Introduction
The GEF-NGO Network was established in May 1995 following the GEF Council’s decision to enhance relationships between the GEF and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). The Network is made up of GEF-accredited organizations whose work in environment and sustainable development is aligned with the GEF mandate. It has a global organizational structure with regional focal points based in 15 different regions overseen by a central focal point and a global Coordination Committee including representatives of indigenous people. The network currently links member organizations in all regions of the world. Its role is expanding from focusing mainly on input to GEF planning and policy making to one of empowering the engagement of civil society in the implementation of GEF programs.

In addition, the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro (1992) and the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing (1995) made explicit references to the need to design environmental programs with a gender focus to increase women’s access to and control over resources, as well as improve the effectiveness of such projects.

VISION
A dynamic civil society influencing policies and actions at all levels to safeguard the global environment and promote sustainable development

MISSION
To strengthen civil society partnership with the GEF by enhancing participation, contributing to policy and stimulating action

Achievements
Since 1996, the Network has organized consultations twice a year immediately prior to the GEF Council meetings and has also played a prominent role in regular GEF Assemblies. The Network has contributed to policy formulation by the GEF and advocated strong public participation in all stages of GEF program implementation. The Network has also been a conduit for feedback on both positive and negative aspects of GEF implementation and has compiled case studies of practical experiences and best practices in implementing GEF activities at the country and local levels.
**Objectives**
- To enhance the role of civil society in safeguarding the global environment
- To strengthen GEF program implementation
- To maintain and enhance the capacity of the GEF-NGO Network

**Strategies**
1. To enhance the role of civil society in safeguarding the global environment
   - Support outreach and awareness on global environmental issues
   - Encourage civil society contributions to convention negotiations and implementation
   - Strengthen the capacity of civil society to address global environmental issues
2. To strengthen GEF program implementation through enhanced civil society
   - Enhance civil society involvement in GEF country, regional and global projects
   - Support the effective access of local communities and civil society organizations to GEF resources through the SGP
   - Provide strategic input to GEF policy making, planning, and reviews
3. To maintain and enhance the capacity of the GEF-NGO Network
   - Enhance the governance capability of the Network
   - Promote active membership
   - Improve Network communication and resource generation
Membership
Currently, approximately 600 member organizations have been accredited to GEF and form the Network membership.

Benefits: By becoming members of the Network, organizations
- Receive updates on policies and activities of the GEF and the Network
- Are notified of funding and capacity building opportunities, as well as upcoming meetings and events
- Contribute to GEF policy and program development and review
- Exchange experiences with other members of the Network and participate in GEF-NGO consultation meetings and GEF Assembly meetings.

Nonprofit organizations actively working on GEF-related issues can request information on options and criteria for membership.

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Mode of Operation

RESULTS

- Improved dialogue and partnership between the GEF and civil society
- Strengthened cooperation among civil society organizations
- Enhanced feedback from civil society on GEF policies and implementation
- Increased awareness and understanding of global environmental issues
- Improved local, regional, and global environment

The GEF Family
- GEF Secretariat
- GEF Agencies
- Countries

The Network

Other civil society organizations

Inputs

- Knowledge
- Expertise
- Experience

- Funding
- Human Capital