

She - Bio

She harnesses ecosystems for
Biodiversity-inspired outcomes

Report of the Discussion



KERALA STATE
BIODIVERSITY BOARD





Kerala State Biodiversity Board

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Foreword

I am pleased to share this consolidated report on our highly productive meeting held on March 10th, in alignment with the International Women's Day 2025 theme: “**Accelerate Action**”.

The phrase She-Bio is gaining recognition, and at KSBB, we firmly believe that after hearing from our women colleagues who attended the meeting as well as many others beyond the discussion who are inspired to work on biodiversity issues this initiative holds immense potential. It can serve as a catalyst to influence authorities in developing and implementing gender-responsive environmental and biodiversity action plans.

As Chairman of KSBB, I have taken active steps to ensure that the **Kerala State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (K-SBSAP)** which is now in its finalization stage is fully gender-responsive and inclusive across all 80 targeted action points.

Building on the momentum of the She-Bio discussion, a dedicated team at KSBB explored a way forward to sustain the enthusiasm generated at the Karyavattom Botany campus. This resulted in the proposal to institutionalize the She-Bio Concept and lead it into action by establishing a high-power committee, named the She-Bio Cell. You can find further details on its structure and functions in this report.

I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all of you who have engaged with this report and continue helping KSBB to champion biodiversity concerns with your dedication and passion. Your spirit and enthusiasm are invaluable. Together, we can harness the full potential of collective action and successfully achieve the K-SBSAP Goals, Objectives, and Targets.

N. Anil Kumar
Chairman

Earth Day, 2025

She-Bio

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Report of the Discussion

The Kerala State Biodiversity Board, in collaboration with the Department of Botany, Kerala University, organized a consultation meeting with women leaders and girl students to discuss the gender roles in developing sustainable solutions for biodiversity conservation *(See Annexure 3 Participants List). The event, titled She-Bio (She harnesses ecosystems for biodiversity-inspired outcomes), was held on March 10, 2025, as part of the International Women's Day celebrations.

The discussions focused on the sustainable management of key socio-economic and ecological production systems- forests, wetlands, coastal and marine ecosystems, and farmlands. Participants, representing diverse sectors such as women's development, biodiversity management, agricultural sciences and technologies, elected representatives of local self-governments, and students of botany and zoology, identified several indicators and action areas for monitoring the gender responsiveness of the biodiversity strategy and action.

The discussion fostered dialogue on strategies to recognize and reward the invaluable contributions of women in biodiversity restoration. The session also focused on aligning these efforts with KM-GBF Targets 22 and 23, which advocate for gender equality, diverse participation, and equitable access to benefits in biodiversity management.

Major Outcome Proposal : Establish a She-Bio Cell

As a significant step toward implementing the discussed recommendations, a She-Bio Cell is being proposed as a Technical Support Group (TSG) to the Biodiversity Management Committees**. This initiative, led by the Kerala State Biodiversity Board in collaboration with the Department of Botany, Kerala University, and the Kerala State Kudumbashree Mission, represents a pioneering effort to recognize, reward, and promote gender-responsive biodiversity management actions in Kerala.

Following consultations with women leaders and students, the She-Bio Cell will work to incentivize, support, and empower women in biodiversity conservation across key ecosystems such as forests, wetlands, coastal and marine areas, and farmlands at

the district level. With a dedicated executive committee and structured membership, it aims to drive policy advocacy, research, pilot projects, and knowledge management to ensure women's visibility in sustainable biodiversity and ecosystem management.

A key function of the She-Bio Cell is to monitor and evaluate the gender responsiveness of the Kerala State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (K-SBSAP), aligning its assessment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. By fostering inclusive governance, promoting sustainable livelihoods through partnerships like Kudumbashree, and ensuring equitable benefit-sharing, the initiative will contribute to the state's long-term biodiversity conservation efforts. After an initial handholding phase by the Kerala State Biodiversity Board, the She-Bio Cell is envisioned to evolve into an independent institution.

Key Discussion Points and Recommendations:

The meeting underscored the 'She-Bio' theory, which emphasizes women's leadership in conservation and regenerative practices. It was structured around four critical ecosystems where women could lead transformative efforts. The discussions led to comprehensive sector-specific recommendations focusing on equitable participation, gender inclusivity, and economic empowerment in biodiversity governance**. Some of the major recommendations are highlighted here:

Forests: Discussions revolved around community-driven initiatives in afforestation, agroforestry, and native species conservation. Participants highlighted how such efforts enhance biodiversity and promote climate resilience.

1. Strengthen Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) with financial and legal support, training, and gender quotas.
2. Ensure women, tribal communities, and marginalized groups have secure land rights and representation in decision-making.
3. Promote women-led conservation initiatives, eco-tourism, and non-timber forest enterprises.
4. Integrate traditional knowledge into policies with free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC).

*See Annexure 3 Participants List

** (Annexure 1)

5. Monitor progress using indicators such as women's representation in BMCs and access to resources.

Wetlands: Participants explored the role of women in restoring degraded wetlands, safeguarding freshwater biodiversity, and promoting sustainable livelihoods such as eco-friendly fishing and wetland agriculture.

1. Increase women's representation in BMCs and fisheries governance.
2. Provide skills training (e.g., fish processing and entrepreneurship) and scholarships for fisherwomen.
3. Establish enforcement bodies to monitor women's participation and conduct ocean literacy programs.
4. Develop women-led marine enterprises and ensure equitable benefit-sharing of marine resources.
5. Leverage Kudumbashree and SHGs for community-based conservation efforts

Farmlands: Women-led practices in regenerative agriculture, organic farming, and seed sovereignty were emphasized for their ability to restore soil health, protect pollinators, and boost agrobiodiversity.

1. Ensure 50% women's representation in BMCs and Local Self-Governments
2. Support women-led Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Joint Liability Groups (JLGs).
3. Promote Geographical Indication (GI) tags for products by women and marginalized groups.
4. Provide legal protection for women conservation activists and document traditional knowledge.
5. Implement gender-specific schemes such as seed production training and biofertilizer incentives.

Coastal & Marine Systems: The dialogue stressed the urgency of women-led initiatives in coastal ecosystem

restoration, sustainable fisheries, and plastic waste reduction to ensure marine biodiversity and resilience.

1. Conduct awareness programs on wetland conservation laws via BMCs and the State Wetland Authority of Kerala.
2. Engage women in restoration projects and policy formulation.
3. Revive traditional wetland-based industries like coir and bamboo through women's SHGs.
4. Introduce a dedicated women's budget for wetland conservation initiatives.
5. Strengthen the 13th Working Group with local environmentalists and experts.

Cross-Cutting Themes:

1. Capacity Building: Provide gender-specific training, legal aid, and leadership programs.
2. Policy Integration: Mainstream gender equality in biodiversity policies (e.g., Forest Rights Act, ABS agreements).
3. Monitoring: Track indicators such as women's participation rates, access to resources, and conflict resolution cases.
4. Economic Empowerment: Link conservation activities with livelihoods through eco-tourism and value-added products.

Conclusion:

The discussion underscored Kerala's decentralized governance model as a powerful platform for inclusive biodiversity management. It highlighted the importance of integrating women's leadership, traditional knowledge, and equitable benefit-sharing into local and state-level strategies. The She-Bio model and the establishment of the She-Bio Cell present a holistic and transformative approach, enabling Kerala to align with KM-GBF targets while securing its ecological and economic future.

She-Bio Cell: Empowering Women for Gender-Responsive Biodiversity Management in Kerala

An Initiative of Kerala State Biodiversity Board

Introduction

A key recommendation from the deliberations was establishing a Biodiversity and Gender Action Committee, named the “She-Bio Cell” (SBC) in the form a Technical Support Group for the Biodiversity Management Committees at the local level in their efforts in gendered approach in the biodiversity management. The She-Bio Cell aims to monitor, communicate, recognize, and reward the contributions of women in Kerala in harnessing ecosystems for biodiversity-inspired solutions that can foster responsible and inclusive engagement in conservation and sustainable resource management practices.

Structure and Major functions of the She-Bio Cell (SBC)

The SBC comprises an executive committee (EC) of seven members selected based on their expertise in gender and biodiversity management across the four key ecosystems- forests, wetlands, coastal and marine environments, and farmlands. The committee is designed to ensure representation from bioresource-based sustainable livelihood development, local governance, and gender perspectives.

One member of the EC will be from the Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB) to serve as the coordinator, overseeing the Cell’s activities and ensuring its effective functioning, besides all the Board women staff serving as the Cell’s General Body members. The seven-member executive committee will have autonomy to elect a chairperson, who must be an expert in gender and biodiversity with proven field-level experience in driving sustainable and inclusive conservation initiatives.

