



GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop

CSOs Regional Meeting. 31st July 2012

Maputo, Mozambique



REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS



Preamble

We, the representatives of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), met to share knowledge and experiences on 31st July 2012 in Maputo, Mozambique. We acknowledge the support provided by the GEF Secretariat through funds from the Voluntary Funds and the opportunity to do so. Lastly, we thank organizations that participated in this important meeting.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The GEF Expanded Constituency Workshops (ECW) are held annually 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. The 2012 ECW was unique as a CSOs Meeting was held on 31st July 2012 prior to the main workshop which was conducted from 1st to 2nd August 2012.

2.0 ORGANISATION OF THE WORKSHOP

2.1 *Workshop Duration: One Day*

3.0 PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS

- (a) GEF NGO Network members and potential members (past recipients of GEF funds), including the GEF Secretariat Staff (For a full list, please see **Appendix 1: List of Participants**)

4.0 ADMINISTRATION

- Chairperson, Victor Kawanga, GEF NGO Network RFP, Southern Africa

- Vice Chairperson, Malintle Kheleli, GEM, Lesotho

5.0 LOGISTICS

- William Ehlers, Head-External Affairs, Gef Secretariat
- Maria Del Pilar Barrera, Operations Officer - Civil Society/Capacity Development, GEF Secretariat
- Susan Waithaka, GEF Secretariat
- Robert Schreiber, GEF Secretariat

6.0 FACILITATORS

- GEF Secretariat
- GEF NGO Network
- CSOs
- GEF SGP, Mozambique

7.0 RAPPORTEURS

1. Victor Kawanga- Zambia
2. Malintle C.M. Kheleli-Lesotho

8.0 APPROACH

- Paper presentations
- Visual presentations through PowerPoint and Charts

9.0 CHRONICLE OF EVENTS

Arrival and Registration of participants: 31st July 2012

Participants were given:

- ❖ Plain sheets of paper and a pen

Welcome remarks

Welcoming remarks were made by Victor Kawanga, RFP, Southern Africa, who also assumed the role of Chair. Self introductions were followed by presentations from representatives of participating organizations.

OFFICIAL OPENING - 09:00 hrs

The meeting was opened by Maria Del Pilar Barrera from the GEF Secretariat who welcomed the participating CSOs. She explained that this is the first time GEF has sponsored a CSO meeting prior to the ECW meeting.



Co-Workshop Rapporteur Mamolapo from the Geography and Environment Movement, Lesotho making a point during the CSOs Meeting while colleagues attentively follow her points

INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS led by Victor Kawanga, RFP, Southern Africa

Participants were made to introduce themselves citing their respective names and institutions, which they represented.

MAIN DELIBERATIONS

Opportunities for CSO involvement in GEF were described including:

- Policy input (especially to the GEF Council);
- Input to GEF project identification and design;
- Project implementation (SGP, MSP, FSP);
- Acting as project partners or service providers or project advisers/steering committee members; Facilitating engagement of indigenous and local communities and other project target groups; monitoring and enhancing CSO access to GEF resources.

GEF Secretariat through William Ehlers, Head External Relations gave a briefing on the main GEF policies related to civil society including: the GEF Public Involvement Policy; GEF Policy on Minimum Agency Environmental and Social Standards; and the GEF Gender Policy.

A range of presentations and case studies were given in relation to the GEF Small Grants Programme and the experience of CSOs in the sub region by Paula Boane, Programme Assistant, GEF SGP, Mozambique.



A summary was presented that discussed the needs and options to strengthen the work of CSOs to address global environment issues in the regions and enhance the functioning of the GEF NGO Network.

Challenges

Some of the challenges to the effective operation of environment related CSOs in the region were identified as:

- Weak cooperation between CSOs and their respective governments
- Lack of democratic and enabling environment in many countries
- Weak institutional infrastructure for many CSOs and poor capacity in many organisations to undertake their mission
- Culture of volunteerism is at low level in some countries
- Lack of cooperation between CSOs at the country level



Clive Chibule, participant from Green Living Movement (GLM), Zambia making a presentation on Indigenous issues through their experiences and interaction with local communities

The main conclusions were:

- There is significant experience in CSOs in the region in the development and implementation of GEF projects – both GEF SGP funded and full sized projects
- CSOs have great experience in outreach and engagement of local communities as well as technical areas related to all GEF focal areas.
- In most countries in the region –historically there has been little direct involvement of CSOs in the development of country 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 in addressing environmental challenges.
- Meetings between GEF Focal Points - CSOs regular are not being organised in most countries and until recently there has been no option for regional CSO meetings.

