

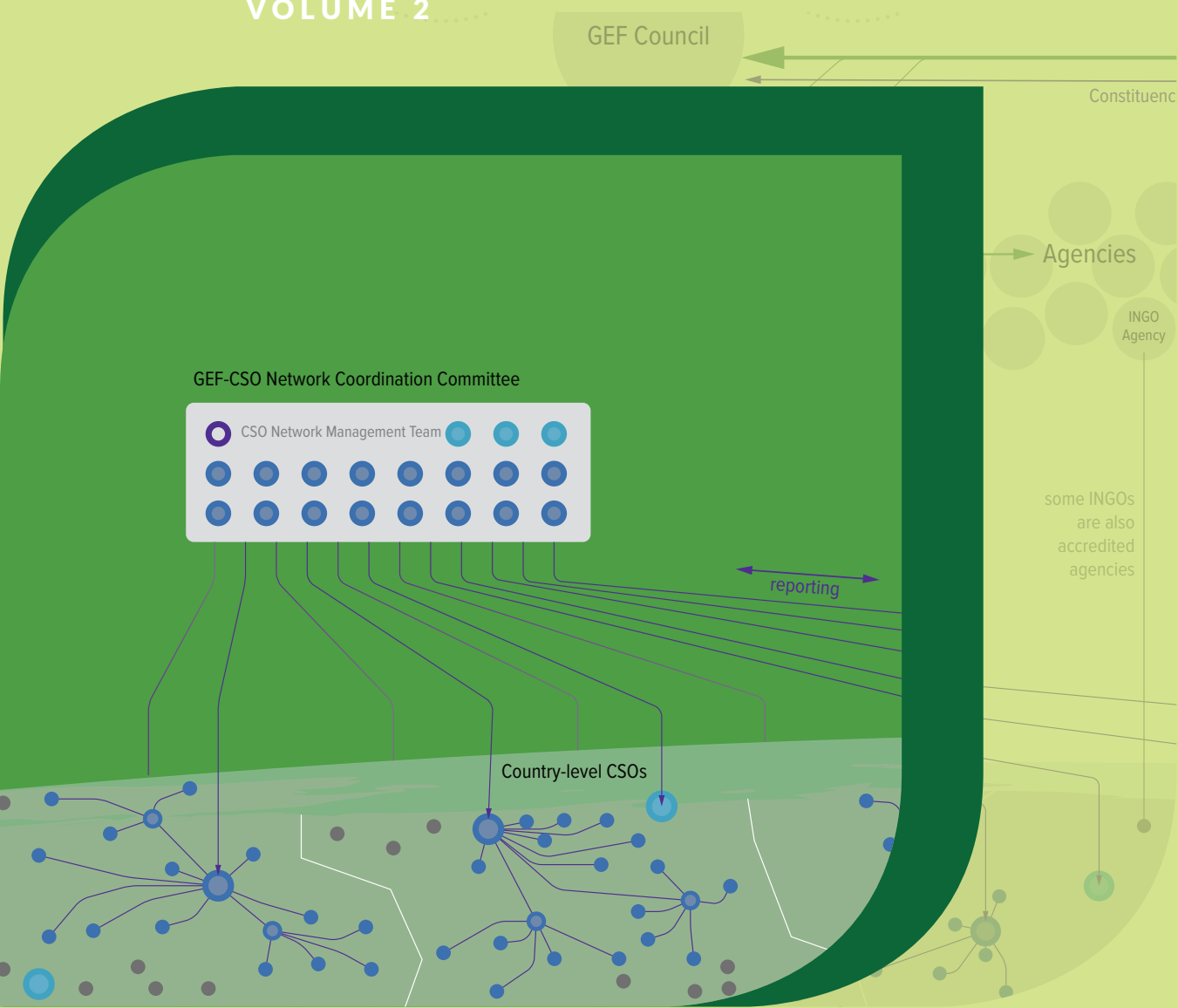


Independent
Evaluation Office
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

Evaluation of the GEF– Civil Society Organization Network

SEPTEMBER 2016

VOLUME 2



TECHNICAL NOTES

Technical Note 1 – Methodologies	2
Technical Note 2 – Comparative Network Analysis	7

Technical Note 1 – Methodologies

Approach and Rationale

1. The evaluation was task managed by Ms. Baljit Wadhwa, Senior Evaluation Officer with oversight from the Chief Evaluation Officer and Director of the IEO, leading a team of GEF IEO staff and consultants. The consultants were hired to undertake specific elements such as regional evaluation workshop facilitation, analysis of data collected through surveys, data collected on membership through the CSO Network and analysis of connectivity and network health, for example, through social network analysis.
2. An approach paper to this joint evaluation was prepared by the GEF in July 2015 (Annex A). After consultation with the Reference Group and Peer Review Panel, and incorporation of all comment received by GEF Secretariat and GEF Stakeholders, the Approach Paper was finalized in August 2015.
3. Data for this evaluation was collected through several complementary tools:
 - i. More than 70 key stakeholder interviews with GEF SEC staff, Council Members, GEF Agencies, CSO Network Members, CSO Network RFPs and CFP, CSO participants in GEF meetings (Annex H);
 - ii. 5 focus groups with CSOs at ECWs;
 - iii. 8 online survey instrument addressed to the CSO Network, CSO participants in GEF meetings; GEF Council, GEF Agencies, GEF Government Focal Points;
 - iv. 3 regional evaluation workshops;
 - v. A literature review;
 - vi. CSO Membership database review;
 - vii. GEF and SGP project portfolio review.
4. These tools resulted in a substantial amount of quantitative and qualitative data. A more detailed description of each of the tools is presented below; also see figure.

Interviews

5. Interviews were requested from the GEF SEC, GEF Agencies, CSO Network RFPs/IPFPs/CFP, CSOs (Network member and non-member) the GEF Council (both donors and recipients), and other organizations who have established relations with CSOs or a CSO Network (UNEP, AF, CIFs, CAN). Interviews were conducted face-to-face when possible or by phone. Interview protocols guided the discussions and when possible were shared beforehand with interviewees. A detailed list of interviewees can be found in Annex H.

