



CSO MAAP

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WWF Comments on Multiannual Action Programme for 2015 part II, 2016 and 2017 of the thematic programme "Civil Society Organisations and local authorities"

WWF welcomes the consultation of the European Commission on the CSO-LA Multi-Annual Action Programme. The CSO-LA programme is an important programme to support a thriving civil society both in developing countries and in the EU which should exploit its full potential to support a transition towards sustainable development. Civil Society Organisations play multiple roles to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and they are involved at different levels in society to try to trigger solutions for achieving these objectives.

Consultation process

This Consultation with CSOs at programming stage is another demonstration of the willingness of the European Commission to engage in a constructive and inclusive dialogue with CSOs. WWF would welcome similar consultation processes for the other programmes of the European Commission such as the Global Public Goods and Challenges programme, as stipulated in the article 10 of the Development Cooperation Instrument which highlights that consultation with Civil Society should be undertaken during the programming process.

However the working document on the CSO MAAP does not provide enough detail on the content of the programme, the priorities which will be addressed under each of the objectives and the type of CSO actors which will be targeted. WWF encourages the European Commission to share more information in the working document in order to strengthen this consultation process.

Sustainable development and mainstreaming environment

WWF deplores that no reference to sustainable development and environment is made in the working document. It is now widely acknowledged that environment must be fully integrated into development strategies, as it is reflected in the debates around the sustainable development goals. Furthermore the promotion of environment is to be addressed both at country level as well as at regional and global level due to its cross-border nature, which fits nicely with the geographic scope of the CSO programme. We therefore request the European Commission to add provisions on supporting civil society actors in the field of environment and sustainable development.

Furthermore the DCI regulation requires that cross cutting issues, as defined in the EU consensus for Development, are mainstreamed through all programmes. Therefore, attention should be brought also to how cross-cutting issues such as climate change, environmental sustainability and the rights of indigenous people are properly mainstreamed in the CSO MAAP. The European Commission should support initiatives which respect the planetary boundaries.

Aid modalities

WWF welcomes the willingness to "use an appropriate mix of funding modalities, so as to best respond to the widest possible range of actors, needs and country contexts", although there is little information on how the EC is planning to effectively reach out the widest possible range of actors. The innovation compared to the former NSALA programme is mostly the use of the Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) modality. WWF welcomes the use of that modality and we strongly encourage the European Commission to use this modality also in other programmes such as the Global Public Goods and Challenges programme. The FPA can also benefit other programmes to engage in a more strategic relationship with the European Commission and for working on large-scale, longer term, on regional and global programmes.

For the objective 2 on “reinforcing regional and global CSO networks” we encourage the European Commission to support a diversity of networks including thematic networks. Indeed some networks may be formed around one issue, eg climate change, and this specificity can be extremely useful and effective. Thematic networks should be supported in their ability to deliver on specific issues across regions and to the global level. In this regard, particular attention should be paid to International NGOs working in global networks which greatly enable South-South exchanges, North-South exchanges, connecting local experiences to global debate. They can mobilise capacity and experience through their global network.

We encourage the European Commission to use the “follow-up grant” modality for projects which have proven to be very successful and require further funding. The follow-up grant modality was discussed during the Structured Dialogue and was included in the 12 fiches on aid modalities.

Predictability of funds

WWF welcomes the EC initiative to try to make its funds more predictable by developing a Multi-Annual Indicative Programme. It will help CSOs in better plan for funding opportunities and build stronger partnerships, as long as details on the specific priorities which will be addressed under each objective are made public.

Shrinking space for CSOs in other budget lines

WWF is concerned with the trend at DG DEVCO to reduce the space of funding accessible to Civil Society Organisations. While on many occasions at the Policy Forum for Development the European Commission acknowledged the important role that CSOs play in implementing EC programmes, CSOs are currently witnessing a decrease in the EU funds which they can access. It is materialized by fewer calls for proposals, with no alternative funding modality for CSOs, and more support to International Organisations and Global Funds. We encourage the European Commission to take measures in order to reaffirm its commitment to work with CSOs for implementing its funding programmes.



Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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