



Advancing Gender Justice at the 7 GEF Assembly

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Women and Gender Caucus demands and recommendations

The Women and Gender Caucus at the GEF Assembly is a self-organised coalition of women's networks, organisations, and gender allies united under GEF's diverse agendas, fostering a human rights based approach and social and gender justice. It works in close collaboration with the GEF Gender Partnership.

1. Securing women's rights

Women's knowledge and contributions, especially from Indigenous Peoples and local communities, drive environmental progress. Securing their rights to lands, territories, occupational health, and safety, particularly for household workers, is pivotal for transformative change. Addressing the rights of women in informal sectors, combating sexual abuse and harassment, and ensuring access to information, participation, and justice all form a critical foundation for comprehensive empowerment within the context of environmental action.

Recommendations

Enhancing Women's Land Tenure Security:

Prioritise funding for projects that specifically target enhancing women's land tenure security. This includes supporting legal reforms, allocating dedicated funding, spearheading awareness campaigns, and facilitating community dialogues that confront gender inequalities in land ownership and access. By guaranteeing secure land rights for women, GEF empowers them to be active participants in environmental endeavours, facilitating sustainable resource management and fostering positive community change.

Mainstreaming Gender Responsiveness:

Integrate gender-responsive policies, programming, and implementation throughout all GEF operations. These efforts must be embraced by all stakeholders without exception, ensuring that gender considerations are intrinsic to every facet of GEF's work, while continuously advancing gender equality in environmental initiatives.

Guaranteeing Participation, Information, and Justice:

Strengthen women's organisations, groups, and movements by fostering peer learning, providing knowledge support, and building capacity to shape their rights agendas. Additionally, consider establishing a Women and Gender Caucus within GEF. These mechanisms would offer a dedicated platform for women's voices, ensuring their perspectives on participation, information, and justice are integrated into GEF's decision-making processes.

2. Streamlining participation for women's groups

The project development phase and required due diligence for GEF's medium sized projects pose significant challenges for local and national women's groups. The current process is excessively complex, time-consuming, and burdened by bureaucracy, rendering it ineffective for their needs.

Recommendations

Ongoing Evaluation of Focal Points:

Regularly assess the effectiveness of GEF Focal Points in line with guidelines and requirements, proposing term limits if beneficial. This ensures adherence to GEF's objectives and furthers the cause of equitable project participation.

Ensuring Financial Accessibility:

Address financial constraints faced by Indigenous and local women's groups by establishing efficient mechanisms for access to finance. These mechanisms should simplify funding procurement, aiding local women's organisations in securing funds for proposal development and compliance with due diligence.

Enhancing Project Proposal Accessibility:

Evaluate the GEF project proposal process through the lens of Indigenous and local women's groups. Identify barriers and implement reforms that streamline the application process, tailoring it to their needs. This step will elevate their participation in medium-sized projects, enabling active engagement in environmental initiatives.

3. Driving transformation together

Full integration of women's groups across all project phases—development, implementation, and evaluation—is essential for achieving impactful and enduring transformation. By incorporating their insights and expertise at every crucial decision-making point, initiatives can realise their potential for meaningful and transformative change.

Recommendations

Prioritising Women-Led Initiatives and Gender-Responsive Budgeting:

GEF should proactively incentivize and prioritise projects led by women's groups, acknowledging their pivotal role in driving transformative impact. In tandem, GEF should adopt gender-responsive budgeting practices across its projects.

This entails allocating dedicated resources strategically to address gender-specific needs and challenges. By embedding this approach, GEF not only amplifies women's participation but also ensures that project funding aligns with the diverse requirements of gender equality.

Elevating Gender-Inclusive Impact:

Develop a strong monitoring and reporting mechanism, emphasising outcome measurement over inputs or outputs, establishing gender-disaggregated outcome indicators that extend beyond female beneficiaries. In conjunction, enhance the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) by integrating a dedicated gender expert to ensure gender considerations permeate project assessments.

4. Going beyond short-term impacts

Relying mainly on technological indicators like satellite imagery and carbon storage, environmental projects often overlook essential economic, social, and cultural impacts disproportionately affecting women and gender-diverse individuals. We call for extended project durations and resource allocation to conduct comprehensive gender-responsive assessments, integrating indicators that capture the holistic environmental impact across diverse genders, leading to lasting equity and positive outcomes.

Recommendations

Shifting Focus to Behavioral Outcomes:

Adapt indicators used by GEF in order to capture the behavioural changes initiated by and resulting from the environmental actions of women. Consider transitioning towards an impact-centric approach, particularly in the context of short-term projects. This shift will enable a more nuanced understanding of the tangible impacts of women's knowledge, innovations, practices and contributions, accounting for their dynamic influence on sustainable development.

