

GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop CSO Meeting (Central Asia)

Radisson Hotel – 26 September 2017, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Report



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1. Name/organisation:

Vakhtang Kochoradze / CENN – Caucasus Environmental NGO Network; the Regional Focal Point (RFP) for the Eastern Europe and Central Asian (EECA) region of the GEF-CSO Network.

2. Purpose of attending the meeting:

Represent the GEF-CSO Network; host the CSO meeting (26 September) giving talks on GEF and the GEF-CSO Network; update the attendees on the GEF-CSO Network Strategic Plan for 2015 – 2022 and discuss, comment and network with regional CSOs, GEF focal points and the GEF Secretariat.

Attend and provide input in the SGP deliberations and identify priority areas for GEF 7 during the SGP Consultation.

3. Main expectations and objectives of the CSOs' participation in the meeting:

CSOs attended the ECW CSO meeting with the following expectations:

- To learn about the GEF-CSO Network
- To learn about the GEF and GEF policies
- To share experiences and showcase their recent GEF-funded projects
- To network with other CSOs active in the region
- To learn about funding opportunities within the SGP framework
- To find new opportunities for more CSOs' active involvement in GEF activities on regional and local levels (e.g. communities, etc.)
- Provide input on a number of issues concerned with the GEF CSO Network

4. Agenda

The CSO Meeting agenda was well suited to the interests of the CSO participants in the meeting.

5. Summary of identified barriers

The following problems and observations were provided in the CSO meeting, SGP Consultations and ECW:

- Newly established CSOs experience problems connected to skills for carrying out various GEF related projects and programmes, although the same trend can be observed in more experienced CSOs/NGOs
- Lack of information concerning the on-going MSPs and FSPs in respective countries to enable CSO to monitor and address pressing issues where local environmental and/or social characteristics are taken into account
- More information is needed for what GEF projects are being carried out in each country.
- CSO participation (design, implementation, etc.) in GEF financed projects are often times formal only

- Many GEF financed projects do not affect the grassroots communities, who are the most vulnerable and in need for assistance
- CSO involvement in MSP and FSP is low

6. Comments and/or suggestions

The participants developed the following suggestions:

- Local communities' capacity development is essential to support Community Based Management (CBM) mechanisms; therefore, strengthening grassroots movements as well as local NGOs is important. CBM is important to sustain the sustainability of various projects implemented in respective areas, as sustainability of project results proves to be a concern in many cases. The importance and effectiveness of GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) should be noted for supporting the work of communities and CSOs to meet the overall objective of "global environmental benefits secured through community-based initiatives and actions".
- Arrangement of meetings between CSOs and Governments aiming to improve the operations of CSOs in GEF related projects and increase of the capacity for their involvement, as well as provision of bottom-up feedback to governmental bodies.
- Skill building is necessary to increase the project implementation and organizational capacities of the aforementioned CSO/NGOs.
- Many CSOs lack expertise to carry out various tasks that can be imposed by GEF projects. Therefore, CSO representatives should undergo trainings to acquire respective skills in projects management as well as enable them to be more comfortable with working with GEF documentation.
- Increase/Encourage the number of grassroots NGOs in regions to have a local view on the issues people experience on the ground.
- Develop National GEF CSO Networks, which will work under the umbrella of the GEF CSO Network. This will enable a better understanding of the conditions various NGOs are in different countries and enhance representation. In addition, the Networks can become a mechanism for project sustainability once the project is over.
- Develop GEF CSO Network informational bulletin in Russian. The task can be handled by CCPs in respective countries.
- GEF recipient country strategies should include a policy that will involve CSOs in all project designs/implementation/monitoring.
- Create thematic groups within the CSO Network, as to have better focus on the carried out work.

