

Pacific Regional CSO Meeting

*Nuku'alofa, Tonga
25th July 2017*



Meeting Report



Civil Society Meeting of the Pacific Regional Extended Constituency Workshop

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.

1.0 Introduction

The Civil Society Organization (CSO) meeting of the GEF Pacific Regional Extended Constituency Workshop (ECW) was held on Tuesday 25th of July, 2017. The ECW meeting was held in Nuku'alofa, Tonga and was attended by Pacific Region countries including the Philippines, Indonesia and Timor Leste.

2.0 Objectives of the Meeting

The objectives of the CSO meeting are:

1. Strengthen awareness of GEF CSO Network within the CSO sector in the region
2. Enhance CSO engagement of GEF projects at the country level, and
3. Build greater awareness of the GEF's Public Involvement Policy and how it relates to CSOs in our region

The expected outputs of the Meeting are:

1. The CSOs attending the meeting who are not members of the GEF CSO Network register into the Network.
2. CSOs actively engage in building/strengthening partnerships with their government sector colleagues to enhance project/program implementation at the country level.
3. CSOs increase knowledge of GEF projects in country through exposure to GEF website and government colleagues at country tables.

The CSO meeting was attended by representatives from a majority of the Pacific countries. A list of participants is appended to this report. Additionally, Mr. William Ehlers of the GEF Secretariat was present to welcome the meeting participants on behalf of the GEF. The meeting was also attended by Ms. Yoko Watanabe (Global Manager) and Mr. Charles Nyandiga of the GEF Small Grants Programme. A number of countries had gov't representatives attending the meeting these countries include Niue, Palau and Papua New Guinea. The meeting was also attended by two of the implementing agencies working with countries in this region, UNDP and UNE.

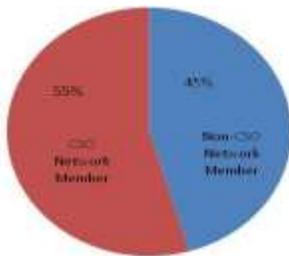
3.0 Summary of Meeting

The meeting was attended by 12 of the 13 CSO members whose attendance was financially supported by the GEF. A participant list is appended to this report. Airline connectivity challenges resulted in Timor Leste's absence at the meeting. Meeting participants discussed the GEF-CSO Network and were updated on the Network's strategic plan. Discussions reaffirmed the value of CSOs participation in GEF supported national projects. The meeting also included exposure to the GEF Public Involvement Policy which is now called the CSO Engagement Policy to reflect a more inclusive nature and invaluable part CSOs play in the real life work of GEF in the countries and project levels. CSO participants received a copy of this document prior to their arrival in Tonga. At the ECW they were updated on the policy in both the CSO meeting as well as in the larger Extended Constituency Workshop. The value of this policy document cannot be over stated and it is greatly encouraged that CSOs desiring to actively participate in GEF projects be familiar with this policy.

4.0 Feedback on the value of participation in the CSO meeting

A survey gauging the value of the CSO meeting to the participants was implemented and of the 12 CSO participants only 11 provided input. The following findings are gleaned from the survey respondents.

55% of the CSOs present at the meeting were members of the GEF CSO Network with 45% being non members. The majority of the participants felt that they had increased their knowledge of the GEF. The CSO Network Members also reported that they had participated in previous GEF ECWs for the region. Whereas the participants who indicated that they were not members of the GEF-CSO Network all reported that this was the first time that they had participated in the GEF ECWS.



Most of the participants had very clear recommendations for strengthening future CSO meetings. The following statements are excerpted in whole from the questionnaire and are representative of the sentiment that was expressed at the meeting.

How could this meeting have been structured to increase your understanding of GEF and CSO involvement?

"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"

What is preventing your organization from becoming a GEF-CSO Network member?

"I didn't know that there's a GEF-CSO Network before"

5.0 Next Steps

Two action items were identified in the meeting. These items are as follows:

- CSO participants- Build your exposure to the GEF. Access the GEF website and go to your country page where you will find a list of all the GEF projects that your country is implementing. Get to know what the projects are and who the stakeholders are.
 - Recommendation: if you can identify the service that your CSO can provide better than any other group (knowing your value proposition with respect to existing in country GEF projects and your comparative advantage over other groups in delivering that value added to the GEF project) then it will be easy to identify and exploit your entry point into the GEF medium or full size project being implemented in your country.

