



## **Summary Report of GEF NGO Network Activity and Achievement – 39th GEF Council Meeting, November 2010**

### **GEF NGO Network** **[www.gefnngo.org](http://www.gefnngo.org)**

The 39th GEF Council Meeting was held in Washington DC from 16 – 18 November 2010. This meeting discussed some of the key elements of GEF activities which involve civil society participation and engagement. The GEF NGO Network organized a range of meetings in association with the Council as follows:

#### **13 November - Meeting of GEF NGO Network Coordination Committee**

The meeting was attended by thirteen out of fifteen currently elected Coordination Committee members and discussed a range of matters including the status and development of network membership, strengthening partnership with GEFSEC, enhancing engagement of membership at country level, strengthening the operation of the Network, and development of draft position papers for GEF Council.

#### **14 November - Preparatory meeting for the GEF-CSO consultation**

This meeting was attended by 30 representatives from CSOs and representatives of the GEF Secretariat and reviewed and refined draft network position papers on five of the key policy papers for consideration at the 39th GEF Council –

1. Enhancing the engagement of CSOs in the operations of GEF
2. GEF Revised Monitoring and Evaluation Policy
3. Enhancing the Participation of the Conventions in the GEF Partnership
4. Results-based Management and Knowledge Management Work Plan for GEF-5
5. Broadening of GEF Partnership under Article 28

The meeting also discussed in depth and developed concept notes on Review of the GEF Public Involvement Policy and development of a GEF Indigenous Peoples Policy.

#### **15 November - GEF Council-CSO Consultation**

This meeting was attended by more than 90 representatives from civil society, GEF Council members, GEF Agencies and the GEF Secretariat. The meeting included a one hour dialogue between civil society and the GEF CEO and four panel sessions to debate key issues related to enhancing civil society participation in GEF and enhancing the participation of the conventions in the GEF partnership. Focus was placed on strengthening the role of Indigenous peoples in working with GEF, GEF's future in climate finance and CSOs roles in CBD implementation. A report of the meeting, together with the presentations will be circulated later and posted in the GEF NGO Network website.

## **16 – 18 November - 39th GEF Council Meeting**

25 CSO representatives observed the GEF Council sessions by rotation and the four formal statements and Network position papers were presented. Statements were also made by the Network on four other agenda items. Key council decisions related to civil society included:

- a. Adoption of a range of measures to enhance the engagement of CSOs in the work of GEF including that:
  - i. Stakeholder consultations be an integral part of the process of programming GEF funds and a brief Stakeholder Engagement Plan be part of all future GEF project documents;
  - ii. GEF Operational Focal Points must arrange at least one yearly meeting with the members of GEF NGO Network in their country to enhance cooperation.
  - iii. The "A to Z Guide to the GEF for NGOs" will be updated to provide information and guidance to all CSOs on GEF policies for public participation and partnership opportunities.
  - iv. GEF Agencies share their public participation policies for dissemination through GEF and the GEF NGO Network
  - v. Further work is done on Indigenous Peoples, mainstreaming gender issues and updating the GEF Public Involvement Policy.
- b. Agreement that the NGO Voluntary Fund will be operationalized to support the work of the GEF NGO Network to achieve heightened engagement by CSOs in the GEF through results oriented activities with an emphasis on more effective engagement at the local and regional levels.
- c. Adoption of a new Policy on GEF monitoring and evaluation that gives increased emphasis on effective participation of civil society and other stakeholders; and the GEF Evaluation office agreed to work with the GEF NGO network to develop guidance for CSO engagement in GEF monitoring and evaluation.
- d. Adoption of a workplan to advance the issue of Results based management and established a working group consisting of representatives from Agencies, STAP and EO and the GEF NGO network to develop a knowledge management strategy to be presented to the May 2011 Council.
- e. Agreement to finalise by May 2011 a set of Environmental and Social Safeguard Standards that would apply to all GEF agencies.
- f. Approval of an initial tranche of \$140 million to refinance the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP)

In addition a total of \$180 million was pledged in additional financing for the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) and the Least Developed Country Fund (LDCF) during the meeting of the SCCF/LDCF Council on 18<sup>th</sup> November

Copies of the Network Position papers and a more detailed report on the key CSO's achievements in the meeting will be circulated later and posted in the GEF NGO Network website. The Joint Summary showing the text of the Council's Decisions will also be made available at [www.gefngo.org](http://www.gefngo.org)

The next Council meeting will be held as follows:

- GEF CSO Preparation Meeting 22 May 2011
- GEF Council-CSO Consultation 23 May 2011
- GEF Council Meeting 24-26 May 2011