



GEF CSO Network

Programming Scenarios and Global Environmental Benefits Targets / GEF/R.09/14/Rev.01

GEF-9 Replenishment (Third Meeting), January 19-20, 2026

We welcome the GEF-9 Programming Scenarios and the Secretariat's effort to translate the agreed financial allocation principles into concrete programming choices.

We remain optimistic about the ambition reflected in the scenarios. However, unless there is a meaningful shift in the global political and governance landscape, we see the lowest funding scenario as currently the most realistic baseline for GEF-9.

On biodiversity, we recognize the trade-offs reflected in the scenarios and are prepared to work within a pragmatic compromise. At the same time, biodiversity must remain robust within the overall package, given its global importance, the scale of the financing gap, and the commitments made under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and reaffirmed at CBD COP16. As the largest focal area, biodiversity should continue to anchor the GEF's mandate and credibility.

On the Small Grants Programme, we align with the call by Australia's and other countries, for an increase and welcome the strategic direction in Para 19. However, we are concerned about the proposed reduction in the level of the SGP in scenario 1 and the modest increase in scenario 2 and 3. This is at the bottom of the range presented at the second replenishment meeting (3-5%). This is not in line with the Whole of Society approach and the commitment that SGP would be a pillar of GEFs approach to expand access to GEF resources to IPLC, women and youth. We call for an increase in the SGP in all scenarios

However, a genuine, whole-of-society approach cannot rely only on the Small Grants Programme. We therefore call for scaling up the SGP alongside complementary civil-society and community-based mechanisms to reach 7–9 percent of total GEF resources over time, with a clear pathway toward ensuring that at least 10 percent of GEF resources are directly accessible to civil society by 2030. This is consistent with our call for a minimum of USD 360 million for the SGP and USD 100 million for Indigenous- and community-led initiatives.

On Non-Grant Instruments, we welcome the expansion of the NGI window and recognize its role in mobilizing additional finance and delivering Global Environmental Benefits. At the same time, this expansion should not come at the cost of grant-based resources that directly support people and communities on the ground. The GEF's comparative advantage lies in combining catalytic finance with strong, accessible support for civil society, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, whose stewardship is essential for durable and credible results.