



Enhancing CSO engagement in GEF

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GEF Council – CSO Consultation
Meeting
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Issues

- Network Report to Council
- Key issues and recommendations
- Development of guidelines for Public Involvement in GEF Programmes
- Enhancing Capacity of CSOs for engagement in GEF

Network 2011/2012 Report to Council

- Introduction
- Network Structure and Function
- Organisation and participation in GEF Related meetings
 - GEF Council CSO Consultation Meeting.
 - GEF Regional meetings and Expanded Constituency Workshops
- Input to GEF Policy Making
- Outreach and communication
- Membership Development
- Strengthening of links between GEF and CSOs in convention meetings
- Work of the Network Focal Points
- Finance and Administration
- Key issues/concerns and recommendation

Progress on issues 2010/2012

- Establishment of NGO Voluntary Fund
- The GEF NGO Voluntary Fund was established in January 2012 – three years after Council approval (November 2008).
- Initial funds \$130,000 (GEF and donors)
- Funds have been used in 2012 to support two back-to back CSO meetings prior to ECW meetings in Jordan and Mozambique.
- Future: Securing Contributions to the GEF NGO Voluntary Fund

Development of a policy on Indigenous peoples and GEF.

- Document on principles and guidelines developed by Secretariat, tabled at June council and finalised in September.
- Not to level of full policy; not fully in line with aspirations of IP's
- Timetable and resources for implementation not specified

Enhancing the role of the CSOs the ECW meetings

- Some progress made in coordination of selection of CSOs from ECW meetings
- Back to back meetings for CSOs organised in 2 regions
- Further work need to strengthen CSO input to the ECW on substantive matters
- Organisation of CSO caucus at each ECW

Review and update the GEF Public Involvement Policy

- ❑ The 1996 GEF Public Involvement Policy should be reviewed and updated to enhance the effectiveness of its implementation and introduce new concepts and practices for public participation.
- ❑ Specific guidelines to operationalise the Policy in the should be prepared.
- ❑ It is recommended that such work take place through a participatory process in 2012-2013 to enable for consideration by the GEF Council in November 2013.

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 states that GEFSEC should
 - establish operational guidelines for assessing the effectiveness of public involvement activities in the project's design and implementation plan;
 - 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 Process to develop Guidelines on public involvement

1. Review of experience and lessons learned for best practices for CSO engagement in GEF projects.
2. Gather information on policies and practices by GEF Agencies
3. Seek feedback from key stakeholders
4. Develop guidance and best practice manuals
5. Outreach, capacity development, implementation and review

Proposed timeline

- Nov 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 by GEFSEC of guidelines and updated policy for presentation at 45th GEF council

Enhancing Capacity of CSOs for engagement in GEF

- One constraint for the effective engagement of CSOs in GEF related programmes and projects is the lack of clear mechanisms and also insufficient capacity
- Countries have identified through the NCSA process that one of the top priorities for capacity development is engagement and outreach to enhance public participation.
- GEF needs to allocate more resources to support such capacity building at national and sub-regional level.
- Enhanced capacity can support engagement as well as mainstreaming and scaling up of CSO innovations.



Thank you