- GEF CSO Network regional focal point- Develop a Pacific region CSO directory to facilitate outreach to national CSOs. Work with country focal points to get information on the existing CSOs in the country and at the very least send a web link of the GEF CSO Network to the CSOs in the countries.
 - Recommendation - Communicate with country and regional CSO networks to build awareness of the value of the GEF CSO Network. It is anticipated that the country and regional CSO networks are better positioned to deliver outreach on the existence of GEF CSO Network because they have greater access to national CSOs.

Appendix

1. Meeting attendance sheet



PACIFIC REGIONAL CSO MEETING
GEF/ECW Pacific – 25 July 2017- Nuku'Alofa, Tonga

Country	First Name	Last Name	Initial	Organization	Email
Cook Islands	Fine	Tuitupou	FTD	Cook Islands Red Cross Society	afine@redcross.org.ck
Fiji	DAVID	HICKES	HD	PGS-Participant Guarantee System	davidj.hickes@gmail.com
Indonesia	Eve	Tedja	ET	Bali Lite Institute	eve.tedja@gmail.com
Kiribati	Martin	Tofinga	MT	The ThEcoCare Group	martintofinga@gmail.com
Micronesia	Andy	George	AG	Kosrae Conservation & Safety Organization	kcsodirector@mail.fm
Nauru	Haseldon	Buraman	HB	USP	haseldon@gmail.com
Palau	Umai	Basilus	UB	Palau Conservation Society	ubasilus@palauconservation.org
Papua New Guinea	Gorogo	IRU	GR	Papua New Guinea Women's Foundation	gorogo.iru@gmail.com
Philippines	Oliver	Agoncillo	OA	Foundation for the Philippine Environment	oagoncillo@fpe.ph
Samoa	Sapa	Saifaleupolu	SS	Ole Siosiomaga Society Inc. (OLSSt)	s.saifaleupolu@gmail.com
Solomon Islands	Michael Otoara	HA'APIO	HA	Pacific Center for Environment & sustainable Development	mhaapio@gmail.com
Timor-Leste	Merita de Jesus	Marques		FEEO	meritadejesus_marques@yahoo.com
Vanuatu	Genester	Siro	GS	Eco-Livelihood Development Association	gene7472@gmail.com

PALAU	JOE	ATTARO	Gov't	jaitaro@gmail.com
PNG	Mairno	Virobo	Govt (CEPA)	mairno681@gmail.com
Clarence	RMI	RMI	Gov't	clarence.s@gmail.com
UNEP	Anu	Shenoy	UNEP	anuradha.shenoy@unep.org

2. Meeting Agenda

 AGENDA FOR PACIFIC REGIONAL CSO MEETING GEF/ECW Pacific – 25 July 2017- Nuku’Alofa, Tonga	
Time	Details
8.30 – 9:00	Registration
9.00 – 9.30	WELCOME REMARKS Umai Basilius, GEF-CSO Network Member and William Ehlers, <i>GEF Secretariat</i>
9.30 – 10.00	SESSION 1 : INTRODUCTION Moderated by Umai Basilius, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-introductions • Objectives and agenda of meeting • An Overview GEF-CSO Network • GEF CSO Network Strategic Plan 2015-2022 • Agenda of ECW meeting and key issues for CSO engagement
10.00 – 10.30	Group Photo and Coffee break
10.30 – 11.00	SESSION 2 : GEF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT POLICY Moderated by Umai Basilius <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing on ongoing review of Public Involvement Policy and interim findings • Key areas requiring input from CSOs and ECW participants (based on PIP-WG guidance) • Discussion and inputs from CSOs on level of engagement of CSOs in GEF Programme implementation in respective countries/region
11.00 - 12.00	SESSION 3 : THE WAY FORWARD Moderated by Umai Basilius <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 • Review and Feedback – Please fill in and hand it over to Umai Basilius <p>Closing</p>

3. Questionnaire



PACIFIC REGIONAL CSO MEETING GEF/ECW PACIFIC- 25 JULY, 2017- NUKU'ALOFA, TONGA

Questionnaire:

1. Is this your first ECW meeting? Yes ___ No ___
2. What has been your organization's involvement in a GEF supported project? (check all that applies)
 no involvement
 implemented an SGP project
 involved in design of medium/full size country project
 involved in implementing components of medium/full size country project
Other _____
3. Did the meeting increase your understanding of GEF and CSO involvement?
4. How could this meeting have been structured to increase your understanding of GEF and CSO involvement?
5. Is your organization a member of the GEF CSO Network? Yes _____ No _____
6. If no, what is preventing your organization from becoming a GEF-CSO Network Member?