in NBSAPs has fluctuated, sometimes aligning with or reflecting key gender equality language included in Parties’ decisions, with Gender Plans of Action or with other global influences, such as the forging of the Millennium Development Goals”.

In the case of the SEE economies, attention to women and gender consideration in the two key biodiversity related documents has not been fluctuating. The documents are quite standard in their regular approach of showing very limited interest and efforts to mainstreaming women and gender considerations.

3.2. Country specific overview of the gender keywords analysis

The country specific overview of the keywords-oriented analysis is providing a perspective of the quantity of used gender related keywords within the official biodiversity related documents. Seven economies from the SEE region have been subject to this analysis. Following the methodology of the Environment and Gender Information (EGI) platform analysis, the keywords used for this analysis are “women” and “gender” and the main documents that are subject to analysis are the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and the National reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD reports).

The keywords based analysis have been applied on July 2017 and the results are presented in the following figures:



Figure 5: Number of used gender keywords in the latest NBSAPs and CBD reports in the South-East Europe

The results indicate that the key biodiversity related documents in Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro are gender blind with zero evidence of usage of gender keywords.

There is only one evidence (Macedonia) where both gender keywords (“gender” and “women”) are used in both key biodiversity related documents.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina both documents have reference of using only “women” as a keyword while Serbia is showing reference of using “gender” as a keyword (once in both documents).

Croatia as an EU member state was also part of this analysis showing reference only to “women” as a keyword in the CBD report.

The graphic presentation of the usage of gender keywords in the key biodiversity related documents in the SEE economies is showed in the following figure:

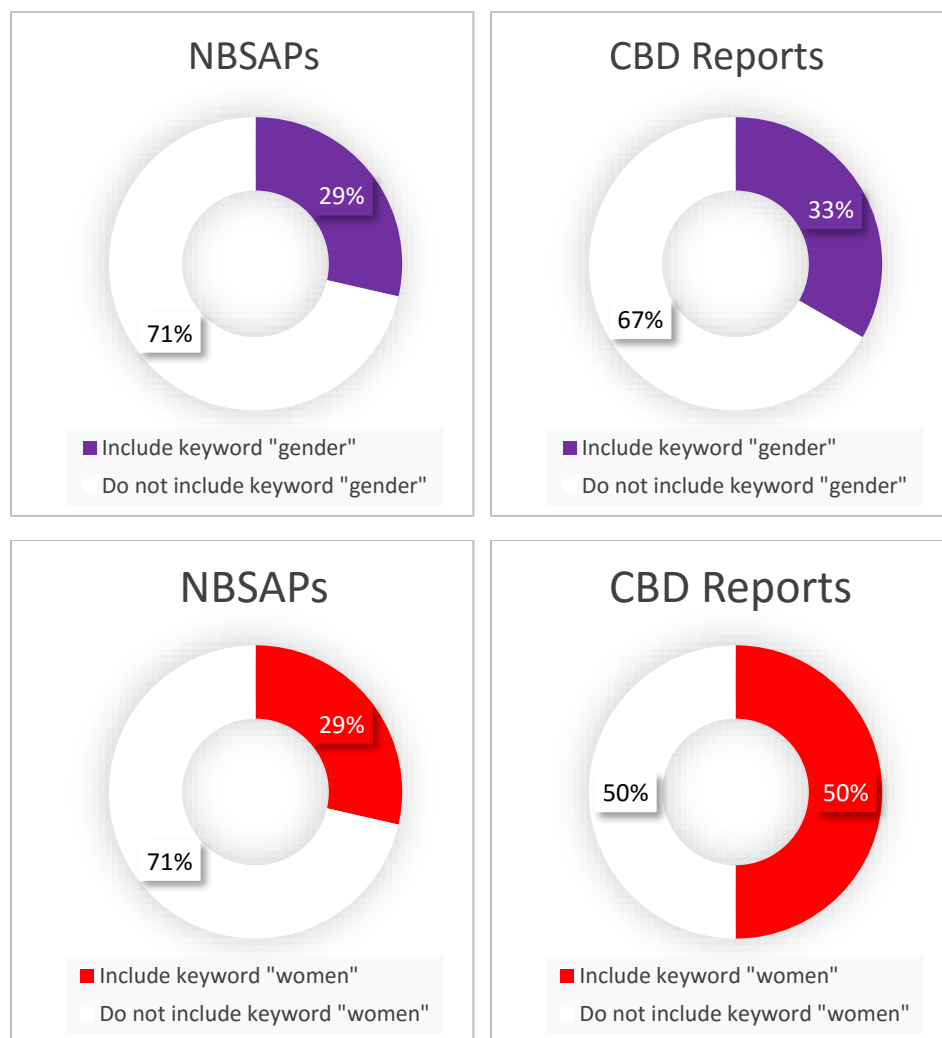


Figure 6: Percentage of SEE economies including “gender” and “women” as keywords within their NBSAP and CBD report

Figure 6 indicates that CBD reports are more likely to include some minimum gender language. Hereby it should be suggested this numbers to be carefully taken into consideration due to the fact that this methodology is based on the simple detection of the keywords, hence raising the percentage by simple registration of gender keywords when doing a “copy-paste” based listing the MDGs and Aichi targets.

In order to overcome the challenge of having only relative overview of the situation, this document puts effort in doing additional analysis that could bring better perspective of the actual situation in the region.

If the simple quotation of the MDGs and Aichi targets (where “gender” and “women” are appearing in the list of the targets) is taken out of the accounted gender keywords, the analysis will provide different information that could be presented as followed:

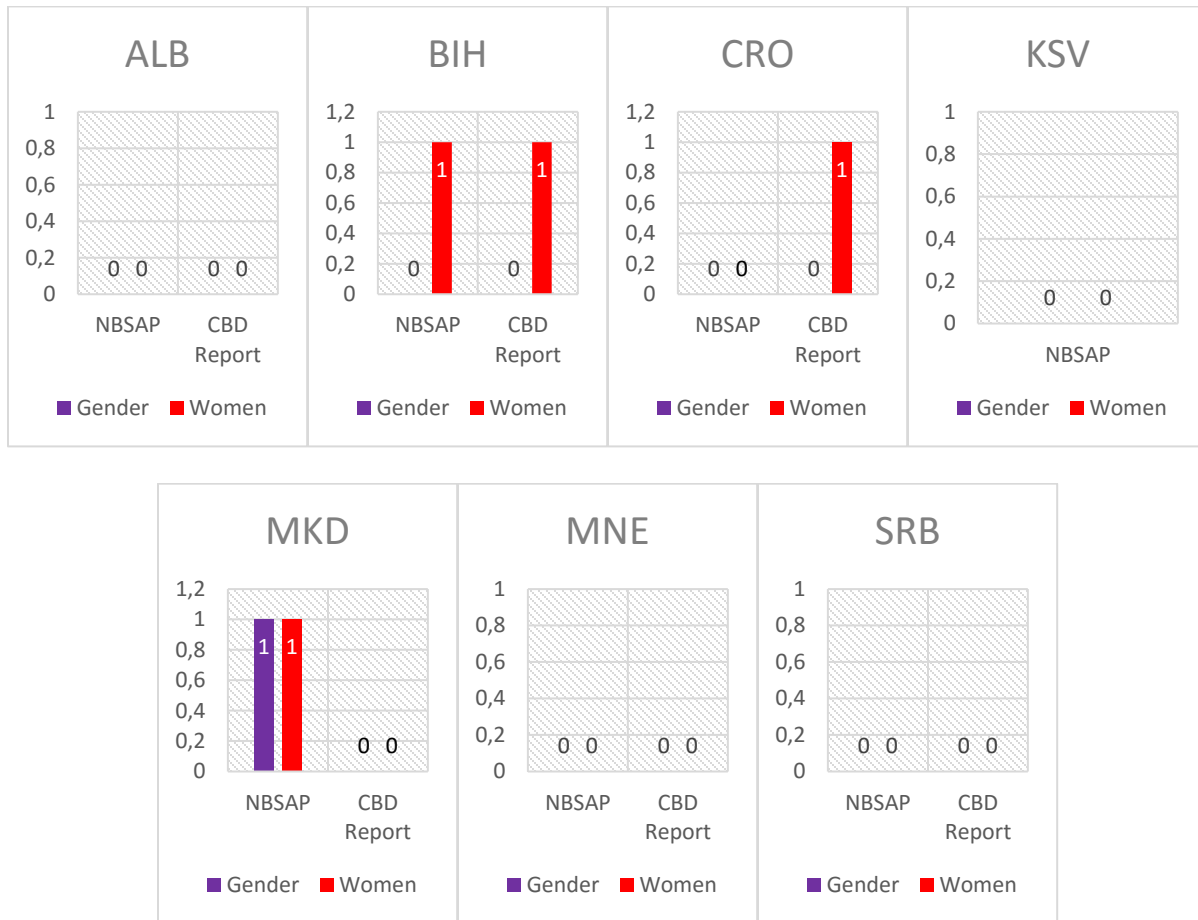


Figure 7: References to “gender” and “women” as keywords in the NBSAPs and CBD reports while excluding simple quotation of the global MDGs and Aichi Targets

Undertaken this approach will lead towards receiving a clear picture of the current situation in the region. Namely, there is no simple economy where both “gender” and “women” are mentioned in both key biodiversity related documents (while excluding simple quotation of the general MDGs and Aichi Targets).

There is only one economy that uses term “gender” in any of those two key documents (Macedonia in the NBSAP). There are three economies that are mentioning “women” in any of the key two biodiversity related documents (excluding simple quotation of the general MDGs and Aichi Targets). There is only one economy that includes both terms (“gender” and “women”) in both key biodiversity related documents.

An indicative signal to the Convention on Biological Diversity is that there are four out of seven economies that have not made effort to at least put any active reference to gender equality and women empowerment.

However, the results of the analysis should also be seen from the perspective that there is a wide open space for improvement. The recommendations and expectation deriving from the Convention is very clear so executive partner organizations to the SEE Governments should support this process through ensuring appropriate mechanism for mainstreaming gender consideration in the processes of planning and implementation of the biodiversity conservation initiatives.

