



NGO stands for Non-Governmental Organisation



Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) refer broadly to organisations that are not created or controlled by the government.

They are often associated with terms such as 'non-profit', 'voluntary' and 'charity-based'.



Origin of Term

NGOs have been in existence for a long time. However, the term came to be formally used after the formation of the United Nations (UN) in 1945.

The UN Charter, under Article 71, designated certain non-state international organisations as 'non-governmental organisations', holding a consultative status.

The technical term of 'non-governmental organisations' (NGOs) caught on in popularity, particularly in the 1970s.



Types of NGOs

• NGOs engage in different types of activities around the world. These include championing for causes relating to, and not limited to:



Humanitarian action



Environmental causes



Democracy building

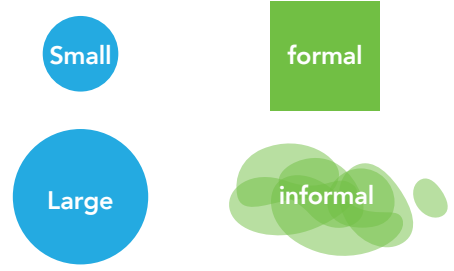


Cultural preservation

• NGOs can exist at different scales – local, national, regional and international.



• They can also be either small or large, and either formal or informal.

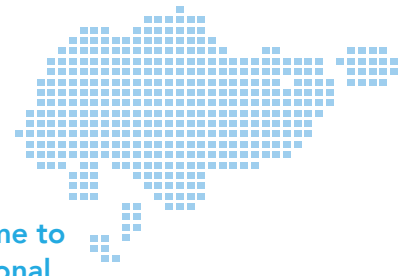


Numbers of NGOs

The count in number of NGOs by the Yearbook of International Organisations in 2006 reflected the existence of more than 50,000 international NGOs, a huge increase from 6,000 in 1990.

6,000
in 1990.

50,000
in 2006.



As of 2012, Singapore was home to **140** international non-profit organisations.

This includes inter-governmental organisations (IGOs) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Examples of NGOs

Some examples include:



- **WWF**
- WWF stands for World Wide Fund for Nature. It is an international organisation that champions the conservation, research and restoration of the environment



- **World Vision**
- Focuses on overcoming poverty and injustice faced by children, families and communities



- **Native Planet**
- Helps preserve culture of indigenous people



- **Singapore Environmental Council**
- A Singapore-based organisation that promotes and raise awareness for environmental causes



Searching for Information on NGOs

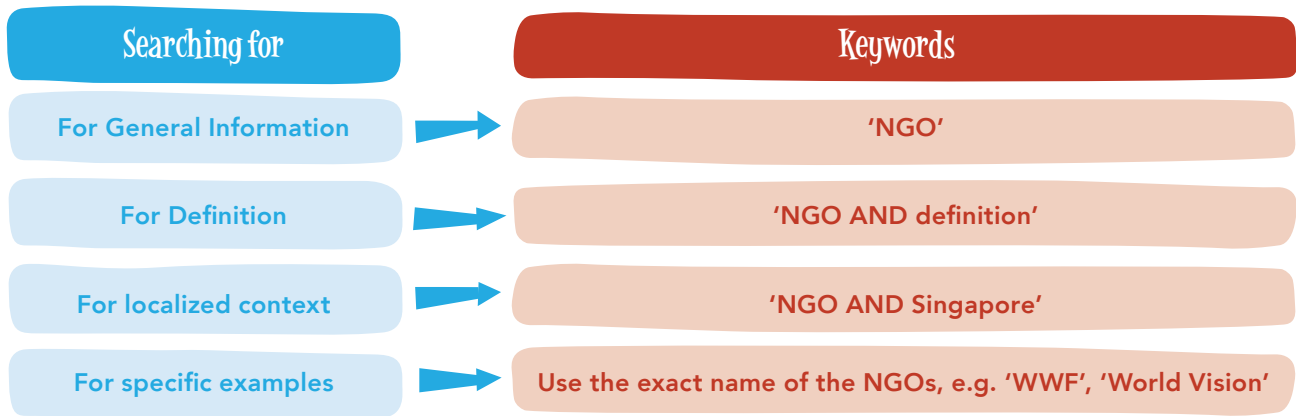
A. Links and Databases

- **Singapore.sg** – 'International Organisations and NGOs in Singapore' (<http://app.singapore.sg/global-citizen/international-organisation-and-ngos-in-singapore>)
 - An official source managed by Ministry of Communications and Information, where you can find out about NGOs in Singapore
- **World Association of Non-governmental Organisations (WANGO)** (<http://www.wango.org/>)
 - A worldwide NGO directory
- **NLB E-resources** (<http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/>)
 - Access current information on NGOs through the following databases:
 - **Factiva**
Provides news and business information on both local and international platforms
 - **Proquest ABI/INFORM Complete**
A business database offering full-text to journals and newspapers



B. Searching by keywords

Get your desired results list by identifying the search keywords



C. Evaluating Online Sources

When searching for online sources, it will be useful to consider the following:

i. Authority

- Check for the author of the weblink.
- Is the author credible and trustable?
- *Tip: Internationally recognized organisations such as the United Nations and publications by educational institutions tend to be more reliable.*

ii. Accuracy

- Is the source based on credible research?
- Is the information based on facts or opinions?

iii. Coverage

- Who is the target audience of the website?
- Does the website cover a large extent of information?

iv. Currency

- What is the date of publication?
- Has the website been updated?

v. Objectivity

- What are the possible intentions of the author?

Sources:

United Nations Rule of Law (2013) 'Non-governmental Organizations'. Retrieved from: http://www.unrol.org/article.aspx?article_id=23 on 8 May 2013

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Willets, P. (2006) 'What is a non-governmental organization?' City University, London. Retrieved from: <http://www.staff.city.ac.uk/p.willets/CS-NTWKS/NGO-ART.HTM#Start> on 8 May 2013

Singapore Economic Development Board (2012) 'International non-profit organizations' Retrieved from: <http://www.edb.gov.sg/content/edb/en/industries/industries/international-non-profit-organisation.html> on 28 August 2013