Regional Evaluation Workshop Participants

6. Participants to the regional evaluation workshops were selected based on 3 main criteria:

- i. Membership to the GEF CSO network
- ii. Official network representatives (RFP/CFP/CCP)
- iii. Attendance to previous GEF events/activities (Council/Assembly/ECW)

7. Using the Network's membership database and the CiviCRM¹ database of the GEF, a list of individuals who are both members of the network and participated in GEF events was created. In countries with no Network members, non-members who have attended previous GEF events were prioritized. In addition, the invitation included the RFPs in the region, Country Contact Points (if relevant) and SGP Coordinator in the country where the workshop was held.

Critical Systems Analysis at Regional Evaluation Workshops

8. Critical systems heuristics, is a philosophical framework were used to support reflective analysis of complex systems.² The IEO used a modified form to understand the CSO Network situation in the regions and engage participants in thinking of critical country systems and ways for improving the situation.

9. The workshops took the participants through a GEF-CSO Network historical timeline exercise to establish context and reference for the system interactions. Reflecting on the present situation, participants described conditions and perspectives of major stakeholders in the GEF Partnership. Facilitators then moved participants from analyzing the situation to mapping a more ideal vision of the system based on actions aligned to the eight critical elements necessary for network functioning and underpinning the evaluation framework.

Online Survey Instrument

10. Survey instruments were designed and distributed to the GEF Partnership tailored to each group.

- i. Five surveys were distributed to the CSO community: (1) CSO Network Member Survey, (2) CSO Non-Member Survey, (3) GEF CSO Network - Country Snapshots of Connectivity, (4) CSO Network Member Survey – Follow-up Survey, (5) Inventory of CSO Contributions to the GEF (RFPs and IPFPs only);
- ii. One Survey was distributed to the GEF Council and Alternate Members;
- iii. One Survey was distributed to the GEF Agencies; and
- iv. One survey was distributed to the GEF Operational and Political Focal Points.

¹ The CiviCRM is a database created by the GEFSEC and includes all attendees and applications for attendance to all GEF meetings starting in 2011. The CiviCRM classifies participants by role in the GEF partnership (e.g. CSO, Indigenous People, Council Member, OFP, RFP, etc.)

² Critical Systems Heuristics; http://betterevaluation.org/plan/approach/critical_system_heuristics

11. The CSO Network Member and non-Member surveys were initially tested. The instrument was revised according to the comment received from 3 ECW meetings.

CSO Network Evaluation – Member Survey

12. The Member survey was sent to the GEF CSO Network list serve containing 466³ member organizations in English, Spanish, and French. A total of 146 responses were received, 104 of which were viable and used in this analysis. Nonviable responses are those which were duplicate responses and thereby consolidated, and blank responses in which the survey was started but no information was submitted. The response rate for the member survey is 22 percent.

CSO Network Evaluation – Non-Member Survey

13. CSO non-Network members are those that have a connection to the GEF (have attended or register to attend any of the GEF meetings, including GEF Assembly, ECW, and Council). All CSO contacts are stored in a CiviCRM database by the GEF Secretariat. The CiviCRM database showed that 1140 individuals have attended or registered to attend a GEF meeting since January 2011. The Non-Member survey was sent to all 1140 individuals in English, French, and Spanish; 104 emails were out of date and bounced back indicating that the survey was received by 1036 recipients. A total of 172 responses were received, 166 of which were viable and used in the analysis. Nonviable responses are those which were duplicate responses and thereby consolidated, and blank responses in which the survey was started but no information was submitted. Response rate for the non-Member survey is 16 percent.

RFP/IPFP Inventory of CSO Contributions to the GEF

14. This survey was sent to all current RFPs and IPFPs requesting information on time and effort spent on GEF Related tasks in addition to cash and in-kind contributions. Response rate for RFPs was 93 percent, however no IPFPs responded to the survey.

Follow-up Survey to CSO Network members

15. CSO Network Members also received a follow-up survey with 5 questions pertaining to Social Network Analysis. The survey received 165 responses, only 90 of which were viable and used for analysis. Response rate was 19 percent. Among the 165 responses, 38 respondents had also answered the first survey.

³ At the time the survey was sent out to the Network, membership consisted of 466 organizations. An updated database of 474 CSO was provided to the Evaluation team which was used for the analysis of the GEF CSO Network membership. Since the survey was sent to the global address of the CSO Network, new members may have also received the survey. This is indicative by the number of respondents which indicated joining the GEF CSO Network in 2015 (8.7% or 9 respondents). Accounting for a total of 474, survey response rate remains the same at 22%.

GEF CSO Network - Country Snapshots of Connectivity

16. As a follow-up on focused interviews with workshop participants, this survey was sent to select participants from the three regional workshops. Fifteen responses were received, 13 of which were viable and used for analysis.

GEF Council and Alternate Members

17. The GEF Council and Alternate Members survey was sent to the 62 members. A total of 26 responses were received, 20 of which were viable and used for the analysis. Response rate for the council survey was 32 percent.

Operational Focal Point Survey and Political Focal Point Survey

18. The OFP and PFP survey was sent to the 145 OFPs and 121 PFPs of the GEF, a total of 54 responses were received from OFPs, 28 of which were viable and used in the analysis, and 16 from PFPs, 10 of which were viable and used in the analysis. Response rate was 14 percent.

GEF Agencies Survey

19. The Agency survey was sent to the 18 GEF Agencies. The Survey was received by the GEF units at agencies and responded to by 10 agencies. Response rate for this survey was 55.6 percent.

Data Analytics

Principal Component Analysis

20. The evaluation team performed Principal Component Analysis (PCA) to assess which variables in the survey responses have the largest possible variance and can account for as much of the variability in the data as possible.