The above mentioned analysis presented with respective percentages are given in the following figures:

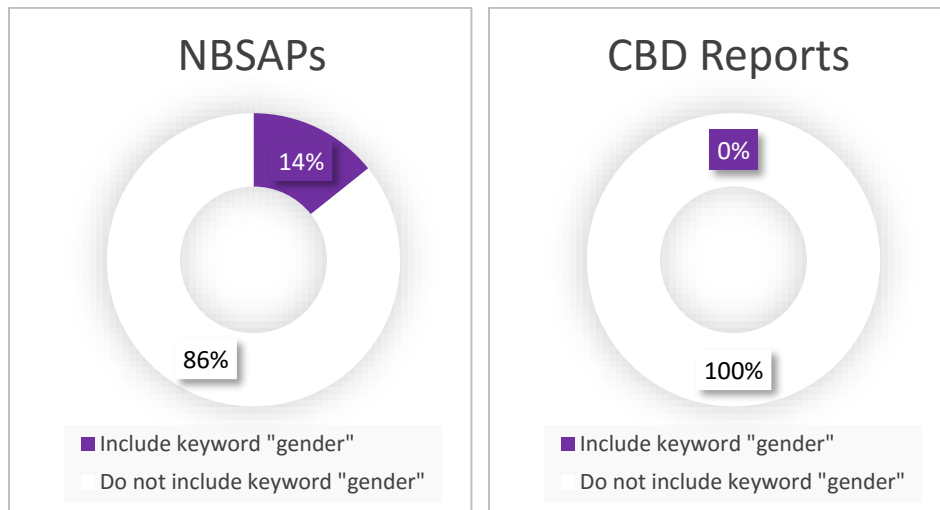


Figure 8: References to “gender” as keyword in the NBSAPs and CBD reports in SEE while excluding simple quotation of the general MDGs and Aichi Targets

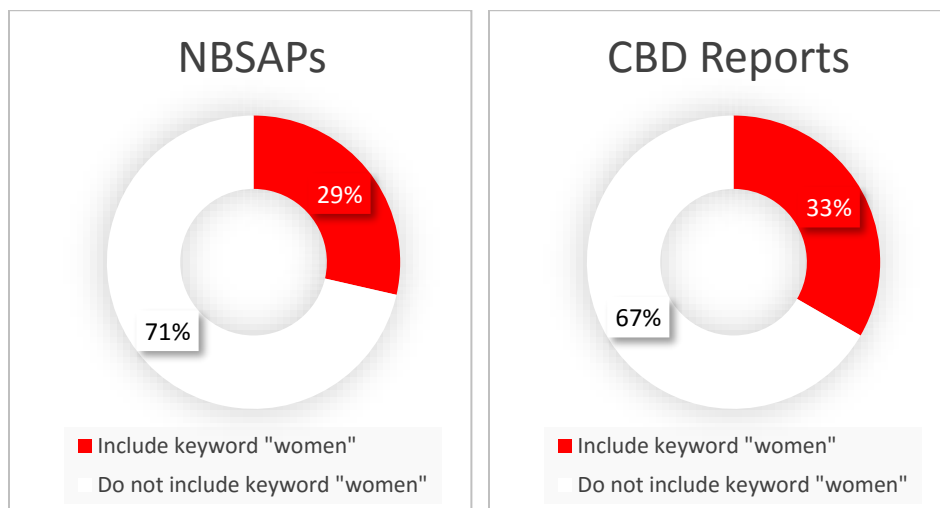


Figure 9: References to “women” as keyword in the NBSAPs and CBD reports in SEE while excluding simple quotation of the general MDGs and Aichi Targets

Furthermore this review puts efforts in analyzing the quality of the gender based inputs integrated in the two key biodiversity related documents. The intention is to gain a perspective on how substantive are the inputs and shall we expect any significant impact if we keep the status quo.

The list of all references to “gender” and “women” as keywords in the NBSAPs and CBD reports in SEE economies (wile excluding simple quotation of the general MDGs and Aichi Targets) are provided on the following table:

Gender references in the NBSAPs and CBD reports in SEE	
BIH NBSAP	“As early as in the 70’s and 80’s of the last century, almost all rural households had drying kilns, where selected fruits were dried in autumn days, kept on continually maintained weak wood embers. Collection, preparation and selection of fruits for drying and maintaining the embers at drying kilns were the duty of all family members, <i>but mostly women.</i> ”
MKD NBSAP	<p>“The Guiding Objectives establish the results that should be achieved through implementation of the BSAP: 3. to increase human resources and improve technical capacity building within those institutions connected with biodiversity conservation by 30%, in order to <i>engender projects</i> for research and with practical application, by2008.”</p> <p>“The low level of <i>literacy among women</i> and the rural adult population constrains development activities in all spheres. There is also a close relationship among education, natural population growth rate, quality of labor force and the sustainable use of biodiversity.”</p>
BIH CBD report	“Introductory information: - <i>Vulnerable groups: women</i> , returnees and refugees (within BIH), national minorities, persons with disabilities, retired persons, young people aged 15-24 years, children.”
CRO CBD report	“Considerable majority of respondents (68.88%) characterize nature protection as an opportunity for economic growth. <i>Nature protection is favored by women</i> ; younger and better-educated respondents; as well as those with higher average monthly earnings, and the respondents from urban settlements.”

Figure 10: Quotation of all references to “gender” and “women” extracted from the NBSAPs and CBD reports in SEE (wile excluding simple quotation of the general MDGs and Aichi Targets)

The level of substance of the gender-based inputs integrated in the two key biodiversity related documents does not meet the minimum expectations of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The references are too general and look like they are simply added to the text without having any interest for further elaboration and implementation of appropriate measures.

Among the relative statements that are not based on scientific research, there is also a case where one of the economies includes gender perspectives within the list of the NBSAP guiding objectives. However, even though the gender based objective sets clear target there is no further reference for any activity that should support the process of its achievement. The results show that no action has been implemented so far in achieving the target.

There is currently no real practice of mainstreaming gender into biodiversity planning and reporting documents in South-East Europe. If the baseline scenario remains unchanged and not impacted by the national gender machinery, international organizations, and/or local Biodiversity and gender related CSOs, no improvement will be achieved.

3.3. Characterization of women in the NBSAPs in South-East Europe

Following the EGI methodology, the context of the keywords has also been analyzed and categorized into four themes identifying whether women are characterized:

- a) as vulnerable;
- b) as specific beneficiaries of biodiversity policies or programs;
- c) as stakeholders of biodiversity management; and/or
- d) as agents of change, including by driving conservation outcomes.

These categories are not mutually exclusive. A country may characterize women as all four of these, or as none. Including women as beneficiaries, stakeholders and agents of change are key steps towards developing gender-responsive biodiversity policies and programs at all levels.⁴

This chapter provides overview of the level of mainstreamed gender into the key two Biodiversity related documents in each of the economies covered by this document. The level of mainstreamed gender will be reviewed against the four above mentioned themes as a predefined indicators.

CHARACTERIZING WOMEN: FOUR THEMES FOR ANALYZING CONTEXT PER EGI METHODOLOGY ⁵		
HOW ARE WOMEN VIEWED?	Vulnerable	E.g., NBSAP discusses women’s specific vulnerability to gender-based discrimination
	Beneficiaries	E.g., NBSAP discusses programs or policies that included women as recipients of economic, social or other benefits, including educational and capacity-building opportunities
	Stakeholders	E.g., NBSAP discusses women as decision makers or as a group targeted for participation in decision making; women as managers of Biodiversity and holders of traditional ecological knowledge may be included, depending on context
	Agents of Change	E.g., NBSAP describes women as driving conservation activities or having a voice in policy change

Figure 11: Four themes for characterizing women per EGI methodology

In order to ensure a better understanding of the current situation with the characterization of women in the NBSAPs and CBDs in SEE, the regional (SEE) perspective will be also accompanied by the results on global level delivered in December 2016 by the IUCN Global Gender Office.

⁴ EGI Factsheet: “Inclusion and characterization of women and gender equality considerations in the Fifth national reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity”, December 2016.

⁵ IUCN Global Gender Office “Gender and Biodiversity: Analysis of women and gender equality considerations in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)”, January 2017

3.3.1. Countries identifying women as vulnerable in their NBSAPs

Globally, twenty-nine countries (17%) identify women as vulnerable in at least one of their NBSAPs. The context of these references generally point out two common trends that NBSAPs are documenting in a national context: women’s higher rates of poverty and women’s greater dependence on subsistence agriculture.

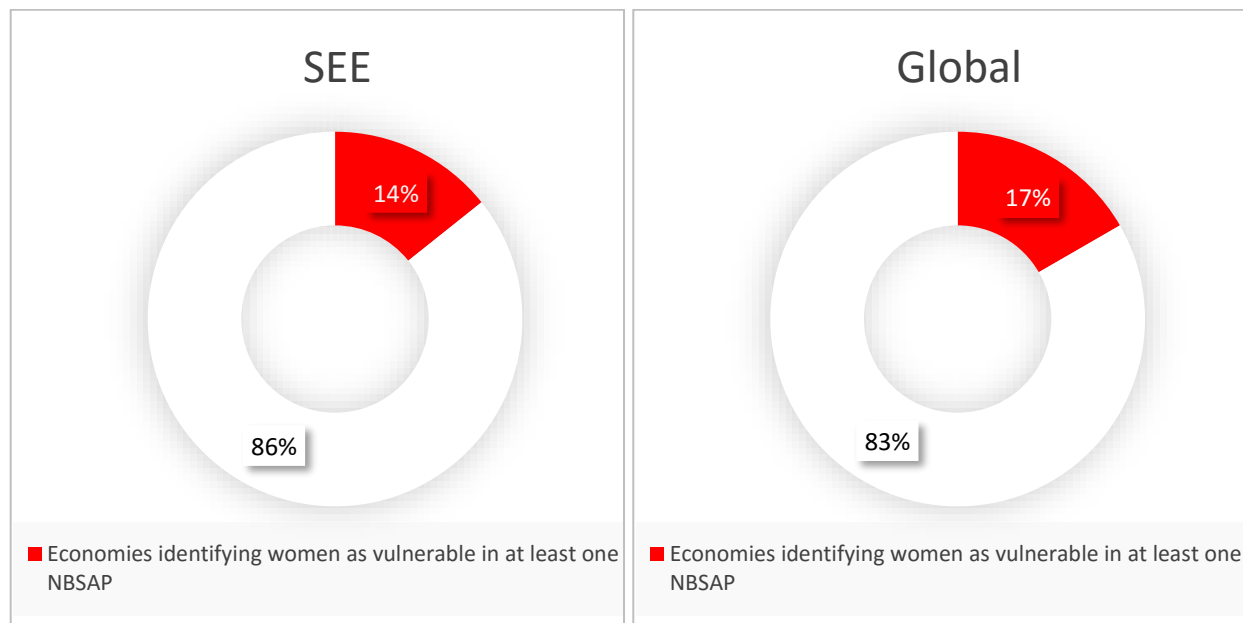


Figure 12: Percentage of economies identifying women as vulnerable in their NBSAPs on regional (SEE) and global level

The analysis shows that on global level there are 29 countries out of 174 evaluated that consider women as vulnerable, while in SEE economies there is only one out of 7 that characterize women as vulnerable.

However, this percentage (17%) should be perceived as very relative number due to the fact that it derives from the case where within the general information about the economy, women are perceives as vulnerable jointly with people with disabilities, refugees, minorities etc. The statement is:

“Introductory information: - Vulnerable groups: women, returnees and refugees (within BiH), national minorities, persons with disabilities, retired persons, young people aged 15-24 years, children.”

This information is not related to the Biodiversity loss or sustainable use of natural resources.

Sudan’s NBSAP 2015 (Version 2) as an example states that “The loss of Biodiversity and the degradation of natural resources impact first and foremost the vulnerable viz. poor and women.” In contrary, the Liberian NBSAP is notifying that more men are vulnerable and live in poverty than women.

The analysis on regional and global level is indicating that even if some countries are characterizing women as vulnerable there is no documentation how the loss of specific natural resources would impact women or men.

