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GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

# Existing GEF Policies Relating to Indigenous Peoples

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# Overview

## **A. Existing GEF Policies and Procedures relating to Indigenous Peoples**

- *Policy on Agency Minimum Standards on Environmental and Social Safeguards*
- *Policy on Public Involvement in GEF Projects*
- GEF Project Cycle procedures and related guidelines

## **B. Proposed GEF Policy and Procedure Architecture**

## **C. Accountability for GEF Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines**



## Policy on Agency Minimum Standards on Environmental and Social Safeguards

- GEF adopted standard of “free, prior, informed consent for GEF-financed projects for which FPIC is required by virtue of the relevant state’s ratification of ILO 169” and a definition of what FPIC meant for GEF projects in these countries.
- Eight minimum standards that GEF Partner Agencies need to meet in terms of environmental and social safeguards, including for Indigenous Peoples (Minimum Standard 4).
- Includes a minimum standard for Agency-level Accountability and Grievance Systems.

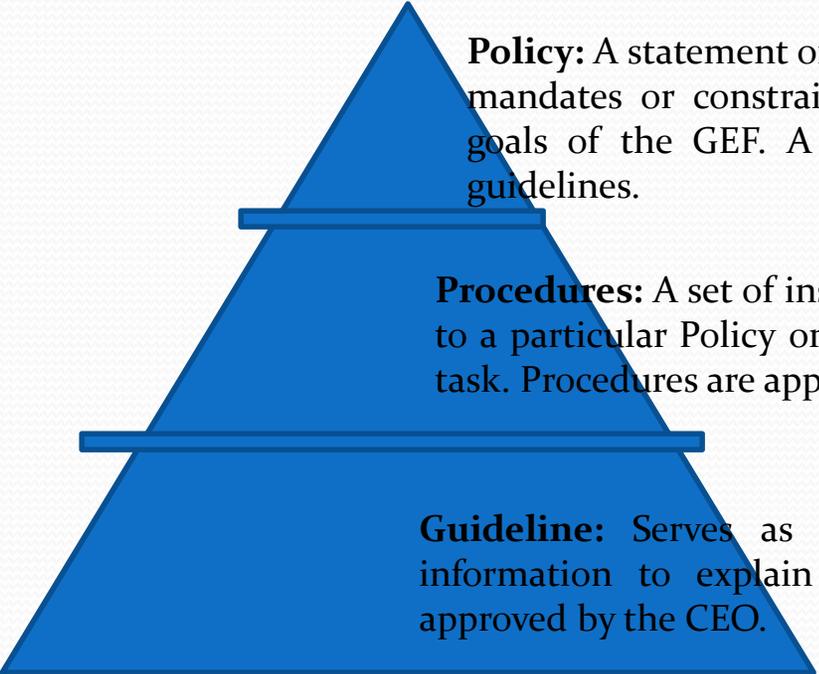
# Policy on Public Involvement in GEF Projects

- GEF Instrument (para. 5) requires that GEF-financed projects include consultation and participation of “major groups and local communities throughout the project cycle.” This includes Indigenous Peoples
- GEF Partner Agencies required to work with governments and executing agencies to “involve stakeholders starting at the earliest phase of project identification and throughout design, implementation, and evaluation.”
- Public involvement activities to be designed and implemented flexibly, in a transparent and open manner.
- GEF projects required to have “full documentation of public involvement.” This is something that the GEF Secretariat ensures in project review (PIF review and at CEO endorsement) under the GEF Project Cycle policies and procedures.
- Specific review question regarding involvement of Indigenous Peoples.
- GEF Partner Agencies are called on to develop their own guidelines for public involvement.

# Proposed GEF Policy and Procedure Framework

- Types and Hierarchy of Policy and Procedures

## GEF Instrument



**Policy:** A statement of principles or values approved by the GEF Council that mandates or constrains activities undertaken to achieve the institutional goals of the GEF. A Policy' has greater legal power than procedures or guidelines.

**Procedures:** A set of instructions or process that must be followed to adhere to a particular Policy or to accomplish an operational function or a specific task. Procedures are approved by the GEF CEO.

**Guideline:** Serves as a supplementary directive, or provides additional information to explain or implement a particular policy. Guidelines are approved by the CEO.

**Secretariat Rules:** A rule or statement regulating staff, administrative and other non-operational activities of the GEF Secretariat.



# Accountability for Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines

- The GEF accountability/ enforcement system is complicated by GEF structure. GEF not a legal entity; reliance on Agency systems.
- Accountability of Policies and Guidelines accomplished through:
  - GEF Council: ensures “that GEF policies, programs, operational strategies... are monitored and evaluated on a regular basis.” (Instrument, para 20 (b)).
  - GEF Evaluation Office – evaluates whether Agencies are following GEF policies, procedures, and guidelines.
  - GEF Secretariat – “The Secretariat, on behalf of the Council, .....ensures the implementation of the operational policies adopted through the Council through the preparation of common guidelines....” “Such guidelines shall address...consultation with and participation of local communities and other interested parties.” (Instrument Para 21. [c]) GEF Secretariat monitors application of Policies and Guidelines.
  - Conflict Resolution Commissioner and GEF Indigenous Peoples Focal Point
  - Agency-level accountability systems & GEF Minimum Standards