



GEF/C.55/05
November 21, 2018

55th GEF Council Meeting
December 18 – 20, 2018
Washington, D.C.

Agenda Item 17

**STRENGTHENING CONSULTATIONS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY:
PROPOSED TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE CONSULTATIONS OF THE
56TH GEF COUNCIL MEETING**

Recommended Council Decision

GEF Council having considered Document GEF/C.55/05, Strengthening Consultations with Civil Society: Proposed Topic for Discussion at the 56th GEF Council Meeting, selects the following topic(s) to be addressed as part of the Consultations in the next Council meeting to take place in June 2019: [a) Plastics management to avoid pollution: experiences by Civil Society and Community-Based Organizations; b) Illegal Wildlife Trade: A Civil Society Perspective]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Proposed topics for Civil Society Consultations at the 56th Council.....	1
Plastics management to avoid pollution: experiences by Civil Society and Community-Based Organizations	1
Illegal Wildlife Trade: A Civil Society Perspective	2

INTRODUCTION

1. In November of 2017, at its 53rd meeting, the Council approved an Updated Vision to Enhance Civil Society Engagement with the GEF (hereafter, Updated Vision).¹ The Updated Vision includes a revised set of objectives and principles as an overall guide to engage with civil society. At an operational level, the document focuses, in particular, on certain key aspects that relate to the enhancement of this engagement during GEF Council meetings, guidance for civil society participation at the GEF Assembly, and the Country Support Programme.
2. As per the Updated Vision, the Council will invite CSOs to present on specific topics during the Consultations with CSOs intended to highlight the experiences of local CSOs during project implementation while also seeking to align with the Council Meeting Agenda.
3. Further the Updated Vision states that “(t)o allow for adequate preparation, the GEF Council will select Consultation Meeting topics around 6 months (or one meeting) before each Consultation Meeting, as appropriate, recognizing that topics can be updated within the 6-month period in light of new circumstances and needs that may arise.”
4. This paper provides basic information and options for Council to facilitate their discussion and final decision regarding the topic(s) to address in the Consultations with CSOs preceding the 56th Council meeting in June of 2019.

PROPOSED TOPICS FOR CIVIL SOCIETY CONSULTATIONS AT THE 56TH COUNCIL

5. The list below presents some suggested topics as a basis for the discussion amongst Council members. The suggested topics are based on the role that civil society may play in contributing to higher impact and the increased ambition of GEF-7’s programming.

Plastics management to avoid pollution: experiences by Civil Society and Community-Based Organizations

6. Plastic pollution has become a major threat to the global environment. Plastics are injuring marine life, littering our beaches, landscapes and cities and disrupting freshwater ecosystems, to name some of the negative impacts of the widespread use of plastics. The solution to this global problem requires large scale actions through active commitment of governments and private sector to phase out single-use plastics and develop a global framework to regulate plastic pollution, among other actions.
7. In this global effort, civil society plays an instrumental role in contributing to the solution. The world is witnessing an unprecedented engagement and interest by local

¹ GEF (Global Environment Facility). 2017. “Updated Vision to Enhance Civil Society Engagement with the GEF.” GEF/C.53/10/Rev.01, November 30. Agenda Item 08.53rd GEF Council Meeting, held in Washington, DC. Available at www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/EN_GEF.C.53.10.Rev._01_CS0_Vision_0.pdf.

communities, civil society advocates and other actors. From changing consumption patterns to local plastic management, there are a number of valuable actions conducted by civil society and communities to prevent plastic pollution through refusing, recycling and reusing.

8. The proposed session will bring practical examples of plastic management around the world conducted by CSOs, Indigenous peoples and local communities, including SGP grantees and executors of other GEF projects.

Illegal Wildlife Trade: A Civil Society Perspective

9. Wildlife populations are experiencing a widespread decline around the world. Habitat destruction and poaching to supply the international illegal wildlife trade are two key drivers of this problem.

10. There are increasing efforts to combat illegal wildlife trade by targeting the demand of illegal wildlife products. These efforts encompass enforcement and legal measures by governments, as well as advocacy and global campaigns led by NGOs and other stakeholders to put pressure on governments to improve and enforce their regulations.

11. On the supply side, there's a need to provide alternative opportunities for communities who have traditionally relied on these illegal activities as a source of income. Such alternative practices encompass for example nature-based tourism, sustainable agriculture and forestry, among others.

12. This proposed consultation session would discuss actions taken by civil society, Indigenous peoples and local communities (including SGP grantees and executors of other GEF projects) to combat illegal wildlife trade. It would also focus on the opportunities and challenges of introducing alternative practices to poaching. The dialogue would focus on experiences in Africa and Asia by local, national and international CSOs as well as local community-based organizations.