



Report of the Civil Society Organizations to the GEF

- Extended Constituency Meeting: South America
 - Location: Lima, Peru
 - Dates: May 22-24,2012
 - Participating organizations and their members (please attach the list of civil society participants):
 - Friends of Kyoto Protocol, Brazil, Mr. Massimo Buonomo
 - Fundación RENACER, Colombia, Mrs. Martha Aguilar
 - ECOCIENCIA, Ecuador, Mrs. Janette Ulloa
 - CARITAS Piura,Tumbes, Peru, Mr. Ricardo Martin
 - OIPIC, Paraguay, Ms. Natascha G. Kreller
 - Asociación de ONGs, Paraguay, Mrs. Elsa Zaldivar
 - Red de ONGs Ambientalistas, Uruguay, Mr. Miguel Piñeyro
 - Corporación País Solidario (CPS), Colombia, Mr. Germàn Rocha (Reporteur)
1. Main objectives (expectations) of CSOs attending the meeting:
- To learn the GEF Institutional Framework: Assembly, Council, STAP, GEF Secretariat, Independent Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, GEF Agencies, United Nations Conventions, GEF-NGOs Network.
 - To learn how to access the GEF: project idea , project concept (PIF), project endorsement, GEF SEC reviews, project preparation(Agencies), CEO approval, project implementation and monitoring and evaluation.
 - To learn about focal areas, operational programs, strategies and mechanisms available to the civil society to obtain the financial support from the GEF.
 - To learn about the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) and how to access the Adaptation Fund and other Funds that the GEF manages.
 - To know, interact and exchange views with the GEF Political and Operational Focal Points from each country.
 - To have a more direct contact with officers from the the GEF Secretariat and the GEF Agencies.
 - To know more in depth on the GEF National portfolios at the country level.

2. Agenda (usefulness; relevance to Rio and other conventions implementation concerns and issues in the region/country; other comments and suggestions if any):
 - The Agenda was appropriate and let the NGOs learnt on the STAR, the PIF, the project concept and the project preparation, the GEF Project Cycle and Programmatic Approach, the Monitoring and Evaluation Policy, the Extended Constituency Workshops, the GEF Trust Fund and other environmental Funds, the Conventions and the Civil Society engagement with the GEF.

3. Main topic(s) of interest of the CSOs:
 - The civil society participation in the design, development and implementation of the National Portfolios Exercises at the country and local levels.
 - The strengthening of civil society engagement in GEF activities and projects financing.
 - A broader enhancement of the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) and the need to start it in Colombia.
 - The participation of the civil society in GEF Monitoring and Evaluation activities.
 - The need to raise awareness among the GEF Focal Points, on the comparative advantage of civil society organizations in capacity building and knowledge transfer at the ground level.

4. Summary of CSO interventions and suggestions:
 - More guidance on opportunities and mechanisms for CSO engagement in GEF projects
 - The GEF Secretariat should facilitate annual meetings in each country between CSOs, the GEF Operational Focal Points and the GEF agencies
 - Enhanced financial support for more CSO representatives to attend GEF CSO Consultations and GEF Council meetings
 - Financial support to the CSO RFP for collating, producing and distributing GEF information in Spanish
 - Ensure CSOs engagement in national consultations for the GEF Portfolio exercises
 - Effective involvement of CSOs in monitoring and evaluation activities of GEF projects

5. Additional comments and/or suggestions:
 - Request the GEF CEO not to endorse PIFs that doesn't show the CSOs engagement in the project concept and project preparation, and its effective participation in the project implementation and its monitoring and evaluation
 - Request the GEF to consult the RFPs in the selection process of participants to GEF events for attaining a broader representation from all the member countries of the constituency
 - The civil society has valuable ideas and initiatives that should be taking into account by the governments during the preparation of National Plans. This is a key aspect for creativity, innovation, transparency and continuously overseeing public management.
 - The GEF Council should allocate funds to encourage effective Civil Society participation in GEF Projects different to the global allocation for the Small Grants Programme.



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