Recommendations

A range of recommendations to overcome the challenges were identified including:

- Enhance the collaboration between environmental CSOs and related government agencies through dialogues and joint activities and oblige governments to involve CSOs in medium and full sized projects.
- Strengthen institutional capacity for CSOs through capacity building and institutional grants
- GEF should provide support for regular Regional meetings and other knowledge sharing platforms among NGOs in the region
- Strengthen the GEF SGP outreach and capacity building activities for CSOs; strengthen existing GEF SGP networks link them to the GEF NGO Network. The GEF SGP should consider support for joint projects between NGOs in adjacent countries to facilitate sharing and joint capacity building
- Provide additional resources to strengthen regional cooperation and sharing through the GEF NGO Network and establish coordination mechanisms at country level in those countries with a significant number of CSOs or large scale GEF activities – such as country forums of focal points. The work of the GEF NGO network should be promoted in the region and more organisations encouraged to join.
- Annual meetings should be held in each country between CSOs and the GEF Operational Focal Points (as agreed by GEF Council Nov 2010).
- Action should be taken by members of the GEF NGO 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 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
- Specific guidelines or tools/learning materials (eg documentation of lessons learned and good practices for civil society engagement) should be developed to stimulate enhanced CSO engagement in GEF project and programme development in the region.

- Develop a regional GEF project to facilitate practical action to address common environment problems and scale up good practices.
- The level of CSO engagement in GEF project and programme development in the region should be documented and monitored by GEF NGO Network in conjunction with GEF Focal Points, Agencies and Secretariat; and a report on progress and constraints to enhancing CSO engagement in GEF projects and programmes in the region should be prepared and submitted to future Regional CSO meetings or annual ECW meetings.



Francois Du Toit Summarising the day's deliberations during the CSOs Meeting, Avenida Hotel, Maputo, Mozambique, 31st July, 2012

Appendix 1: List of Participants

No	Full Name	Sex	Organisation	Position	Country	Contact
	Maria Del Pilar Barrera	F	GEF Secretariat	Operations Officer - Civil Society/Capacity Development	USA	GEF Secretariat
	Susan Waithaka	F	GEF Secretariat	Country Relations	USA	GEF Secretariat
	Malintle Kheleli	F	Geography and Environmental Movement(GEM)	Chairperson	Lesotho	kmalintle@yahoo.com +266—580-49714
	Victor Kawanga	M	GEF NGO NETWORK	RFP	Zambia	kawangavik@yahoo.co.uk +260-975-215753
	Francois Du Toit	M	African Conservation Foundation (ACF)	CEO	RSA	projects@projectafrica.com +27(0)33-342-2844, +27(0)828-526466
	Clive Chibule	M	Green Living Movement (GLM)	Project Coordinator	Zambia	clivechibule@yahoo +260-977-899976
	Edwin Sekelechi	M	Food and Trees for Zambia	Executive Director	Zambia	sekelechi@yahoo.co.uk +260-966-458471
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	Carla Fumagalu	F	L.V.I.A	Project Coordinator	Mozambique	lvia@zinave@gmail.com
	Mosala Mokutlulu	M	Development for Peace Education	Educator, Researcher	Lesotho	mosalamokutlulu@gmail.com
	Eugenion Benhe	M	Adech-Chitondo	Project Coordinator	Mozambique	eugenibenhe@hotmail.com 8204808560
	Godfrey Mfiti	M	Community Initiative for Social Enhancement	Programme Manager	South Africa	godfreymfiti@hotmail.com southafricacise@gmail.com
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	Paula Boane	F	UNDP/SGP	Programme Assistant	Mozambique	Paula.boane@undp.org +258-824510030
	Camilo Nhancale	M	Kuwuka JDA, Youth Development and Environmental Advocacy	Board Chairperson	Mozambique	caconha@yahoo.com