CHARACTERISTICS OF AN **EFFECTIVE NETWORK**

Below is a checklist that outlines the characteristics of an effective network. We have identified them through our experiences of providing organisation development support to civil society groups in the Congo Basin. Any network can use this checklist to evaluate its own performance.

VISION AND STRATEGY

☐ Members have a common overall analysis of the context and role of the network

☐ Members have a shared vision and common objectives, and the network has a clear purpose

☐ Members share the same values

☐ Members are clear about who the main beneficiaries of their joint actions are and how these beneficiaries are represented within the network, and they have accountability mechanisms in place that define this relationship

☐ The network's actions are relevant to its mission and objectives

☐ Members agree on public positions about key themes related to their common objectives

☐ Members agree on a set of criteria and procedures related to public representation of the network

PERFORMANCE

☐ Members work together to achieve their common objectives

☐ All members understand how they contribute to the network (e.g., their added value) and what they receive in return from being a part of the network

☐ Leadership of the network is shared and does not depend on one person

☐ The coordinating body supports the overall functioning of the network, but it is the membership as a whole that represents the network, makes strategic decisions and shares responsibility for running the network

☐ There is respect and mutual trust between members

☐ Members support and reinforce one another

☐ Members develop new knowledge and learn together

☐ Members honour their commitments to the network

☐ The network's external communications reinforce its reputation

HOW THE NETWORK FUNCTIONS

☐ The criteria and process for becoming a member of the network, or an elected member of a governing body, are clear

☐ The decision-making process is clear and encourages members to contribute and collaborate, and it takes into account the inclusion of marginalised groups

☐ Members are clear on the structure of the network: the governing bodies, the links between these bodies, and the roles and responsibilities of each

☐ The network anticipates, reveals and manages conflicts when they arise

☐ Internal communication mechanisms are in place and work well

☐ All members commit time and resources to the network

☐ Mechanisms for the acquisition and management of financial resources are clear, and resources are managed in a transparent manner

☐ Expectations and workload correspond to members' capacities and availability

☐ The network has mechanisms in place that outline how members and governing bodies are accountable to one another

☐ The structure and procedures in place reduce unnecessary bureaucracy and facilitate an efficient working culture

CAPACITY

☐ Members have the resources, skills and connections required to advance their common objectives

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Do you have comments, thoughts or other ideas about characteristics that make a network more effective? Please contact us to share your ideas : **admin@well-grounded.org**

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