The She-Bio Cell (SBC) will initiate a membership drive to engage and empower women and girls across the state who are committed to biodiversity conservation and sustainable ecosystem management. Membership will be structured into distinct categories, including professionals, researchers, community leaders, farmers, and students, ensuring broad participation from diverse sectors.

A nominal membership fee needs to be introduced, with concessions for women from marginalized communities and a fee waiver for students, fostering greater inclusivity and encouraging young women to actively participate in biodiversity action.

Terms of Reference for the She-Bio Cell (SBC) Executive Committee

I. Operations

The SBC Executive Committee will steer gender-responsive biodiversity conservation and sustainable ecosystem management across the state. Its key roles and responsibilities will be centered around four core areas:

1. Policy Analysis & Advocacy

- Assess existing gender-responsive policies and practices related to biodiversity and ecosystem management, including women-focused biodiversity and ecosystem-based livelihoods in the state. Evaluate the Kerala State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (K-SBSAP) through a gender lens, aligning the assessment with the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) to ensure inclusive and equitable biodiversity governance.
- Provide recommendations to strengthen gender inclusivity in the overall biodiversity governance in the state.

2. Research & Studies on Gender and Biodiversity

- Conduct or commission studies on gender and biodiversity management across the four priority ecosystems (forests, wetlands, coastal and marine, and farmlands).
- Engage universities, NGOs, individual experts—including journalists and legal professionals—to generate evidence-based insights and policy recommendations.

3. Action-Oriented Pilot Projects

- Develop and implement pilot-level biodiversity and ecosystem-based action projects aimed at both biodiversity conservation and empowering women, particularly those from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

- Promote sustainable livelihoods and responsible management of nature commons—forests, land, and water.
- Partner with the Kudumbasree Mission for implementing the above two action points and to leverage community-driven economic empowerment initiatives.

4. Gender & Biodiversity Knowledge Management

- Document women's biodiversity knowledge, innovations, and ecosystem management practices across the four priority ecosystems.
- Widely disseminate success stories and best practices through workshops, meetings, publications, media outreach, and social media platforms, ensuring greater visibility and engagement.

II. Governance, Tenure, and Operational Procedures of the She-Bio Cell (SBC)

1. Tenure & Meetings

- The She-Bio Cell Executive Committee will have a tenure of two years.
- The Executive Committee meetings will have to be convened once every three months to review progress, strategize activities, and address emerging challenges.
- A General Body Meeting (GBM) will have to be held twice a year to engage all members, review key achievements, and outline future directions.

2. Resource Mobilization, Financial Management, and Reporting

- The SBC must adopt a transparent and accountable financial management system aligned with best governance practices.
- It can mobilize resources through membership fees, grants, sponsorships, institutional collaborations, and CSR partnerships.
- A dedicated finance sub-committee to oversee budgeting, bookkeeping, and financial reporting to ensure compliance with established norms.
- The SBC has to prepare and submit quarterly progress reports to its members and stakeholders, including the Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB) during the handholding phase.

3. Growth Strategy : Transit to an Independent Institution

- The KSBB will provide technical support and mentorship to the She-Bio Cell for two years, ensuring a strong foundation for its operations.
- After this period, the SBC is expected to evolve into an independent committed to developing sustainable solutions for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of bioresources, and equitable benefit-sharing for both women and men.

Meeting Proceedings

International Women's Day 2025 in line with KM Global Biodiversity Framework

GROUP 1 : FOREST

KM-GBF Targets considered for discussion:

Target 22 & 23.

Discussants

1. **Smt. Sreelekha,**
DFO, Flying squad,
Thiruvananthapuram (Chair)
2. **Dr. Bindu R Nair,**
Professor, Dept. of Botany,
University of Kerala (Co-Chair)
3. **Dr. Rose Mary Francis,**
Professor, Plant breeding & Genetics,
ARS Mannuthy
4. **Dr. Remya Krishnan R.V.,**
Dept. of Botany, University of Kerala
5. Smt. Veena Maruthoor,
Environmentalist
6. Smt. Rajeeva A M,
Vice President, Pangode Grama Panchayath,
Thiruvananthapuram
7. **Smt. Shylaja,**
BMC Chairperson, Nanniyode Gramapanchayat,
Thiruvananthapuram
8. **Smt. Bijumol,**
BMC Convenor, District Panchayath,
Thiruvananthapuram
9. **Dr. Jisha,**
Rapporteur 1
10. **Ms. Jithika**
Rapporteur 2
11. **Arya Anand**
Coordinator

Achieve the **Target 22** -the "**Equitable and effective participation in decision-making**" By empowering the Biodiversity Management Committees

1. Kerala must prioritize inclusive and equitable participation in biodiversity governance, leveraging its rich socio-cultural diversity and decentralized governance system. The state, through the Biodiversity Board and at local level, Biodiversity Management Committees must ensure full, equitable, effective, and gender-responsive representation in biodiversity-related decision-making processes. This should be achieved by undertaking multi-pronged actions that strengthen the Panchayati Raj Institutions

- by equipping them with resources, training, and expertise to manage natural resources effectively. Kerala's decentralized governance model provides a platform for participatory biodiversity management, with special emphasis on involving women, girls, indigenous tribes, marginalized communities, and local knowledge holders in planning and management.
2. The cultural and ecological knowledge of tribal communities needs to be integrated into conservation policies, ensuring free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) for its use. Efforts will address social and economic barriers that hinder marginalized groups from participating in biodiversity governance and benefit-sharing mechanisms. The state will protect the rights of tribal and marginalized communities to land, biological resources, and representation in decision-making bodies, while framing policies to support forest-dependent communities and their traditional ways of life. Economic empowerment through sustainable use of bio-resources, eco-tourism, and biodiversity-based enterprises will be prioritized. These efforts will ensure biodiversity conservation and sustainable use are locally driven and equitably shared, aligning with the CBD and KMGBF.
3. Key action points include ensuring equitable participation of indigenous peoples, tribal groups, women, youth, and persons with disabilities in decision-making; strengthening legal frameworks to recognize their rights over land, resources, and traditional knowledge; improving access to justice for communities affected by biodiversity degradation; and facilitating participatory governance models like community biodiversity councils and Traditional Knowledge Trusts.
4. BMCs will have to be strengthened with financial, legal, and administrative support, including training, technical expertise, and infrastructure. Awareness and training programs will educate marginalized groups about their biodiversity rights and governance mechanisms. Biodiversity decision-making will be integrated into local self-governance structures, reflecting the priorities of marginalized groups. Youth engagement will be encouraged, and legal aid and capacity-building support will be provided to marginalized communities. Disability-inclusive governance

will remove barriers to participation, and the effectiveness of participatory frameworks will be monitored to ensure inclusivity and alignment with Kerala's socio-cultural diversity.

5. Equitable and effective participation in decision-making in relation to forests is crucial for ensuring that all stakeholders, including women, marginalized communities, indigenous groups, and local populations, in how forest resources are managed and conserved. When diverse groups are involved in the decision-making process, it leads to more inclusive, sustainable, and effective forest management strategies. This participation allows for the integration of local knowledge, enhances ownership of conservation efforts, and ensures that policies are more responsive to the needs and rights of those most affected by forest-related issues. In Kerala, fostering gender equality, empowering tribal communities, and creating opportunities for local self-governments to actively engage in forest governance can significantly contribute to equitable and effective decision-making, resulting in better conservation outcomes and the sustainable use of forest resources.

Achieve Target 23: Gender equality in decision-making and implementation

1. Kerala's biodiversity governance framework emphasizes gender equality as a fundamental right and a critical factor for achieving sustainable biodiversity outcomes. The Kerala State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan integrates a gender-responsive approach across all levels of biodiversity action, policy, and decision-making. This ensures that women and girls have equal opportunities and capacity to contribute to biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, and benefit sharing. With strong social indicators in education, health, and gender equality, Kerala is well-positioned to lead in embedding gender inclusivity into biodiversity strategies, ensuring conservation efforts are both environmentally sound and socially just.
2. A key focus is promoting women's equal access to land and natural resources, ensuring fair distribution of biodiversity-related benefits. Kerala will strengthen policies to secure land and resource rights for women, enabling their participation in decision-making bodies like Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and community-led organizations. Capacity-building programs, skill development initiatives, and financial support for bio-entrepreneurship will foster women's leadership in biodiversity

conservation. Public awareness campaigns, digital platforms, and participatory governance models will encourage greater representation of women in biodiversity planning and implementation.