21. PCA uses correlated factors and transforms them in such a way that the first principal component has the largest possible variance, and each succeeding component in turn has the highest variance possible under the constraint of the preceding components.

GEF Portfolio Analysis - CSO as Executors

22. Using the Project Management Information System (PMIS) at the GEF, a mass download of the GEF database was conducted on November 17, 2015. The data was cleaned up to exclude any rejected or canceled projects and a comparative analysis was conducted to verify which projects have CSOs as executors and of those, which projects are executed by CSO Network members.

SGP Portfolio Analysis

23. The SGP Portfolio since the inception of the program was provided by the SGP staff at UNDP as of December 30, 2015. The data was used to present a full portfolio analysis of the SGP program. In addition, a comparative analysis was conducted to check which of the SGP project executors are also members of the GEF CSO Network are also.

Membership Profile

24. The membership database was provided to the GEFIEO at the beginning of the evaluation with an updated version provided after the conclusion of the GEF's 49th Council Meeting in November 2015. The most recent data (dated November 1, 2015) was used in analyzing the Network's membership profile.

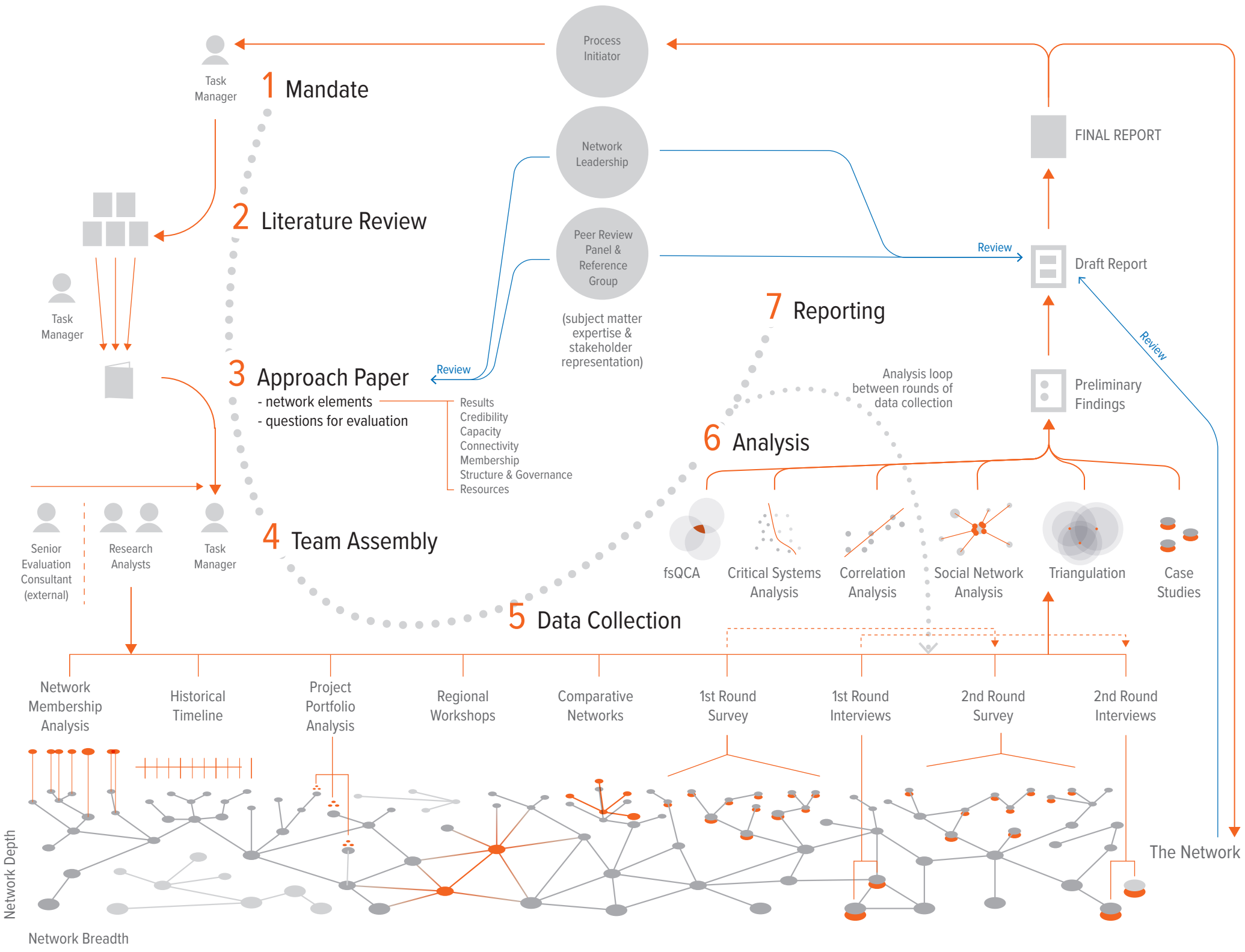
Limitations

25. The large amount of information collected through the above mentioned methods provide an extremely rich picture of the CSO Network and its operations. As with any complex evaluation and specific to network evaluation, some limitations were encountered. These included:

- a) The CSO Network, over time, has had numerous players, many of whom enter and exit the Network.
- b) Paucity of evaluative data on the CSO Network. It has been 10 years since the last evaluation of the Network with no systematic monitoring in between.

Draft Report

26. The Evaluation Team undertook a thorough analysis of the data collected. The analysis included a triangulation and verification and gap analysis process. A working draft report was reviewed by the reference group and peer review panel. A draft report was circulated to GEF Stakeholders for comments. The feedback received was assessed, and an audit trail prepared that documented the evaluation team's responses to the written comments received.



Technical Note 2 – Comparative Network Analysis

1. The evaluation undertook an analysis of comparative models of CSO engagement with different International Governmental Organizations (IGOs) and International Financial Institutions (IFIs). The following section describes approaches to CSO engagement from entities similar to the GEF. Table 1 below compares and contrasts key features in analogous networks.

