



**GEF EXPANDED CONSTITUENCY WORKSHOP**

**30<sup>TH</sup> September-3 October, 2013**

**ABUJA, NIGERIA**

**REPORT OF WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS**

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## **FORWARD**

The Regional Focal Point- Samuel Dotse gratefully acknowledges to be given such an opportunity to record proceedings of GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop which was held in Abuja-Nigeria from 30<sup>th</sup> September-3<sup>rd</sup> October 2013. I would also like to thank the participants that were drawn from the Coastal Region in the West Africa Sub Region.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The GEF Expanded Constituency Workshops (ECW) are held once a year in each region and are aimed at keeping the GEF national focal points, convention focal points and other key stakeholders, including civil society, abreast of GEF strategies, policies and procedures and to encourage coordination.

## **ORGANISATION OF WORKSHOP**

There was a pre- session which was organized by the GEF NGO Network led by the Regional Focal Point for West Africa.

### **CSO WORKSHOP- 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2013**

There was a day workshop for GEF NGO Network members and non-members and a two days technical presentation session and a day's field trip.

The Regional Focal Point welcomes the delegates to the Abuja ECW meeting after a brief self introduction.

He then asked the delegates to nominate two people to take notes. His first presentation was on- ***GEF Policies and Procedures for Civil Society Participation***. He highlighted the benefits and opportunities for CSO engagement in GEF. He talked about the Public Involvement Policy, Guidelines for engagement with Indigenous Peoples and Gender Policy/ Environment and Social Safeguards. Allocation of resources to support CSO engagement and engagement of CSOs in different stages in project cycle was also highlighted by the regional focal point.

The second presentation was on **-Involvement of CSOs in GEF activities in respective countries.** The Regional Focal Point gave the CSO present an opportunity to briefly show case their projects undertaken. Sharing of CSO experience in relation to GEF from countries in the region, achievements/constraints in CSO engagement in GEF Programmes, option for collation /sharing of best practices and strengthening CSO engagement at country/regional level (follow-up to ECW discussion) was some of the issues discussed. Some of the projects include -Sierra Leone Amphibians and reptile's project. Many other experiences mentioned by Togo and Nigeria were the provision of livelihood assistance including protection of rivers and water bodies in Togo. Nigerians experience was the protection of lands, and their effective management to enhanced livelihoods, food and human security.

The GEF CSO representative also made a brief presentation of the importance the GEF SEC attached to the ECW meetings and encouraged the CSO's present to fully participate in the technical session.

### **The Way Forward**

Capacity strengthening needs and opportunities for CSOs, enhancing CSO engagement in GEF NGO Network in the region, discussion of issues specifically related to region – For example GEF project, thematic issues and of action plan for follow-up in the region

## **TECHNICAL SESSION**

### **PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS**

The Government of Nigeria, Energy Commission of Nigeria the World Bank, ECOWAS, the FAO and representatives of Civil Society across the Coastal West Africa Sub Region.

### **DAY 1 October, 2013**

#### **Welcome Address**

In his welcome address the Representative from the Government of Nigeria thank the GEF for chosen Abuja to host the meeting and indicated the importance the President of Nigeria attached to the meeting hence his appointment by the sector Minister to represent the people of Nigeria at the opening ceremony

In concluding remarks, he emphasizes the Nigerian Government support for the workshop.

## **Presentations**

The first presentation was made by Susan on Overview and Update on GEF.

She gave a brief about the history of the GEF as a **\$1 billion** pilot program in the World Bank in 1991. At the Rio Earth Summit, negotiations started to restructure the GEF out of the World Bank. She indicated that the Initial partners of the GEF were World Bank, United Nations Development Programme and United Nations Environment Programme. GEF serves as financial mechanism for: CBD UNFCCC Stockholm Conv. on POPs UNCCD Mercury (NEW)

Also, although not linked formally to the **Montreal Protocol**, the GEF supports its implementation in transition economies. Project Development and Implementation steps, Implementing Agencies and their responsibilities, other funds managed by the GEF (LDCF, SCCF, NPIF and Adaptation Fund), the GEF 5 STAR Allocations for countries present at the meeting. The presentation also highlighted on Broadening the GEF Partnership, Public Private Partnership in GEF 6, the GEF website and PMIS. Implementing Agency project oversight responsibility includes among others to ensure quality of preparation, disburse funds to Executing Agency, supervise implementation, be accountable to GEF Council, keep GEF OFP informed and help secure committed co-financing.

