



GEF CSO Network

Statement on Agenda 3 : Progress Report on the GBF Fund

5th GBFF Council Meeting, December 2025

The GEF CSO Network welcomes the progress report of the GBFF and appreciates the rapid action to operationalize the GBFF, launch early calls, and begin programming of resources. The pace of initial action is encouraging and helps sustain momentum.

We also welcome that the GBFF is already exceeding its aspirational share for Indigenous Peoples and local community-related actions, and stress the importance of protecting this focus as the portfolio grows.

At the same time, we see a few areas where the GBFF could go further.

1. First, representation and governance. We are concerned that several constituencies remain unrepresented in the Auxiliary Body with eight out of 20 constituencies yet to nominate representatives. This leaves regions such as East Africa or Southeast Asia without representation at a critical early stage. We would welcome renewed efforts to ensure full regional representation so technical advice reflects diverse contexts and realities.
2. Second, scale and predictability of resources. While early programming is welcome, we are rather concerned about the pace of contribution of funds to GBFF which are available for projects of only 370 million over a period of two years. This is significantly less than the needs of recipient countries and not in line with the agreed target of \$20 billion by 2025 of annual financing flows for biodiversity agreed at the CBD.
3. As implementation begins, we would welcome clearer reporting on how IPLC engagement and decision-making are taking shape in practice.
4. Looking ahead, we also encourage stronger support for engagement and capacity building of civil society, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities, including support for community-led action at the local level, where biodiversity protection and stewardship ultimately take place.

The CSO Network looks forward to continued engagement in consultations, sensitisation, planning, mobilisation, capacity building and participatory monitoring as the GBFF moves into implementation.