Development Banks

2. The Bretton Woods institutions, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the International Finance Cooperation (IFC), have dedicated staff and units for engagement with CSOs. CSOs have not formally organized in the form of a network largely because of the thematic breadth and diversity addressed by these institutions. CSOs are engaged on an annual basis through the Civil Society Policy Forum which is held in parallel to the Annual and Spring Meetings of the World Bank Group and IMF.

3. The African Development Bank (AfDB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) have developed models for CSO engagement similar to that of the World Bank Group and IMF. AfDB has a history of CSO engagement and involvement in its programs and project implementation.⁴ A charter for CSO engagement is being launched in May 2015 taking into account contributions made by a CSO-AfDB committee to the draft charter.⁵ Similarly, EBRD has a CSO Engagement Unit. EBRD created in 2000 a Civil Society Programme as part of its Annual Meeting as a forum for direct CSO engagement with EBRD representatives.⁶

4. ADB is somewhat unique in that it has its own CSO Cooperation Network along with an NGO & Civil Society Center (NGOC). The CSO Cooperation Network works to monitor CSO related needs, ensure synergy in NGO cooperation initiatives and exchange knowledge and good practices with CSOs and throughout ADB. The NGOC works on coordinating and training an institution-wide network of key operational staff.⁷

5. The IDB, unlike other development banks, has a CSO network known as Civil Society Consultative Groups (ConSoC).⁸ IDB leverages on Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) technical and field experience to implement projects or projects' components.

The ConSoC is a platform for collaboration and consultation promoted by the IDB Group. It integrates representatives of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in 26 countries of Latin American and the Caribbean. Each organization is selected based on its role regarding one or more of the development strategy pillars agreed upon in Country Strategy. IDB regularly conducts public consultations with diverse groups of interest belonging to different areas of

⁴ <http://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/topics/civil-society/afdb-and-civil-society/>

⁵ <http://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/article/launch-of-afdb-cso-charter-to-intensify-accountability-14128/>

⁶ <http://www.ebrd.com/who-we-are/civil-society-overview.html>

⁷ <http://www.adb.org/site/ngos/ngo-civil-society-center>

⁸ <http://www.iadb.org/en/civil-society-v3/home,19183.html>

civil society and connects with civil society through access to information and open data about policies, projects, strategies and activities that are carried out in each of the 26 countries of the region.

Adaptation Fund and the Adaptation Fund NGO Network

6. The Adaptation Fund (AF) engages with CSOs through a formal network of CSOs. The AF Network is coordinated and supported by Germanwatch as the host of the network and funded through the German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation, Building, and Nuclear Safety. The AF NGO Network was initiated by a group of NGOs in order to contribute to the “successful implementation of projects funded by the Adaptation Fund in developing countries”. The AF NGO Network “strives for a sustainable dynamic influence on politics and the engagement of civil society”.⁹ The AF NGO Network supports developing countries by increasing local NGO capacity throughout the project period. The AF NGO network believes that its work is crucial at the level of developing countries where projects are implemented, and at the Adaptation Fund Secretariat where rules and procedures are shaped.

7. The work of the AF NGO Network is coordinated by an Advisory Committee. The advisory committee is composed of 25 representatives from NGOs and research institutions, and it “provides strategic orientation of the AF NGO Network pertaining to the AF”. The advisory committee members are invited experts that rotate periodically and are expected to contribute to the work of the AF NGO Network by “linking the AF NGO Network to other NGOs in relevant countries”.¹⁰

8. The AF NGO Network’s advisory committee and Germanwatch, as the host organization, work to influence policy at the international level and at the AF, as well as at a country level in collaboration with national and regional country partners and local communities.

9. At the developing country level, the AF NGO Network is focused on implementation as well as to ensure the accountability of the implementers. It also intends to ease the knowledge sharing of adaptation good practice in the country, including on means to identify the particularly vulnerable people.

10. At the level of the Adaptation Fund Board, the AF NGO Network closely observes the development of the AF, “through observation of the AFB meetings, through informal exchange with AFB members, through briefings and reports on the outcomes of the meetings as well as through letters to the AFB members”.¹¹

11. The AF NGO Network comments on the progress of AF projects. Starting in 2011, the AF NGO Network were given a part of the board meeting agenda to, for example: raise issues for discussion, provide inputs on agenda items, and deliver presentations. Through interviews with

⁹ AF NGO Network website: <http://af-network.org/How%20it%20works>

¹⁰ AF NGO Network website: <http://af-network.org/How%20it%20works>

¹¹ AF NGO Network website: <http://af-network.org/How%20it%20works>

the AF NGO Network and the AF Secretariat the relationship with the network was described as a positive one, with mutual respect from both parties. Both the Board and the Secretariat value the AF NGO Network's input to their work, and the Network itself values the allocated session for engagement at the Board meetings. They find it provides space for formal CSO engagement with the Board.

Climate Investment Funds (CIF) and CSO Observers

12. The Climate Investment Funds (CIFs), housed at the World Bank have a model of engagement with CSOs that allows for active observers. The CIF Administrative Unit selected two firms (one for the CSO and another for the private sector), to facilitate the process for selection of CSO and private sector representatives. RESOLVE, a CSO, was selected to coordinate CSO observer selection process. Similar to that of the GEF. The CIFs allow for CSOs, through principles of self-determination, to choose 17 observers to attend the CIFs meetings.

13. Stakeholders are invited to participate in meetings of the Trust Fund Committees and Sub-Committees as Observers. In this capacity, Observers can request the floor during discussions, request additions to the agenda, and recommend external experts to speak on specific items. Co-chairs may also invite Observers to address the Committee and Sub-Committee meetings in matters of strategic discussion or direct concern.

14. Civil Society Organizations are represented in the CIF by a total of sixteen elected Observers - four on each of the Trust Fund Committees and Sub-Committees. Civil Society observers are drawn from global and local or regional civil society organizations, with consideration given to equally distributed representation. Observers are identified through self-selection processes and serve for 24-month terms.