3. Specific measures include increasing women's representation in BMCs and Local Self-Governments (LSGs), developing gender equality awareness campaigns, and establishing mentorship and financial incentives for women-led conservation initiatives. Legal support needs to be strengthened to protect women environmental defenders from threats and discrimination. Gender-specific training programs will enhance women's capacity in biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, and benefit sharing. BMCs will be redefined to explicitly promote gender equity and women's empowerment.
4. The Kerala State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan must see that it aligns biodiversity governance structures with national and international gender equality frameworks, ensuring compliance with commitments. Entrepreneurship programs that provide financial assistance, training, and market linkages for women, while cooperatives and self-help groups (SHGs) to be explored and strengthened to support women-led biodiversity enterprises. Policy reforms should ensure women's equal access to land, forests, water bodies, and agricultural resources. Gender-responsive biodiversity policies and action plans will be developed at state and local levels, reflecting women's roles in conservation. Gender considerations need to be mainstreamed into all stages of biodiversity planning, ensuring inclusivity in conservation, sustainable use, and benefit-sharing frameworks. Through these efforts, Kerala aims to set a national benchmark for gender-responsive biodiversity conservation strategies.

Gender equality in decision-making and implementation in relation to forests

5. It is essential for creating more inclusive, sustainable, and equitable forest management practices. Women, especially in rural and indigenous communities, possess valuable knowledge and perspectives on sustainable resource use and conservation but are often excluded from formal decision-making processes. By ensuring equal representation of women in forest governance bodies, such as BMCs, Forest related activities, and policy development, decisions can better reflect the needs and priorities of all stakeholders. Implementing gender equality in these areas not only promotes social justice but also enhances the effectiveness of

forest management and conservation efforts, as women's involvement often leads to more diverse, innovative, and community-centered solutions. In Kerala, fostering gender-inclusive policies, supporting women's leadership roles in forest

management, and providing gender-responsive training can help ensure that women have an equal voice in the decision-making processes, thereby promoting sustainable forest governance.

**Table 1: Achieve the Target 22 -the “Equitable and effective participation in decision-making”
By empowering the Biodiversity Management Committees**

Type of Indicator	Indicator Name	Means/Method of Implementation	Responsible Agencies	Remarks
Headline Indicator	Percentage increase in women's representation in forest conservation and related climatic changes	Encouraging equitable gender representation through policy mandates, quotas, and outreach programs in local governance structures	NBA, MoEFCC, DoECC, Kerala State Biodiversity Board, Revenue, Forest Department	Ensures women have a voice in decision-making processes related to biodiversity and resource management. Kerala has implemented gender quotas in local self-governments to enhance women's representation.
	The percentage of women in the administrative activities of forest management and in the affairs of forest-dwelling communities	Through a coordinated approach that empowers women and ensures their active participation at various levels of decision-making.	Forest Department, Revenue Department	
	Percentage of women in Kerala with secure access to land, forests, water bodies, and biological resources	Legal empowerment through the Forest Rights Act (FRA), Kerala Land Reforms Act, and policies ensuring equitable access to natural resources	NBA, MoEFCC, Kerala Forest Department, Revenue Department	Ensures that women are legally recognized and can participate effectively in conservation decisions. Women's secure access to land and resources promotes their active participation in biodiversity governance.
	Percentage of biodiversity-related benefits from forest equitably shared with women	Gender-sensitive policy frameworks and support for women in agriculture, fisheries, and ecotourism industries	NBA, MoEFCC, Kerala State Biodiversity Board, Forest Department, MGNREGS, Kudumbasree,	Equitable distribution of biodiversity-related benefits such as ecosystem services and sustainable agriculture practices, ensuring women gain from the conservation of biodiversity.
	Percentage increase in women's representation in community-based management of forest resources	Through a combination of policy interventions, capacity-building, awareness programs, and institutional support.	NBA, MoEFCC, KSBB, BMCs, Forest Departments, NGOs, MoEFCC, MGNREGS, Kudumbasree,	ensuring that diverse perspectives contribute to the long-term health and resilience of forest ecosystems.

	Involvement of entrepreneurial opportunities for women around forest-based resources such as non-timber forest products.	Through Women's Forest-Based Enterprises	NBA, MoEFCC, ST department, Forest Department, MGNREGS, Kudumbasree,	empowers them economically, promotes sustainable forest management, and enhances their role in preserving biodiversity while benefiting from forest resources.
Component Indicator	Number of women-led biodiversity conservation initiatives	Initiatives supporting women as leaders in biodiversity conservation projects through training, funding, and community engagement	NBA, Kerala State Biodiversity Board, NGOs, Forest department, State Startup mission & community-based organizations, MGNREGS, Kudumbasree	Women's leadership in biodiversity projects increases ownership, responsibility, and participation in local conservation efforts with financial and technical support from both government and non-governmental stakeholders.
	Number of gender-specific training programs conducted for women on biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, and benefit-sharing in Kerala	Conducting workshops and training programs focused on empowering women with knowledge about sustainable practices, biodiversity management, and governance	Kerala State Biodiversity Board, Educational Institutions, NGOs, Forest department, MGNREGS, Kudumbasree,	Capacity building programs specifically aimed at women in Kerala, enabling their participation in conservation activities and decision-making.
	Percentage of women in all hierarchical levels in forest department	Increasing women's participation in the forest department can have significant positive impacts on biodiversity conservation. Women's involvement can bring unique perspectives, foster more inclusive decision-making, and help improve the management of forest ecosystems	Forest Department	
	Number of awareness campaigns on gender equality and inclusive participation in biodiversity governance conducted in Kerala	State-lead campaigns, media outreach, and community programs to promote gender equality in biodiversity conservation	Kerala State Biodiversity Board, Revenue Department, NGOs, MGNREGS, Kudumbasree	Promotes awareness about the importance of gender equality in biodiversity governance and encourages diverse participation in decision-making.

Complementary Indicator	Number of awareness and capacity-building programs conducted for women, tribal groups, and marginalized communities on biodiversity rights and governance in Kerala	Workshops, training programs, and awareness campaigns to inform marginalized communities about their rights and roles in biodiversity governance	Kerala State Biodiversity Board, NGOs, ST Department, MGNREGS, Kudumbasree,	Ensures marginalized communities are empowered to participate in decision-making and governance structures, ensuring inclusive biodiversity management.
	Number of model BMCs with forest coverage developed and operational in Kerala with women involvement	Development of model BMCs where gender equality and inclusive governance are prioritized	Kerala State Biodiversity Board, Forest Department, Revenue Dept., Community based Organizations	These model BMCs serve as best-practice examples for integrating gender equity and community involvement into biodiversity governance.
	involvement of women in the judiciary in the context of forest related issues	Through enhancing gender-responsive legal frameworks, ensure that women's rights to forest resources are protected, and promote equitable environmental justice.	Forest Department, revenue Department, Judicial Department	judiciary plays a crucial role in interpreting laws related to forest conservation, land rights, and biodiversity management, and having more women in this space ensures that issues concerning marginalized groups
	Percentage of women with disabilities participating in biodiversity governance in Kerala	Promoting inclusive participation for people with disabilities through accessible communication and special accommodations in governance structures	Kerala State Biodiversity Board, Health Department, MGNREGS, Kudumbasree,	Ensures full inclusion and accessibility for people with disabilities, allowing them to contribute to biodiversity decision-making.
	The percentage of women in Technical Support Groups (TSGs) established at the Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) level in Kerala	can be increased through a series of targeted interventions that encourage women's involvement in technical, scientific, and governance roles related to biodiversity conservation.	Kerala State Biodiversity Board	TSGs ensure that local communities have access to expert advice, making decision-making more effective and informative.
	TSGs ensure that local communities have access to expert advice, making decision-making more effective and informative.	Through Gender sensitive mechanisms, Quota or representation and Capacity building for women, awareness and training programs.	Kerala State Biodiversity Board, Line Departments, MGNREGS, Kudumbasree	Provides accessible and transparent channels for resolving disputes and ensuring justice in biodiversity management, with special focus on marginalized communities.

