

# Enriching CSO Dialogue at Country Level

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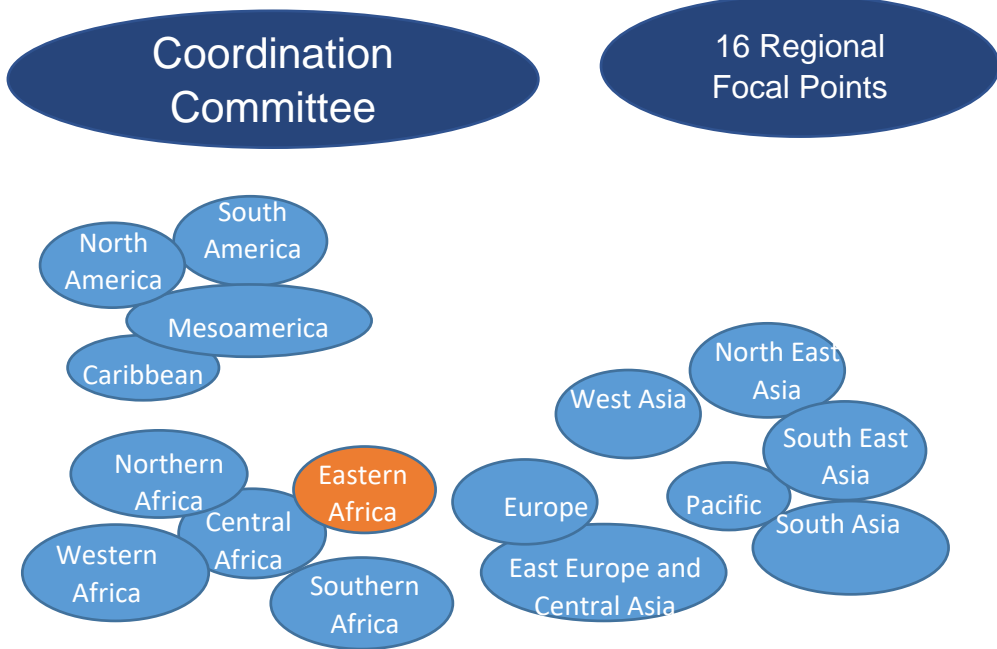
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# The GEF CSO Network

Governance

Management

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



**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**