



GEF CSO Network Statement

Final Report on the Fifth Overall Performance Study

3rd meeting of the GEF6 Replenishment

1. We welcome the Final Report on OPS5 and in general support the main conclusions and recommendations. We thank the evaluation office for their work.
2. We believe that GEF is generating positive results but that more could be done to enhance the level of GEF resources, improve stakeholder engagement and dialogue and to speed up the project cycle. With regard to the complexity of the GEF Network we would like to state that engagement of multiple partners if coordinated well can lead to strengthening of programmes.
3. We are very concerned that despite the growing global environmental crisis - that the GEF donors are only considering scenarios that in real terms are similar to business as usual. The conventions for which GEF is the financial mechanism have increased their targets for GEF. Donor countries agree in CBD COP 11 to double their funds for biodiversity by 2015. POPs convention has added 10 more chemicals; the Minamata Convention has just been established with GEF as its financial mechanism. As stated in the New Delhi Replenishment meeting, GEF should be looking at a minimum of US\$7 billion in GEF6 just to meet the current and increased convention requirements for GEF. We therefore need an ambitious replenishment and significant increase of resources for GEF.
4. We agree that whatever the funding level – there is a need to further improve and streamline GEFs internal mechanisms – especially related to the project cycle. The proposals to reduce further the number of steps and remove barriers to early programming of GEF resources should be accepted (such of the establishment of a soft pipeline). However these should be done in a way that maintains transparency and enables greater stakeholder engagement. The time between PIF and implementation must be cut to a maximum of 18 months rather than 2-4 years as at now.
5. Access of CSO to GEF resources also needs to be improved as the number of CSO-led projects - especially medium sized projects has declined very significantly (more than 80%). We believe that as stated in the OPS5 CSO study - a target of 15% of GEF resources for CSO-led projects should be set. In addition we believe all full sized

projects should be required to include a component to facilitate the engagement of civil society.

6. With Regard to Civil society – we strongly support Recommendation 2.5 that the existing Public involvement policy adopted in 1996 should be revitalised. This policy is fundamental to the future of GEF in that it provides for the effective engagement of key stakeholders in the work of the GEF. OPS5 has clearly demonstrated that projects with effective stakeholder engagement lead to better impacts on the ground and improved long term sustainability.
7. We strongly support the proposal to enhance consideration of Gender in the work of GEF and to mainstream gender considerations at all levels.
8. Enhancing the engagement of CSOs in the work of the GEF was recognized as an important policy reform in the 5th replenishment process. Several important steps have been taken including establishment of guidelines on the engagement of indigenous peoples the ongoing review of the Public involvement policy by the GEF CSO Network and the GEF Secretariat that is expected to lead to recommendations to the May 2014 GEF Council. We believe that the policy needs to expand beyond the current focus on projects to mainstream civil society engagement in the full operations of GEF. However these reforms cannot all be put in place in GEF 5 – they need to continue in the GEF 6 period with three key elements:
 - a) Effective implementation of an updated policy;
 - b) clear guidance for agencies and recipient countries; and
 - c) effective mechanisms for monitoring and tracking progress.

Building on the proposals by US, and other countries -we ask the replenishment meeting to include some key steps on this in the GEF6 policy recommendations.

Thank you