	Percentage of women in indigenous and tribal communities in Kerala with recognized rights over land, territories, and traditional knowledge	Implementation of the Forest Rights Act and other legal measures to secure the rights of indigenous groups over their land and resources	Kerala Forest Department, KSBB, Tribal Welfare Department	Indigenous and tribal communities hold recognized rights over their traditional knowledge, land, and territories, which enhances their participation in biodiversity governance.
	Percentage of BMCs in Kerala receiving financial, legal, and administrative support for effective functioning in gender –sensitive strategies	Financial and administrative backing to ensure BMCs function effectively with proper resources, including gender-sensitive strategies	Kerala State Biodiversity Board, State Government	Ensures that BMCs are equipped with the resources they need to function effectively and inclusively.
	Percentage of female youth and students engaged in formal biodiversity decision-making processes in relation to forest	Programs to involve youth in formal governance structures such as student councils, youth biodiversity forums, and community-led biodiversity initiatives	Kerala State Biodiversity Board, Educational Institutions, Forest Department, MGNREGS, Kudumbasree	Encourages youth participation in biodiversity governance, ensuring that young people have a role in shaping the future of biodiversity conservation.
	Number of legal aid and capacity-building programs provided to women from marginalized communities for biodiversity governance in Kerala	Providing legal support and training to marginalized communities, particularly women and tribal groups, to understand and participate in biodiversity governance	Kerala State Biodiversity Board, Legal Aid Groups, NGOs, ST department, MGNREGS, Kudumbasree,	Legal aid ensures that marginalized communities can access justice and actively participate in governance and policymaking.
	Number of environmental justice cases resolved through legal aid and grievance redressal mechanisms	Resolving environmental justice cases that directly impact marginalized communities, ensuring their rights are protected	Kerala State Biodiversity Board, Legal Authorities	Ensure that environmental conflicts affecting marginalized groups are resolved fairly and through inclusive legal processes.
	Number of NGOs working in the field of biodiversity	Supports and tracks the participation of NGOs working on community-led biodiversity governance and capacity building	Kerala State Biodiversity Board, NGOs	Encourages NGOs to work with local communities, strengthening the capacity for inclusive biodiversity governance.

Binary Indicator	Has Kerala adopted legal and institutional frameworks to protect biodiversity rights of indigenous peoples particularly to women and marginalized groups?	Legal frameworks such as the Forest Rights Act and other protective policies to ensure the rights of indigenous and marginalized groups are recognized and upheld	KSBB, Kerala State Government, Legal Authorities, Forest Department	Ensures protection of rights for indigenous and marginalized communities, providing them a legal platform for participation in biodiversity governance.
	Has Kerala established grievance redressal mechanisms for biodiversity-related conflicts?	Formalized grievance redressal mechanisms to resolve conflicts related to biodiversity conservation and land use	Kerala State Biodiversity Board, Local Authorities	Ensures that biodiversity-related conflicts are resolved in a fair, transparent, and accessible manner.
	Has Kerala removed systemic barriers for people with disabilities in biodiversity governance?	Policy reforms and inclusive practices to remove barriers for people with disabilities in biodiversity decision-making processes	Kerala State Biodiversity Board, Disability Affairs Department	Ensures inclusive governance where people with disabilities can equally participate in biodiversity conservation efforts.
	Percentage of direct effects to address gender disparity in governance structures in relation to forest management, biodiversity governance, and environmental policy	Through multifaceted approach	Forest Department & all other Departments, NGOs, and women's empowerment organizations.	Essential for fostering inclusive decision-making, sustainable conservation, and ensuring equal representation of women in critical environmental governance roles.
	percentage of women who owned land in Kerala	Empowerment through land ownership	Revenue Department, NGOs, and local self-governments.	Increasing women's landownership is a crucial step toward enhancing their economic empowerment, social status, and involvement in biodiversity and natural resource governance.
	Involvement of women in Departments in connection with the administration of Total protected area	through targeted efforts to integrate gender-inclusive policies and promote women's participation in forest and wildlife management.	Forest Department. Revenue Department, ST department	active promotion of women in leadership roles.

Table 2: The Achieve Target 23: Gender equality in decision-making and implementation

Type of Indicator	Indicator Name	Means/Method of Implementation	Responsible Agencies	Remarks
Headline Indicator	Percentage increase in Forest dwelling women's representation in Biodiversity Management Committees(BMCs) and Local Self-Governments(LSGs) in Kerala	Increased participation through targeted policies and quotas in Kerala	Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB), Forest and Revenue departments	Expected increase based on gender-sensitive policies
	Percentage of women in Kerala with secure access to land, forests, water bodies, and biological resources	In accordance with the Forest Rights Act, Kerala Forest Policies	Kerala Forest Department, KSBB, Irrigation Department	Implementation of Forest Rights Act impacts this indicator
	Percentage of biodiversity-related benefits from forests, equitably shared with women	Policy implementation, community-based resource management	Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB), Forest Department	Focus on inclusive benefit-sharing mechanisms
	Percentage of women (including forest dwelling) who acquired land ownership	Empowerment through land ownership	Forest & Revenue Department	
Headline Indicator	Number of women-led biodiversity conservation initiatives among the tribals	Women's leadership encouraged by state policies	Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB), ST Department	Women are encouraged to lead conservation efforts
	Number of gender-specific training programs conducted for women on biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, and benefit-sharing in Kerala	Gender-sensitive training for women in biodiversity conservation and management	Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB), Forest Department, Line Departments	Training initiatives focus on capacity building and women's empowerment
	Number of awareness campaigns on gender equality and inclusive participation in biodiversity governance conducted in Kerala	Conducting community workshops, training programs, and educational campaigns targeting local communities	Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB), Forest Department, Line Departments	Focus on creating awareness regarding gender equality in governance

	Number of women environmental leaders participating in knowledge-sharing networks and mentorship programs in Kerala	Supporting women leaders through mentoring and training in environmental conservation	Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB), NGOs	Creating opportunities for women leaders to influence decisions
	Number of women-led biodiversity enterprises supported through entrepreneurship programs and cooperatives in Kerala	Support for women's entrepreneurship in biodiversity-based enterprises	Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB), NGOs	Encouraging women's entrepreneurship in biodiversity conservation
	Number of gender-responsive biodiversity policies and action plans developed and implemented at state and local levels in Kerala	Formulating and implementing policies that specifically address gender concerns in biodiversity	Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB), LSGD	Ensuring gender equality in policy formulation and implementation
	Percentage of women in Kerala aware of their rights and roles in biodiversity governance	Awareness campaigns and educational programs targeting women	Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB), MGNREGS, Kudumbasree, NGOs	Increasing awareness among women regarding their participation rights
	Number of self-help groups (SHGs) and cooperatives strengthened for women-led biodiversity enterprises in Kerala	Strengthening SHGs and cooperatives to enable women's involvement in biodiversity-based livelihoods	Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB), Kudumbasree, MGNREGS, NGOs	Empowering women through group-based approaches to livelihood
	Percentage of women in Kerala with access to financial assistance and market linkages for biodiversity-based livelihoods	Providing financial and market support to women-led biodiversity enterprises	Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB), other Financial Institutions, Kudumbasree, MGNREGS,	Enhancing economic empowerment of women in the biodiversity sector
	Number of women environmental human rights defenders provided with legal support and safeguards in Kerala	Providing legal aid and protection to women involved in environmental justice	Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB), Legal Organizations, DoECC	Ensuring legal protection for women working in biodiversity and environmental rights
	Number of biodiversity-related gender-specific training/awareness modules prepared	Development of training modules tailored to gender-specific issues in biodiversity governance	Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB), NGOs	Creating specialized training resources to address gender gaps in biodiversity governance

Binary Indicator	Has Kerala redefined the duties of BMCs to include gender equity and women's empowerment?	Revising BMC frameworks to include gender-sensitive duties and responsibilities	Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB), Local Authorities	Ensuring BMCs are aligned with gender equity principles
	Has Kerala developed gender-responsive biodiversity policies and action plans?	Designing and implementing gender-responsive policies and action plans for biodiversity conservation	Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB), Local Authorities	Policy design focuses on the inclusion of women's roles in biodiversity conservation
	Has Kerala mainstreamed gender considerations in biodiversity conservation frameworks?	Integrating gender considerations into biodiversity conservation frameworks	Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB), Line Departments	Ensuring gender equality is a core principle in biodiversity governance
	Has Kerala implemented gender-sensitive policies for forest-dependent communities?	Implementing policies that specifically address the needs and rights of women in forest-dependent communities	Kerala Forest Department, Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB), Local Self-Governments	Policies aimed at promoting gender equality among forest-dependent communities, ensuring women's access to forest resources
	Percentage of women in Kerala involved in community-based biodiversity monitoring	Promoting women's involvement in participatory biodiversity monitoring initiatives at the community level	Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB), Local Communities, NGOs	Empowering women to actively participate in biodiversity monitoring and conservation efforts
	Has Kerala integrated women's participation in planning and decision-making for biodiversity protection at the panchayath (local government) level?	Ensuring women's involvement in local governance bodies and their active participation in biodiversity planning	Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB), LSGD, Revenue Departments	Promoting women's leadership roles in decision-making processes at the local level, focusing on panchayats and grassroots governance
	Number of surveys related to the death of environmentalists and analyze the female-to-male ratio involved in conservation activities in Kerala	Data collection	DoECC, Forest Department, community organizations, NGOs, and environmental advocacy groups, Green Kerala Mission	