Most countries do not describe gender-differentiated dependence on natural resources. This may indicate a lack of information on which resources are utilized by men and women, but surely indicates lack of interest, capacities and support by existing gender mechanism for doing so.

3.3.2. Countries identifying women as beneficiaries in their NBSAPs

Many NBSAPs refer to equitable distribution of benefits from biodiversity without clarification of what those benefits are or who those beneficiaries should be. The 47 countries that identify women as beneficiaries generally refer to the need for equitable distribution of benefits derived from Biodiversity between men and women. These references about beneficiaries of Biodiversity are often limited to a single reference in the background section of the document, and typically use language derived from various CBD COP decisions but do not further elaborate. Most countries that suggest the distribution of benefits should be equitable do not explain how that will be achieved or have indicators to measure this desired outcome.

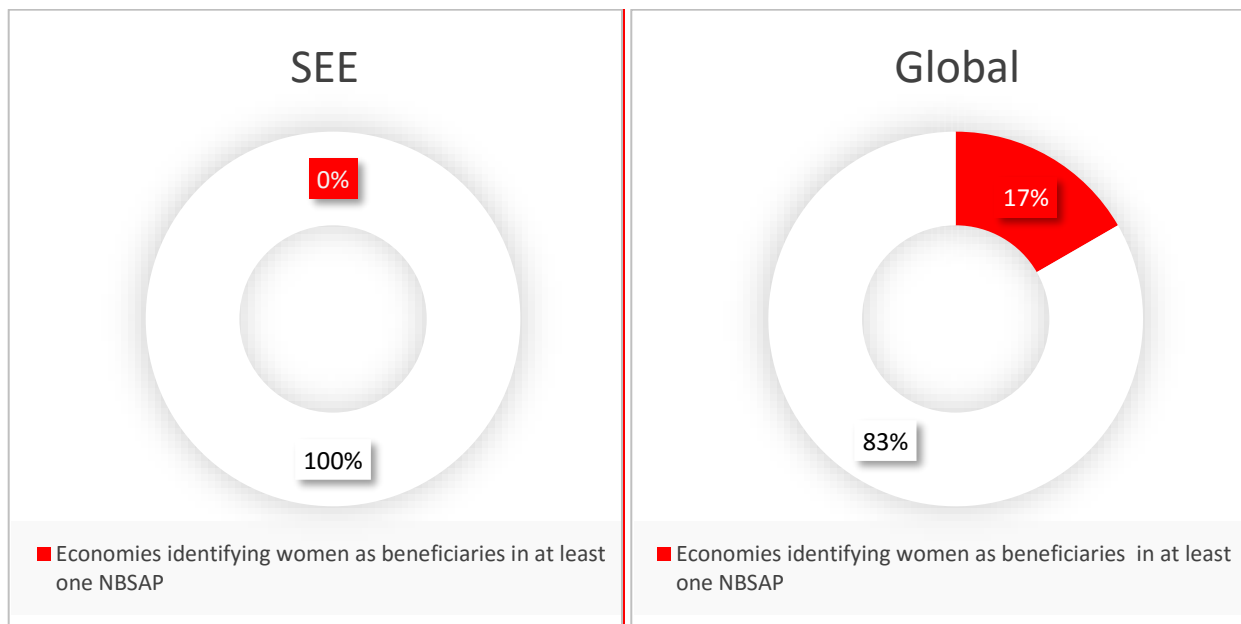


Figure 13: Percentage of economies identifying women as beneficiaries in their NBSAPs on regional (SEE) and global level

There is no economy in South-East Europe (subject to this review) that are identifying women as beneficiaries in their NBSAPs.

Globally, there are 47 out of 174 countries that are specifically identifying women as beneficiaries in their NBSAP. There are a few countries that document the benefits women should or will receive from implementation of NBSAPs in relation to specific natural resources, such as crops and livestock. Bhutan's Version 1 NBSAP (1997) for example has actions planned to direct benefits to women farmers, including seeds, credit schemes and training in relevant skills related to germplasm and crop seeds. Nepal's Version 1 NBSAP (2002) aims to benefit women in the creation of a livelihood project to improve productivity of indigenous breeds of livestock for women and people living in poverty. There is a list of good practices for mainstreaming gender and identifying women as active beneficiaries in their NBSAPs. Most of them are fully applicable to the SEE context, hence should serve as a good starting point for addressing the gender based challenges in the Biodiversity conservation areas and enable institution to better formulate the objectives and appropriate set of actions.

3.3.3. Countries identifying women as stakeholders in their NBSAPs

Sixty-four countries (37%) acknowledge women as stakeholders in at least one of their NBSAPs. Women's participation as stakeholders is seen in a variety of ways. Some countries identify women's business associations or community groups as implementers of the NBSAP, while others point to women's attendance in planning workshops as evidence of women's involvement in the NBSAPs process.

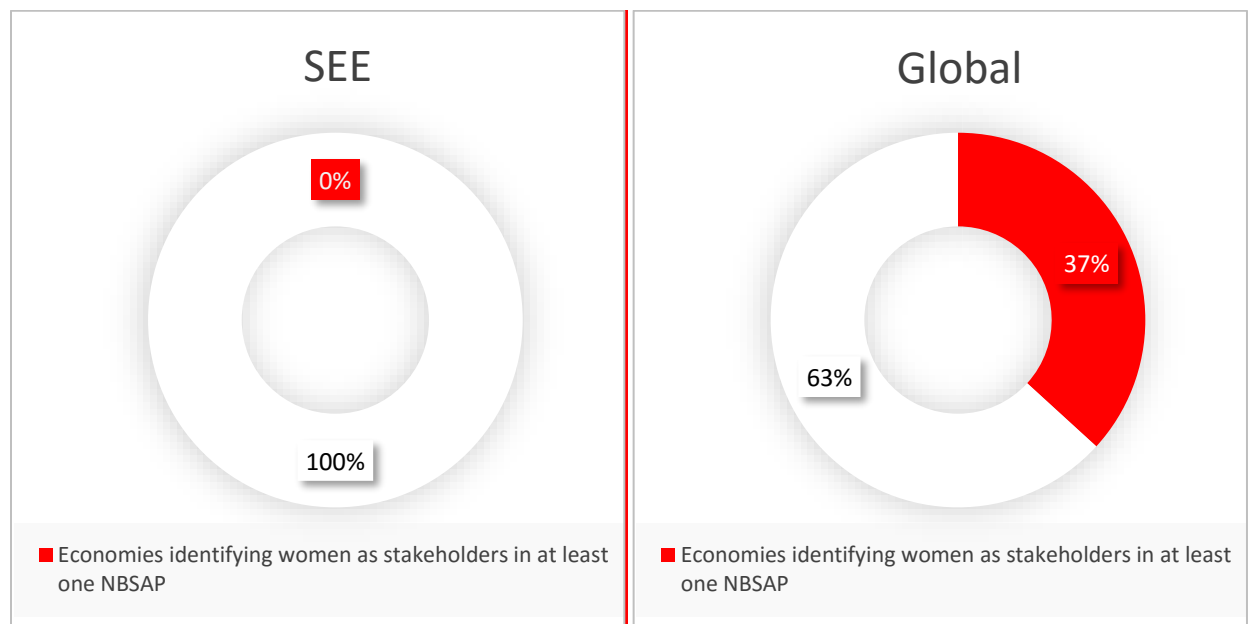


Figure 14: Percentage of economies identifying women as stakeholders in their NBSAPs on regional (SEE) and global level

Some countries track participation of women stakeholders in the NBSAP process with sex disaggregated data. The IUCN analyzes states that Dominican Republic's NBSAP 2011 (Version 1) notes that 49% of stakeholders involved in the NBSAP process were women. While many countries suggest women should or will be included as stakeholders in activities, few countries clarify measures taken to support women's involvement in Biodiversity conservation interventions.

Well-known barriers to women's involvement can include time poverty, childcare and household responsibilities and access to transit. For example Austria recognizes gender disparity in transportation access. Its Version 1 NBSAP (1998) notes the need to provide balanced mobility support for disadvantaged groups (including women and others) who don't own vehicles to participate in environmental programs.

In the SEE region there is no evidence that the NBSAP is putting efforts in placing women as an important stakeholders that should be recognized, analyzed and appropriate measures for support to be formulated.

3.3.4. Countries identifying women as agents of change in their NBSAPs

Seven countries (4%) in the world identify women as agents of change in at least one version of their NBSAPs. The context of these references is related to women’s influence on Biodiversity management and conservation as leaders of social networks, as gatekeepers and communicators, as conscientious consumers or as entrepreneurs.

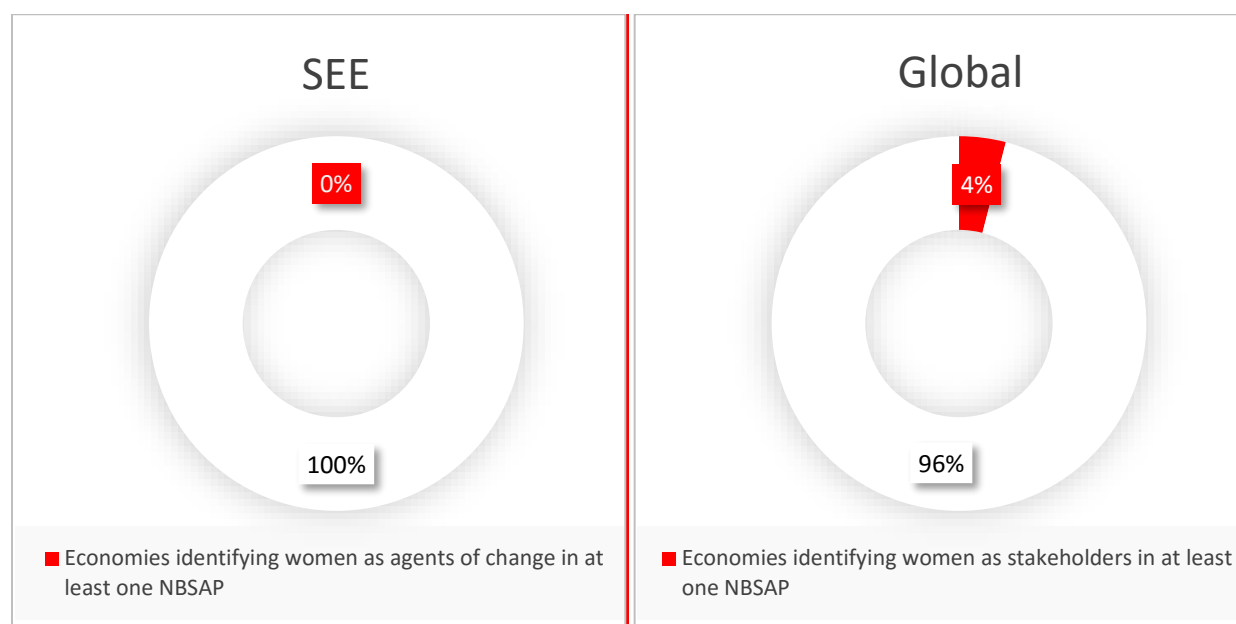


Figure 15: Percentage of economies identifying women as agents of change in their NBSAPs on regional (SEE) and global level

Hereby it should be stated that Bosnia and Herzegovina is mentioning women in similar context by saying: “Collection, preparation and selection of fruits for drying and maintaining the embers at drying kilns were the duty of all family members, but mostly women.”