She also highlighted that the GEF is the **World's largest public funder** of projects and programs to benefit the global environment. She made mention of the GEF Trust Fund which has the Guidance, Operation and Action stages.

Susan in her presentation laid emphasis on System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) which focuses mainly on biodiversity, climate change and land degradation. She briefed the meeting on how the allocations are made and the flexibility status of individual countries.

Speaking on Harmonization, she mentioned that the Objective is to reduce administrative burden through involvement of GEF's Program Managers in project design. She said in *Oct 2012: WB Harmonization Pilot discussion started with the WB*. She mentioned the following had been

harmonized; No Parallel Process for Decision Making, No GEF Review Sheets, No GEF-specific Project Templates, New business standard: from a 10 to a 5-day response.

She spoke on broadening the GEF Partnership and stated that during the June 2013 council meeting, World Wildlife Fund-US and Conservation International have received approval from the independent review panel to become GEF Partners and also a second round of accreditation, including accreditation of bilateral agencies could happen only once all Stage II reviews are completed

She also talked about the GEF-6 Replenishment; *process in which donor countries, every 4 years, voluntarily pledge to provide resources to fund the GEF operations.* The Composition she indicated includes-GEF Trustee (Chair) ,GEF CEO (Co-Chair),Donors, Minimum contribution SDR 4 M,Recipients: 4 representatives (representing AFR, Asia/Pacific, ECA, and LAC) CSOs/NGOs,2 representatives, Observers, Potential donors GEF Agencies and Conventions. She concludes by stating that there was a proposed adjustment to the allocation system: Thus (a) Increase the weight of the GDP per capita index (b) lower the ceilings imposed on large allocation recipient countries (c) increase the floor allocations for each focal area (d) differentiated co-financing models.

The second presentation by Carlo Carugi Senior Evaluation Officer focused on OPS5 Progress Report. Critical issues discussed includes portfolio, programming, impact, performance/project cycle, results based management, work in progress.

Under the Portfolio discussions the presentation highlighted further analysis of **multi-focal area projects (MFA)**;

- 102 projects with multi-focal objectives but not approved as MFA were added to analysis
- Total MFA: 17% of projects and 22.5% of funding (47% in GEF-5)
- Analysis on “integrated” versus “non-integrated” MFA activities in projects. In GEF 6, multi-focal area projects do not receive much attention. International funding of environmental support has doubled from 2007 to 2011, GEF has benefited from this, but with a relatively lower increase was highlighted under the programming. The presentation reminded delegates that potential underfunding of focal areas, countries and/or modalities of the GEF needs to be discussed and taken into account when considering programming for GEF-6. National Portfolio Formulation Exercise’s efficiency was also highlighted

The Second session presentation on GEF 6 Replenishment looks at Biodiversity Focal area strategy, International Waters, Land Degradation and Sustainable Forest Management. For Biodiversity focal area the goal was to maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society. For International Waters, the goal was to promote collective management for transboundary water systems and foster policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments towards sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services. For Land Degradation, the was to arrest or reverse land degradation (desertification and deforestation. The presentation highlighted on Agriculture and Rangeland Systems Agro-ecological Intensification and SLM for Climate-Smart Agriculture, Scaling up of Sustainable Forest Management was highlighted among others.

To achieve multiple environmental, social and economic benefits from improved management of all types of forests and trees outside of forests was the overriding goal of the Sustainable Forest Management focus for GEF 6. The presentation concluded by in looking at the innovation that was introduced in the GEF 6 was the *Signature Program*. Five programs have been proposed for Gef-6. These programs are

1. Avoiding the Amazon Dieback,  
Taking Forestry out of the supply chain,
3. Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa,
4. Sustainable Fisheries and
5. Sustainable Cities

The third session presentation by Ibrahim Sow, Chemicals Cluster Coordinator looks at programming direction for GEF 6 in relation to Climate Change Mitigation and Chemicals and Waste. He talks about GEF's Unique Value for Climate Financing and again emphasized that GEF is the financial mechanism for the RIO Conventions including UNFCCC. He indicated that the proposed GEF 6 Strategy for Climate Change Mitigation would be looking at support developing countries and economies in transition in achieving transformational change towards development with low carbon emissions. In that direction the programming priorities shall be to promote innovation & technology transfer, Demonstrate systemic impacts of mitigation options, Foster enabling conditions to mainstream mitigation concerns. With Chemicals and Waste, the coordinator in his presentation indicated that the goal was to significant reduction in the exposure of humans and the environment to hazardous chemicals and waste of global importance. He concluded by stating the program objectives was to support least Developing countries and small island developing states to take action on harmful chemicals and waste.