No. of schemes in Kerala related to Biodiversity Conservation and the involvement of women in these schemes	Data collection	KSBB, From all Departments, NGOs, Kudumbasreeetc	Kerala has several schemes related to biodiversity conservation, such as the Kerala State Biodiversity Conservation and Management Project and Vanamohotsavam, where women's involvement is crucial in ensuring sustainable resource management and promoting inclusive conservation efforts that empower local communities.
No. of women –lead start up in kerala related to forest and Biodiversity Conservation	Data collection from related organizations.		Enhancing the number of women-led startups in Kerala related to forest and biodiversity conservation can lead to innovative solutions, empowerment of women, and sustainable conservation practices that benefit both the environment and local communities.
No. of implementing rules in the Forest Act that directly benefit women	achieved by ensuring gender-responsive policies and practices within the legal framework governing forests	Forest Department, Central Govt (The Forest Department, Kerala State Biodiversity Board, NGOs, and local government bodies can collaborate to implement these rules and policies, ensuring that women receive direct benefits from forest conservation efforts)	By incorporating gender-specific provisions into the Forest Act and ensuring the active participation of women in decision-making, resource management, and conservation activities, Kerala can ensure that the benefits of forest resources are equitably shared.
The percentage of traditional knowledge utilized in Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in relation to forests and the participation of women in this process	By recognizing Traditional Knowledge in ABS Framework, Identifying and Documenting Women's Traditional Knowledge etc	Kerala Forest Department, Kerala State Biodiversity Board, NGOs, and tribal organizations	The implementation of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in relation to forests can be made gender-inclusive by ensuring the active participation of women in the process and recognizing their traditional ecological knowledge.
Whether ABS agreements related to Biodiversity and forest conservation are gender inclusive ?.	Data collection	NBA, KSBB, Forest Department	Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) agreements can be gender-inclusive if they intentionally recognize and promote women's roles in biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources. These agreements are crucial for ensuring that traditional knowledge and resources held by women, particularly in rural, indigenous, and tribal communities, are not only protected but also lead to equitable benefits.

No. of tribal women who had acquired higher education and still residing in their native places.	Data collection (Tracked and obtained through several channels and organizations that focus on tribal development, education, and empowerment)	SC/ST departments, Forest and revenue Departments	Crucial for empowering tribal women, as higher education helps enhance their leadership roles, promotes economic development, and strengthens cultural preservation. By equipping tribal women with knowledge and opportunities, they become agents of positive change in their communities, fostering sustainable development and gender equality.
No. of documents related to Human-animal conflicts and involvement of women in the process	Data collection. Modification of wildlife protection Act	Forest and revenue Departments	The number of documents related to human-animal conflicts and the involvement of women in addressing these issues can highlight the critical role of women in conflict mitigation strategies, emphasizing their contributions to community-based solutions, awareness campaigns, and sustainable conservation practices.
No. of value-added products from forest area and the involvement of women in its sustainable production	Economic Empowerment	Forest Department	The production of value-added products from forest areas, such as handicrafts, herbal medicines, and processed forest goods, creates significant economic opportunities for women, enhancing their livelihoods and promoting gender equality in rural and forest-dependent communities.
Guidelines related to ITKS (Indigenous Traditional Knowledge Systems) and the role of indigenous women is mentioned	Data collection	NBA, KSBB, SC/ST departments, Forest Departments etc.	ITKS are crucial because they reflect deep-rooted understanding of local ecosystems, plants, animals, and environmental processes.
No. of market systems available for cultivated products and benefits to women?	Economic empowerment	Agriculture and Forest departments, Kudumbasree, MGNREGA	The availability of market systems for cultivated products provides women with greater access to economic opportunities, enabling them to sell forest-based and agricultural products such as herbs, fruits, and handicrafts, thus boosting their income, promoting entrepreneurship
Is there any school level awareness as part of academic curriculum.	Modification in syllabus by including awareness on Biodiversity, Conservation, geology, climatic changes etc	Education Department	Modifying the syllabus to include awareness on Biodiversity, Conservation, Geology, Climatic Changes, and related topics can have significant benefits for girls, particularly in terms of empowerment, education, and career opportunities.

	Is there any women oriented ITKS documentation	Currently NIL		
	No. of Policies which ensure safety to women, especially to indigenous women.	Through Inclusive Policy Development	Can be implemented through Govt Departments, private organizations etc	protected from violence, discrimination, and exploitation.
	No. of Farm gate procurements going on in kerala. How much it is benefitted to women community?	Through Economic Empowerment, Improved Decision making is possible	Hortincorp, Agriculture Departments	Helps in Economic Empowerment leading to Improved Decision making
	No. of Women oriented self-help groups in Kerala.	Through Social empowerment and leadership	NGOs, kudumbasreeetc	in empowering women and improving their socio-economic conditions and in decision making
	No. of Tourism spots established in Forest fringes and participation of women in tourism		Tourism and Forest Departments etc	establishment of tourism spots in forest fringes provides significant opportunities for women's participation in sustainable tourism activities, enabling them to gain economic benefits, preserve local biodiversity, and promote cultural heritage while also empowering them in decision-making and leadership roles.
	Percentage involvement of indigenous women in the BMCs of forest Fringes	Making modifications in the existing rules, Reservation , Policy Development, Capacity Building and Awareness	KSBB, LSGD	platform for active participation in biodiversity governance, ensuring their voices are heard in decision-making processes that directly impact their communities, traditional knowledge, and access to natural resources,
	No. of conservation policies, guidelines and rules which ensure gender equality	Data collection	All Departments	
	No. of women-oriented IAS removal policies.	IAS can be turned into biofertilizers-marketing- thus economic empowerment- leads to strong decision making	Forest Department, KSBB	The removal of invasive alien species can have a direct and indirect positive impact on women by improving their access to resources, boosting economic opportunities, promoting health, and empowering them through participation in environmental decision-making

	No. of Endangered/ endemic Hotspots in Forest area and its documentation	through scientific research, community engagement, technology, collaboration with conservation organizations, and policy support.	Forest Department	Effective documentation helps in the preservation of these critical areas, supports sustainable conservation practices, and ensures that biodiversity is protected for future generations.
	Has Kerala promoted women- led conservation initiatives like eco restoration through local community- based organizations?	Supporting women- led community organizations (e.g., Kudumbashree) for biodiversity conservation projects	Kudumbashree, Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB), NGOs	Encouraging women to take lead- ership in community-based biodi- versity conservation through local organizations like Kudumbashree

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GROUP 2 : COASTAL & MARINE SYSTEMS

KM-GBF Targets considered for discussion:

Target 22 & 23.

Discussants

1. **Dr. Swapna T S,**
Professor & Head, Dept. of Biotechnology,
University of Kerala (Chair)
2. **Smt. Jayanthi T.T.,**
Asst. Director of Fisheries,
Directorate, Thiruvananthapuram (Co-Chair)
3. **Dr. Sunitha S.,**
Dept. of Botany, University of Kerala
4. **Smt. Jayasree G.,**
Deputy Director of Fisheries,
State Fisheries Management Council
5. **Dr. Meena S,**
Head-Social Development & Research, Mental
Health Action Trust, Kozhikode
6. **Smt. Suja,**
Standing Committee Chairperson, Town
Planning, Thiruvananthapuram Corporation
7. **Dr. V. Unnikrishnan,**
SO, KSBB (Rapporteur 1)
8. **Dr. G. Mahadevan,**
SRO, KSBB (Rapporteur 2)
9. **Smt. Aneesha Ani Benadict,**
Research Assistant, KSBB (Coordinator)

Major Recommendations

Gender Inclusivity & Women Empowerment in Coastal & Marine Sectors (KMGBF Target 22)

- Increase the number of women representatives in Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs).
- Provide training for women in fish processing, startups, value addition, and skill-based learning through fisheries department collaborations with R&D organizations.
- Enhance recognition programs such as awards, scholarships for fishermen girls, and incentives for higher studies within the fisheries sector.
- Include women's success stories in coastal & marine sectors in educational curricula to inspire future generations.
- Establish platforms for knowledge sharing through Grama Sabha and Kudumbasree to highlight the role and contributions of women in the sector.
- The Fisheries Department should create an

enforcement body to monitor women's status and participation in coastal and marine industries, with an annual census report.