There are some good practices from other countries such as: a) Dominican Republic’s NBSAP (2011) notes that women are leaders of reforestation brigades; and b) Germany’s NBSAP (2007) notes that women consumers demand eco-friendly products and that women value access to nature higher than men, as it relates to their quality of life.

In a nutshell, the characterization of women in NBSAPs in the South-East Europe is not showing any progress. The NBSAPs remains insensitive to the needs of women, especially those living in the rural areas. Significant progress in identifying, assessing and properly addressing the needs of women is needed and future support from the domestic and international organization should be ensured.

3.4. Integrating gender equality principles into NBSAPs in South-East Europe

The level of integration of gender equality and empowering women in the NBSAPs has been analyzed from the following perspectives: a) whether gender equality is a guiding principle; b) whether women’s organizations, agencies and/or ministries are involved in the development of an NBSAP; c) whether such organizations are involved in the implementation of an NBSAP; and d) whether any objectives of the plan integrate gender equality.

The findings are also compared with the findings on global level by using the report developed by the IUCN Global Gender Office in January 2017.

3.4.1. Countries identifying gender equality as a guiding principle in their NBSAP

All NBSAPs have a section on the guiding principles that direct the action plan. Twenty four countries in the world (14% of countries) include a guiding principle that in some way indicates a commitment to women’s rights and empowerment and/or to gender equality in their most recent NBSAPs.

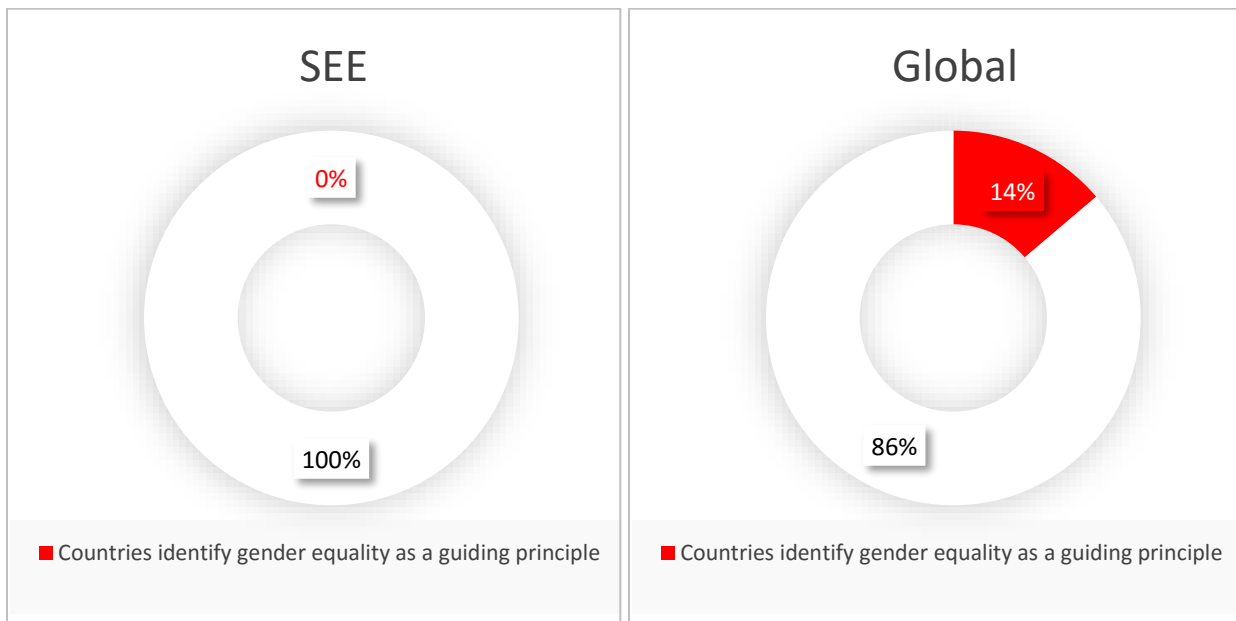


Figure 16: Distribution of 7 SEE economies and all 174 countries with gender equality as a guiding principal in their most recently submitted NBSAPs

In comparison with those 24 countries (14%), the results of this analysis show that none of the SEE economies identifies gender equality as a guiding principal in their recently submitted NBSAPs.

On global level, there are 24 out of 174 (14%) countries identifying gender equality as a guiding principle.

For example Tanzania in their NBSAP, within the guiding principles is listing the following: “Guiding principle: Empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty and hence in the

sustainable use of the Biological Diversity.” Costa Rica in their NBSAP is addressing the need for ensuring justice and equity between social groups, ethnicities, genders and generations. Ecuadorian NBSAP states: “Equity: The exercising of rights for use and access of biodiverse resources and the just and equitable distribution of benefits derived from their use and conservation is for all people, men and women, and sectors of the Ecuadorian population, for ecological sustainability is a basic condition to achieve ethnic, gender and international equity and justice”.

However, the in-depth evaluation says that 6 out of the 24 countries refer to gender equality as a guiding principle, yet fail to mention women or gender in the rest of the NBSAP. This is a quiet good indicator that some of the countries are in favor of mainstreaming gender equality and women empowerment into their official documents but the real commitment, knowledge and experience is lacking behind.

3.4.2. Countries identifying women’s organizations or ministries as involved in the development of the NBSAPs

In order to ensure inclusive and integrated approach towards development of the NBSAPs, the institutions represented by the ministry in charge of biodiversity conservation in each economy should make sure that women’s organizations and institutions in charge of gender equality and women empowerment are included in the process.

This is surely not a practice in SEE economies and it is subject to substantive discussion between institutions, international organizations and local organizations working in the area of gender equality and women empowerment.

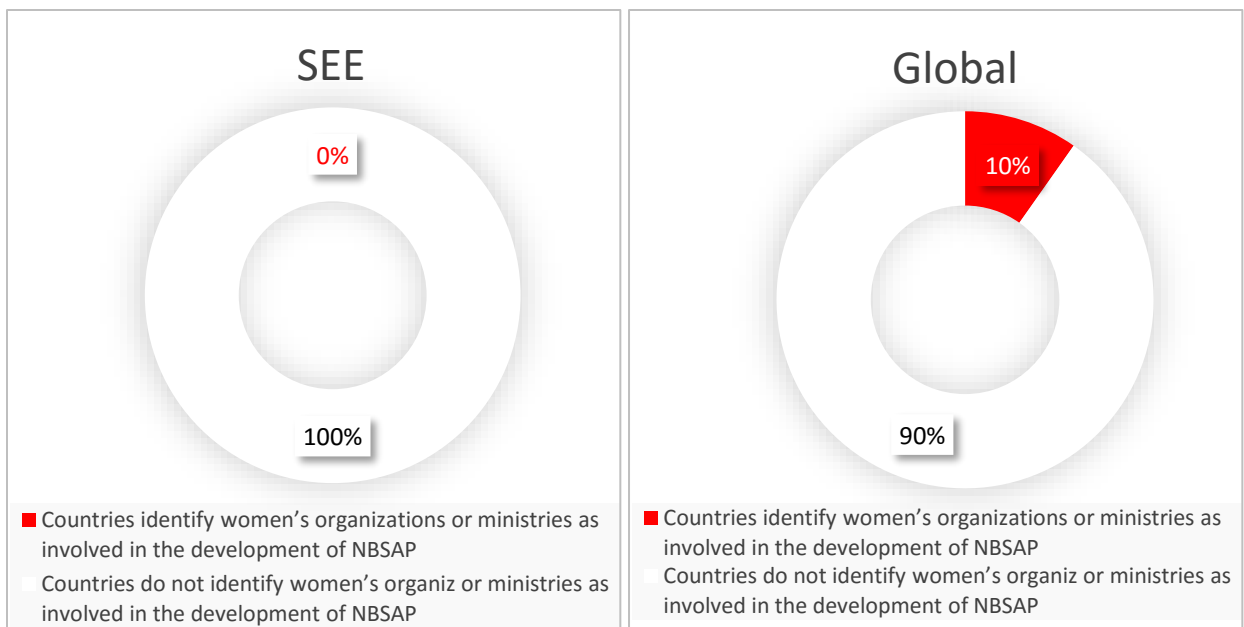


Figure 17: Distribution of 7 SEE economies and all 174 countries identifying women’s organizations or ministries as involved in the development of NBSAP

Seventeen countries in the world (10% of countries) identify women’s organizations or ministries as involved in the development of the NBSAP. The organizations and ministries involved in the development of an NBSAP are generally listed in acknowledgements in the background section or in an annex, and NBSAPs do not generally specify the roles of those involved beyond listing them as process stakeholders or steering committee members.

3.4.3. Countries identifying women’s organizations or ministries as involved in the implementation of the NBSAPs

Apart of taking an important role in the process of development of the NBSAP, women’s organizations and institutions in charge of gender equality and women empowerment should be very much included in the decision-making processes and processes of implementation.

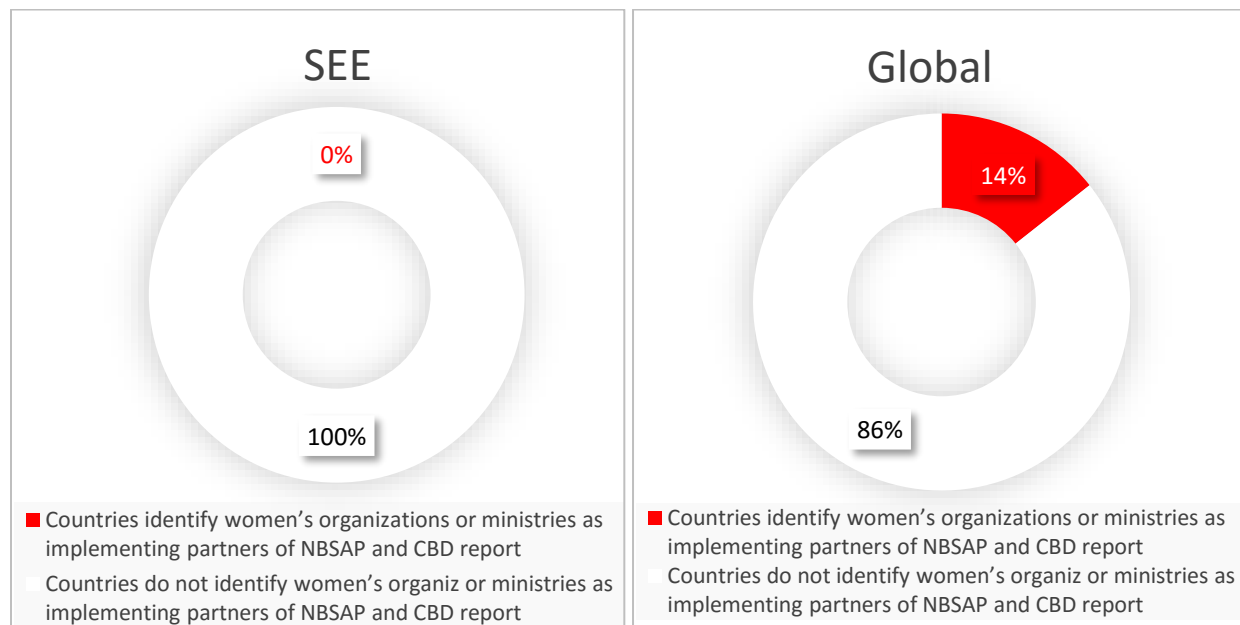


Figure 18: Distribution of 7 SEE economies and all 174 countries identifying women’s organizations or ministries as involved in the implementation of NBSAP

There is no economy in the SEE that assign specific role to women’s organizations or responsive ministry (in charge of gender equality and women empowerment). Also, there is no specific activity stated in the SEE’s NBSAPs that clearly address the women needs and challenges. There is no activity listed in the NBSAP’s action plans in the SEE that considers involvement of the women’s organizations and ministries in the process of NBSAP’s implementation.

