



Enhancing implementation of the GEF Public involvement Policy

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GEF Public Involvement Policy



- Adopted 1996
- Effective public involvement should enhance the social, environmental and financial sustainability of projects
- Responsibility for assuring public involvement rests within the country, supported by the GEF Partner Agencies
- Public involvement activities should be designed and implemented in a flexible manner according to national or local needs.
- Public involvement should be broad based and sustainable. Projects will include adequate budgets to ensure effective public involvement.
- Public involvement will be conducted in a transparent and open manner.

Implementation

- The current policy
 - GEFSEC should establish operational guidelines for assessing the effectiveness of public involvement activities in the project's design and implementation plan;
 - GEFSEC should monitor and evaluate the impacts of public involvement in terms of improving projects;
 - Facilitate the exchange of good practice
 - Explore ways to strengthen the role of NGOs in project preparation design and implementation
 - Ensure funding is available to governments, executing agencies and as appropriate CSOs for promoting public involvement.

Need for update

- The current policy has limited scope, provides inadequate guidance
- Many changes with GEF and standards for engagement since 1996
- Many other related policies and guidance adopted by GEF eg gender, minimum standards for ESS, engagement with IPs etc
- Broadening of agencies enhances needs for further guidance.

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
- Access of CSO to resources
- Public access to information

Proposed Guidelines on public involvement for GEF programs

To provide guidance for agencies and governments on public participation in GEF project development and implementation

1. Review of experience and lessons learned for best practices for CSO engagement in GEF projects.
 - Collate experience and lessons learned from GEF (SGP, MSP and FSP) and non-GEF projects.
2. Gather information on policies and practices by GEF Agencies
 - Collate and analyse policies and procedures of GEF agencies for public involvement and review of their implementation.
3. Undertake Consultation Process with key stakeholders
 - Questionnaires to CSOs agencies and stakeholders
 - Dialogues at country level and at ECW
4. Develop guidance and manuals
 - Guidelines or policy changes with GEFSEC and Council
 - Best practice manual to support implementation
5. Outreach, capacity development, implementation and review

Proposed timeline

- July 2012 – May 2013 - Collation of experience and best practice, review of existing policies and consultation with countries and CSOs
- June 2012 Presentation of results to 44th GEF Council
- June – October 2013 – Preparation of guidelines and updated policy for presentation at 45th GEF council



Thank you