

GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop CSO Meeting (Eastern Europe)

Leopolis Hotel – 6 March 2017, Lviv, Ukraine

Report



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1. Name/organisation:

Vakhtang Kochoradze / CENN – Caucasus Environmental NGO Network; the Regional Focal Point (RFP) for the Eastern Europe and Central Asian (EECA) region of the GEF-CSO Network.

2. Purpose of attending the meeting:

Represent the GEF-CSO Network; host the CSO meeting (06 March) giving talks on GEF and the GEF-CSO Network; update the attendees on the GEF-CSO Network Strategic Plan for 2015 – 2022 and the IEO evaluation of the network; GEF 7 replenishment and discuss, comment and network with regional CSOs, GEF focal points and the GEF Secretariat.

Attend and provide input in the SGP deliberations and identify priority areas for GEF 7 during the SGP Consultation.

3. Main expectations and objectives of the CSOs' participation in the meeting:

CSOs attended the ECW, CSO meeting with the following expectations:

- To learn about the GEF-CSO Network
- To learn about the GEF and GEF policies
- To share experiences and showcase their recent GEF-funded projects
- To network with other CSOs active in the region
- To learn about funding opportunities within the SGP framework
- To find new opportunities for more CSOs' active involvement in GEF activities on regional and local levels (e.g. communities, etc.)
- Provide input to GEF 7 developments

4. Agenda

The CSO Meeting agenda was well suited to the interests of the CSO participants in the meeting.

5. Summary of identified barriers

The following problems and observations were provided in the CSO meeting, SGP Consultations and ECW:

- Newly established CSOs experience problems connected to skills for carrying out various GEF related projects and programmes, although the same trend can be observed in more experienced CSOs/NGOs
- Lack of information concerning the on-going MSPs and FSPs in respective countries to enable CSO to monitor and address pressing issues where local environmental and/or social characteristics are taken into account
- Cooperation with government is weak
- CSO involvement in MSP and FSP is low

6. Comments and/or suggestions

The participants developed the following suggestions:

- Local communities' capacity development is essential to support Community Based Management (CBM) mechanisms, therefore, strengthening grassroots movements as well as local NGOs is important. CBM is important to sustain the sustainability of various projects implemented in respective areas, as sustainability of project results proves to be a concern in many cases. The importance and effectiveness of GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) should be noted for supporting the work of communities and CSOs to meet the overall objective of "global environmental benefits secured through community-based initiatives and actions".
- The GEF SGP opportunities and deliverable mechanisms should be extended in frame of the grant component of the FSPs and MSPs implementation. STAR-allocation for SGP GEF in GEF 7 Cycle should be increased.
- Broadening and strengthening in-country networking for CSOs capacity development and successful knowledge exchange in GEF projects for enhanced global environmental impact.
- Level of CSO inclusion in large scale projects should be increased to provide bottom up input.
- Arrangement of meetings between CSOs and Governments aiming to improve the operations of CSOs in GEF related projects and increase of the capacity for their involvement, as well as provision of bottom-up feedback to governmental bodies.
- Skill building is necessary to increase the project implementation and organizational capacities of the aforementioned CSO/NGOs.
- The CSOs' role within the GEF 7 context is to grow with increasing environmental and social pressures. In changing circumstances, CSOs will have to provide valuable guidance and advice to governments on specific characteristics of local political ecology and environments.

7. What actions do you plan to follow up the meeting?

The following actions are planned by the RFP in the follow-up of the meeting:

- Submit a list of recommendations to the GEF-CSO Network's Chair and Governance Committee.
- Disseminate the CSO report of the meeting amongst GEF stakeholders.
- Assist attendees in their applications to join the GEF-CSO Network.
- Facilitate regional information coverage

Annex 1. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

#	Member Country	Gender	First Name	Last Name	Job Title	Current Employer	Email	Attendance
1.	Albania	M	Robert	Murataj	Lawyer	Albaforest Center	robertmurataj1@yahoo.it	No
2.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	F	Aida	Brzina	Member	FEA	abrzina@feabh.com	No
3.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	F	Jasmin	Gabela	Project Manager	FEA	Jasmin.gabela@feasee.org	Yes
4.	Bulgaria	F	Diana	Iskreva	Executive Director	Earth Forever	diskreva@gmail.com	No
5.	Georgia	M	Vakhtang	Kochoradze	Environmental Officer	CENN (Caucasus Environmental NGO Network)	Vakho.kochoradze@cenn.org	Yes
6.	Georgia	F	Elene	Gvilava	Project Manager	Energy Efficiency Center Georgia	e_gvil@eecgeo.org	Yes
7.	Moldova	M	Dumitru	Drumea	Executive Director	ECOS	ddrumea559@gmail.com	Yes
8.	Romania	F	Roxana	Schiopu	Regional Project Development Officer	WWF	rschiopu@wwf-dcp.ro	Yes
9.	Serbia	M	Marko	Tucakov	Publication Editor	Bird Protection and Study Society of Serbia	markotucakov1@gmail.com	Yes
10.	Ukraine	M	Viacheslav	Tsuprykov	President	Gogolmed	gogolmed@gmail.com	Yes
11.	Ukraine	F	Maryna	Diachenko	CSO Network Coordinator	"Education for Sustainable Development"	dyachenko9@gmail.com	Yes
12.	Ukraine	F	Hanna	Khomechko	Development director	Environment-People-Law (EPL)	h.khomechko@epl.org.ua	Yes
13.	Ukraine	F	Tetyana	Tymochko	Head of NGO	All Ukrainian Environmental League	gefnetukr@gmail.com	Yes
14.	Ukraine	F	Olena	Pashchenko	Coordinator	All Ukrainian Environmental League	varta@ecoleague.net	Yes
15.	Ukraine	F	Yevhenia	Zhorova	National Expert	UNIDO		Yes
16.	Ukraine	F	Svitlana	Nigorodova	National Coordinator	SGP	svitlanan@unops.org	Yes