7. What actions do you plan to follow up the meeting?

The following actions are planned by the RFP in the follow-up of the meeting:

- Submit recommendations to the GEF-CSO Network's Chair and Governance Committee
- Facilitate regional information coverage
- Cooperate with CCPs on the development of informational monthly bulletins in Russian language

Annex 1. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

#	Member Country	Gender	First Name	Last Name	Job Title	Current Employer	Email	Attendance
1.	Armenia	M	Tigran	Ghazanchyan		Ecolur	ghazanchyan1986@gmail.com	Yes
2.	Armenia	F	Viktorya	Burnazyan	Expert	Ecolur	vicaburnazyan@gmail.com	No
3.	Azerbaijan	M	Bariz	Mehdiyev	Director	REC Azerbaijan	barizali@gmail.com	Yes
4.	Belarus	M	Alexandre	Vintchevski	CEO	APB-BirdLife Belarus	a.vintchevski@gmail.com	Yes
5.	Georgia	M	Vakhtang	Kochoradze	Environmental Officer	CENN (Caucasus Environmental NGO Network)	Vakho.kochoradze@cenn.org	Yes
6.	Kazakhstan	M	Askhat	Suleimenov	Executive Director	ULE "Coalition for green economy and G-Global Development"	ashat.777@mail.ru	Yes
7.	Kazakhstan	F	Saule	Sabiyeva	Head of division of Green Economy	Ministry of Energy of Republic of Kazakhstan		Yes
8.	Kyrgyzstan	M	Aitkul	Burkhanov	General Director	Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users	aburhanov@mail.ru	Yes
9.	Russian Federation	M	Vladimir	Lagutov	Cairman	NGO Green Don	zedon@novoch.ru	Yes
10.	Tajikistan	F	Tatiana	Novikova	Gender manager	NOOSFERA	noosfera@biodiv.tjikiston.com	Yes
11.	Uzbekistan	F	Muradilla	Bazarov	Program Coordinator	Ecoforum of Uzbekistan	ecoforum.uz@gmail.com	No
12.	Uzbekistan	M	Artur	Vakhitov	Programs Coordinator	Ecoforum of Uzbekistan	ecoforum.uz@gmail.com	Yes
13.	Uzbekistan	F	Liliana	Sin	Director	NGO KRASS	liliana.sin66@mail.ru	No
14.	Uzbekistan	F	Elena	Kan	Member	NGO KRASS	kanelena@gmail.com	Yes
15.	Uzbekistan	F	Zulfiya	Mamadaliyeva	Head of department	Zulfiya	mamadaliyeva.zulfiya@mail.ru	Yes
16.	Uzbekistan	M	Ibragimjon	Domuladjanov	Chairman	Association for Environmentally Friendly Fergana	h.khomechko@epf.uz	Yes
17.	Uzbekistan	F	Natalya	Shivaldova	Director of Public Organization	Ecological and resource center "EKOMAKTAB"	natalia.shivaldova@gmail.com	No

18.	Uzbekistan	F	Leonia	Zababurin	Lead Expert	Ecological and resource center "EKOMAKTAB		Yes
19.	Uzbekistan	M	Azizbek	Davlyatov	Researcher	Nam ITI	Davlyatov.azizbek@gmail.com	Yes
20.	Uzbekistan	M	Inomor	Jaforbek	Researcher	Nam ITI	Jafarbek1408@gmail.com	Yes
21.	Uzbekistan	M	Ravshanjow	Isnoilov	Researcher	Nam ITI	R_ismoilov59@mail.ru	Yes
22.	Uzbekistan	F	Maftuna	Abdurakhmonova	Researcher	Nam ITI	maftunaAbdurakhmonova1512@gmail.com	Yes
23.	Uzbekistan	M	Abdulmalik	Tadjibaev	Researcher	Nam ITI	Abdulmalik5058058@gmail.com	Yes

Annex 2. AGENDA FOR THE REGIONAL CSO MEETING

(One day prior to GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop, 6 March 2016)