- Conduct ocean literacy awareness programs for women via coastal churches, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Kudumbasree units, and youth clubs.
- Develop farm schools in fishing communities, financially supported by the fisheries department.
- Pool and streamline existing women-supportive schemes and incentives through KSBB.

Sustainable & Equitable Benefit Sharing (KMGBF Target 23)

- Establish mechanisms to ensure women in coastal and marine industries receive fair and equitable benefits from biodiversity-related resources.
- Promote gender-responsive policies that enhance economic security and biodiversity conservation simultaneously.
- Develop marine biodiversity conservation projects where women play a leading role in sustainable resource management.
- Foster inclusive decision-making processes that integrate traditional knowledge from women in coastal communities.
- Implement financial support and micro-financing schemes tailored for women entrepreneurs in the marine and fisheries sectors.
- Strengthen collaborations between government bodies, NGOs, and local communities to ensure equitable access to marine resources and benefit-sharing mechanisms.
- Establish marine biodiversity-based community enterprises led by women for sustainable livelihoods.

Conclusion

The panel discussion highlighted the critical role of women in the sustainable management of coastal and marine biodiversity. Strengthening their participation through targeted policies, training programs, and financial incentives will ensure gender-equitable conservation efforts aligned with the KMGBF goals. The implementation of these recommendations will foster a more inclusive and resilient marine ecosystem, benefiting both biodiversity and local communities.

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GROUP 3 : FARMLANDS

KM-GBF Targets considered for discussion:

Target 22 & 23.

Discussants

1. **Dr. P M Radhamany**,
Professor (Rtd), Dept. of Botany, University of Kerala (Chair)
2. **Dr. Beena R.**,
Asst. Professor, KAU, Vellayani (Co-Chair)
3. **Dr. Aju B Y**,
Dept. of Botany, University of Kerala
4. **Dr. Princy P S**,
Dept. of Botany, University of Kerala
5. **Smt. Vani V.**,
Harippad, Alappuzha
6. **Dr. Aneeshia Jayadev**,
Associate Professor, Institute of Management in Government (IMG), Thiruvananthapuram
7. **Smt. Geethakumari**,
Custodian Farmer, Nanniyode GP, Thiruvananthapuram
8. **Smt. Manju Smitha L.**,
BMC Chairperson, Parassala Grama Panchayat, Thiruvananthapuram
9. **Smt. Beena**,
BMC Chairperson, Vembayam Grama Panchayath, Thiruvananthapuram
10. **Smt. Bhamini Amma**,
BMC Convenor, Varkala Municipality, Thiruvananthapuram
11. **Dr. C.S. Vimalkumar**,
PSO, KSBB (Rapporteur 1)
12. **Dr. Gigi C Rajan**,
RO, KSBB (Rapporteur 2)
13. **Smt. Priya S Nair**,
KSBB (Coordinator)

Main points discussed during the meeting.

- Gender-specific schemes for biodiversity conservation
- Gender-specific policies for biodiversity conservation
- Incentives insured for women in agriculture and biodiversity-related activities
- Representation of women and marginalized groups in Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and governance bodies

- Support for women-led Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) to enhance financial empowerment
- Promotion of women's Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and access to incentives
- Encouragement of women's participation in Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) management committees
- Legal protection for biodiversity conservation activists, especially women
- Development and promotion of eco-friendly and biodiversity-based products by women and marginalized groups
- Geographical Indication (GI) tag support for products developed by women and marginalized groups
- Increased representation of women agriculturists in Local Self Government (LSG) bodies ender-specific awareness programs on biodiversity conservation and legal rights
- Biodiversity policies reflecting gender priorities in conservation efforts

The suggested monitoring mechanism of target 22 and 23

1. Incentives Insured For Women

Indicators

- Number of Incentives Insured for Women
- Number of women receiving microfinance or self-help group (SHG) loans
- Percentage of women accessing financial literacy programs.
- Number of women entrepreneurs receiving startup grants or seed funding.

Mode of Implementation

- Land Revenue Department
- Land Use Board
- Revenue Departments
- Agricultural Departments
- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY)
- State Horticulture Mission (SHM) Schemes
- BharatiyaPrakritik Krishi Paddhati (BPKP) Traditional Seed Conservation Programs

Recommendations

- Awareness programs should be conducted to promote available incentives.

- Hereditary land rights of women should be protected and maintained.
- Incentives for women in agriculture should be sustained and monitored.
- Promote Farmland-Based Incentives (50%) specifically for women.

Encourage Women's Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) to access incentives.

2. Joint Liability Groups (JLGS)

Indicators

- Number of Joint Liability Groups (JLGS)
- Number of women-led Joint Liability Groups (JLGS).
- Percentage of Joint Liability Groups (JLGS) operating in rural vs. urban areas.

Mode of Implementation

- Kudumbashree

Recommendations

- Increase the number of Joint Liability Groups (JLGS) to empower women financially.
- Monitor and evaluate the progress of Joint Liability Groups (JLGS) periodically identify challenges and implement necessary improvements.

3. Representation Of Marginalized Groups

Indicators

- Percentage of representation of marginalized groups
- Percentage of marginalized group members in local governance bodies (Panchayats, Municipalities).
- Number of marginalized group representatives in leadership positions (eg., Panchayat President, Ward Member)

Mode of Implementation

- Biodiversity Management Committees
- Governance Bodies

Recommendations

- Ensure representation of marginalized groups, including transgender persons, in biodiversity conservation initiatives.
- Conduct regular awareness and sensitization programs to promote inclusiveness and address biases within BMCs and governance structures.

4. Representatives In Bhs Management Committees

Indicators

- Number of Women representatives in BHS

Management Committees

- Percentage of women representatives compared to total members.
- Number of women in leadership positions (Chairperson, Secretary, etc.) in BHS Committees.
- Percentage of meetings attended by women representatives.

Mode of Implementation

- Biodiversity Board
- Panchayats
- Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)

Recommendations

- Create awareness to ensure the participation of marginalized groups in conservation efforts.
- Promote equal access and equity in protected areas.

5. Incidents Reported Relative To Biodiversity Conservation Activists

Indicators

- Number of incidents reported relative to biodiversity conservation activists
- Percentage of legal cases filed against activists involved in conservation efforts.

Mode of Implementation

- Police Department
- Vigilance Department

Recommendations

- Identification of number of cases registered
- The government should ensure strict measures against human rights violations affecting biodiversity conservation activists.
- Provide legal support for green initiatives and traditional practices.

6. Schemes In Biodiversity Conservation

Indicators

- Number of gender specific Schemes in Biodiversity Conservation
- Number of state-level schemes implemented for biodiversity protection.
- Percentage of sector-specific schemes (e.g., agriculture, forestry, fisheries) addressing biodiversity.

Mode of Implementation:

- Planning Board
- Local Self Governments (LSGs)
- BMCs
- MGNREGS

- Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB)
- K-SMART

Recommendations:

- Categorize and compile a list of ongoing and upcoming biodiversity conservation schemes.
- Segregate the number of schemes which are exclusively for women and marginalized groups

7. Number Of New Products Developed By Women And Marginalized Groups

Indicators

Number of New Products Developed by Women and Marginalized Groups

Number of eco-friendly products developed using local biodiversity resources.

Percentage of value-added products derived from Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs).

Mode of Implementation

- Kudumbashree
- Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)

Recommendations

- Promote and provide marketing opportunities for new products developed by women and marginalized groups.
- Number of products commercialized based on the traditional knowledge developed by women and Marginalized Groups

8. Geographical Indication (GI) Tagged Products

Indicators

- Number of Geographical Indication (GI) received for the products by Women and Marginalized Groups
- Number of agricultural products awarded GI tags from Women/Marginalized Groups
- Percentage of natural and ecological products (e.g., spices, medicinal plants) with GI recognition.
- Number of processed food items, beverages, and herbal products with GI tags.

Mode of Implementation:

- Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)

Recommendations:

- Identification of number of (GI) Tagged Products where the involvement of women and marginalized groups.
- Facilitate access to financial support and resources to enable marginalized groups to engage in GI-

related enterprises.

- Develop linkages with government schemes and financial institutions to provide technical and financial assistance for GI-related activities.
- Establish cooperative societies and self-help groups (SHGs) to enhance collective bargaining power and market access for marginalized producers.