Annex 2. AGENDA FOR THE REGIONAL CSO MEETING

(One day prior to GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop, 6 March 2016)

Venue: Leopold Hotel, Lviv, Ukraine

DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE REGIONAL CSO MEETING (6 March 2017)		
Time	Details	Responsibility
8:30 – 9:00	Welcome Remarks	RFP – Vakho Kochoradze and GEF Sec Representative(s)
9:00 – 9:45	SESSION 1: INTRODUCTION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-introductions • Objectives and agenda of meeting • An Overview of GEF and the GEF-CSO Network • GEF CSO Network Strategic Plan 2015-2022 • Update on evaluation of GEF CSO Network by IEO 	RFP – Vakho Kochoradze
9:45 – 10:00	Coffee Break	
10:00 – 11:00	SESSION 2: GEF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT POLICY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing on ongoing review of Public Involvement Policy and interim findings - Cancelled • Key areas requiring input from CSOs and ECW participants (based on PIP-WG guidance) - Cancelled • Discussion and inputs from CSOs on level of engagement of CSOs in GEF Programme implementation in respective countries/region • Presentation of 2-3 Case studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All Ukrainian Environmental League 	GEF Sec Representative
11:00 – 11:15	SESSION 3: GEF 7 PROCESSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GEF7 replenishment 	RFP – Vakho Kochoradze
11:15 – 12:00	SESSION 4: THE WAY FORWARD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of options to enhance CSO engagement in GEF CSO Network activities in the region • Capacity strengthening needs and opportunities for CSOs • Summary of deliberations and meeting outcome to the ECW 	RFP – Vakho Kochoradze
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	

Annex 3. LIST OF PRESENTATIONS

- All Ukrainian Environmental League - Ukraine

Annex 4. PHOTOS



CSO Meeting, 6 March



CSO Meeting, 6 March



SGP Consultation, 6 March

Annex 5. CSO/NGO members from 15 countries

No	Country	CSO/NGO
1.	Armenia	Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment
2.	Armenia	EcoTeam - Energy and Environmental consulting NGO
3.	Armenia	"Green Lane" Agricultural Assistance NGO
4.	Azerbaijan	"For Healthy Life" Ecological Public Union
5.	Azerbaijan	"Eko- Alem" (Eco-World) Public Union
6.	Azerbaijan	Ecological Society Ruzgar
7.	Azerbaijan	National Center of Environment Forecasting (NCEG)/ECO-REAL
8.	Belarus	APB-BirdLife Belarus (Akhova ptushak Batskaushchyny)
9.	Belarus	Public Association "Belarusian Environmental Movement"
10.	Bosnia-Herzegovina	Forestry and Environmental Action
11.	Croatia	the Institute for International Relations
12.	Georgia	Association for Farmers Rights Defence
13.	Georgia	Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN)
14.	Georgia	Regional Environmental Centre Caucasus (REC Caucasus)
15.	Georgia	International Center for Caucasus Tourism (ICCT)
16.	Georgia	Sustainable Development Center "Remissia"
17.	Georgia	Union "Green Way"
18.	Kazakhstan	Aral Tenizi
19.	Kazakhstan	Biodiversity Conservation Fund of Kazakhstan
20.	Kazakhstan	Climate Change Coordination Centre (CCCC)
21.	Kazakhstan	Farmer of Kazakhstan
22.	Kazakhstan	Socio - Ecological Fund
23.	Kyrgyz Republic	Public Association "Ekois-Bishkek"
24.	Kyrgyz Republic	Independent Ecological Expertise
25.	Kyrgyz Republic	Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users (KAFLU)
26.	Kyrgyz Republic	Rural Development Fund
27.	Kyrgyz Republic	Youth Ecological Movement "BIOM"
28.	Moldova	Public Association BIOS
29.	Moldova	Ecological Movement of Moldova
30.	Moldova	Women's Association for the Environment Protection and Sustainable Development (AFPMDD)
31.	Moldova	Terra-1530
32.	Russian Federation	Environmental Educational Center
33.	Russian Federation	Russian Association of indigenous Peoples of the North RAIPON
34.	Serbia	NGO "Local Agenda 21 for Kostolac-Municipality"
35.	Serbia	International Scientific Forum "Danube-River of Cooperation"
36.	Tajikistan	Foundation to support civil initiatives (FSCI, Dastgirie-Center)
37.	Tajikistan	CSO "Sustainable development"
38.	Tajikistan	National Association of Dehkan Farms Republic of Tajikistan
39.	Tajikistan	Young Generation of Tajikistan
40.	Tajikistan	Association of Forest and Land Users of Tajikistan

41.	Turkmenistan	Tebigy Kuwwat Social Unit Enterprise
42.	Ukraine	Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Birds
43.	Uzbekistan	Ecoforum of Uzbekistan