



GEF CSO Network Statement
Agenda item 4: Annual Monitoring Report Part II
46th GEF Council Meeting,
25 May 2014, Cancun Mexico

Firstly I would like announce a recent change in the civil society engagement mechanisms for the GEF. Since 1996 – the GEF NGO Network has worked to facilitate the engagement of civil society organisations in the work of the GEF through organization of GEF Council CSO consultations prior to each Council meeting as well as actively providing input to GEF policy making and implementation. Initially the network engaged primarily environmental NGOs – however over the past 18 years there has been a significant expansion of the level of engagement of indigenous peoples organisations, community based organisations, women’s groups and other organisations. In recognition, the Network formally decided in November 2013 to change its name effective January 2014 - to the GEF Civil Society Organisation Network or GEF CSO Network. We hope that this will reflect more clearly the reality of our broad engagement with CSOs. An Information note on the Network in English French and Spanish in this meeting room and at the Exhibition area.

Secondly we would like to congratulate IUCN and DBSA on joining WWF and CI as new GEF Project Agencies – we hope that this will further enhance the engagement of CSOs in the work of the GEF.

With regard to the AMR we are happy to see the in depth consideration of stakeholder engagement in Chapter 3 of the document.

We are happy to see progress on addressing gender engagement in the GEF portfolio, but feel that more should be done on this.

We note the relatively small number of projects involving indigenous communities and hope that this can be monitored and addressed as appropriate.

With regard to the engagement of Civil society we note with concern that only 62% of projects made a reference to the engagement of civil society. In principle all projects should engage with civil society. We also note that only 2 projects (1% were executed by CSOs) which highlights the serious decline in CSO led projects which we have highlighted for a number of years. CSOs only participate in steering committees of 3% of projects. We note however that CSOs are involve in co-execution in 25% of projects. We believe that further work is needed to analyse further the details of these issues to determine trends and action to enhance CSO engagement.

We would like to highlight the work we have been doing with the GEF secretariat to review the implementation of the GEF Public involvement policy over the last 18 months which is reported

in Paragraph 223. This will be shared in the workshop on the afternoon of the 27th May in the CSO forum.

With regard to the exemplary project highlighted in paragraph 228 in India - this will be showcased in the plenary of the CSO Forum in 2 days' time. Finally we believe it is key to continue to streamline the Project cycle to expedite project preparation and to cut the time between project approval and disbursement of funds.