9. Local Varieties Popularized

Indicators

- Number of Local Varieties of Women and Marginalized Groups are Popularized
- Number of indigenous crop varieties promoted from Women and Marginalized Groups.
- Percentage of traditional medicinal plants reintroduced and cultivated.

Mode of Implementation:

- Kudumbashree
- BMCs

Recommendations

- Promoting the number of local varieties.

10. Women Representation In Bmcs

Indicators

- Percentage of Women Representation in BMCs
- Number of BMCs with women representation.
- Number of BMCs with at least 50% or more women representation.
- Number of BMCs with more than 80% women representation.
- Number of BMCs with women representation from indigenous communities.

Mode of Implementation

- BMCs

Recommendations

- Ensure 50% representation of women in BMCs.
- Ensure equal representation of women from diverse socio-economic backgrounds.

11. Women Agriculturists In Local Self Government (LSG) Bodies

Indicators

- Number of Women Agriculturists in Local Self Government (LSG) Bodies
- Number of women agriculturists elected to LSG bodies (Panchayats, Municipalities, and Corporations).

- Percentage of women agriculturists compared to total agriculturists in LSG bodies.
- Number of women with experience in organic and sustainable farming in decision-making roles.

Mode of Implementation

- Agricultural Department

Recommendations

- Conduct digital surveys to map the number of women agriculturists.
- Organize training programs on governance, agriculture policy, and sustainable farming practices for women in LSGs.
- Identify and promote women with expertise in organic, sustainable, and climate-resilient farming in decision-making roles.

12. Gender-Specific Awareness Programs

Indicators

- Number of Gender-Specific Awareness Programs conducted
- Number of programs addressing gender-based violence (GBV), discrimination, and legal rights.

Mode of Implementation

- KSBB
- BMCs
- Kudumbashree

Recommendations

- Develop policy recommendations to the government on gender-specific awareness and biodiversity programs.
- Encourage women leaders from marginalized groups to take on advisory and leadership roles in BMCs and LSG bodies.
- Ensure that BMC capacity-building programs include modules on gender-sensitive approaches to biodiversity management.

13. Specific Trainers Participated In Awareness Programs

Indicators

- Number of specific trainers from participated in Awareness Programs
- Number of Trainers with Expertise in Gender-Sensitive Awareness Programs
- Percentage of women trainers leading awareness programs on biodiversity governance.

Mode of Implementation

- KSBB and BMCs

14. Biodiversity Policies Reflecting Gender Priorities

Indicators

- Number of Biodiversity Policies Reflecting Gender Priorities
- Number of policies promoting women's participation in eco-restoration and habitat conservation programs.
- Number of policies supporting capacity-building initiatives for women in biodiversity governance.

Mode of Implementation

- Planning Board

Recommendations:

- Establish a monitoring system with disaggregated data to evaluate policy impact on gender inclusivity.
- Promote capacity-building programs to ensure gender mainstreaming in biodiversity governance.

15. Gender-Specific Biodiversity Conservation Schemes

Indicators

- Number of Gender-Specific Biodiversity Conservation Schemes
- Number of schemes exclusively designed for marginalized and indigenous women.
- Percentage of gender-focused schemes compared to overall biodiversity conservation schemes.

Mode of Implementation:

- Planning Board

Recommendations

- Allocate targeted funds to promote women's involvement in biodiversity conservation.
- Collaborate with BMCs, SHGs, and Kudumbashree units to ensure effective implementation.
- Monitor and evaluate the impact of schemes on gender equity and biodiversity outcomes.

16. Model Success Stories In Natural Eco-Farming Popularized

Indicators

- Number of Model Success Stories in Natural Eco-Farming Popularized
- Number of farmers, especially women and marginalized groups, involved.

Mode of Implementation

- BMCs

Recommendations

- Identify and document successful eco-farming models through community interaction.
- Promote success stories through PBR updates, workshops, and awareness programs.
- Facilitate knowledge-sharing between successful farmers and other communities.
- Recommend scaling up of best practices by integrating them into local biodiversity action plans.

17. SEED PRODUCTION TRAININGS PROVIDED

Indicators

- Number of Seed Production Trainings Provided
- Total number of training programs conducted on seed production for farmers and community groups.

Mode of Implementation

- Agricultural Department

Recommendations

- Ensure that proper training is given for seed production, with a focus on empowering women farmers.
- Promote the use of indigenous and climate-resilient seed varieties to enhance biodiversity and sustainability.
- Encourage the formation of seed producer groups and cooperatives, particularly involving women and marginalized communities.
- Provide access to quality seeds and necessary resources to participants post-training.

18. Unique Varieties Identified

Indicators

- Number of Unique Varieties Identified
- Percentage of locally adapted varieties identified for sustainable agriculture.

Mode of Implementation

- BMCs

Recommendations

- Recommend conservation measures to protect rare and unique varieties.
- Recognize and incentivize farmers and communities actively engaged in the identification and conservation of unique varieties.
- Document and maintain a comprehensive database of unique varieties, including their characteristics, uses, and ecological significance.

19. Women Participants In Biodiversity Conservation And Traditional Knowledge Holders

Indicators

- Number of Women led Biodiversity Conservation initiatives
- Number of women Traditional Knowledge Holders
- Number of women participating in biodiversity documentation and community-based conservation efforts.

Mode of Implementation

- BMCs

20. Products Developed Using Traditional Knowledge

Indicators

- Number of Products Developed Using Traditional Knowledge of Women/Marginalized Groups
- Total number of value-added products commercialized using traditional knowledge of Women/Marginalized Groups.

Mode of Implementation

- BMCs

Recommendations

- Include information on such products in the People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) updates.
- Regularly update the People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) with information on newly developed traditional knowledge-based products.

21. Women In Farm Schools (Custodian Farmers)

Indicators

- Number of Women in Farm Schools (Custodian Farmers)
- Number of women recognized as custodian farmers for preserving traditional and indigenous crop varieties.
- Number of women farmers practicing and promoting sustainable agriculture techniques through farm schools.

Mode of Implementation

- Agricultural Department

Recommendations

- Women farmers recommended by the Agriculture Department based on their expertise in preserving traditional varieties and knowledge of sustainable farming practices.
- Financial support, honorarium, and recognition to

promote women custodians' efforts in maintaining agro-biodiversity.

22. Tribal Women Involved In Biodiversity Conservation

Indicators

- Number of Tribal Women Involved in Biodiversity Conservation
- Number of tribal women involved in medicinal plant cultivation, seed preservation, and other biodiversity initiatives.

Mode of Implementation

- BMCs

Recommendations

- Recognize and encourage women's contributions to biodiversity conservation.
- Facilitate training and capacity-building programs.

23. Incentives For Biofertilizer Preparation

Indicators

- Number of gender specific incentives in the agricultural sector
- Total number of Women/Marginalized Groups individuals/ Women/Marginalized Groups lead

self-help groups (SHGs)receiving incentives.

Mode of Implementation

- Agricultural Department

Recommendations:

- Prepare a detailed report on bio fertilizer and other gender specific incentives and their beneficiaries.
- Identify and categorize target beneficiaries, including small-scale farmers, women, and marginalized groups, to ensure equitable distribution of incentives.
- Develop financial assistance schemes, including subsidies and low-interest loans, to support biofertilizer preparation and usage.

Conclusion and Way Forward

The implementation of gender-sensitive biodiversity conservation initiatives require a multi-stakeholder approach with active participation from government departments, local self-governments, and community-based organizations. Ensuring inclusivity, promoting traditional knowledge, and empowering marginalized communities will create a more equitable and sustainable biodiversity framework.

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GROUP 4 : WETLANDS

KM-GBF Targets considered for discussion:

Target 22 & 23.

Discussants

1. **Dr. Suhara Beevy S,**
Professor, Dept. of Botany, University of Kerala
(Convenor)
2. **Dr. Sherly P Anand,**
Principal (Rtd), TK Madhava Memorial College,
Nangyarkulangara, Alappuzha (Co-chair)
3. **Dr. Sindhlu Thulaseedharan,**
Department of Law, University of Kerala,
Karyavattom
4. **Dr. Linda John,**
Fisheries Extension Officer (Rtd) &
Former PSO, KSBB
5. **Dr. Jissy Jyothi S,**
Environmental Officer, DoECC ,
Thiruvananthapuram
6. **Smt. Priyanka Diril,**
BMC Chairperson, Chemmaruthi GP,
Thiruvananthapuram
7. **Dr. Baijula B,**
SRO, KSBB (Rapporteur 1)
8. **Dr. Sreedharan K,**
RO, KSBB (Rapporteur 2)
9. **Smt. Akshaya Anil,**
District Coordinator, Thiruvananthapuram
(Rapporteur 3)
10. **Smt. Gopika Gopi,**
KSBB (Coordinator)

Awareness and Education

To enhance women's awareness of wetland conservation, dedicated awareness programs should be conducted through Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and State Wetland Authority Kerala (SWAK). These programs should focus on the Wetland Conservation Act and the importance of its proper implementation. The Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB), in collaboration with BMCs and SWAK, should introduce various schemes to support these educational efforts.

