

SUMMARY FROM COASTAL WEST AFRICAN CONSTITUTENCY REGIONAL CSO MEETING 2-Nov-2015

GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop

Cotonou, Benin



GEF CSO NETWORK MEMBERS WITH THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT



GEF CSO COASTAL WEST AFRICA EXPANDED WORKSHOP IN COTONOU, BENIN REPUBLIC

Introduction



- ▶ Workshop attended by 11 CSO representatives from 8 countries :
 - Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Togo
- ▶ Key discussion issues :
 - CSO engagement in GEF 6
 - Strengthening CSO engagement at country/regional level
 - Enhancing CSO Participation in GEF activities through GEF Small Grants Programme
 - Independent Evaluation of the GEF CSOs



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Overview of GEF–CSO Network



- ▶ Established in 1995 to link civil society organizations to GEF and facilitates input to GEF policy-making and implementation
- ▶ An independent/autonomous network with nearly 500 member organizations from all regions around the world.
- ▶ Governed by a Coordination Committee comprising 16 Regional Focal points and three Indigenous Peoples' Focal points and a **Central Focal Point(Revised Chair & Vice Chair)**
- ▶ Recognized by the GEF Council and GEF Secretariat as a key entity in the work of the GEF.
- ▶ Organise Civil Society consultations prior to GEF Council and CSO Forum during GEF Assembly
- ▶ Monitor and build capacity at regional and national level for CSO engagement in GEF activities



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Membership



- ▶ Open to all non profit CSOs working in the focal areas of GEF
- ▶ Application web based with submission of basic information through www.gefcso.org
- ▶ 58 members in 16 West Africa Countries
- ▶ Membership is equivalent to accreditation to GEF – for participation in GEF related meetings



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Current RFPs/IPFP in West Africa



- *Priscilla M Achakpa*
- *Legborsi Saro Pyagbara*



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Public Involvement Policy and options for CSOs



- ▶ Effective public involvement is critical to the success of GEF– financed projects, with emphasis on local participation.
- ▶ Public involvement comprises three related and often overlapping processes: (a) information dissemination; (b) consultation; and (c) stakeholder participation.
- ▶ It has principles that cannot be overlooked
- ▶ Principles include:
 - Social, Environmental and Financial Sustainability
 - Country Responsibility (government and GEF Agencies)
 - Flexibility
 - Broad-based and sustainable
 - Transparency

Rational

- ▶ Enhancing recipient country ownership of, and accountability for, project outcomes
- ▶ Addressing the social and economic needs of affected people
- ▶ Building partnerships among project executing agencies and stakeholders
- ▶ Making use of skills, experiences, and knowledge in the design, implementation and evaluation of project activities.

Enhancing CSO Participation and Case Studies



- This was observed to be key for the success of the network
- GEF Programs are developed around its operational areas
- Environmental degradation are linked in complex ways therefore integrated thinking inspires creative and inclusive solutions that deliver environmental benefits

Mechanism to Enhance CSO Engagement at Country /Regional Level



- ▶
- ▶ The GEF–CSO Network has the prerogative to appoint a member organization of the GEF CSO Network as a Country Contact Point (CCP)
- ▶ The role of the CCP is to actively assist the Regional Focal Point (RFP) in the development of the GEF–CSO Network in a specific country in the Region.
- ▶ Some other responsibilities include:–
 - ▶ Promoting the GEF–CSO Network whenever possible
 - ▶ Providing, upon request from the GEF–CSO Network CFP or RFP, information pertinent to their activities and country when necessary
 - ▶ Assisting the RFP in information gathering and dissemination
 - ▶ Ensure partnership with government and GEF IAs
 - ▶ Reporting on a 6–monthly basis , etc

GEF CSO Evaluation – IEO



- ▶ The process is Independent from the GEF Council/Secretariat but findings would be reported to GEF Council

Objectives include:

- ▶ Promoting accountability
- ▶ Promoting learning, feedback and knowledge sharing
- ▶ Mission is to enhance environmental benefits through excellence, independence and partnership in monitoring and evaluation

Capacity Strengthening Needs and Opportunities for CSO



- ▶ Training in strategic directions of GEF Operational areas (climate change, biodiversity, sustainable land management, persistent organic pollutants and international waters)
- ▶ Fund raising strategy
- ▶ Training in Project proposal development for funding
- ▶ Accelerated networking with the private sector
- ▶ Improve CSOs Communication strategies &
- ▶ Monitoring and evaluation

Conclusions & Recommendations from the workshop



- At the national level, the visibility and participation of CSOs in the National Steering Committee and Small Grants evaluation should be reinforced
- Action should be taken by members of the GEF CSO Network together with the government focal points to help inform civil society stakeholders on opportunities for involvement in the development of full-sized projects.
- GEF should provide support for regular Regional meetings and other knowledge sharing and technical exchange opportunities among CSOs and other stakeholders in the region
- Increase the GEF SGP budget in the region and strengthen SGP outreach and capacity building activities for CSOs.

Conclusions & Recommendations from the workshop



- ▶ Annual meetings should be held in each country between CSOs and the GEF Operational focal points (as agreed by GEF Council Nov 2010).
- ▶ GEF Public Involvement policy needs to be fully implemented in this region especially in the development of government led projects. In particular –
 - Early engagement of CSOs in national consultation and portfolio development processes.
 - Development of clear guidelines for Civil society engagement – both generic and country specific
 - Effective participation of civil society in project development and formulation.
 - Special policy/mechanisms for engagement of indigenous and local communities
 - Enhanced consideration of gender and social issues

Conclusions & Recommendations from the workshop



- ▶ Strengthen existing GEF SGP networks and link them to the GEF CSOs especially the grantees
- ▶ SGP should consider support for joint projects between CSOs in adjacent countries to facilitate sharing and joint capacity building.
- ▶ Specific guidelines or tools/learning materials (eg documentation of lessons learned and good practices should be developed to stimulate enhanced stakeholder engagement in GEF projects and programme development in the region



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GROUP DISCUSSION >>

INDEPENDENT EVALUATION EXERCISE, FRENCH-SPEAKING TEAM



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GROUP DISCUSSION >>

INDEPENDENT EVALUATION EXERCISE, ENGLISH-SPEAKING TEAM

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**THANK YOU
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