Enriching CSO Dialogue at Country Level

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The GEF CSO Network

**Governance**

**Indigenous peoples Focal Points**
1. Africa
2. Asia
3. Latin America

**Management**

**Chair & Vice - Chair**

**Sub-Committees**
1. Governance, Membership & Elections
2. Outreach, Communication & Capacity
3. Strategy & Planning
4. Technical

**SECRETARIAT**
Vital roles of CSOs

Voice concerns of communities

Transparency & accountability

Project Implementation
Opportunities for engagement of CSOs with the GEF

• Provision of input/comments to project proposals thru OFPs & GEF Agencies
• Participating in GEF related events: Assembly, Council, ECWs & dialogues
• Supporting project implementation (for example implementing SGP), monitoring and evaluation
• Contribution to shaping GEF policies (e.g. participation of CSOs at ECW from 1 to 2 participants) and processes through consultations and
• Raising awareness on GEF policies, procedures and projects
Factors limiting effective CSO engagement

• Lack of access to timely information
• Lack of adequate capacity in proposal development
• Limited financing windows (SGP)
• Limited organizational capacity to engage in Medium and Full Size Project (MSP & FSP) including Impact Programs (IPs)
• Limited partnerships with GEF Agencies (most CSOs only respond to call for proposals)
• Limited platforms to dialogue with Conventional focal points and Operational focal points.
Essentials for CSO engagement

• **Create enabling environment** for systematic and meaningful dialogue through cooperative arrangements at country level
  - Memoranda of Agreement with OFPs
  - Designing inclusive guidelines for CSO participation + consultations during National Portfolio Formulation Exercises (NFPEs)/GEF programming
  - Established and dedicated platforms for dialogue e.g. National Environment Platform in Uganda

• **Ensure a balance between contention and collaboration**
  - Embrace the contention thru continuous listening when civil society takes on a position opposed to project proponents especially in promoting rights-based approaches
  - Always resolve to continue meaningful dialogue even when issues are sticky

• **Revise modalities to enrich CSO dialogues**
  - Increase core funding for CSOs to fulfill self-determined mandates instead of project funding
  - Fund processes not just outputs to organically build internal capacities of CSOs
  - Promote processes to foster coordination and create consensus e.g. CSO- Government Dialogue Platforms
Thank You for listening