Although numerous legal frameworks exist to protect wetlands and prevent encroachment, their

implementation is often inadequate. To address this, it is proposed that women actively participate in restoration activities for degraded wetlands and contribute to the formulation of policies aimed at wetland protection.

Livelihood Restoration and Economic Support

Women have historically played a significant role in industries reliant on wetlands, such as the cotton, cane, and palm oil industries. Data collection efforts should assess the impact of declining market share in these sectors on women's livelihoods and explore alternative employment opportunities.

Innovative projects should be developed to empower women by promoting the conservation of wetlands and the production of value-added products derived from them. Additionally, a dedicated women's budget should be introduced to support initiatives that directly benefit women. (*TARGET 2: Restore 30% of all Degraded Ecosystems*)

Policy and Collaboration

To improve the efficiency of the 13th Working Group, it is recommended to include environmentalists from local areas, retired officials from forest, fisheries, and wildlife departments, as well as educators from KSBB. (*TARGET 10: Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry*) Successful projects such as the water conservation initiative led by women in Palakkad district's tribal areas should be documented and codified for broader application. (*TARGET 14: Integrate Biodiversity in Decision-Making at Every Level*)

Networking and Community Building

By integrating biodiversity clubs with the Women's BMC Convention, club members can gain valuable exposure to conservation and research institutions such as BMC, BDC, TBGRI, and Kerala University.

To support sustainable livelihoods, the formation of women's self-help groups is encouraged to produce value-added products like coir, bamboo, and reed-based items.

International Women's Day 2025
10th March 2025, 10.00 am
Department of Botany, University College, Karyavattom,
Thiruvananthapuram

Attendance Sheet

Name	Designation
<i>Invitees</i>	
Padmashree M C Dathan	Mentor (science) to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala
Dr. B. Sandhya IPS (Retd.)	Former DGP & Chairman (i/c) & Mamber, K-RERA
Shri. Pramod G. Krishnan IFS	Chief Life Warden & Member, KSBB
Dr. S Shanavas	Project Coordinator, Kudumbasree
Honey Mole Raju	Kudumbasree
M. John Rocky	Programme for Community
Jayasree	
Dr. Anita George	Aquatic Biology & Fisheries

Panel List (GROUP 1: Forest)

Smt. Sreelekha, DFO	Flying squad, Thiruvananthapuram
Dr. Bindu R Nair	Professor, Dept. of Botany, University of Kerala
Dr. Rose Mary Francis	Professor, Plant breeding & Genetics, ARS Mannuthy
Dr. Remya Krishnan R.V	Dept. of Botany, University of Kerala
Smt. Veena Maruthoor	Environmentalist
Smt. Rajeena A M	Vice President, Pangode Grama Panchayath, Thiruvananthapuram
Smt. Shylaja	BMC Chairperson, Nanniyode Gramapanchayat, Thiruvananthapuram
Smt. Bijumol	BMC Convenor, District Panchayath, Thiruvananthapuram

Panel List (GROUP 2 : Coastal & Marine Systems)

Dr. Swapna T S	Professor & Head, Dept. of Biotechnology, University of Kerala
Smt. Jayanthi T.T	Asst. Director of Fisheries, Directorate, Thiruvananthapuram
Dr. Sunitha S	Dept. of Botany, University of Kerala

Smt. Jayasree G	Deputy Director of Fisheries, State Fisheries Management Council
Smt. Suja	Standing Committee Chairperson, Town Planning, Thiruvananthapuram Corporation

Panel List (GROUP 3: Farmlands)

Dr. P M Radhamany	Professor (Rtd), Dept. of Botany, University of Kerala
Dr. Beena R	Asst. Professor, KAU, Vellayani
Dr. Aju B Y	Dept. of Botany, University of Kerala
Dr. Princy P S	Dept. of Botany, University of Kerala
Smt. Vani V.	Harippad, Alappuzha
Smt. Geethakumari	Custodian Farmer, Nanniyode GP, Thiruvananthapuram
Smt. Beena	BMC Chairperson, Vembayam Grama Panchayath, Thiruvananthapuram
Smt. Bhamini Amma	BMC Convenor, Varkala Municipality, Thiruvananthapuram

Panel List (GROUP 4: Wetlands)

Dr. Suhara Beevy S	Professor, Dept. of Botany, University of Kerala
Dr. Sindhu Thulaseedharan	Dept. of Law, University of Kerala, Kariavattom, Thiruvananthapuram
Dr. Linda John	Fisheries Extension Officer (Retd.) & Former Principal Scientific Officer, KSBB
Dr. Sherly P Anand	Principal (Rtd.) , T K Madhava Memorial College, Nangiarkulangara, Alleppey, Member, CCC, IUCN
Dr. Salom Njana Thanka	Dept. of Environmental Sciences, University of Kerala
Dr. Jissy Jyothi S.	Environmental Officer, DoECC, Thiruvananthapuram
Smt. Priyanka Diril	BMC Chairperson, Chemmaruthi GP, Thiruvananthapuram

KSBB Staff

Dr. N. Anil Kumar	Chairman
Dr. V. Balakrishnan	Member Secretary
Dr. C S Vimalkumar C S	Principal Scientific Officer
Dr. Jisha S.	Principal Scientific Officer
Dr. V. Unnikrishnan	Scientific Officer
Dr. Bajjulal B	Senior Research Officer

Dr. Mahadevan G	Senior Research Officer	..
Dr. Akhila S Nair	Senior Research Officer	
Smt. Mithrambika N B	Research Officer	,
Dr. Gigi C Rajan	Research Officer	
Dr. Sreedharan K	Research Officer	
Smt. Aneesha Ani Benadict	Research Assistant	
Smt. Jithika M	Research Assistant	..
Smt. Priya S Nair	Data Entry Operator	
Smt. Gopika Gopi	Computer Programmer	
Ms. Arya Anand	Data Entry Operator	,
Sri. Praveen KP	Graphic Designer	
Sri. Adarsh V	Asst. Accounts Clerk	
Sri. Sudheeshlal V	Library Assistant	
Sri. Jijin J Smith	Inward Clerk	
Smt. Akshaya Anil	District Coordinator, Thiruvananthapuram	

University Staff

Balu	Artist Photographer, Botany
Ramitha R G	Computer Assistant
Fathima Jaber	Graduate Field Assistant
Pooja J	Project Assistant
Dr. Sreeshma L.S	Technical Assistant
Anjana L. Ajay	Computer Assistant
Jiji P T	Librarian, Botany Dept.

Students list

Department of Botany, University College, Karyavattom

Abhishna B	Muhsina Rafeek
Ahtira C	Munnu Karthika
Akshaya G Nair	Nandana S
Aleena Siji	Naseeha Farsana K
Anjali B Nair	Parvathy A P
Anjitha S	Parvathy R
Anju H	Priji A
Annie Christy J	Priyanka M S
Annie R B	Rajalakshmi P
Annie S R	Ramya Krishnan M P
Anriya A	Rasmi
Ansila B	Raveena Mohandas
Antony Tom	Rithika P
Anu Maria Sony	Riya N
Anugraha A S	Safna S
Arsha P S	Safwana Sajid Ahemed
Arya Manoharan T K	Sahla V T
Aryalekshmi S S	Sajna Salim

Aswathy K
Aswathy Sajesh
Aswinilal L V
Athira V Anand
Divyasree R
Dr. Abhiva B Anand
Farseeena Sheril T
Fathima Rifa
Gowrikrishna R
Hidaya K
Husna Marjan O V
Jenna James
Ladeeda Nasrin P
Manisha S J Kurup
Meenakshy G R
Meenakshy Sivaram
Meera N

Sajudheen S
Sandra S
Sandra Sabu
Saniga P
Sanika Vinayan
Sarang V S
Saranya D S
Shahia S
Shelma Mary P S
Shilji M A
Silpa K S
Sneha S S
Soumya S M
Sreeja Parvathy
Sreelakshmi U S
Sujina T
Tagwa Hafiz Abdul

Glimpses Of The Day





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