



REGIONAL CSO MEETING

REPORT

GEF EXPANDED CONSTITUENCY WORKSHOP (ECW) 2017



**4 -7 APRIL 2017,
ROYAL LOTUS HOTEL, DA NANG, VIET NAM**

GEF-CSO NETWORK

ECW Danang, VN.

The annual ECWs are organized by GEF. There are different mechanisms to engage civil society organizations in the development processes, in government, development partners and financial facilities. The approaches of GEF's accommodations of CSOs is something very outstanding. GEF has given a great opportunity for the civil society organizations. But still there huge rooms for the GEF to unfold for the civil society organizations to make significant contributions in the GEF's each and every development initiatives.

Objectives of the CSO meeting

The objectives are:

1. Enhance the engagement of CSOs at country and regional level in GEF 6 implementation.
2. Inform CSOs about the GEF CSO Network, options of CSOs involvement in programmes and projects of GEF and GEF7 processes.
3. Obtain feedback on the current level of engagement of civil society in GEF projects in the region and identify options to enhance this.
4. Identify key issues to bring to the attention of the GEF as well as to look at ways to enhance the level of Network activities at country and regional level.

Expected Outputs of the CSO meeting

The expected outputs are:

1. CSOs are encouraged, inspired and enhanced their engagement at country and regional level in GEF 6 implementation.
2. CSO Representatives are well informed about the GEF CSO Network, options of CSOs involvement in programmes and projects of GEF and GEF7 processes.
3. CSO provided feedback and recommended on the current level of engagement of civil society in GEF projects in the region and identified options to enhance it.
4. Consulted on the identified key issues and brought the attention of the GEF SEC Official's attention to enhance the level of Network activities at country and regional level.

The RFPs from SA, SEA and North East Asia led the sessions. **William Elhers**, Country Relations Coordinator / Secretary to the Council, GEF Secretariat participated the workshop and attended several queries and questions from the participants.

Akhteruzzaman Sano, SEA RFP, made the welcome remarks along with shared the objectives of the workshop, presented an overview of GEF CSO network, strategic plan 2015-22, findings from the evaluation conducted by the IEO, mode of CSO engagement and mode of operations.

Zhong Zhao, North East Asia Regional Focal Point, facilitated the GEF Public Involvement Policy. A presentations on the Public Involvement Policy, interim findings, key areas requiring input from CSOs and ECW participants etc. were discussed during the session.

On-the-spot, selected CSOs from the participants to share their experiences with GEF and projects aligned with the GEF goals and objectives. A CSO representative from Mongolia, Cambodia, Maldives, Bhutan and India shared their excellent experiences from their projects.

Dr. Lalit Mohan, South Asia RFP, GEF CSO Network, facilitate the 3rd session on GEF7 replenishment processes. **Thomas Jalong**, IPFP Focal Point, GEF CSO Network facilitated the 4th session on the way forward. 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 etc. were discussed.

Recommendations:

There are several challenges and recommendations were made. Following are the key recommendations:

- 1) CSO network should be allowed to consult for a full day to present, share and learn from each other. A full day CSO consultation opportunity will allow CSOs to come nearer with the best practices, knowledge and capacity for their future growth.
- 2) GEF should allow more CSO participants in the ECWs – at least two from each country to learn more about the GEF contributions.

Figure 1: ECW Danang, VN: CSO consultations photographs



Annex-1

AGENDA FOR REGIONAL CSO MEETING

Time	Details	By
8.00-8:30	WELCOME REMARKS	Akhteruzzaman Sano , SEA RFP William Elhers , Country Relations Coordinator / Secretary to the Council, GEF Secretariat
8:30-9:30	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 • Findings from the evaluation of GEF CSO Network by IEO • Agenda of ECW meeting and key issues for CSO engagement • Mode of operation 	Moderator: Akhteruzzaman Sano , <i>South East Asia Regional Focal Point</i> <i>GEF CSO Network</i>
9:30-10.00	Coffee break	Coffee break
10.00-11.30	SESSION 2: GEF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT POLICY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing on ongoing review of Public Involvement Policy and interim findings • Key areas requiring input from CSOs and ECW participants (based on PIP-WG guidance) • Discussion and inputs from CSOs on level of engagement of CSOs in GEF Programme implementation in respective countries/region • Sharing of success stories from CSOs Representatives 	Moderator: Zhong Zhao <i>North East Asia Regional Focal Point</i> <i>GEF CSO Network</i>
11.30-12.00	SESSION 3: GEF 7 PROCESSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GEF7 replenishment 	Moderator: Lalit Mohan <i>South Asia RFP, GEF CSO Network</i>
12.00-13.00	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 <p>Closing and group photo</p>	Moderator: Thomas Jalong <i>IPFP Focal Point</i> <i>GEF CSO Network</i>
13.00-14.30	Lunch	

Annex2:
FEEDBACK FORM
CSO Meeting in Da Nang, VN, 4-7 April 2017
(GEF ECW Asia Region)



1. Name/organization:
2. Purpose of attending the meeting:
3. Agenda (usefulness, relevance to GEF and issues in the region, other comments or suggestions)
4. Feedback on the value of participation in the meeting for you/your organization:
5. What action do you plan to do to follow up the meeting:
6. Any comments or suggestions for improvement in the organization of future meetings:
 - a) Travel/accommodation/logistic issues
 - b) Meeting organization and programme
7. Any suggestions to enhance the work of the GEF CSO Network:
8. Any other comment

Feedback Summary for CSO Meeting of ECW in Da Nang, Vietnam

GEF ECW Asia Region, April 4, 2017

After the CSO meeting, 8 valid feedback forms were received. Hereunder is the summary.

1, Purpose of attending the meeting

All respondents want to learn something – the GEF, CSO Network, SGP, funding modality, experience from countries, etc., as well to share their own experience. One organization also wants to join the GEF CSO Network as a member through the meeting.

2, Agenda

All respondents gave positive comments to the agenda. They thought the agenda is useful and relevant to GEF, but one commented time constraint for the agenda.

3, Value of participation

All positive feedback. Respondents said they established a good communication with colleagues of CSO network at regional and overall GEF level CSO Network, they created a knowledge from other CSOs, they felt more involved in the GEF process, etc.

4, Action following up

Officially apply to CSO Network to collaborate.

Organize and facilitate knowledge exchange activities about the result of this meeting.

Follow up online PIP, IPs and Gender guidelines and safeguards.

CSO engagement and consideration on CSO inputs.

Introduce GEF-SGP with partners.

Seek for involvement in GEF full and medium size projects.

5, Comments or suggestion on travel/ accommodation/ logistic issues

One participant said the hotel had wrong record of her/his flight information, and no airport pick-up or room reservation when arrived.

Another recommended logistic should be a bit more clear and well-arranged.

6, Comments or suggestion to meeting organization and programme

All gave positive feedback.

7, Suggestions to enhance the work of GEF CSO Network

We have to improve our initiative to work with / in GEF CSO network ourselves.

Issue of gender mainstreaming with CSO network members.

How to address challenges raised by GEF IEO.

It would be great if more is allocated to learn more the world of other CSOs.

Capacity assessment and mapping the engage more CSO.

Produce a summary guideline to educate and raise awareness on CSO engagement.

Monitor governmental practices on CSO engagement.