

Expanded Constituency Workshop (ECW) Coastal West Africa CSO Regional Meeting Report.

Accra Ghana 19th October 2017



Table of Content:

1	Background.....
2	Welcome session.....
3	Session 1 : Introduction.....
4	Session 2 : GEF Public Involvement Policy.....
5	Session 3 : GEF 7 Processes.....
6	Session 4 : Comments / Recommendations.....
7	Session 5: The Way Forward.....
8	Annexes –
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• List of Participants• Agenda• List of presentations• Photographs• Copies of presentations

Background

The GEF CSO Network is an independent global alliance of Civil Society Organizations working to address global environmental challenges in areas linked to the GEF focal areas. Every year, GEF provides support to members to participate at the GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop which rotates among member states within the region.

The meeting was attended by 11 CSO members some of whom their participation was financially supported by the GEF. Representatives from the GEF secretariat represented by Mr Williams and UNDP secretariat as well as country level heads of Focal Units observed proceedings.

The meeting was chaired by the **Regional Focal Person (RFP) for West Africa, Dr. Priscilla Achakpa. After self introductions, the RFP** welcomed participants and urged all to contribute unreservedly to the discussions. She thanked GEF for supporting the platform which is essential to maintain commitment and strengthen coordination among members of the CSO Network. This was followed by goodwill messages from the GEF secretariat and from UNDP.

Session 1: Introduction

The RFP, Dr Priscilia Achakpa lead the sessions. The order for this session was as follows:-

- Self introductions
- Objectives and agenda of meeting
- An overview of GEF and GEF-CSO Network – this was presented in a power point. The RFP gave details on the RFP(s)/CCP(s)/IPFPs and membership in the region.
- GEF-CSO Network Strategic Plan – The RFP presented the Network Strategic Plan
- Results from the evaluation of GEF-CSO Network by the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) was also discussed and the need for the network to avoid rancor and work as a united body was emphasized.
- Presentation of the 2016 CSO Forum report, which was adopted as the issues discussed then was still relevant.
- ECW Agenda – Participants went through the agenda for ECW meeting; and Mr Williams, the GEF representative, give a short run-through and highlight specific areas that would require CSO input.

Session2: GEF Public Involvement Policy

The RFP kick-off the session by introducing the GEF Public Involvement Policy which was presented in a power point slide. The meeting also included exposure to the GEF Public Involvement Policy which is now called the CSO Engagement Policy which aim to build a more inclusive and robust engagement by the public in GEF projects and the need for CSOs to play invaluable roles at ensuring GEF deliverables at the country levels. Participants shared experience from their countries on the PIP. The presentation included the recommendations from the review done by the Network and the findings from the ongoing GEF review of the policy. This was re-enforced by contributions from Williams from the

GEF Secretariat, who also encouraged the participants who had not made their submissions to do so before the end of the deadline.

Session 3: GEF 7 Processes

In this session, the RFP presented the history and background of previous GEF replenishments and the role and input from CSO in the process. It was also emphasized that CSOs desiring to actively participate in GEF projects should be familiar with GEF policies and processes and to build their skills to work within the windows of opportunities provided by GEF. The GEF 7 replenishment seeks to increase budgetary portfolio for GEF projects including the GEF SGP.

Session 4: Comments and/or suggestions

The participants developed the following suggestions:

- Development of topical networks for CSO involvement in MSP. The networks can operate, share information and develop applications for MSPs based on a common focal area
- Formation of modalities concerning CSO involvement in FSPs and MSPs.
- CSO's should work together across shared objectives and present joint proposals.
- Arrangement of meetings between CSOs and Governments aiming to improve the operations of CSOs in GEF related projects and increase the capacity for their involvement, as well as provide bottom-up feedback to governmental bodies.
- CSOs in the region should provide valuable guidance and advice to governments on specific environmental and ecological challenges.
- SGP is a strong and practical instrument for CSOs involvement in GEF funded projects, therefore, STAR-allocation for SGP GEF in GEF 7 Cycle should be increased.

Session 5: The way forward

The RFP lead the discussion on options to enhance CSO engagement in GEF-CSO Network activities in the region and capacity strengthening needs and opportunities for CSOs. This included identification of specific practical activities that can be undertaken in the region in the coming year. These feedback and recommendations is to be compiled and reported in the meeting report which will be submitted to GEF Secretariat. The following are key issues for CSO engagement with UNDP/SGP.

