



GEF NGO Network **Report to GEF Council**

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GEF Council – CSO Consultation
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GEF NGO Network report

- GEF Council in November 2010 approved paper on Enhancing engagement of CSOs in the operation of GEF
- One element an Annual report from the network on work and progress
- Report from July 2010- June 2011
Included as GEF/C.41/Inf 14

Contents

- Network structure and function
- Organisation and participation in GEF meetings
- Input to GEF Policy making
- Outreach and communication
- Membership development
- Elections
- Strengthening links between GEF and CSOs in convention meetings
- Work of Network focal points
- Finance and administration
- Key issues and recommendations

Network structure and function

- Established in 1996
- Guided by Rules and Procedures
- Governed by Coordination Committee comprising 15 elected Regional Focal Points, three Indigenous Peoples' Focal Points and one elected Central Focal Point
- Meets twice a year prior to the Council meeting
- Sub-committees and task forces for specific work.

Organisation and participation in GEF meetings

- GEF CSO Consultations
- November 2010 and May 2011
 - Convention partnership,
 - Indigenous peoples
 - Environmental and Social safeguards
 - Future vision for CSOs and GEF
- Involvement in six regional meetings and ECWs

Input to GEF Policy making

- Specific input to development and finalisation of Council papers:

Council 39

- Monitoring and evaluation policy
- Enhancing Engagement of CSOs in GEF

Council 40

- Policies on environmental and Social safeguards and Gender mainstreaming
- Six position papers presented to council

Outreach and communication

- Website – www.gefngo.org
- 22,764 visitors from 200 countries and territories
- 100% increase in visitor usage since 2009-10
- 15 regional and 7 other mailing lists with more than 1200 mailings
- Presentations at numerous events and meetings.
- Input to GEF publications

Membership development

- Network took over accreditation from GEF in March 2010.
- Web based membership application and administration system set up
- Verification and updating of membership database.
- Screening by CFP and RFPs and approval by CC
- Membership increased from 398 to 427 during year and now stands at 456.

Elections of RFPs

- Successfully conducted in seven of 15 regions through online voting system overseen by 2 election task forces.
 - West and Central Africa
 - Southern Africa
 - Europe,
 - Eastern Europe and central Asia
 - North America
 - South East Asia
 - North East Asia

Strengthening links with CSOs in convention meetings

- Dialogue between GEF CEO and CSOs at:
 - CBD COP 10 in Nagoya October 2010
 - UNFCCC COP16 Cancun, December 2010
- Interactions to enhance understanding of GEF and role and progress in convention implementation.

Work of Regional Focal points

- Dissemination of information about events, meetings, updates and GEF activities to CSOs.
- Soliciting and collating of inputs on Network position papers, GEF papers, etc.
- Promote the Network through emails, website and meetings to encourage more local CSOs to be a part of the Network.
- Dissemination of information on funding opportunities to CSOs.
- Liaising with GEF operational Focal points in selected countries
- Participation in GEF Council Consultation meetings and GEF Council meetings and providing inputs to related position papers.
- Participating in meetings of the Coordination Committee and relevant sub committees.
- Organisation of meetings of CSOs as appropriate at country or regional level
- Participation by some in CBD COP 10 and UNFCCC COP 16.

Work of IP Focal Points

- Dissemination of information about events, meetings, updates to Indigenous peoples' organizations and Networks in their respective regions.
- Circulation of reports on achievements from GEF Council CSO consultations and the GEF Council
- Collating of inputs and comments from Indigenous peoples on Network position papers, GEF papers, etc.
- Promoting the Network to indigenous Peoples' organizations
- Dissemination of information on funding opportunities to IPOs
- Recommendation of participants from indigenous peoples' organizations for
- Participation in GEF Council-CSO Consultation meetings and GEF Council meetings and providing inputs to position papers
- Participating in meetings of the Coordination Committee and relevant sub committees.
- Participation in UNFCCC COP 16 and CBD COP 10.
- Development of a proposal for an issues paper on GEF and Indigenous peoples

Central Focal point

- Organising the Coordination Committee meeting, Preparatory meetings and GEF Council – CSO Consultation meetings.
- Organise GEF CSO dialogue at CBD COP10 in Nagoya (Oct 2010) and UNFCCC COP16 in Cancun (Dec 2010).
- Outreach and communication with members to share information on GEF NGO Network and GEF activities including e group and website operation and maintenance.
- Coordinating membership administration and promotion.
- Coordinating Preparation of Network policy and position Papers for GEF Council sessions.
- Managing funds and resources for the Network

Finance

- Network works primarily on a voluntary basis
- No grant was received to support network activities in the year.
- A small balance (\$15,000) from earlier grants supported work in 2010.
- Support for travel to Council and ECW meetings
- \$50,000 provided for 2011-12 by GEF secretariat

Issues and recommendations

- GEF Public involvement policy
- GEF Policy on indigenous peoples
- Streamlining procedures for selection and travel for CSOs to attend GEF related meeting
- NGO Voluntary Fund

GEF Public involvement policy

- Public involvement policy adopted in 1996
- Limited scope, inadequate guidance
- Many changes with GEF and standards for engagement since 1995
- Many other related policies and guidance eg gender, minimum standards for ESS

Gaps – issue not clearly included in the policy

- CSOs as a major partner in GEF programme implementation and co-funding
- Participatory programme development
- Involvement of CSOs in National Portfolio Formulation exercise and ECW meetings
- Stakeholder engagement plans for projects and programmes
- Clarifying scope of civil society in relation to major groups
- CSO access to resources
- Access to information

Guidance

- The current policy requires specific guidance
 - GEFSEC: Development of operational guidelines for assessing the effectiveness of public involvement activities in the project's design and implementation plan;
 - Evaluation of the impacts of public involvement in terms of improving projects;
 - What types of modalities for incorporating public involvement in projects, and addressing social issues, can be identified that could be incorporated into the guidelines of the various GEF Agencies?

Streamlining procedures for CSOs to attend GEF meeting

- Proposed that GEF NGO network selects CSO participants for Assembly in same way of council;
- For ECW meetings proposed that Network and secretariat work together on the selection to maximise the effectiveness of the meetings.
- Enhance preparation activities with CSOs prior to the meetings
- Constraints with travel and visa arrangements be addressed

NGO Voluntary Fund

- Approved by Council in November 2008 to support the work of the GEF NGO Network to implement priorities.
- Reiterated by Council November 2010
- Still not operational.
- Requirements –
 - Establishment and setting of management procedures by Trustee and the GEFSEC
 - Support from Donors to contribute resources.
- Establishment of other mechanisms for support to network and CSO engagement

Other issues

- Enhancing dialogue at the country level
- Country contact points or groups
- Cooperation with GEF Operational Focal points
- OPS 5 – establishment of effective mechanism for CSO engagement in OPS5.



Thank you