

**REPORT ON GEF EXPANDED CONSTITUENCY WORKSHOP (ECW)
5-6 NOVEMBER 2012 AT HOTEL LALIT, NEW DELHI**

Participants:

The participants were from 13 countries, i.e. Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Korea, Lao, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam (see participant list in Appendix 1). There was no representative from China. From India, the meeting was attended by senior Government officials – Mr. M.F. Farooqui, Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) and Mr. Hem Pande, Joint Secretary & OFP, MoEF.

Among the participants, were the:

- 1) Operational Focal Points;
- 2) CSOs – representative various thematic focal points
- 3) Representatives from ADB, FAO, UNDP, UNEP and UNIDO;
- 4) GEF-representing Public Private Partnership,
- 5) Member – GEF Scientific , Technical & Advisory Committee (STAP);
- 6) GEF Evaluation Team; and
- 7) CBD Focal Points, for Biodiversity, Climate Change and Chemical Management.

The meeting was opened by Mr. William Ehlers, Director-External Relations, GEF Secretariat who also carried the proceedings further throughout the two days. Mr. Ehlers informed about the new GEF CEO, taking over who could not come due to her scheduled travel elsewhere. The new CEO has issued a new vision for the GEF which is circulated to OFPs and is also available on the website. The focus is that GEF must be “innovative” – must remain a champion of global, but a part of regular development. GEF should be a partner of choice and play a catalytic role as the actual replenishment to GEF is generally less than the commitment from the donors.

Welcome remarks were given by Mr. Ehlers, Mr. Pande and Mr. Farooqui. Mr. Pande informed that the ECW meets once a year in every Region. He informed that the COP11 at Hyderabad concluded successfully and is one of the best. The GEF intends doubling the overall resource allocation from the next cycle. The biodiversity allocation will be US \$2 billion instead of the current level of US \$1 billion. Mr. Pande felt that the donors should have also come for the ECW meeting and none was present even from their local representatives. Their representatives could carry the right message from such Workshops as this is a bottom up step and would influence on the existing pattern of slow-down of fund disbursement.

Mr. Farooqui thanked the GEF for continuously updating on the development opportunities. It is the right time to review the procedures and problems to provide inputs for GEF OP6 replenishment. He informed about the new long-term GEF 2020 strategy announced by the new GEF CEO. He informed that the GEF should only support “Game Changer projects” which are key-differentiators and that is how these should be described as “Innovative” linking up with policies and should change the value for the money provided. More efforts are taken up on reducing the global environmental problems, more are they becoming emergent. As per an important outcome of the COP11 to double the resources for biodiversity, the issue of absorbing those resources also becomes challenging. The absorption rate of

funds is substantially varying in the past. We should, therefore, devote more time on the strategies for the absorption of additional resources. A normal PIF still takes two years. As the GEF is not a banker, we should focus more on simplifying the procedures. Such ECW Workshops should be the platforms to understand the processes better to access funds. The GEF and the Constituency meetings should bring "out-of-the-box" ideas to simplify the accessing of funds.

The various Sessions were based on different power point presentations which were also shared with the participants in hard copies as the "background papers". The briefings were on the following topics:

Session I: Accessing the GEF

- How to access the GEF Trust Fund – GEF Institutional Framework, with Agency responsibilities;
- Project development and implementation steps
- System for STAR Allocation;
- How to access other funds like LDCF (Lease Developed Countries Fund), SCCF (Special Climate Change Fund), NPIF (Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund), AF (Adaptation Fund).
- Innovative features of LDCF/SCCF, NPIF and AF with special focus on the modalities of NPIF and their financing criteria.
- Broadening the GEF Partnership by accrediting up to 10 new institutions to serve as GEF project agencies who can access resources from GEF-managed trust funds directly.
- Public Private Partnerships in GEF-5 and the approval of its Strategy, with an allocation of US \$80 million resources.
- Explanation on a Non-Grant Instrument that has the potential to earn a return to expand the pool of GEF resources for future investments.
- Detailed explanation on what is available on GEF Website.

Session II: GEF as Financial Mechanism of the Conventions

- Details on the "Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and other Aichi-Nagoya Outcomes".
- Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 along with their Goals and Aichi Nagoya Targets.
- The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their Utilization.
- Status of Signing of CBD Convention – 92 countries signed.
- Biodiversity Strategy Objectives and Key Drivers of Biodiversity Loss.
- Coherence between GEF-5 Strategy & CBD Strategic Plan and Aichi-Nagoya Targets.
- GEF & UNFCCC Cooperation: COP17 Action Items
- GEF – an Operating Entity of the UNFCCC Financial Mechanism – 171 COP Decisions passed on GEF by Parties.
- COP17 Decisions Relevant to GEF
- Long-term Cooperative Action
- Technology Mechanism: Climate Technology Centre and Network.
- Green Climate Fund
- Financial Mechanism to operate through GEF Implementing Agencies;
- National Adaptation Plans
- National Communications
- Development and Transfer of Technologies
- Additional Resources – GEF Report to COP18: posted on UNFCCC Website
- UNCCD COP10 Decisions on Collaboration with the GEF.