Green Climate Fund and CSO Observers

15. The Green Climate Fund (GCF) has allowed for CSOs to attend and participate in meetings as observers. Observers are accredited to attend GCF sessions and are invited to submit papers to the institutions. The GCF manage any part of the Observers' work beyond administrative relations associated with the accreditation of individual organizations and the receipt of submissions.

16. Supplementary to the observer role noted above, the GCF has added Active Observers, wherein two CSOs and two Private Sector Organizations (PSOs), one each from developed and developing countries, are granted the right to participate in GCF meetings.

17. In an interview, Active observers noted the importance of their interventions at the Corporate/Global policy level within the GCF Board citing that their views are "often reflected in the board report of meetings". In addition, CSOs are able to actively 'lobby' with board members during the board meetings. The GCF doesn't yet have a mechanism of engaging CSOs at the project design or implementation stage, however the CSOs have a "strong engagement

at the policy level on environmental and social standards and give views at the board meetings about the projects that are being considered for approval”.

UNFCCC and the Climate Action Network (CAN)

18. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has allowed for CSOs to attend and participate in meetings as observers. Observers are non-state entities – including inter-governmental groups, international organizations, NGOs, businesses and industry. Observers are accredited to attend UNFCCC sessions and are invited to submit position papers to the institutions. However, the UNFCCC doesn’t manage any part of the Observers’ work beyond administrative relations associated with the accreditation of individual organizations and the receipt of submissions. NGO Observers to the UNFCCC have organized as the Climate Action Network International (CAN). CAN is a formal network run by a secretariat and has regional and local offices worldwide.¹²

19. The Climate Action Network – International (CAN) is a “worldwide network of over 900 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in more than 100 countries, working to promote government and individual action to limit human-induced climate change to ecologically sustainable levels”.¹³

20. CAN members work to achieve this goal through information exchange and the coordinated development of NGO strategy on international, regional, and national climate issues; CAN has regional network hubs that coordinate these efforts around the world.

21. CAN members place a high priority on both a healthy environment and development that "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (Brundtland Commission). CAN's vision is to protect the atmosphere while allowing for sustainable and equitable development worldwide.

22. CAN is organized into regional and national "nodes". Each node is responsible for its own governance and procedures, and conducts joint policy and advocacy work within its given country or region. The regional nodes operate independently from the international secretariat, each with their own membership criteria, policies and procedures and annual budgets. CSOs are required to join their own regional nodes unless the work of the organization is on a global scale or the organization has offices in multiple regions. The CAN international secretariat operates as a coordinator for CSO positions clustered around climate change thematic issues.

23. The network has thematic groups that are open for the all members to join. All decisions are put forth to the membership and are made on a no-objection bases with the option for CSOs to by-line.

¹² http://unfccc.int/parties_and_observers/items/2704.php

¹³ Climate Action Network Website: <http://climatenetwork.org/about/about-can>

24. The success of CAN as described by the director of CAN International is attributed to 2 main things: 1) transparency of the organization and a clear decision making process, and 2) the need for the coordination function that the CAN Secretariat provides.

25. The relationship between CAN and the UNFCCC secretariat was described as a strong cooperation stemming from clearly defined roles and responsibilities of each entity leaving little room for interpretation.

Convention on Biological Diversity and CBD Alliance & International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB)

26. The CBD has two networks that follow the CBD process closely and work on influencing policy at the CBD: (1) CBD Alliance and (2) International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB). The CBD admits agencies that work in the fields of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use wishing to be represented as observers. CSOs admitted to the CBD may participate in meetings upon invitation of the President of the meeting without the right to vote in the proceedings.

27. The CBD Alliance is a loose network of activists and representatives from NGOs, community-based organizations (CBOs), social movements and Indigenous Peoples organizations (IPOs) advocating for improved and informed participation in Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) processes. The CBD Alliance works on bringing together views from CSOs worldwide to the CBD and coordinates the work of CSOs and CBD bodies. The CBD Alliance is the formal Network of CSOs at the CBD and has a longstanding good relationship with the CBD Secretariat.

28. The International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) on the other hand is a network of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in the CBD process. IIFB was formed During the 3rd Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and works on coordinate indigenous strategies at these meetings, provide advice to the government parties, and influence the interpretations of government obligations to recognize and respect indigenous rights to the knowledge and resources at the CBD and other important international environmental meetings. IIFB and the CBD Alliance have a close relationship and often coordinate.

UNCCD and the UNCCD CSO Panel

29. The UNCCD accredits CSOs as observers to its meeting. In addition it has an established platform designed to magnify the work of the CSOs, build their capacities, enable information exchange, establish new and innovative partnerships and represent the civil society in the UNCCD process. As such, the CSO Panel, established by the Conference of the Parties, brings together representatives from different existing networks working on desertification. The CSO Panel is voted by accredited CSOs to the UNCCD.

30. Accredited CSOs nominate representatives within the UNCCD CSO panel member to undertake the tasks entrusted by the Conference of the Parties during the period just after the conference of the Parties until the end of the next conference of the Parties (biennium). Active CSOs may nominate themselves and participate in the election within each of the five United Nations Regional Groups of Members States. The five elected CSO must have the institutional capacity and commitment to accept and execute the duties and responsibilities of this position. Elections is facilitated by the UNCCD secretariat and follow a twostep process (i) nomination of the candidates (ii) election of the panel members among the candidates.

31. The UNCCD may provide financial support to some observers to attend its meetings.

Stockholm Convention and the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN)

32. The Stockholm convention admits Bodies and/or agencies to the Secretariat as observers provided they have programs or activities in matters covered by the Convention

33. International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), which is comprised of more than 700 public interest, non-governmental organizations in 116 countries, is the largest and most prominent CSOs actively contributing to the POP international work.

34. IPEN is a Network of CSOs and operates through an Executive Committee and a Steering Committee which make up the governance structure, in addition IPEN has working groups and regional hubs.