In that regard it is understandable why there is no involvement of women’s organizations and responsive ministry in the process of implementation of the NBSAPs in the SEE region.

Globally, twenty-five countries (14% of countries) identify women’s organizations or ministries as implementing partners for NBSAP

activities.⁶ The organizations and ministries identified as implementing partners of the NBSAPs are often listed in tables and connected to specific activities or actions. Women’s organizations and ministries are occasionally listed as the primary group responsible and are more commonly listed among many implementing groups as responsible for specific activities or actions.

In Niue, the NBSAP (2001), gives specific task to the women’s council to identify suitable crops for women farmers. The Gambian NBSAP (2015), tasks Gambian Women’s Bureau to lobby for land reform (ownership and maintenance), encourage agroforestry activities as well as developing and promoting the use of alternative energy and other technologies, all in order to reduce biodiversity loss.”

3.4.4. Countries identifying gender equality and women’s empowerment as specific objective or goal in their NBSAPs

The NBSAP framework includes lists of objectives and discussions of goals at the national and local level. The analysis covered by this review is using the EGI methodology based on the usage of the gender keywords and their inclusion in the objectives, goals and plan of actions. In general, the way gender equality, women’s empowerment and goals for closing gender gaps are written into NBSAP objectives clearly indicates the way that economy is implementing actions toward gender equality.

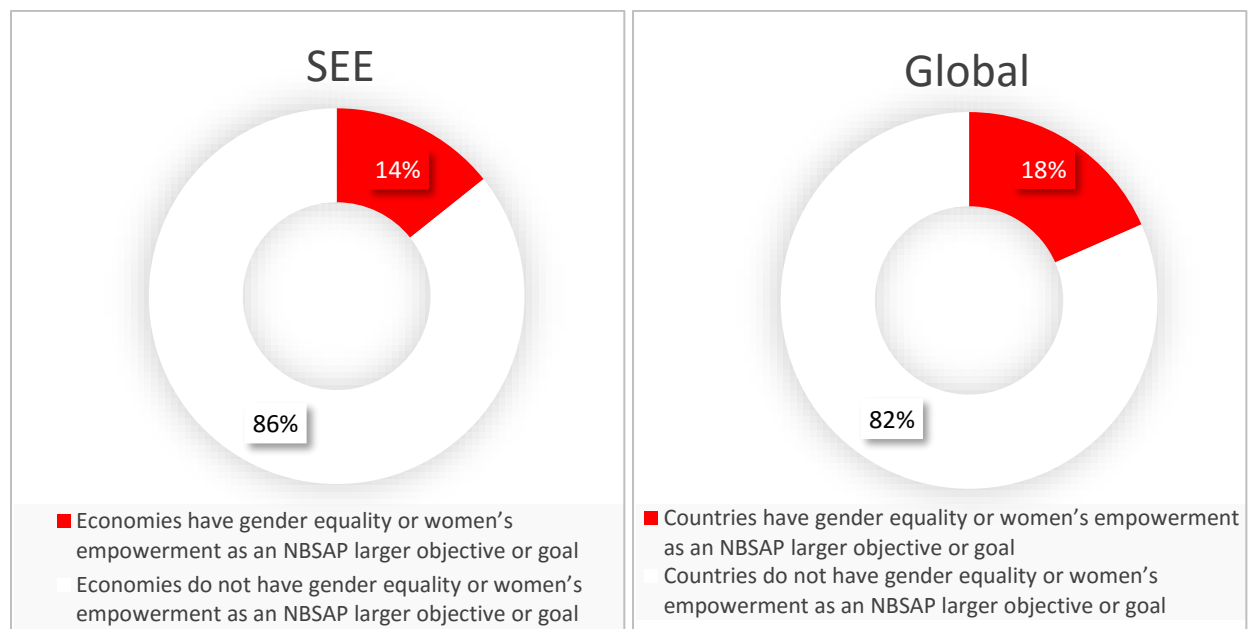


Figure 19: Distribution of 7 SEE economies and all 174 countries identifying gender equality and/or women’s empowerment as an objective or goal in the NBSAP

There is only one SEE economy that provides specific engendered objective. It is focused on increasing the capacities of the biodiversity conservation practitioners in mainstreaming gender in their regular work.

⁶ IUCN Global Gender Office “Gender and Biodiversity: Analysis of women and gender equality considerations in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)”, January 2017

However, the objective has not been achieved due to the fact that: a) it has been written as political statement; b) it was excluded from the NBSAP's Action Plan; c) it was not accompanied by substance; and d) there was no budget allocated. As a result, no action in that regard has been implemented.

There are many examples how countries are including gender equality and women empowerment into the biodiversity related documents. For example, Nigerian NBSAP (2015) states: "To bridge the gender gaps in NBSAP implementation, the coordinators shall adopt the following means: Gender analysis of Biodiversity programs and projects; Gender-responsive planning and policies for integrating women in resource management decision making; Development of a comprehensive plan for integrating gender issues for women and youths empowerment through measures of positive discrimination; Organizing workshops/conferences on gender issues and compile comprehensive gender statistics."

Most of the worldwide good practices for gender equality and women empowerment are applicable to the economies in the South-East Europe, hence detailed review, analysis and discussions on those bases should be undertaken and needs properly addressed.

Furthermore, the review is classifying the inclusion of gender keywords in NBSAP in two ways: a) gender equality and/or women's empowerment as a primary objective or goal; and b) gender equality and/or women's empowerment within an objective.

Since there is only one case in the SEE where gender (and/or women empowerment) is considered as a larger objective, the analysis could not provide some results that are interested for further elaboration. Namely, there is one case where gender equality and/or women's empowerment as a primary objective or goal and there is no case where gender equality and/or women's empowerment within an objective.

However, in global frame NBSAPs are more likely to have gender equality integrated within an objective than to have a gender equality objective or goal, per se.

3.4.5. Inclusion of women or gender consideration in NBSAP activities

One of the primary components of NBSAPs is an action plan. The action plan contains detailed activities that are closely aligned with the objectives of the biodiversity strategy. This review also provides information whether or not an NBSAP includes activities that explicitly aim to advance gender equality.

As already mentioned there was only one economy in the SEE region that sets gender equality as an objective but without any support through a set of activities and budget allocation.

This is especially indicative having in mind that most of the NBSAPs and CBD reports in the region are developed by substantive support or leadership of the international organizations (UNEP, UNDP, World Bank etc.) and financed by international finance mechanisms such as Global Environment Facility etc.

However, having no substantive inputs in mainstreaming gender equality and women empowerment in the NBSAPs and CBD reports opens huge opportunities for undertaking a set of easily applicable steps forward that could create a good baseline for achieving further results.

The comparison between inclusion of women or gender considerations in the NBSAPs' Action Plans in SEE and globally is presented in the following figure:

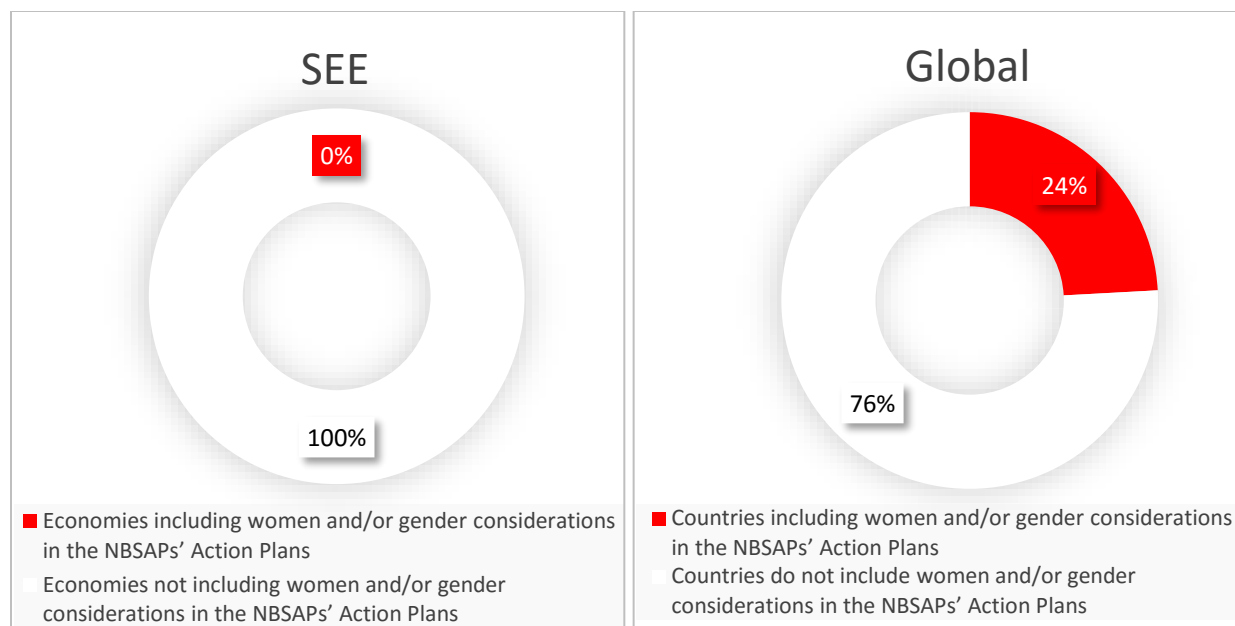


Figure 20: inclusion of women or gender considerations in the NBSAPs' Action Plans

Nearly a quarter (24%) of all NBSAPs include an activity that would be considered in this category (have at least one activity that includes women or gender considerations in their latest NBSAP. Most of the activities include women as recipients of education. For example, in Georgia's Version 1 (2005) NBSAP, the only reference to women is about the need to educate women on the value of Biodiversity.

However, the IUCN analysis on women and gender considerations in the NBSAPs worldwide are showing the following numbers:

9% of countries (16 of 174 countries) identify how a gender- or women-focused activity contributes to women's economic or social empowerment in their most recently submitted NBSAP.

11% of countries (20 of 174 countries) identify monitoring and evaluation (M&E) for gender- or women-focused activities in their most recently submitted NBSAP.

