



GEF CSO Network
Policy Directions for GEF 9 (STAR)
GEF-9 Replenishment (Third Meeting), January 19-20, 2026

The GEF CSO Network welcomes the proposal for the STAR within the Paper on Policy directions.

We support in principle the key elements of the STAR and the benefit to enhance country ownership and give productibility on country allocations.

We support the proposal to increase the floors for the allocation to LDCs and SIDS.

We also support the proposal to increase the weightage of forest cover to 30% in the Global Benefits Index of Climate Change. However, as we emphasised in the 2nd Replenishment meeting, GEF should also consider further adjusting this index further by incorporating peatland ecosystems into the index calculation. Peatlands are the only terrestrial ecosystem that creates very long-term carbon stores and also fossil fuels. Peatland ecosystems also currently store more than twice as much carbon as the biomass of all the world's forests combined. Therefore, we believe that incorporating peatland cover in the index for climate change would make a more robust and credible index. We believe that the Global Peatland Assessment recently completed by UNEP would provide the necessary data to include in the index.

If it is not possible to consider adding it at this stage we would urge consideration during the proposed mid-term review of the STAR.