35. The Regional Hubs allow for IPEN to operate in all six UN languages. The eight Regional Hubs are: Anglophone Africa, Francophone Africa, Central Europe, Eastern Europe, Caucasus & Central Asia, Latin America, Middle East, South Asia and Southeast Asia.

36. IPEN's Working Groups discuss specific chemical safety themes to develop IPEN's policy positions and contribute to related on-the-ground projects and activities.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

37. UNEP, similar to UN ECOSOC, and other UN agencies recognizes Agenda 21 which defines the nine 'Major Groups' and chapter 23 of the Agenda 21 which recognizes the important role of civil society and the need to strengthen the role of Major Groups. As such, UNEP engages the "Major Groups¹⁴ and other Stakeholders as partners and appreciates the perspectives they bring to the table, valuable research and advocacy functions they perform and their role in helping foster long-term, broad-based support for UNEP's mission".¹⁵

¹⁴ The major groups are: (non-governmental organizations, farmers, women, academic/research entities, youth and children, indigenous peoples, business and industry, workers and trade unions and local authorities).

¹⁵ UNEP website: <http://www.unep.org/civil-society/UNEAUNEPAccreditation/tabid/52182/>

38. UNEP has an accreditation process for the major groups to actively participate in the in the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of UNEP and its associated meetings. Accredited Majors are also invited to the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF), and to the Regional Consultative Meetings (RCMs), where Major Groups' organizations select representatives of each of the six UNEP regions.¹⁶ In 2013, UNEP reviewed of options for stakeholder engagement which examined similar practices in other organizations across a range of engagement issues.¹⁷

39. UNEP Currently has around 281 organizations accredited under the Major Groups. Organization accredited to UNEP are those whose worked is focused on the environment and the work of UNEP, and whose work has an international scope, thus limiting accreditation to exclude organizations that work on broader cross-cutting development issues and national issues.

40. Currently, UNEP provides funding for participation of major groups and stakeholders in the meetings of the following bodies:

- a. Governing Council and Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum
- b. Regional Coordination Meeting (RCM)
- c. One international consultation per year

41. Based on needs expressed by participants and available funding, additional capacity building activities may be funded.

UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) ECOSOC

42. UN ECOSOC Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) NGO Branch is the focal point within the UN Secretariat for non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC. ECOSOC organizes an annual meeting around engagement with CSO stakeholders worldwide. CSOs are accredited as 1) *General observers*, NGOs that represent large segments of societies in several countries and their area of work cover most of the issues on the agenda of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, 2) *Special Observers*, NGOs that have a special competence in, and are concerned specifically with, only a few of the fields of activity covered by ECOSOC. These NGOs tend to be smaller and more recently established, and 3) *Roster Observers*, NGOs that have a narrower and/or technical focus and make occasional and useful contributions to the work of ECOSOC or its subsidiary bodies.

43. ECOSOC has a standing Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations established by the Council in 1946. The standing committee reports directly to ECOSOC. The Committee has 19 members who are elected on the basis of equitable geographical representation:

- 5 members from African States;
- 4 members from Asian States;

¹⁶ UNEP's six regions are Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, and West Asia.

¹⁷ Options for Stakeholder Engagement in UNEP (October 2013).

- 2 members from Eastern European States;
- 4 members from Latin American and Caribbean States; and
- 4 members from Western European and other States.

44. The term of office of its members is four years. The current terms of reference of the Committee are set out in Resolution 1996/31. In its proceedings the Committee is guided by the rules of procedure of the Council.

Table 1: Methods of CSO Engagement in Analogous bodies

Mechanism	Network	Website	Accreditation / Membership	Accreditation / Membership Criteria	Number of Entities / Members	Consultative Status	Mechanism for Interventions	Representative Bodies	Funding	Cost for Stakeholder Participation
GEF	GEF CSO Network	www.gef-cso.org	Membership to the GEF CSO Network	CSOs which are members of the GEF CSO Network: any CSO organization working on GEF Related issues and meets the minimum criteria	474 CSOs	Observer	Submission of information and views Intervention at the Council meetings upon approval of the Council chair / Council	GEF CSO Network - Organizations of the RFP, IPFP, Chair and Vice Chair (previously CPF), in addition to regional observers.	Funds 40 individuals to come to the GEF Council twice/year, in addition to CSO participation in 13 ECWs	Around 440,000+ USD / year (140,000USD/year on Council and 300,000 USD/year on ECW participation)
Development Banks	N/A	N/A	Admittance of observers	N/A	N/A	Observers	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
IDB	Civil Society Consultative Groups (ConSoC)	http://www.iadb.org/en/civil-society-v3/home_19183.html	Representatives of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in 26 countries of Latin American and the Caribbean.	Each organization is selected based on its role regarding one or more of the development strategy pillars agreed to by the governments of each country (Country Strategy).	26 CSOs	CSO network in each of the 26 countries known as Civil Society Consultative Groups (ConSoC).	The IDB Group listens to civil society to get inputs on its policies, strategies and projects. The IDB regularly conducts public consultations with diverse groups of interest belonging to different areas of civil society	N/A	N/A	N/A
Adaptation Fund	AF NGO Network	http://af-network.org/	Membership-based	AF NGO Network is open to all interested stakeholders, and they are invited to take an active part in the AF NGO Network	151 CSOs / 25 make up the Advisory Committee	Observer / Active Observer	Observation of the AFB meetings, through informal exchange with AFB members, through briefings and reports on the outcomes of the meetings as well as through letters to the AFB members Advisory Committee is given a 90 minute CSO session at the board meetings.	Coordinated by an Advisory Committee // coordinated and supported by Germanwatch as the host of the network	Funded by the German International Climate Initiative	Not Available
CIF	RESOLVE, a CSO selected to coordinate CSO Observer selection process	http://www.resolve-cif.org/site-cif/	The CIF Administrative Unit selected two firms (one for the CSO and another for the private sector), to facilitate the process for selection of CSO and private	self-selected representatives	16 elected observers	Observer	Stakeholders are invited to participate in meetings of the Trust Fund Committees and Sub-Committees as Observers. In this capacity, Observers can request the floor during discussions, request additions to the agenda, and recommend external experts to speak on specific items. Co-chairs may also invite	Civil Society Organizations are represented in the CIF by a total of sixteen elected Observers - four on each of the Trust Fund Committees and Sub-Committees. Observers are identified through self-selection processes and serve for 24-month terms.	Not Available	Not Available