- Expanding the CSO-GEF membership to be more representative including marginalized and specialized groups to enrich the composition.
- Give publicity and generally strengthen the network at national level.
- CSO's should work together across shared objectives and present joint proposals.
- Generally strengthen the capacity of CSO's. Thematic trainings should be identified and organized.
- Establish a designated platform which will be used among others to share experiences, explore capacity building opportunities among others
- Strengthening of partnerships with government and CSO's should be facilitated by GEF.
- GEF should consider increasing its financial support to facilitate the attendance of more CSO's to ECWS

- GEF considers providing support for National dialogues as it affords all stakeholders the opportunity to deliberate on GEF 7.

Session 5: Feedback

An evaluation form (**Appendix 4**) was distributed in the meeting and collected at the end. The feedback is hereby analysed and synthesised in this report to be submitted to GEF-CSO Network Secretariat and GEF Secretariat.

The following statements are excerpted in whole from the questionnaire and are representative of the sentiment that was expressed at the meeting.

On the purpose of attending the meeting and its value for their organisations, most of the participants stated that the meeting *“will help them in order to share knowledge and experiences from other CSOs”, “for knowledge and skill development”, “Review GEF programs and how to move the network forward”, “Will help my organisation grow and how to engage with GEF and the GEF 7 replenishment process”*.

Most of the participants stated that the meeting agenda was quite relevant and useful.

On what actions they plan to do to follow up the meeting, the participants stated the following: *“To communicate and disseminate information regarding the workshop to other members of the network”, “To enjoin other CSOs in their country to join the network”, “to engage their country Operational and Political Focal persons for effective partnership and collaboration”, “More ‘technical’/detailed discussions on accessing Medium- Large Sizes projects shared by CSOs who did it before” “Focus on the role of CSOs and participation in the GEF projects”*. On any suggestions to enhance the work of the GEF CSO Network, the participants stated that *“information sharing should be more frequent”, “Create opportunities for learning and sharing among members of the network”, “Allocate more resources to the network to strengthen national coalition and membership capacity building at country levels”, “need for stronger partnership between the GEF CSO Network and the government at the country levels”*.

Appendix 1. Meeting Attendance Register.

S/No	Name	Organization/Institution/Country	Address/E-mail/pho	Signature
1	Priscilla M. Achakpa	RFP, WEP, Nigeria	Blk E Att 2, Arinba Court Cudwora Est, Abuja-Nigeria	[Signature]
2	Mary Jane Enchill	Climate Action Network - Ghana	pmachakpa@gmail.com	[Signature]
3	De Ce' Noël Kpoghom	ONG. R.E. GUIZAH. Guinees	Cayghana@yahoo.com / njane.enchill@gmail.com	[Signature]
4	BELEYI Abalo	ONG JVP MR - TOGO	Ce cenrel04@yahoo.fr	[Signature]
5	AKPOCAN Awausa	IBID-ONG / Benin	jvpvr2000@gmail.com	[Signature]
6	APATA Rosemond Epaus Boli	ONG- MIA FUBO / Cote d'Ivoire	lidwine.olepaga@gmail.com	[Signature]
7	TERENES HAY-EGRE	ONG/GEF Sustainable Program	mabubera@gmail.com	[Signature]
8	NABEELA Tounis	WOMEN'S NETWORK FOR ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY (WONES)	tenue.bay-edic@gmail.com	[Signature]
9	OKEZIE, Kehchukun	CCP Nigeria - New Foundation	ntunise@yahoo.com	[Signature]
10	Kona S. Lellie	Young Liberian Women Organization for Improvement	okeziekelly@gmail.com	[Signature]
11	Chibere Eze Kikel	Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND), Ghana	y1bwofim@yahoo.com	[Signature]
12	AWOUGNON Comlan	Togo GEF OFF	syndgban@hotmail.com	[Signature]
13	WEATESTI Tchaon.	Togo GEF PFP	chibere01@yahoo.com	[Signature]
14	Grant Anims	Rehabilitation International Ghana	caubougnon@yahoo.fr	[Signature]
15	EQUATOJE FESTUS O. IKOJIN	GEF DESK OFFICE PKS DEPT., FED MIN. OF ENV ABUJA	gerwanis_meeke@yahoo.com	[Signature]
			rehabghana@yahoo.com	[Signature]
			obogbun1984@gmail.com	[Signature]
			09033343564	



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET



Appendix2.