- GEF and UNCCD Relations
- GEF – a Financial Mechanism of the UNCCD
- GEF and the UNCCD Ten-Year Strategy
- COP10 Highlights and Decision on GEF Collaboration.
- GEF Chemicals Management and resources
- Persistent Organic Pollutants and implementation of National Implementation Plans.
- GEF and the Implementation Support to Montreal Protocol
- GEF funding for Mercury INC process - mercury instrument to improve countries abilities to implement its provisions when the mercury instrument enters into force.
- Funding for Chemical Management and Finding Synergy in the Portfolio.
- GEF funding for Enabling Activities and support to BD Enabling Activities
- GEF Support to Climate Change Enabling Activities
- GEF-5 Status Report for CC Enabling Activities
- GEF Support to Land Degradation Enabling Activities
- GEF-5 Status Report for LD Enabling Activities
- GEF Support to POPs Enabling Activities and Status Report
- Introduction to related Templates on the GEF Website.

Session III: Results Based Management at the GEF and Monitoring & Evaluation Policy in the GEF

- Concept of Results Based Management at the GEF and its importance, its Tracking Results, RBM Framework.
- Developing Strategic Goals and Alignment of Focal Area Objectives;
- Project Level Results and Indicators.
- OECD DAC Results Chain, with examples on reporting to donors.
- Baselines, Portfolio Monitoring, Indicators, GEF Tracking Tools for Portfolio Performance and their Requirements.
- Management Effectiveness and Efficiency at the Institutional level (GEF Secretariat), Management Indicators, GEF Business Standards
- Reporting and Accessibility – Project Implementation Reports (PIR), Annual Monitoring Review and the RBM Integrated into Project Cycle (Concept to Completion).

Session IV: Roles of Country Stakeholders in the GEF

- Roles and Responsibilities of Council Members and Focal Points - This was an interactive session with involvement of participants to provide feed-back on responsibilities of various stakeholders.

Session V: Monitoring and Evaluation in the GEF OP5

- GEF Monitoring & Evaluation Policy, with RBM and M&E, its objectives.
- Knowledge Sharing, M&E Levels and Responsible Agencies, with Minimum M&E Requirements;
- Role of GEF Focal Points in M&E
- Follow-Up to Evaluations.

Session VI: Practical Exercise

- It was a full day practical exercise by splitting the participants in three groups. A country scenario was given, with baselines, available possible co-funding, asking the participants to view

the possible barriers, bring out project proposal/s looking at the fund allocation under various GEF thematic areas. The objective was to bring out the analysis on:

- barriers and how to overcome them;
- describing the baselines and linking with project ideas to be financed by the GEF that would add value in terms of GEF objectives;
- Fitting the ideas with the objectives and expected outcomes of the relevant GEF-5 focal area strategies;
- Listing out global environmental benefits of the proposed project idea/s;
- Details of indicators to be used to monitor the outputs and outcomes;
- Detailing of key stakeholders and partners and how to ensure their involvement;
- Details of any preparation activities, like assessments, studies, etc, that may be needed to develop the project proposal/s, and how to link a PPG, if required.
- Linking up with comparative advantages of proposed GEF Implementing Agency; and
- Thematic-areas-wise budget, along with co-financing linked against each thematic area.

The day-3 was devoted to the Constituency Meeting with GEF OFPs and PFPs which was taken up as a separate meeting with limited and focused participation.

**APPENDIX 1 – LIST OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS ATTENDING THE ECW IN DELHI, INDIA, 5-6 NOV
2012**

No.	Name	Country	Organization	Title	e-mail
1	Akhtar Hossain Babu	Bangladesh	Society for Urban Environmental Protection	Chief Executive	ceo.suep@gmail.com
2	Kat Bun Heng	Cambodia	Community Translation Organisation	Executive Director	bunheng@humantranslation
3	Minakshi Arora	India	Trust for Research on Earth and Environment (TREE)	Managing Director	water.community@gmail.com
4	Krishnakumar Gopalakrishna Pillai	India	India Energy Press Secretary	Secretary	seem.gk@gmail.com
5	Prabhjot Sodhi	India	Centre for Environment Education	National Coordinator	prabhjot.sodhi@ceeindia.org
6	Anil Arora	India	Centre for Environment Education	Senior Project Officer	anil.arora@ceeindia.org
7	Raman Kant	India	NEER Foundation	Manager	theneerfoundation@gmail.com
8	Paul Mathew Pariyadan	India	Centre for community Economics and Development Consultation Society	Director	pmpaul_2002@yahoo.co.in
9	Beng Hun Tan	Malaysia	Global Environment Centre	Coordinator	adelaine@gec.org.my
10	Ram Charitra Sah	Nepal	CEPHED	Chairman	ramcharitra@gmail.com
11	Rajendra Bahadur Adhikari	Nepal	Rural Area Development Programme (RADP)	Coordinator	radp.rajendra@gmail.com
12.	Menuka Bisht	Nepal	office	Officer	menubasnet@gmail.com
13.	Sudharma Suranjan Kodithuwakku	Sri Lanka	Green Movement of Sri Lanka	CEo	suranjan@gmsl.lk