Mechanism	Network	Website	Accreditation / Membership	Accreditation / Membership Criteria	Number of Entities / Members	Consultative Status	Mechanism for Interventions	Representative Bodies	Funding	Cost for Stakeholder Participation
			sector representatives				Observers to address the Committee and Sub-Committee meetings in matters of strategic discussion or direct concern.			
GCF	N/A	http://www.greencclimate.fund/boardroom/observe	Accreditation of observer organizations	Organizations seeking GCF observer status and to participate in the activities of the Fund are required to apply for observer status. The GCF Board announces calls for observer registration on a regular basis.	more than 198 CSOs , and 45 private sector organizations, and 52 international entities , have been registered as observers	Observer / Active Observer	GCF's Governing Instrument grants two CSOs and two PSOs the right to participate in its meetings as Active Observers, one each from developed and developing countries	CSOs: Heinrich Böll Foundation North America (Action Aid International) Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development (used to be Third World Network) PSOs: Climate Markets and Investment Association (CMIA) World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)	Not Available	The Secretariat has a designated staff contact for all observers to facilitate communication with and among them
UNFCCC	Climate Action Network	www.climateactionnetwork.org	Accreditation of observer organizations to UNFCCC CAN is membership based	New applicant organizations for accreditation to the UNFCCC are formally admitted by the Conference of the Parties following the successful completion of the admission process. Any nongovernmental organization working on climate issues is eligible to join CAN	Over 1880 NGOs and 100 IGOs are admitted as observers. CAN has over 950 NGOs in over 110 countries	Observer	Submission of position papers (information and views) by CAN, in addition to Intervention in the meetings upon approval of the chair. Observers are allowed to organize side events and exhibits Within CAN members work to achieve goals through information exchange and the coordinated development of NGO strategy on international, regional, and national climate issues. CAN has regional network hubs that coordinate these efforts around the world.	The NGOs represent at UNFCCC a broad spectrum of interests, and embrace representatives from business and industry, environmental groups, farming and agriculture, indigenous populations, local governments and municipal authorities, research and academic institutes, labor unions, women and gender and youth groups. CAN is organized into regional and national "nodes". Each node is responsible for its own governance and procedures, and conduct joint policy and advocacy work within its given country or region.	UNFCCC does not fund CSO participation in its sessions or the COP CAN applies for grants from major foundations Funds Staff participation in UNFCCC meetings in addition to the Leadership development program which funds participants from developing countries to build their professional leadership by strengthening their national and regional nodes.	Staff contact for all observers for accreditation and to facilitate communication with the UNFCCC Annual CAN Secretariat budget is 2 million USD



Mechanism	Network	Website	Accreditation / Membership	Accreditation / Membership Criteria	Number of Entities / Members	Consultative Status	Mechanism for Interventions	Representative Bodies	Funding	Cost for Stakeholder Participation
CBD	CBD Alliance	http://www.cbdaalliance.info/en/	Accreditation of observer organizations	Letter of interest including: (1) A statement demonstrating the organization's qualifications in fields relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. (2) A website address. (3) The organization's statutes/by-laws or terms of reference demonstrating the organization's legitimacy as a bona fide organization constituted in its home country. (4) Any other relevant information.	N/A	Observer	Bodies or agencies qualified in the fields of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use wishing to be represented as observers to meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and its subsidiary bodies. These observers may, upon invitation of the President of the meeting, participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any meeting in matters of direct concern to the body or agency they represent unless at least one third of the Parties present at the meeting object.	CBD Alliance: The CBD Alliance is a loose network of activists and representatives from NGOs, community-based organizations (CBOs), social movements and Indigenous Peoples organizations (IPOs) advocating for improved and informed participation in Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) processes.	The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity does not provide financial support for the participation of non-governmental organizations in CBD meetings. Travel and other expenses must be covered by the organization or the representative.	Not Available
	International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB)	http://iifb.indigenousportal.com/						The International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB), which brings together Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in the CBD process. There is a close relationship between the two organizations. The IIFB help coordinate indigenous strategies at these meetings, provide advice to the government parties, and influence the interpretations of government obligations to recognize and respect indigenous rights to the knowledge and resources.		
UNCCD	CSO Panel	https://civilsocietyatunccd.cop12.w	Accreditation of observer organizations	Representatives from any body or agency, whether national or international,	184 CSOs 5 CSOs on the CSO Panel	Observer / CSO Panel	The UNCCD has established a new platform designed to magnify the work of the CSOs, build their capacities, enable	CSO Panel voted by accredited CSOs The accredited CSOs should	CSOs can apply for support to attend as observers the UNCCD meetings	Not Available

