

# US Womens Caucus at UN: Climate - Women & Biodiversity

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### Summary

Climate change alters temperature and weather patterns, catastrophically affecting land and ocean biodiversity impacting humanity, animal, seal life, insect, and bird life. Human activity is causing our planet to warm abnormally faster, increasing air pollution and sea levels. Scientists expect already declining range of species, to further decline at intensified rates altering climate patterns and seasons, regionally and globally with forced consequential harm to ecosystems and biodiversity.

Our ecosystems, human, animal, and all species have flourished, over millions of years, each species in a precarious balance of function and self-regulation; removal of any part, and the balance breaks down. Reducing Biodiversity creates significant human problems impacting economic and social cost, amplification of food insecurity, increased disease, more unpredictable weather, loss of livelihoods and future generations loss of access to nature. Women are most affected in this continuous domino effect. Human survival depends on recognizing the interdependence of continents and cultures.

### Fast Facts

- Biodiversity is essential for human survival; any reduction threatens humanity and impacts women disproportionately, drains natural resources, deforestation and soil degradation threatens food security, health, livelihoods, ability to combat disease. (1)
- The uneven distribution of biodiversity and dire deforestation hotspots has endangered human habitats risking women and children and reducing productivity of 23% of global land surface. (2)
- Rising Ocean temperatures have diminished polar ice packs, destroying ecosystems with serious population reductions. (3) Increasing ocean acidification and stratification has resulted in degradation of 60% of global livelihoods impacting humanity's food chain (4)\_
- Food Chain disruptions greatly endanger humanity's ability to feed growing population particularly women who are already at the bottom, and decreases humanity's ability to produce medicines, and protect against natural disasters. (5)
- Biodiversity impacts economy, business, society, and the value chain, from resource extraction and cultivation activities, accounting for over 60% of resource conversion for insatiable consumption of goods. (6)\_

- Direct overexploitation of natural resources costs the global economy an estimated \$5 trillion annually in lost natural services from major value chains of food, energy, infrastructure, fashion, accounting for 90% of biodiversity loss. (7)

## Recommendations - Apply to USA and Global

Work together with multisector collaboration, cross continent and regional coordinated united efforts between the hemispheres, taking an interdisciplinary approach and inclusion of women and underrepresented groups in all decision making in all sectors and at grass root level and civil society.

- A) Influence governments and private sector to listen to climate change experts and advocates
- B) Use science and technology as critical tools in conservation biology creating sustainable technologies, renewable energies, biodegradable packaging, and recycling to reduce impact.
- C) Stringent Government legislation and polices to protect natural habitats by prohibiting harvesting of natural resources, or human exploitation that negatively impacts biodiversity
- D) Education to increase public awareness to galvanize advocacy to influence decision makers.
- E) Intensifying requirements for corporate social responsibility, and carbon emissions and practices
- F) Reducing destruction of environment from deforestation, hunting, ocean pollution and reducing movement of invasive species. Increasing habitat restoration, captive breeding, and seed banks.
- G) Funding and research to protect environment, reduce carbon print, lead efforts to respect ecosystems and biodiversity.
- H) Reducing usage of fossil fuels, and move towards alternative energy sources, consumption of goods and living produce grown using sustainable means.

## Suggested Reading

- Protects Us World Economic Forum <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/05/5>
- Land and Biodiversity UNCCD [www.unccd.int/issues/land-and-biodiversity](http://www.unccd.int/issues/land-and-biodiversity)
- Facts and figures on marine biodiversity <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/>
- Lack of Biodiversity, <https://www.britannica.com/science/biodiversity-loss/Ecological-effects#>.

## Footnotes

1. UN Environment Program (UNEP) <https://www.unep.org/>
2. [Land and Biodiversity UNCCD](http://www.unccd.int/issues/land-and-biodiversity) [www.unccd.int/issues/land-and-biodiversity](http://www.unccd.int/issues/land-and-biodiversity)

3. Facts about Biodiversity [Environment](#) .FACT FILE <https://factfile.org/10-facts-about-biodiversity>
4. Biodiversity World Ocean Review <https://worldoceanreview.com/en/wor-1/marine-ecosystem/>
5. Biodiversity International and Center <https://www.biodiversityinternational.org/>
6. Economic Benefits of Diversity, We Conserve, <https://conservationtools.org/guides/95->
7. Business Case for Biodiversity, [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#), <http://www.ipcc.ch/>. Climate Investment Funds <https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/>