9% of countries (15 of 174 countries) have a dedicated budget allocated to gender- or women-focused activities in their most recently submitted NBSAP.

4% of countries (7 of 174 countries) intend to do some kind of gender analysis, as referenced in their most recently submitted NBSAP.

3.4.6. Budget allocation for implementation of women or gender specific activities

In order to better understand how serious the countries are while mainstreaming gender in their NBSAPs, this review also provide analysis on the budget that has been specifically allocated for implementation of the planned gender and/or women-focused activities.

Since there is no action plan in the SEE that refers to gender equality or women empowerment it is obvious that there will be also no budget that has been specifically allocated for those purposes. Compared to the global practices there is no significant difference:

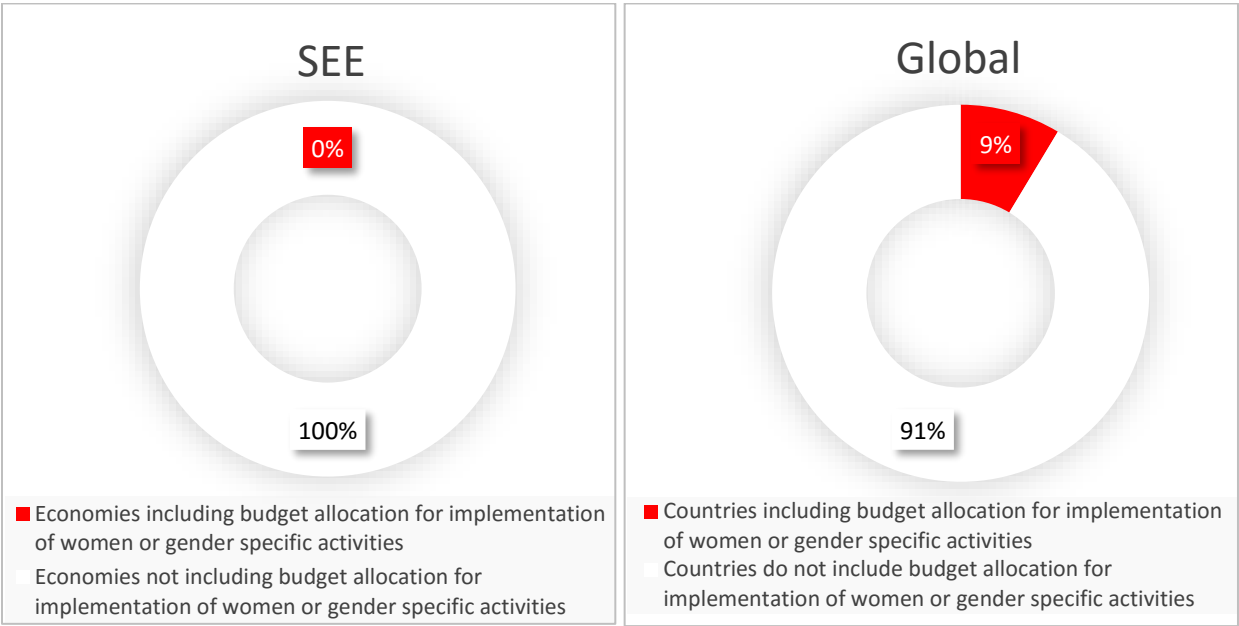


Figure 21: inclusion of women or gender considerations in the latest submitted NBSAPs’ Action Plans

Globally, 15 countries (9%) of the most recent NBSAPs have a dedicated budget allocated to gender- or women-focused activities. In contrast, 91% of countries do not include a specific allocation of resources towards gender- or women-focused activities in their most recently submitted NBSAP.

Something that could be taken as indicative is that when considering all NBSAPs, (not only the most recently submitted documents) there are 18 countries that have budgeted gender- or women-focused activities. Therefore, the analysis showed that three countries included budgets for gender or women-focused activities in previous versions of their NBSAPs but do not provide the same in their most recent NBSAPs. This should be taken as a “in practice” failure of the countries not only to realize the planned activities but also to stay committed and consistent in their efforts in ensuring gender equality and women empowerment.

There is a wide range of budgeted activities, going from access to credit schemes, capacity building and education to projection of comprehensive or simple outreach programs. The allocated budgets for gender- or women-focused activities are very diverse (10,000 - 500,000 EUR). They also vary widely in timeframe for implementation, as some NBSAPs are for three-year periods and some for 15-year periods. Some countries engage civil society organizations and allocate resources to women’s business organizations as implementing partners to create sustainable economic development opportunities for women.

If the review goes into in-depth analysis of the examples coming from the countries that have been identified as a best practice substantive gaps that could seriously jeopardize the process of achieving the expected results can be found. For example, Botswana’s latest NBSAP (2007) identifies activity to “improve women’s access to credit facilities in order to utilize natural resources”. The budget allocated for this

action is US\$ 500,000 that should be delivered in one year by the Women’s Affairs Department as the lead implementer. This US\$ 500,000 action in one year is presented as a low priority, there are no indicators or monitoring mechanisms that are provided, and there is no assessment on their absorption capacities of the lead agency.

However, there are some budgeted activities that are quite pragmatic and realistically framed such as the one delivered by Namibia in their NBSAP from 2001 where they are allocating US\$150,000 between 2001-2006 to facilitate gender equality in resource management. In this case the Ministry of Women and Child Welfare is the lead implementer for facilitating gender equality, while healers and women’s associations are included as co-implementers. It is expected that putting Ministry of Gender and women’s associations in frontline for implementation of NBSAP’s activities could heavily influence the other activities planned within the NBSAP.

3.4.7. Other relevant gender principles integrated in the NBSAPs

There are some remaining principles that have been analysed from the perspective of being or being not integrated in the NBSAPs developed and submitted by the SEE economies. Those are also showing unsatisfactory results but will be listed in this section in order to bring attention for their importance and also to provide some comparative information on global level.

- Gender analysis

According to the Gender Plan of Action of the Convention on Biological Diversity 2015-2020: “A gender analysis examines the roles of and relationships between women and men in a given society, sector and/or situation, exploring the differentiated use of, access to and control over resources. It is an essential dimension to policy (or project, action, program) analysis, as it identifies how the policy (project, action, etc.) affects women and men differently”.

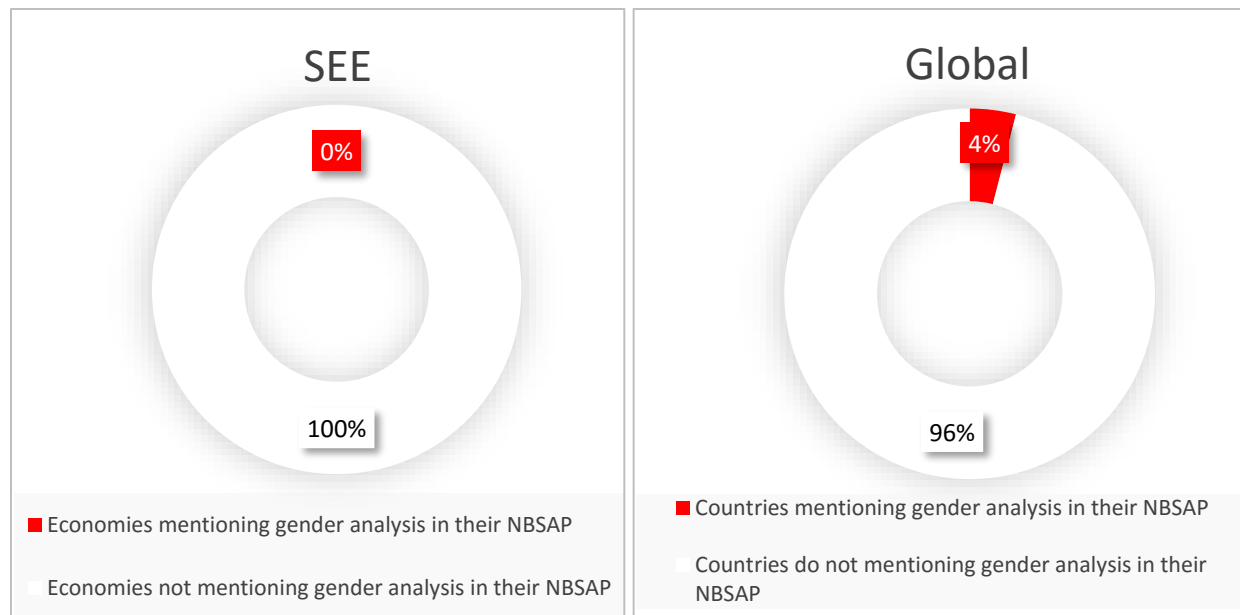


Figure 22: Inclusion of gender analysis in the latest submitted NBSAPs’ Action Plans

In the SEE there is no economy that is mentioning gender analysis that needs to be conducted and there is no action plan within the NBSAP that stipulates implementation of such activity.

Globally, there are 7 countries (4%) that include gender analysis in their NBSAP. Nepal is the only country that mentions gender analysis in multiple (two) versions of its NBSAPs.

The scope of reference to gender analysis varies widely as well as the intended outcomes of gender analysis. For example, Cameroon is planning to address gender analysis across sectors, while Sierra Leone only intends to focus on the fishery sector. Overall, there is not much detail provided about the gender analyses some of the countries intend to perform, and the analyses generally do not have defined outputs or objectives. In addition, there is the quite constant challenge of having activities in the NBSAPs that are not followed by defined outputs, such as reports, deadlines and budgets allocated.

▪ Gender indicators

The SEE NBSAPs have been analyzed from the perspective whether they integrate gender indicators. This task required no time and significant efforts to be analyzed due to the fact that:

There is no single NBSAP in the South-East Europe that integrates gender specific indicator.

