



GEF-NGO Network Statement during 44th GEF Council Meeting
Agenda item 5 First report of OPS5
18 June 2013

The GEF NGO Network welcomes this initial report and looks forward to the report at the next council of the results of the further work. We note the increase in Multifocal area projects in GEF – and believe in principle that this is a positive approach as it can enable a more integrated approach.

We note that the assessment indicates that there is a need for better and broader adoption of results of GEF projects and programmes.

We believe that this could be at least partly achieved through

- a) better multi-stakeholder engagement in the work of the GEF - linking government, Civil society, local and indigenous peoples and the private sector.
- b) Regional Approaches where experiences and best practices in one country or region are share with stakeholders in other countries or regions or countries work together to advance common solutions to shared problems.
- c) Increasing the level of support for Cross-cutting Capacity Development – as investment in systemic capacity, enhancement of institutional capacity, public engagement, or policy or regulatory frameworks – will also enhance the sustainability and degree of adoption of individual GEF projects.
- d) Increased support for outreach, awareness and knowledge management/dissemination. Currently some GEF projects focus on narrow subject areas with limited stakeholder engagement which reduces the long term impact and sustainability.

Secondly we believe that Country ownership and positive alignment is very important. In order to maintain and enhance overall country ownership we believe that there is a special need to enhance the engagement of non-state actors – which can be a challenge in some countries and needs proactive GEF support.

Finally – we are aware that a special study will be implemented over the next three months to look at the issue of the Civil society engagement in the GEF. While we welcome this study – we are concerned that it has been left till a very late stage in the OPS5 period – given that effective implementation would need extensive consultations with civil society organizations. We would ask the evaluation office to allocate sufficient resources to complete this work efficiently despite the late start and also consider if necessary follow up work.