Mechanism	Network	Website	Accreditation / Membership	Accreditation / Membership Criteria	Number of Entities / Members	Consultative Status	Mechanism for Interventions	Representative Bodies	Funding	Cost for Stakeholder Participation
		ordpress.com/		<p>governmental or non-governmental, may be admitted to participate in the proceedings of the Convention's bodies under the conditions that the organization:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •is qualified in matters covered by the Convention; •has informed the UNCCD secretariat of its wish to participate <p>Active representative can be nominated and voted onto the CSO Panel</p>			<p>information exchange, establish new and innovative partnerships and represent the civil society in the UNCCD process. In this respect, the CSO panel was established by the Conference of the Parties. The CSO panel brings together representatives from different existing networks working on desertification. The main focus during the current biennium is to strengthen the capacity of the network to expand its representativeness at the sub-regional and national level and to become a network of networks that can work with a unified voice in combating desertification.</p>	<p>nominate their representatives within the UNCCD CSO panel member to undertake the tasks entrusted by the Conference of the Parties during the period just after the conference of the Parties until the end of the next conference of the Parties (biennium). The accredited CSO must have the institutional capacity and commitment to accept and execute the duties and responsibilities of this position.</p> <p>The process of elections is facilitated by the UNCCD secretariat. The elections will follow a twostep process (i) nomination of the candidates (ii) election of the panel members among the candidates.</p>		
Stockholm Convention	International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN)	http://www.ipen.org/	Accreditation of observer organizations	<p>Bodies and/or agencies are required to submit to the Secretariat the completed form for application</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Information describing the body or agency; 2.Information on the affiliation of the body or agency with non-governmental organizations or institutions; 3.Information on the programmes and activities undertaken by the body or agency/qualification in matters covered 	International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), which is comprised of more than 700 public interest, non-governmental organizations in 116 countries.			<p>IPEN has an Executive Committee and a Steering Committee which make up the governance structure, in addition IPEN has working groups and regional hubs.</p> <p>Regional Hubs: IPEN operates in all six UN languages, and is coordinated via eight Regional Hubs for Anglophone Africa, Francophone Africa, Central Europe, Eastern Europe, Caucasus & Central Asia, Latin America, Middle East, South Asia and Southeast Asia.</p> <p>Working Groups: IPEN's Working Groups discuss specific chemical safety themes to develop IPEN's</p>		Not Available

Mechanism	Network	Website	Accreditation / Membership	Accreditation / Membership Criteria	Number of Entities / Members	Consultative Status	Mechanism for Interventions	Representative Bodies	Funding	Cost for Stakeholder Participation
				by the Convention; 4. Description of any network and/or membership system.				policy positions and contribute to related on-the-ground projects and activities.		
Basel & Rotterdam Conventions	N/A	http://www.basel.int/Procedures/AdmissionofObservers/tabid/3658/Default.aspx	Accreditation of observer organizations	NGOs may be represented by observers at meetings of the Basel and Rotterdam Convention bodies, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention and the rules of procedure.		Observer				Not Available
UNEP	The Major Groups Facilitating Committee	http://www.unep.org/civil-society/GMGSF/tabid/52181/Default.aspx	Accreditation of observer organizations	<p>Accreditation is granted to organizations which satisfy the below criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be an international NGO having an interest in the field of the environment; 2. Be legally constituted and registered in a country; 3. Have a proven non-profit-making status; 4. Have an international scope of work 5. Proof of a minimum of two years of activity. 	281 CSOs	Observer	<p>Actively participate in the in the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of UNEP and its associated meetings</p> <p>During the sessions of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) observers have the opportunity to attend the Plenary, the Committee of the Whole and the Ministerial Consultations as observers, including the Ministerial Roundtables as full participants. major groups and stakeholders can circulate written statements to Governments through the UNEP secretariat and make oral statements during the discussions of the UNEP GC/GMEF on the invitation of the chairperson</p>	<p>•The Major Groups Facilitating Committee (18 members) - Invited to the Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF)</p> <p>•Regional Consultative Meetings (RCMs), where two selected Major Groups representatives from each UNEP region: Africa; Asia and the Pacific region; Europe; Latin America and the Caribbean; North America; West Asia;</p>	<p>UNEP provides funding for participation of major groups and stakeholders in the meetings of the following bodies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Governing Council and Global Major Groups and Stakeholder Forum: USD 250,000 USD/year 2) Regional Coordination Meeting: ~ USD 30,000/region/per year 3) 1 international consultation per year: USD 50,000 - 80,000 per year <p>Based on needs and available funding, additional capacity building activities may be funded.</p>	Around 360,000+ USD

Mechanism	Network	Website	Accreditation / Membership	Accreditation / Membership Criteria	Number of Entities / Members	Consultative Status	Mechanism for Interventions	Representative Bodies	Funding	Cost for Stakeholder Participation
ECOSOC	The DESA NGO Branch is the focal point within the UN Secretariat for non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)	http://csonet.org/	Consultative Status	<p>Among other requirements for obtaining consultative status are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Applying organization's activities must be relevant to the work of ECOSOC; •The NGO must have been in existence (officially registered) for at least 2 years in order to apply; •The NGO must have a democratic decision making mechanism; •The major portion of the organization's funds should be derived from contributions from national affiliates, individual members, or other non-governmental components. 	There are currently 4,189 NGOs in active consultative status with (ECOSOC)	<p>(i) General status: NGOs that represent large segments of societies in several countries and their area of work cover most of the issues on the agenda of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies.</p> <p>(ii) Special status: NGOs that have a special competence in only a few of the fields of activity covered by ECOSOC. (iii) Roster status: NGOs that have a more narrow and/or technical focus</p>	<p>Note that the arrangements for NGO participation are different for every meeting, and set by the organizers of each event, in line with ECOSOC resolution 1996/31 and established procedures.</p> <p>Generally, sessions of the functional commissions of ECOSOC, that take place in the spring of each year such as Commission for Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission for Population and Development, the Commission on Sustainable Development, the UN Forum on Forests, and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, are open to NGOs in consultative status.</p>	<p>The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations is a standing committee of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), established by the Council in 1946. It reports directly to ECOSOC, and the two reports of its annual regular session (usually at the end of January) and resumed session (in May) include draft resolutions or decisions on matters calling for action by the Council.</p> <p>The Committee has 19 members who are elected on the basis of equitable geographical representation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •5 members from African States; •4 members from Asian States; •2 members from Eastern European States; •4 members from Latin American and Caribbean States; and •4 members from Western European and other States. <p>The term of office of its members is four years. The current terms of reference of the Committee are set out in Resolution 1996/31. In its proceedings the Committee is guided by the rules of procedure of the Council.</p>	Not Available	Not Available



Independent Evaluation Office
Global Environment Facility
1818 H Street, NW Washington, DC 20433, USA
www.gefio.org
 /gefio_tweets
 /gefio