The last presentation for the day was on *Monitoring and Evaluation in the GEF: How Country Stakeholders Get Involved*. This presentation was done by Carlo.

This was a group work that was intended to provide input to a newly appointed GEF Operational Focal Point (OFP) who has to quickly get up to speed regarding various GEF processes their respective countries, including monitoring and evaluation (M&E). The team's task is to advise the OFP on four broad questions involving M&E of the GEF portfolio at the country level. The issues discussed include the following; Country-level monitoring of GEF portfolio and environmental trends, involvement of the OFP in evaluation and National coordinating mechanism for M&E.

The presentation concluded by emphasizing the key roles and responsibilities of stakeholders, the GEF evaluation office and the GEF monitoring and Evaluation policy.

There was a Practical Exercise by the delegates with the purpose of Better understand country-level M&E activities in the GEF There were discussion practical questions related to design and use of M&E systems in individual country

There was a bilateral meetings scheduled among delegates to discuss pertinent issues bordering on project proposal development and funding.

## **DAY 2- Wednesday 2nd October, 2013**

The day started with a presentation on Tracking tools and Results Based Management at the GEF. The tracking of results begins from project design through to the implementation stage to evaluation to management, monitoring and learning.

To measure progress in achieving the impacts and outcomes established at the portfolio level under each focal area, she emphasized.

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The day ended with a reception organized for the delegates by the GEF.

The presentation further looks at the key roles and responsibilities in monitoring and evaluation, the GEF evaluation office and its mission. Also, the GEF monitoring and evaluation policy and the practical exercise with the purpose of understanding country-level monitoring and evaluation activities in GEF were discussed.

The next presentation by *Pilar Barrera Operations officer Civil Society/Capacity Development* centered on national capacity self assessment. In other words referred to as Cross-Cutting Capacity Development (CCCD) - Strategy -GEF 5. The purpose of this practical exercise was to enable delegates to get fully acquainted with the CCCD strategy and to establish the basis for a project under capacity development. Capacity development was defined as “The process by which individuals, organizations and societies strengthen their ability to address environmental issues, manage natural resource issues, and mainstream environmental sustainability into development policies, plans and decisions. The dimensions and time lines were also highlighted as well as the strategy focus which mentioned four pathways. The presentation also looks at operational guidelines for NCSAs. The presentation mentioned some selected GEF 5 projects. These are;

- Guinea Strengthening Decentralized Management of the Environment to Meet Rio Convention Objectives
- Côte d’Ivoire Strengthened Environmental Management Information System for Coastal Development to meet Rio Convention Objectives

- Burkina Faso Generating Global Environmental Benefits from Improved Local Planning and Decision-making Systems in Burkina Faso
- Costa Rica Capacity Building for Mainstreaming MEA Objectives into Inter- ministerial Structures and Mechanisms
- Belize Capacity building for the strategic planning and management of natural resources in Belize.

The last session for day two was organized by the Civil Society Organizations present at the meeting. This was facilitated by the GEF NGO NETWORK REGIONAL FOCAL POINT- Samuel Dotse from Ghana. Samuel's presentation was on- ***Policies and Procedures for Civil Society Participation in GEF Programme and Projects.***

Samuel started his presentation by introducing the GEF NGO Network, highlighting on the history, vision, mission and objectives and values that guide the operation of the network.

He continued by indicating that CSO's are key stakeholders in the work of the GEF. As key stakeholders, they play an important role in the management of the environment at all levels. He also indicated that the work of CSO's support the overall objective of GEF programmes and activities. His presentation also highlights benefits of CSO engagement in GEF projects and programmes. Again on opportunities for CSO engagement in GEF projects, Samuel mentioned that CSO's can apply for both small and medium sized projects He further talked about GEF Policy on Minimum Environmental and Social Safeguard Standards for GEF agencies as well as GEF Policy on Gender Mainstreaming including GEF Principles & Guidelines for Engagement with Indigenous Peoples which was adopted by GEF in 2012 in line with the UNDRIP.