Draft Agenda for the Regional CSO Meeting | GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop Accra, Ghana | 9 October 2017

Invitees: GEF CSO Network Regional Focal Point (RFP), Selected CSOs, GEF Secretariat Representative, GEF Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) Representative

Time	Details	Responsibility
09:00 – 09:15	Welcome Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GEF CSO Network RFP and GEF Secretariat 	GEF CSO Net RFP GEF Secretariat Representative
09:15 – 10:30	Session 1: Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-introductions-CSO participants Objectives and agenda of CSO meeting Agenda for ECW Key issues for CSO engagement with UNDP/SGP in the afternoon session Presentation of the 2016 CSO Forum Report 	GEF CSO Net RFP GEF Secretariat Representative
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break	All
10:45 – 13:00	Session 2: CSOs and the GEF-7 Replenishment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This session will explore the key role of the GEF CSO Network, as well as of CSOs in general, and explore modalities for enhanced participation in the GEF-7 Replenishment process. GEF-7 Replenishment Update by GEF Secretariat Representative OPS-6 Preparations by GEF IEO Representative Open discussion and inputs from CSOs on potentialities for CSO Engagement in GEF-7 Closure & Group Photo	Moderators Moderator 1 Moderator 2 Moderator 3 GEF Secretariat Representative GEF IEO Representative

13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	All
---------------	-------	-----

Appendix 3. ECW Agenda



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop – Draft Agenda

Accra, Ghana | 9 to 12 October 2017

DAY 1 – Monday

08:30 – 12:00	CSO Meeting (CSOs) + Constituency Meeting (OFP/PFPs)
12:00 – 13:30	LUNCH
13:30 – 17:00	SGP Meeting (CSOs, OFP/PFPs, GEF Agencies)

DAY 2 – Tuesday

08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:30	Opening Remarks
09:30 – 10:30	GEF-7 Replenishment – Q&A Session
10:30 – 12:00	GEF Independent Evaluation Office – Update on OPS6
12:00 – 13:30	LUNCH
13:30 – 15:00	Facilitating synergies in implementing Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) towards sustainable development – Q&A Session
15:00 – 15:30	Introduction to Green Finance – Q&A Session
15:30 – 16:00	Stakeholder Engagement & Gender Equality – Exercise & Q&A Session
16:00 – 18:00	Multi-stakeholder / Ecosystem Scorecard Simulation Game
18:00 – 20:00	Reception

DAY 3 – Wednesday

08:30 – 12:30	Art of Knowledge Exchange Training – Exercise & Q&A Session
12:30 – 14:00	LUNCH
14:00 – 15:00	Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT)
15:00 – 16:00	Capacity Development in the GEF – Q&A Session
16:00 – 17:00	Wrap-up and Surveys

DAY 4 – Thursday

08:30 – 13:00	Knowledge Day – Site Visit
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH

Appendix 4.

FEEDBACK FORM
CSO Meeting in Accra Ghana, 09/10/2017
(GEF ECW Coastal West African Region)

1. Name/organization :
2. Purpose of attending the meeting :
3. Agenda (usefulness, relevance to GEF and issues in the region, other comments or suggestions)
4. Feedback on the value of participation in the meeting for you/your organization :
5. What action do you plan to do to follow up the meeting :
6. Any comments or suggestions for improvement in the organization of future meetings :
 - a) Travel/accommodation/logistic issues
 - b) Meeting organization and programme
7. Any suggestions to enhance the work of the GEF CSO Network:
8. Any other comments.

Appendix 5. Pictures from the Workshop



Plate A. The RFP, West Africa, Dr Priscilia Achakpa Facilitating the sessions.

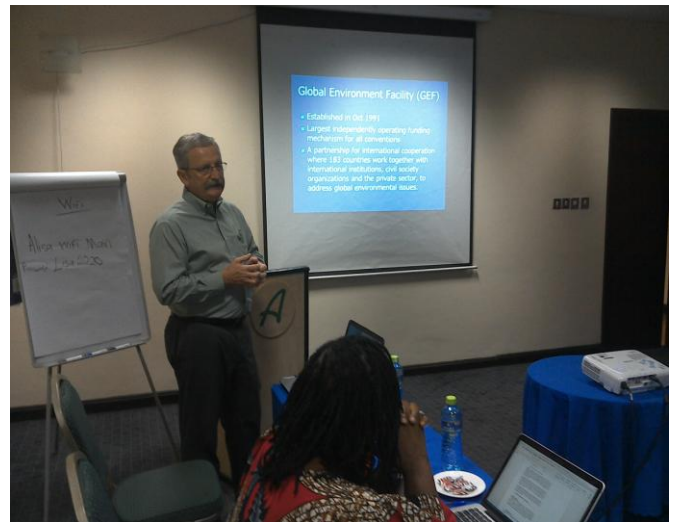


Plate B. Rep of GEF Secretariat, Mr. Williams making his Presentations at the meeting



The CCP-Nigeria, Dr. Okezie, making a presentation



Cross Section of Participants at the Workshop.