Overview of the evolving role of civil society, and the GEF CSO Network engagement within the GEF Partnership

Nguaves Trace Ogbonna
Updates on GEF-CSO Network
GEF-CSO Network

- Established in 1995 to facilitate CSO input to GEF Governance
- More than 540 active members in 16 regions and 73 member organisations in West Africa
- Facilitate Civil society input to GEF policy making and implementation.
- Organise Civil Society consultations and provide input on each agenda item of GEF Council
- Monitor and build capacity at regional and national level for CSO engagement in GEF activities
Governance

- Governed by a global *Coordination Committee* composed of representatives of
  - elected Regional Focal Point organisations from 16 geographic regions
  - 3 Indigenous Peoples Focal Points from Asia, Africa and Latin America.

- Overseen by a Management Team comprising of a Chair, Vice Chair and Heads of 4 Sub-committees drawn from the Coordination Committee members.
Current Management Team

- Mr. Victor Kazembe Kawanga, RFP for Southern Africa (Chair)
- Mr. Akhteruzzaman Sano, RFP for Southeast Asia (Vice Chair)
- Ms. Patricia Turpin, RFP for Caribbean (Head of Governance, Membership and Elections Sub-committee)
- Ms. Nana Janashia, RFP for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (Head of Outreach, Communication and Capacity Development Sub-committee)
- Nguavese (Representing), RFP for West Africa (Head of Technical Sub-committee)
- Dr. Lalit Mohan, RFP for South Asia (Head of Strategy Sub-committee)
Operation

- Guided by the Network Strategic Plan (2018-2022)
- Currently there are 24 Country Contact Points
- The Secretariat:

  Society For Environment & Development (SED)
  UG - 3, E/77, West Vinod Nagar,
  Delhi – 110092, India
  Tel/Fax : 011- 22479505
  Email : society@sed.org.in, dr.lmohan@gmail.com
  Contact person : Dr. Lalit Mohan
Membership

- Open to all non-profit CSOs working in the focal areas of GEF
- Application form can be downloaded from the website [www.gefcso.org](http://www.gefcso.org) and submitted to the Secretariat by mail.
- Membership is equivalent to accreditation to GEF – for participation in GEF related meetings
GEF CSO Network engagement within the GEF Partnership
Involvement in GEF

- Actively participated in the GEF Council meetings and Expanded Constituency meetings WG for Review of GEF Policies
- Providing input to GEF policy making with statements on many agenda items during GEF council meetings.
- CSOs implement projects through SGP grants
- Some CSO’s are selected as members of GEF-SGP Project selection committee
- Participating in monitoring and evaluation of projects
Involvement in GEF

- Actively participated in the GEF Council meetings and Expanded Constituency meetings.
- Providing input to GEF policy making with statements on many agenda items during GEF council meetings.
- Worked with Ad-Hoc Council Working Group (WG) on Civil Society to develop an updated vision to enhance civil society engagement with the GEF.
- Input to GEF-7 Programming directions and replenishment.
Issues/Recommendation

- Enhance support for CSO engagement with the GEF at COPs of various multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and the SDG framework.
- Exploring ways to strengthen the relationship between GEF, Ministries, department and agencies, implementing partners and civil society
- Call for proposals should come early so that CSOs can have the opportunity to apply
Issues/Recommendation

- Strengthen CSOs presence in relevant ministries/agencies/agencies by conducting proper registration/update of CSO database and documentation of CSO activities for proper referencing.
- Increasing funding ceiling for CSOs for project implementation
- Showcasing projects done by Agencies during ECWs alongside CSOs
- CSOs would like to embark on in-country assessment to determine the environmental and social impacts of the investments of a number of emerging economies.
Issues/Recommendation

- Efforts to enhance the engagement of CSOs and GEF OFP at the country level should be enhanced – through the organisation of annual meetings between OFPs and CSOs and enhanced engagement of CSOs in GEF project and programme design and implementation.

- The GEF Agencies and GEF CSO Network should undertake discussions to identify options for enhanced CSO engagement in projects and programmes developed by agencies.
Thank you