Prioritising Long-Term Outcomes:

In projects spanning a limited duration, prioritise the achievement and measurement of lasting outcomes rather than immediate impacts. Recognize the significance of behavioural changes catalysed by women's environmental actions and the ripple effects they create. By emphasising long-term results, GEF can amplify the value and efficacy of short-term projects while capturing the intricate interplay between social, cultural, and environmental dynamics.

5. Achieving enduring environmental goals

Fostering biodiversity restoration and conservation, adapting to climate change, eradicating waste and pollution, focusing on plastic, chemicals and hazardous waste, and ensuring the sustainable use of land and water are all intricate, long-term endeavours. These critical objectives necessitate unwavering collective action, steadfast cooperation, and resolute advocacy.

Recommendations

Strengthening Collaborative Monitoring and Learning:

GEF should prioritise the development of comprehensive monitoring and learning systems that underscore networking, cooperation, knowledge creation, and trust building processes within and between projects. By learning from the GEF Gender Partnership insights, experiences, and best practices, GEF can enhance the effectiveness and impact of its initiatives while ensuring long-term sustainability.

Integrating Interconnectedness:

GEF should integrate an interconnected approach to monitoring and learning that embraces the value of networking, cooperation, knowledge sharing, and trust building within and across projects. By recognising the synergies and interdependencies that underpin successful environmental endeavours, GEF can create a more resilient and adaptive ecosystem of projects, leading to more holistic and enduring outcomes.



Gender related Events Programme

August 22

-  **An innovative investment model for gender-responsive mitigation and adaptation using the W+ Standard**
9:00-10:30 - Room 3 by WOCAN
-  **Gender Mainstreaming in Protected Areas Management in Congo Basin: Case studies from Cameroon**
9:00-10:30 - Room ?? by UNEP
-  **Networks for Action: Strategies for Strengthening Woman and Youth Capacities for Local Endeavor**
11:00-12:30 - Room 3 by CAF
-  **Advancing gender equality makes for better environmental outcomes: sharing data, knowledge and evidence**
13:00-14:30 - Room 3 by GGP
-  **Environmental human rights defenders: opportunities from international instruments to protect people and the environment**
13:00-14:30 - Room 7 by FARN and Eco Maxei
-  **Agroecology's Multifunctionality for Achieving a Healthy Planet and Resilient Livelihoods**
13:00-14:30 - Room 5 by SOCLA
-  **Financing and monitoring the gender-biodiversity nexus**
15:00-16:30 - Room 207 by CBD Women's Caucus, UNEP-WCMC and GGP
-  **Best practices in empowering women and gender mainstreaming in GEF projects - Conversation among beneficiary voices, implementing agencies & governments**
15:00-16:30 - Room 3 by GGP
-  **How to integrate gender and human rights and climate in commentary systems in the climate component**
17:00-18:30 - Room 3 by AVOCHACLISD

August 23

Partnerships Forum 9:00-15:00 - Room 3 GEF Gender Partnership



Session 1:

Showcasing women's leadership and gender-responsive actions: A conversation with GEF partners, beneficiaries and stakeholders

11:30-12:15



Session 2:

Advocacy for women's rights, gender equality and women's empowerment in environmental policies, plans, financing: Challenges and opportunities

12:15-13:00



Gender-responsive MEAs: Interactive session with governments, MEA gender focal points, implementing Agencies and the GEF

13:00-14:30 - Room 3 by GGP



A Win-Win for Gender and Biodiversity: Transforming Women's Rights and Gender Equality at the CBD COP 15

13:00-15:00 - CBD Room by Women4Biodiversity



GEF Gender Partnership in Action: Support for a transformational and inclusive GEF-8

15:00-16:30 - Room 3 by GGP



HUMAN
RIGHTS

Women and Gender Hub Programme

August 22

Empowering Women for For Food Security through Climate Smart Agriculture in Nigeria

11:00-12:00

Women Environmental Programme

Human Rights, the Environment and Gender Equality

13:00-14:00

Women4Biodiversity & Cultural Survival

Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and Local Community Leadership in Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Action from the Women in Global South Alliance (WiGSA)

15:00-16:00

RRI

August 23

Empowering Legacies: Celebrating Women in Environmental Action and Bird Conservation

11:00-11:30

Eco Maxei

Video display "Exposing Problems From Toxic Chemicals in Plastics" by IPEN

14:30-15:00

Rapal Uruguay

Achieving Gender Equity in Value Chains

15:00-16:00

FOLUR

August 24

Gender justice at the Biodiversity Convention

10:00-11:00

CBD Women's Caucus

Gender dimensions of chemicals and wastes

11:00-12:00

CEDAJ

Discussion on how to reach and effectively support grassroots women activists and women HRDs

15:00-16:00

Both ENDS and FARN

August 25

Stories from around the globe:

Addressing gender-based violence and environmental linkages through the RISE grants challenge

15:00-16:30

IUCN and RISE

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