



## **GEF CSO Network**

### **Statement on Agenda 02 : [The GEF Monitoring Report 2025](#)**

**70th GEF Council Meeting, December 2025**

The GEF CSO Network welcomes the GEF Monitoring Report 2025 and the positive environment achievements highlighted. The report also documents significant progress in involving women and targeting them for project benefits. For instance, out of the 2.6 million beneficiaries, 1.2 million were women. Women were also directly involved and benefited from land restoration and sustainable management of production. However, only 20% of livelihood benefits reached women. The report however gives virtually no information on the involvement in project design and implementation of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), youth and people with disability (PWD). Information on Indigenous peoples is also limited with only four projects (all in the Amazon) mentioning their engagement. This does not seem to be in line with the GEF-8 “Whole of Society (WoS) targets.

The GEF CSO Network calls for enhanced engagement, monitoring and reporting of CSO, IPLC, youth and PWD in future project development and monitoring. CSOs play a critical role in enabling a community-based approach that enhances the sustainability and effectiveness of projects. Active engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local Communities are essential for achieving long-term success on the ground especially with regard to the stewardship on Indigenous territories. Given their situation, PWD are often overlooked in project design and implementation. While youth constitute the biggest group in most GEF recipient countries, there is no information in the report to show their engagement with the GEF projects.

We strongly support the leading role of women in land restoration and management of production landscapes as highlighted in the report; it is our desire to see this be further strengthened in all GEF's programs. It is equally important for youth and people with disabilities to be involved in the same. The lack of active participation of youths and people with disabilities (PWDs) in land ownership results in significant socio-economic exclusion, perpetuates poverty, and can lead to broader societal instability and conflict. Some of the potential risks associated with the exclusion of youths and PWD in land restoration and management include the following: Economic Marginalization; Forced rural urban migration and uncontrolled urbanization; Lack of participation in decision making or voice in Governance; Heightened Vulnerability for PWDs that keeps them in perpetual poverty; Exclusion and Discrimination; Inaccessible Policies and Services;

We hope that for the balance of GEF8 and for GEF 9 - There can be better tracking of engagement of key stakeholders to achieve the whole of society targets.