Venue: Leopold Hotel, Lviv, Ukraine

DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE REGIONAL CSO MEETING (6 March 2017)		
Time	Details	Responsibility
8:30 – 9:00	Welcome Remarks	RFP – Vakho Kochoradze and GEF Sec Representative(s)
9:00 – 9:45	SESSION 1: INTRODUCTION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-introductions • Objectives and agenda of meeting • An Overview of GEF and the GEF-CSO Network • GEF CSO Network Strategic Plan 2015-2022 • 	RFP – Vakho Kochoradze
9:45 – 10:00	Coffee Break	
10:00 – 11:00	SESSION 2: GEF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT POLICY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion and inputs from CSOs on level of engagement of CSOs in GEF Programme implementation in respective countries/region • Presentation of 2-3 Case studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Создание Системы хранителей для наиболее значимых водноболотных охраняемых территорий Беларуси - Alexandre Vintchevski ○ Работа КАФЛУ – Aitkul Birhanov ○ EcoLur and HPPs - Tigran Ghazanchyan ○ Water basin management in Russia - Vladimir Lagutov 	RFP – Vakho Kochoradze
11:00 – 11:15	SESSION 3: GEF 7 PROCESSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GEF7 replenishment (Cancelled) 	GEF Sec Rep.
11:15 – 12:00	SESSION 4: THE WAY FORWARD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of options to enhance CSO engagement in GEF CSO Network activities in the region • Capacity strengthening needs and opportunities for CSOs • Summary of deliberations and meeting outcome to the ECW 	RFP – Vakho Kochoradze
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	

Annex 3. LIST OF PRESENTATIONS

- Создание Системы хранителей для наиболее значимых водноболотных охраняемых территорий Беларуси - Alexandre Vintchevski
- Работа KAFLU – Aitkul Birhanov
- EcoLur and HPPs - Tigran Ghazanchyan
- Water basin management in Russia - Vladimir Lagutov

Annex 4. CSO/NGO members from 15 countries

No	Country	CSO/NGO
1.	Armenia	Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment
2.	Armenia	EcoTeam - Energy and Environmental consulting NGO
3.	Armenia	"Green Lane" Agricultural Assistance NGO
4.	Azerbaijan	"For Healthy Life" Ecological Public Union
5.	Azerbaijan	"Eko- Alem" (Eco-World) Public Union
6.	Azerbaijan	Ecological Society Ruzgar
7.	Azerbaijan	National Centre of Environment Forecasting (NCEG)/ECO-REAL
8.	Belarus	APB-BirdLife Belarus (Akhova ptushak Batskaushchyny)
9.	Belarus	Public Association "Belarusian Environmental Movement"
10.	Bosnia-Herzegovina	Forestry and Environmental Action
11.	Croatia	The Institute for International Relations
12.	Georgia	Association for Farmers Rights Defence
13.	Georgia	Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN)
14.	Georgia	Regional Environmental Centre Caucasus (REC Caucasus)
15.	Georgia	International Centre for Caucasus Tourism (ICCT)
16.	Georgia	Sustainable Development Centre "Remissia"
17.	Georgia	Union "Green Way"
18.	Kazakhstan	Aral Tenizi
19.	Kazakhstan	Biodiversity Conservation Fund of Kazakhstan
20.	Kazakhstan	Climate Change Coordination Centre (CCCC)
21.	Kazakhstan	Farmer of Kazakhstan
22.	Kazakhstan	Socio - Ecological Fund
23.	Kyrgyz Republic	Public Association "Ekois-Bishkek"
24.	Kyrgyz Republic	Independent Ecological Expertise
25.	Kyrgyz Republic	Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users (KAFLU)
26.	Kyrgyz Republic	Rural Development Fund
27.	Kyrgyz Republic	Youth Ecological Movement "BIOM"
28.	Moldova	Public Association BIOS
29.	Moldova	Ecological Movement of Moldova
30.	Moldova	Women's Association for the Environment Protection and Sustainable Development (AFPMDD)
31.	Moldova	Terra-1530
32.	Russian Federation	Environmental Educational Centre
33.	Russian Federation	Russian Association of indigenous Peoples of the North RAIPON

No	Country	CSO/NGO
34.	Serbia	NGO "Local Agenda 21 for Kostolac-Municipality"
35.	Serbia	International Scientific Forum "Danube-River of Cooperation"
36.	Tajikistan	Foundation to support civil initiatives (FSCI, Dastgirie-Center)
37.	Tajikistan	CSO "Sustainable development"
38.	Tajikistan	National Association of Dehkan Farms Republic of Tajikistan
39.	Tajikistan	Young Generation of Tajikistan
40.	Tajikistan	Association of Forest and Land Users of Tajikistan
41.	Turkmenistan	Tebigy Kuwwat Social Unit Enterprise
42.	Ukraine	Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Birds
43.	Uzbekistan	Ecoforum of Uzbekistan