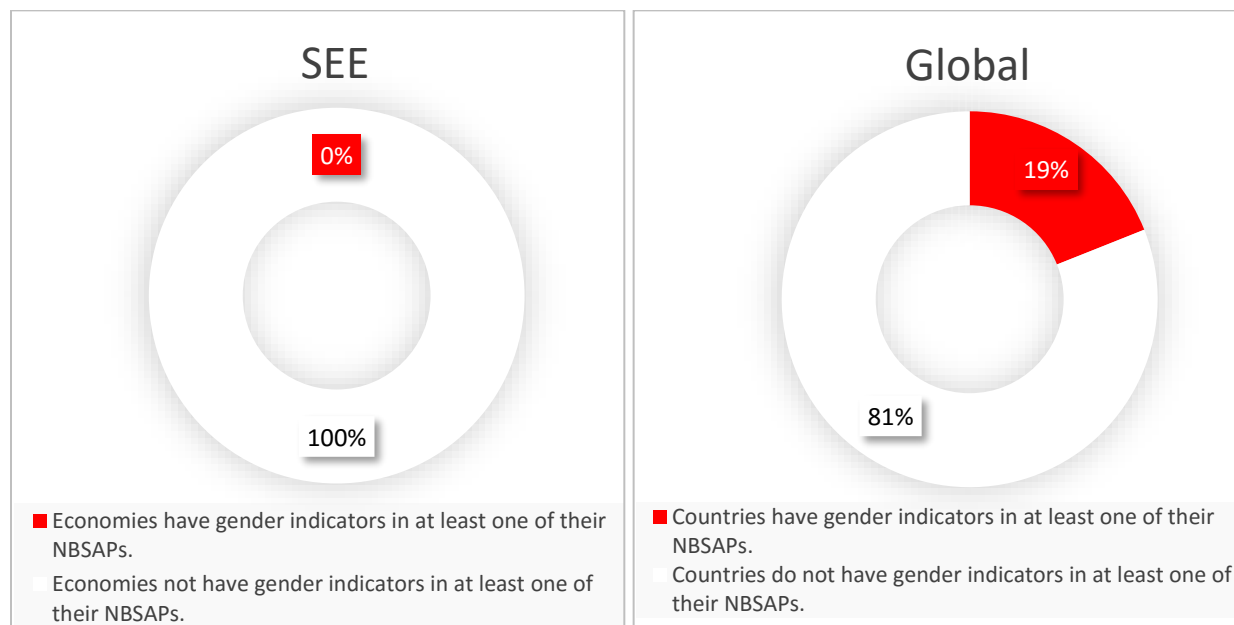


Figure 23: inclusion of gender indicators in the latest submitted NBSAP

The gender related objective set by Macedonian NBSAP⁷ could be identified as the one being closest to the idea of having appropriate gender indicator. However, the objective is not well formulated, it is not

⁷ NBSAP Guiding Objective Nr.3: "To increase human resources and improve technical capacity building within those institutions connected with Biodiversity conservation by 30%, in order to engender projects for research and with practical application, by 2008."

followed by proper indicator, it is not mentioned in the action plan, there is no budget allocated for its implementation and there is no single result so far.

On global level, 33 out of 174 countries (19%) have gender indicators in at least one of their NBSAPs. The identified gender indicators are either sex-disaggregated or address activities for gender equality or women empowerment in at least one NBSAP. Many of these indicators are not directly related to nature resource management activities or capacity building.

There are several example for substantive or pro forma integration of gender indicators within the NBSAPs. For example Cameroon’s indicators (NBSAP 2012) include number of women involved in projects and number of outreach tools for women. Nepal’s indicators (NBSAP 2014) include increased women’s participation and benefitting (with no defined goal), and number of policy documents with gender sensitive indicators (with no defined goal). India’s NBSAP (2014) includes the indicator: number of women with access to education, health services, water, electricity and roads.”

- Sex disaggregated data

Usually the availability and usefulness of gender indicators is closely linked to the inclusion of sex disaggregated data in NBSAPs. In that regards the results of the global research done by IUCN global gender office says that there are only 13 NBSAPs from 12 countries that have both sex-disaggregated data and gender indicators. Most of the sex-disaggregated data used is related to background information and demographics for the country. Thirty-four countries (20%) use sex-disaggregated data in at least one NBSAP.⁸ A few countries have documented women’s rates of participation in NBSAP workshops.

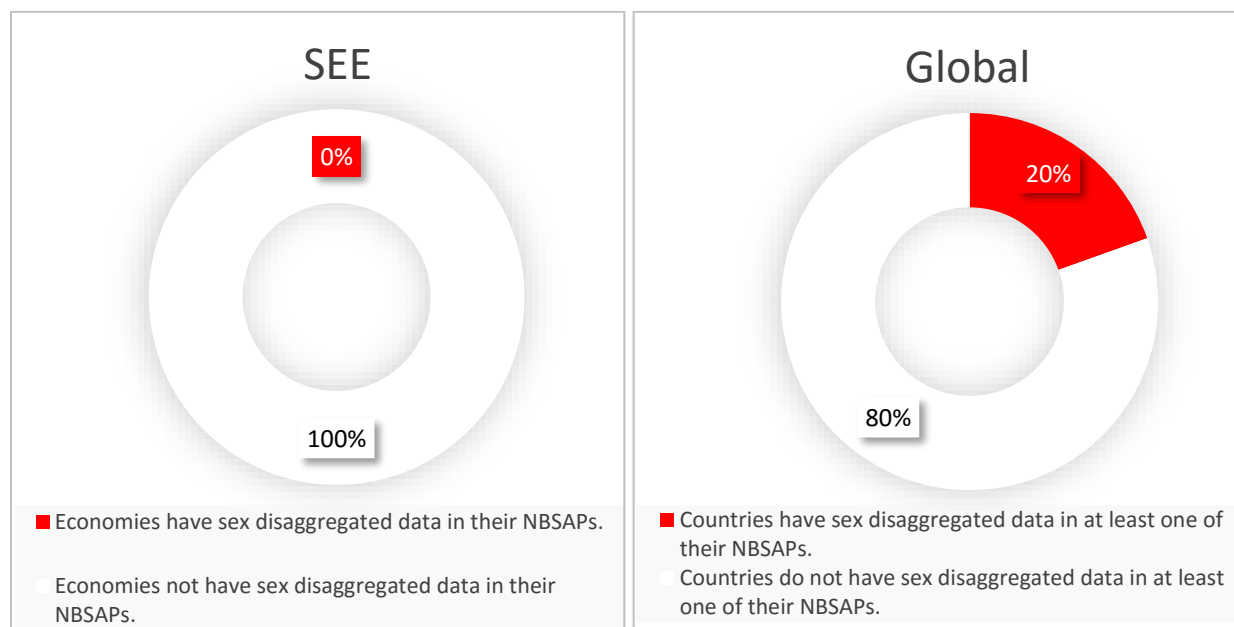


Figure 24: inclusion of sex disaggregated data in the NBSAPs

⁸ IUCN Global Gender Office “Gender and Biodiversity: Analysis of women and gender equality considerations in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)”, January 2017

However, most of the uses of sex-disaggregated data are not directly related to natural resource management. Most of these sex-disaggregated data are about gender breakdown of the general population, life expectancy by gender, low education/literacy rates of women, poverty of women, fertility rates and contraceptive use rates by gender.

In South-East Europe there is no case where any NBSAP is including sex-disaggregated data.

Some of the global practices of using sex disaggregated data within NBSAP are the following: a) Gambia's NBSAP (2015) includes data about the agriculture productivity of women, that 78% of women are in the agricultural workforce versus 57% of men, and that women do 90% of the oyster and cockle harvesting and production but lack the appropriate skills and techniques to properly process, package and market their products. Equatorial Guinea's NBSAP (2015) notes that women are 80% of farmers so their participation is crucial to agricultural management.

Cameroon's NBSAP (2012) is the only NBSAP with a statistic relates to women's land ownership (1-7%). It also has several gender sensitive indicators including sex-disaggregated data on participation in NBSAP project implementation and number of Biodiversity targets that are mainstreaming gender.

- Traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and stewards of the environment

Reference to women as holders of the traditional ecological knowledge and stewards of environment are representing the two cross-cutting themes that have not been considered in the standard EGY analyzing templates (methodology). However, the practice shown that these themes should be taken into consideration as one of the key components when gender practitioners are trying to better understand how countries understand and document connections between gender and environment.

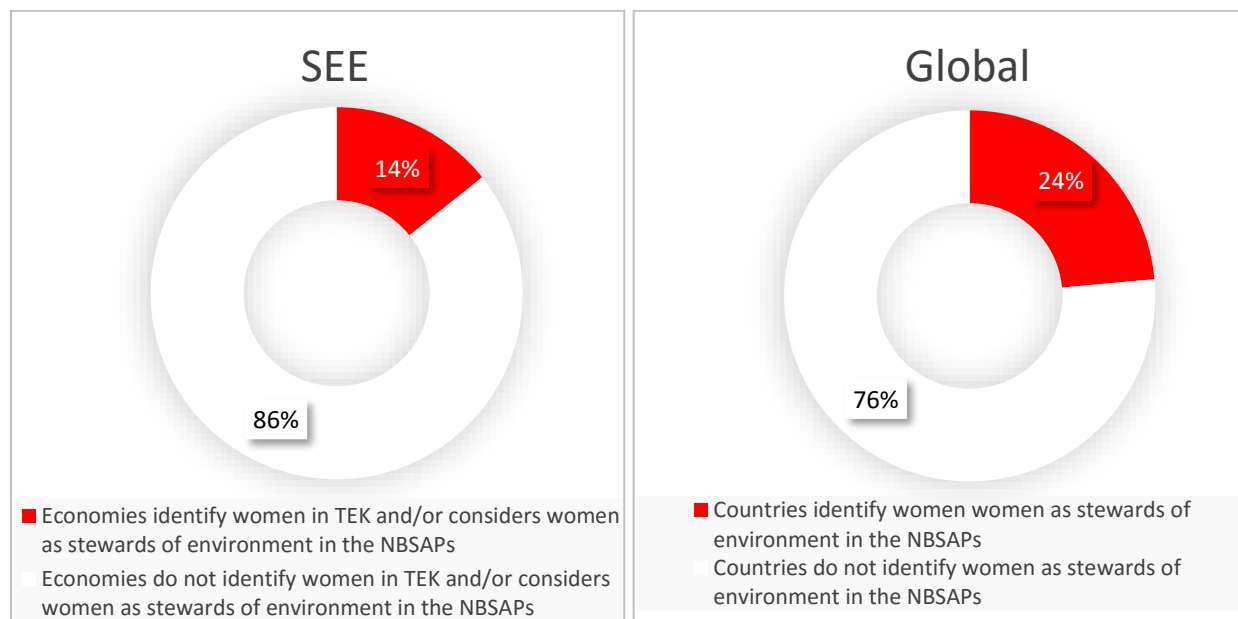


Figure 25: Reference to women in TEK and/or reference to women as a stewards of environment in the NBSAPs

In the South-East Europe there is only one economy that identifies women in TAK or have reference to women as stewards of environment: Bosnian NBSAP states that “Collection, preparation and selection of fruits for drying and maintaining the embers at drying kilns were the duty of all family members, but mostly women.”

Globally there are 26 countries (15%) with reference to women’s TEK in at least one NBSAP and 41 countries (24%) with reference to women as stewards of the environment in at least one NBSAP.

41 countries (24%) reference women as stewards of the environment in at least one NBSAP. Some of these references (identified by the IUCN Global Gender Office) document women’s relationship to specific species or tasks such as: beekeeping (Malawi NBSAP 2015); the Flower of Cooper hoop used in medicine for “women’s problems” (Trinidad and Tobago NBSAP 2006); octopus fishing (Mauritius NBSAP 1999) and collection of marine invertebrates (Palau NBSAP 2008). Other references refer to a general overview of women’s regular collection of wood and water (El Salvador NBSAP 2003) or the collection of material for medicine and dyes (Namibia NBSAP 2001).