Another key issue Samuel spoke about during the presentation was GEF Public participation Policy which was adopted in 1996 and its key principles as transparency, social accountability, cultural and economic needs of GEF financed projects.

In concluding his presentation, Samuel identified some preliminary gaps identified in the current policy.

CSO's present worked in two groups

## Group 1 – CSO engagement in respective countries

Below are some of the responses to various questions discussed during the *Policies and Procedures for Civil Society Participation in GEF Programme and Projects*.

### **Sierra Leone:**

Strong support for CSO, hence they play very huge role in project implementation.

SGP has operational guideline which forms the operational policy for the country.

Policy and process are not compatible.

Sierra Leone is currently revising the policy guideline on the CBD which will certainly involve CSOs.

### **Togo:**

Integrate different stages of the conventions with the effective participate of CSOs

### **Ghana:**

The 3 conventions has created an enabling environment for the CSO involvement

The challenge is just the entry point.

### **Benin:**

Committee in charge of issues regarding implementation of all the conventions in collaborate with all the CSOs .There is an appropriate framework set up in 2003 to encourage CSO involvement.

### **Liberia:**

Has Coordinating/steering committee on the convention which includes CSO representatives.

### **Nigeria**

Nigeria Climate Change Adaptation Programme

National adaptation strategic plan of action

### **UNEP**

CSO should know they are serving their respective countries.

FSP executed by an NGO-Cameroun

MSP executed by an NGO-Madagascar.

**Benin:**

Micro finance and funding are major constraints

Resource challenge

**Group 2 - Feedback on implementation of Public Involvement Policy**

The outcome of the group work form the basis of our recommendation

**Nigeria:**

The national environment council has given a forum for NGOs and provided a forum for NGO to meet twice year

Cote D'voire indicated that they are aware of the public involvement policy.

A platform for NGO has been set up.

**Benin:** There needs to be more active participation as a result of the policy implementation.

**Closing Ceremony**

In their closing remarks, the Operational Focal Point, Representative of the GEF Sec. and Representative of the Minister of Environment of Nigeria thanked participants for their effective participation in the workshop and wished them a safe journey to their various countries.

**DAY 3- Thursday, October 3rd 2013**

Participants were sent on an insightful and exciting field trip to UNDP project in Energy Efficiency at the Energy Commission of Nigeria, 5 km away from the Sheraton Hotel

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Expanded Constituency Workshop of the Global Environment Facility for West Africa was a useful platform to share experiences from all stakeholders within the GEF mandate. The workshop recognized the need for:

Coordination between state actors, non state actors (CSOs), private sector and other stakeholders in fostering participatory action and generating needs in environmental protection and preservation in the sub-region.

### **Challenges**

Some of the challenges to the effective operationalization of GEF mandate in the sub region were identified as:

- Weak cooperation between CSOs and their respective governments
- Weak institutional infrastructure poor capacity in many organizations to undertake their mission
- Policy shifts at government level

### **The main conclusions were:**

Historically there has been little direct involvement of CSOs in the development of country policies, plans and projects.

- The Small grants programme has been important in many countries to support CSOs but there have been few opportunities of involvement of CSOs in medium and full sized projects.
- There is not enough coordination between CSOs and Government and few joint projects.
- Meetings between GEF Focal Points - CSOs regular are not being organized in most countries except for Ghana where the level of cooperation between the GEF operational focal point has been described as healthy.

### **Recommendations by CSO's**

- GEF should provide support for regular Regional meetings and other knowledge sharing and technical exchange opportunities among stakeholders in the region
- Increase the GEF SGP budget in the region and strengthen SGP outreach and capacity building activities for CSOs; strengthen existing GEF SGP networks link them to the GEF NGO Network
- GEF should increase support for the Operational Focal Points. The current UDS9 is insufficient.
- The current policy has limited scope, provides inadequate guidance
- Need to Review and update the GEF Public Involvement Policy

**WORKSHOP PICTURES.**



**GROUP PHOTOGRAPH OF DELEGATES AT ECW MEETING-ABUJA**



**CSO DELEGATES AT THE ABUJA ECW MEETING.**

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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