



## GEF CSO Network

### Statement on Agenda 11 :[The GEF Evaluation Policy](#)

71st GEF Council Meeting, May-June 2026

The GEF CSO Network welcomes the proposed update of the GEF Evaluation Policy.

With regard to **Participation** - we are happy to see the requirement to ensure engagement in evaluations of civil society organizations (CSOs) that have been involved in project implementation, as well as project beneficiaries.

With regard to **Equality** - we support the requirement that evaluations should ensure an inclusive perspective and must examine how changes in natural resource use and decision-making linked to GEF interventions affect different population groups, including Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, youth and other marginalized or vulnerable groups

We are concerned with the statement that evaluations should only use “wherever feasible” sex-disaggregated data and consider gender dimensions . In our view, all projects should gather sex-disaggregated data and be subject to such analysis.

We support the requirement in Para 59 that GEF evaluations should actively involve project stakeholders as participants, contributors, and users as appropriate. Participatory approaches are particularly critical in projects and programs affecting the livelihoods and incomes of local populations, with special attention to disadvantaged groups such as Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women, youth and low-income households

However, despite these positive aspects we believe that the proposed Evaluation Policy needs some enhancement to ensure that it is fit-for-purpose for use in GEF 9 where the Whole of Society Approach must be applied and a minimum of 20% of resources should reach IPLCs.

For many years the GEF CSO Network has been highlighting the lack of detailed evaluation of the level and effectiveness of engagement of civil society organisations, IPLC and youth in the implementation of GEF projects and programmes. The response has often been that such evaluations are not possible as the projects or GEF agencies did not systematically gather adequate information on this detailed level of civil society involvement. Therefore the Evaluation Policy needs to specify in more detail the requirements for project indicators and monitoring to ensure that adequate information is available for subsequent evaluations. We cannot continue to give the excuse that the “data was not available”.



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Finally the GEF CSO Network has long called for independent, participatory, monitoring of GEF projects by related IPLC and CSOs. Participatory monitoring has been clearly demonstrated to be a cost-effective and efficient tool to gather information not only on community benefits but also enhancement in ecological and environmental enhancements. If we are serious in our whole of society approach, we must embed participatory monitoring in all projects to enable effective reporting and evaluations.