Evaluation of the GEF Civil Society Organization (CSO) Network

50th Council meeting
June 2016
The CSO Network
The CSO Network

New structure. Oct. 2015
CFP replaced by Chair, Co-Chair, Secretariat.
Four sub-committees.
16 RFPs.
3 IPFS.

474 member organizations across 122 countries
Country Contact Points in 20 countries

- enhancing the role of civil society in safeguarding the global environment,
- strengthening GEF Program implementation through partnership with civil society
- building the capacity of the GEF CSO Network
Approach for Evaluation of CSO Network

Data Collection

- Comparative Networks
- 1st Round Survey
- 1st Round Interviews
- 2nd Round Survey
- 2nd Round Interviews

Analysis

6 Analysis

- fsQCA
- Critical Systems Analysis
- Correlation Analysis
- Social Network Analysis
- Triangulation
- Case Studies
Key Evaluation Questions

Performance

1. To what extent is the CSO Network meeting its strategic objective and adding value to the GEF Partnership and its membership?

2. How are features of the GEF CSO Network contributing to effectiveness and efficiency?

Learning

3. What are the implications for the next phase of the development and evolution of the CSO Network?
Conclusions:

- **Conclusion 1:** Network remains relevant and is delivering results.

- **Conclusion 2:** Network is distant from the country level. As such, the Network’s is compromised in its ability to bring forward country perspectives.

- **Conclusion 3:** The CSO Network operating in an expanding GEF Partnership without a shared contemporary vision of its role.

- **Conclusion 4:** Within an increasingly complex operating environment, the Network has strengthened, organizationally but governance challenges remain.
Conclusion 1: Network plays a relevant role in the GEF Partnership and delivers results

- GEF Public Involvement Policy
- GEF Policy on Minimum Standards on Environmental and Social Safeguards
- Indigenous Peoples

structured membership criteria
membership skills not categorized
lack of systematic skills building

relevant policy
discussions on the focal areas

- dissemination of information to members about the GEF
Conclusion 2: Network activities are distant from country level

Member CSOs collaborate more with non-members than members.
Conclusion 3: Lacking contemporary vision for the CSO Network in a changing partnership

Network role in the Partnership is not articulated in the context of a results based work program
Conclusion 4: Network has strengthened organizationally but governance challenges remain
Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Create a contemporary vision

Recommendation 2: The GEFSEC and CSO Network should develop clear rules of engagement which guides cooperation and communications.

Recommendation 3: The CSO Network should continue to build itself as a mechanism for strengthening civil society participation in the GEF

Recommendation 4: The CSO Network should strengthen its governance
Recommendation 1: Create a Contemporary Vision for the Network within the new GEF Architecture

Clarify the Network’s role

Shared understanding of the Network’s contribution to Partnership based on a supply-demand dynamic

Identify modality to finance activities

Consider:

- engagement with country governments through the GEF focal points
- relationship with GEF project agencies who are also network member CSOs
- encourage activities/resources to be pushed more toward regional and country level activities without compromising high level encounters
- consideration for activities/resources to be pushed toward regional and country level activities without compromising high GEF level encounters
Recommendation 2: Network and GEFSEC Should Develop Rules of Engagement

guide cooperation adjusted as needed with a means to review against expectations

communications & engagement with country governments

Procedures for complaints resolution

Alignment of geographic regions
Recommendation 3: Continue to strengthen the Network as a mechanism for strengthening civil society participation in the GEF

- policy advocacy
- monitoring and evaluation
- knowledge management
- focal area expertise
- project management
Recommendation 4: The CSO Network should continue to strengthen its governance

- Make progress on annual work plans
- Cooperate more with IPAG to reinforce prominent issues
- Review terms of service for the Network’s RFPs
- Review complaints process

Independent arbitrator to consider:
- Membership application grievances
- Veracity of complaints
Thank you!

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