Although women’s participation in the planning and management of Biodiversity is often minimal in formal setting, women are vital to responsible biodiversity management at the community level. Traditional gender roles have a strong influence on men and women’s knowledge, management and stewardship of their environments. Depending on the context of these references, these examples may also be included as women being characterized as stakeholders or agents of change.⁹

⁹ IUCN Global Gender Office “Gender and Biodiversity: Analysis of women and gender equality considerations in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)”, January 2017

4. CONCLUSIONS

The level of mainstreaming gender into the key two Biodiversity related documents in the South-East Europe (but also at global level) is unsatisfactory. **All economies that are subject to this review (ALB, BIH, CRO, KSV, MKD, MNE and SRB) are having gender blind approach within the process of development of the NBSAPs and CBD reports.** In practice, these processes failed to recognize the specifics of different needs, roles and responsibilities that women, girls, men and boys are holding (assigned to, or imposed upon) in the area of biodiversity conservation practices and sustainable use of natural resources.

Four out of seven economies in the South-East Europe are not including any gender keyword in their NBSAP. The remaining three economies are mainly quoting the gender-related MDG or Aichi targets. Gender equality and women empowerment is not subject to any chapter of the NBSAPs through share of good practice, lessons learned or focus for any further elaboration of the specific needs, challenges etc. Agenda 2030 and Goal 5 (especially 5a) as well as the SDG 5 are also not considered as relevant to this two key BD related documents.

There are so few references that it is no possible to better understand is there any integration of women within the processes of planning and implementation and if so then how they were involved. Discussion with the stakeholders clearly indicates that **there are no activities that are supporting the process of mainstreaming gender into biodiversity conservation.**

As in global level, this review also concludes that there is a need for undertaking a more comprehensive approach towards identification, understanding and addressing gender consideration. Support for conducting gender analysis is very much needed in order to ensure that there will be a proper framework for designing gender responsive actions, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, hence establishing a gender responsive processes for reducing gender gaps.

The review indicates that the NBSAPs in South-East Europe are not addressing the topic of categorization of women. In that regards, the NBSAPs in SEE are blind when it comes to categorization of women as vulnerable, beneficiaries, stakeholders and agents of change.

The level of integration of gender equality and women empowerment in the NBSAPs in South-East Europe is unsatisfactory. SEE's NBSAPs are not recognizing gender equality as a guiding principle of the NBSAP. The process of development of the NBSAPs is not (yet) integrating the women organizations, agencies or ministries in charge for gender equality. Women organizations, agencies or ministries in charge for gender equality are not included in implementation of the NBSAPs. There seems to be no interest for inclusion of gender-based objectives in the NBSAP.

This review also concludes that there is no single case where NBSAPs are indicating a gender budgeting. Gender indicators are not even considered in the key Biodiversity related documents. Sex disaggregated data are not available and not subject to interest in NBSAPs and CBD reports. Traditional ecological knowledge is also not included in the NBSAPs, hence supporting the overall status of the NBSAPs and CBD reports analyzed from gender perspective.

In a nutshell, **in SEE economies there is limited or no interest, knowledge and experience in mainstreaming gender into the two key Biodiversity related documents.** Technical support in this area is very much needed. **Substantive inclusion of the national gender machineries has to be ensured. Technical and financial support by international organizations (UNWOMEN, GIZ, SDC, UNEP, UNDP etc.) is highly desired. Inclusion of the local civil society organizations for gender equality and women empowerment is recommended.**

Ministry in charge of biodiversity conservation should ensure that there is a results-oriented mechanism for inclusion of gender equality and women empowerment perspectives into the processes of development, decision-making and implementation of the NBSAPs and CBD reports.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of the review showed that there is a need for undertaking urgent set of actions for improving the current status of the way how SEE economies are identifying and addressing the challenges that gender equality and women empowerment as topics are facing while implementing Biodiversity conservation related initiatives.

There are several recommendations that should be taken into consideration in order to enable environment for improvement of mainstreaming gender into the processes of development and implementation of the two key Biodiversity related documents:

- **NATIONAL NETWORK FOR “GENDER AND BIODIVERSITY” ESTABLISHED**

The institution in charge of development and implementation of the NBSAP and CBD report should get familiar with the national gender machinery and vice versa. The CBD focal point should establish a strong communication and collaboration with the gender focal point based in the governmental institution in charge of gender equality and women empowerment¹⁰. If there is a gender focal point within the institution in charge of development and implementation of the NBSAP and CBD report, the CBD focal point should ensure that there is a practice in place for regular mutual communication and coordination. The CBD focal point should establish a dialogue with the gender focal points from the international organizations present in the region with gender equality portfolio such as UN WOMEN, GIZ, UNDP, USAID, Embassies of Nederland, Norway, Sweden etc. to get access to knowledge and training opportunities.

Cooperation with the present gender equality related civil society organizations and associations is also highly recommended. Special attention should be given to the process of collaboration with the gender focal points within the institutions in charge of agriculture, forestry, waters and energy (if any). In general, the CBD focal point should establish appropriate gender and Biodiversity network that will not only ensure proper mainstreaming of gender into Biodiversity related initiatives but also continuously strengthen the internal capacities for gender and Biodiversity. It is recommended the network to be pragmatically framed in a form of working group (gender and biodiversity).

- **CAPACITIES FOR MAINSTREAMING GENDER INTO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION STRENGTHENED**

The team responsible for Biodiversity conservation within the governmental institution in charge of nature protection should invest in strengthening their capacities for mainstreaming gender into the processes of development and implementation of the NBSAPs. The CBD focal point should build an outstanding capacities for understanding the gender based needs and challenges, identifying the key stakeholders, coordinate the process for gender analysis, identify the key interventions, mobilize team for

¹⁰ For example, in Bosnia it is National agency for gender equality; in Montenegro is within the Gender equality department in Ministry of human and minority rights; in Albania it is Ministry of social welfare and youth; etc.

implementation, lead the process of implementation and ensure proper gender based monitoring and evaluation of the Biodiversity conservation initiatives. For this purpose, the CBD focal point should improve the capacities for gender mainstreaming and women empowerment.

The knowledge should also be gained through learning the lessons and reviewing the good practices delivered by other countries towards development and implementation of their NBSAPs. Exchange of knowledge should be especially established with the countries that have managed to undertake some innovative measures for decreasing the gender gaps. Their experience should be analyzed and adapted (if needed) to the SEE context before replicating. The needs for gaining basic knowledge in gender equality and women empowerment could be met through targeted use of the internal capacities (in the economy) by using the capacities of the gender focal point, UNWOMEN, domestic gender related organizations and associations etc. However, the practical examples and targeted gender mainstreaming into Biodiversity conservation are recommended to be gained by using the “gender and Biodiversity champions”. The champions are the gender and Biodiversity practitioners who managed to make change by delivering outstanding results gained through setting a progressive process for gender mainstreaming into Biodiversity conservation. Hereby it is also clear that there are not so many good practices in the world and some of the reliable practices are not applicable for the SEE region.

In that sense, strengthened capacities for gender equality and women empowerment is very much needed in order to set a proper set of actions that will later on enter the process of implementation when lessons are going to be learn in practice. The risks are going to be minimized if the domestic machinery is properly used. The eventual failures should not be taken as an indicator for taking the decision to proceed with “status quo” (gender neutral or gender blind) approach, but as an output that should be analyzed, the lessons gained, innovative approaches identified, adaptive measures indicated, new inputs ensure, set of action applied, and results achieved. Once the economy has started to deliver results it should also make efforts in recording them in a way to be better presented and shared with other SEE economies and as a package of lessons learned and good practices shared with the Convention on Biological Diversity.

- **KEY INTERVENTIONS IDENTIFIED AND IMPLEMENTED:**

CBD focal point supported by the “gender and Biodiversity” working group (or at least supported by the team for Biodiversity conservation and gender focal point) should identify and mobilize the stakeholders. The group of stakeholders led by the CBD focal point and gender focal point should jointly identify the status of “women and Biodiversity” and to assess the gender related needs and challenges in Biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. Based on the assessment, a list of specific actions should be identified and mainstreamed in the NBSAP accompanied by clearly stated budget, well-defined indicators, and elaborated method for monitoring and evaluation.

It is recommended a gender action plan to be developed as an integral part of the NBSAP or at least as a separate document if it is developed after approval of the NBSAP. The gender action plan should provide detailed elaboration of the activities that should lead towards achieving the vision, goals and

objectives for reducing the gender gaps. It is of high importance to put maximum efforts in placing the sustainable development perspectives, hence reviewing the proposed gender and Biodiversity conservation activities from the perspectives of the environment, social and economic development. Special interest should be given to the areas of: reducing poverty, providing employment opportunities, valuation of unpaid work, ensuring sustainable use of natural resources, and contribution to nature conservation. Attention should be given to the maximum usage of the domestic civil society organizations (for gender equality and women empowerment) and to the international organizations present in the economy. That's why it is important to have them well positioned within the process of planning and decision making, hence ensuring their ownership during the process of implementation.

Once there is a gender action plan for mainstreaming gender into biodiversity with clear actions, budget allocations, indicators, timeframe and division of roles and responsibilities, implementation can be launched. The network (gender and Biodiversity working group, if applicable) should take the leadership role guided by the CBD focal point and the gender focal point. It might happen that the group is split in separate teams covering different actions/chapters but it will be essential to ensure cohesiveness of the actions and efforts of all team "to work as one".

▪ COUNTRIES MOVED FROM BEGINNERS TO GENDER AND BIODIVERSITY CHAMPIONS

The SEE economies should aim at achieving rapid improvement in the area of mainstreaming gender into Biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. In order to do so, they have to ensure that the processes of development and implementation of the gender action plan (for mainstreaming gender into Biodiversity conservation) will also be followed by progressive plan for monitoring and evaluation. Having this approach will make sure that the lessons learned and good practices delivered by each economy are properly documented, analyzed and shared in the region and with CBD secretariat.

Analyzing the lessons learned and good practices will identify the further gaps, understand the critical points for eventual failures, analyze the reliable adaptation measures, and identify the follow up actions for improvement. Once the economies have ensured results oriented circled system of mainstreaming gender into Biodiversity conservation, they will be ready to share the experience. The economies should have in mind that if the planning and implementation processes are taking into consideration the global gender plan of action (2015 – 2020), CEDAW¹¹, Aichi target 14 and Beijing platform, their examples are going to be applicable globally. Even more important is to ensure that the gender action plan (for mainstreaming gender in Biodiversity conservation) is accepted and supported by other ministries through integration of the anticipated actions within their strategic documents and plans for operation and undertaking a joint approach towards their implementation.

Achievement of the significant results followed by pragmatic share of the practical experience globally will put the SEE economies in the global map of the champions for mainstreaming gender into Biodiversity conservation, hence representing a good example for topic-based contribution towards

¹¹ Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women

reducing the economy specific gender gaps. Having internal mechanism for recording the progress in sex-disaggregated data, enabling women to become entrepreneurs for sustainable use of natural resources, ensure targeted awareness raising activities, improve the reliable capacities for mainstreaming gender into Biodiversity driven initiatives, provision of technical support to women empowerment in Biodiversity conservation etc. will enable CBD Secretariat to lead by examples that provides tangible results.

Establishment of the network for gender and Biodiversity, strengthening its capacities, develop and implement a progressive gender action plans, and proper documentation of the results, lessons learned and good practices should be the focus of the SEE economies towards the vision of becoming the global champions in ensuring gender equality and women empowerment in the area of Biodiversity conservation.

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