



Civil Society Engagement with the GEF



Expanded Constituency Workshop

Saint Lucia, May 31

2019



Non-state actors, including not-for-profit non-governmental organizations (NGOs), farmers, women, the scientific and technological community, youth and children, Indigenous Peoples and their communities, business and industry, workers and trade unions

Definition of civil society
in the GEF:

Long history of Engagement with CSOs



Consultations

GEF Small Grants Programme

GEF CSO Network

Public Involvement Policy

Country Support Program

Policy on Stakeholder Engagement/Policy on Gender Equality



Value of civil society engagement in the GEF:

- Enhancing recipient **country ownership** and **accountability**;
- Liaising with communities and other local stakeholders;
- Making use of skills, experiences, and knowledge;
- Facilitators, conveners and advocates.



CSOs Roles

- Project executors/co-executors
- Leverage co-financing
- Provide expert local knowledge to project design and implementation
- Participate in monitoring of project impacts and outcomes
- Influencing policy and advocating for the GEF's mission and in replenishment processes
- CSOs as GEF Project Agencies (WWF, IUCN, CI)

The GEF-CSO Network

Established in 1995 as an independent Network of member organizations whose work in environment and sustainable development is aligned with the GEF mandate.

www.gefcso.org



Updated Vision Statement

- *Greater results and impact through collaboration with CSOs*
- *projects on the ground, building awareness, engagement with recipient country governments and participation with Council members.*
- *advisory role for the GEF Council on institutional policies and guidelines and helps formulate strategies effectively.*
- *CSO Network role in advocacy and outreach to civil society at the global level, supporting dissemination of information and contributing to policy and strategy development.*



Looking Ahead

- Continued support at the national and regional levels (Policies)
- Continue strengthening CSO Representation at Council Consultations and Assembly - (youth, women groups, IPs)
- CSO engagement in Policy Development, Replenishment, Advocacy, etc.
- Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation
- Strengthening Access to information Redress and Grievance mechanisms
- Continue monitoring Implementation of Policies on SE/Gender/Safeguards





Thank you

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- What are some key lessons learned about GEF's civil society engagement at both policy and project level?
- What are some key remaining challenges?
- What are the opportunities?
- What could be done better moving forward?

Roundtable per country