

GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop CSO Meeting (Eastern Europe)

Splendid Hotel – 15th March 2016, Budva, Montenegro

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 (15 March) giving talks on GEF and the GEF-CSO Network; update the attendees on the GEF-CSO Network Strategic Plan for 2015 – 2022 and the ongoing IEO evaluation of the network; explore the PIP; 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 on March 15th.

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

CSOs attended the ECW, CSO meeting, and SGP consultations 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 network with governmental employees and the GEF Secretariat
- 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 to GEF 7 developments

4. Agenda

The CSO Meeting agenda was well suited to the interests of the CSO participants in the meeting. The time allocated for presentations was short but manageable.

5. Summary of identified barriers

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

- Ukraine and Albania are in need of wider informational coverage on the environmental activities carried out by CSOs under the GEF funding
- The GEF implementing agencies need more involvement in Montenegro as well as in the EE region as a whole. They should increase their capacity when dealing with all the stakeholders involved

- In GEF funded projects, it is difficult to document environmental results such as cultural services of ecosystem functions, including educational values and social relations.
- Cooperation with government is weak
- CSO involvement in MSP and FSP is low

6. 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. For example, a network organisation on the focal area of biodiversity and/or climate change.
- Establishment of a sub-network informational focal point for South-East Europe to serve as an information-sharing source such as Albania and Montenegro within the EECA network framework. The focal point will ensure that more detailed information on environmental developments from the region are communicated and shared to wider audience.
- Formation of modalities concerning CSO involvement in FSPs and MSPs.
- 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.
- The CSOs' role within the GEF 7 context is to grow with increasing environmental and social pressures. In changing circumstances, CSOs will have to provide valuable guidance and advice to governments on specific characteristics of local political ecology and environments.
- More 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.
- Develop a template for sharing good practices for CSO involvement in GEF-funded projects.
- 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.

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 a list of recommendations to the GEF-CSO Network's Chair and Governance Committee.
- Disseminate the CSO report of the meeting amongst GEF stakeholders.
- Assist attendees in their applications to join the GEF-CSO Network.
- Facilitate regional information coverage

Annex 1. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

| # | Member Country | Duty Station | Gender | First Name | Last Name | Job Title | Current Employer | Email | Attendance |
|---|----------------|--------------|--------|------------|------------|-------------------------|--|--|------------|
| 1 | Albania | Tirana | Male | Mehmet | METAJ | Executive Director | Albaforest Center | albaforest@gmail.com | Yes |
| 2 | Georgia | Tbilisi | Female | Sophiko | AKHOBADZE | Director | Regional Environmental Center for the South Caucasus | sophiko.akhobadze@rec-caucasus.org | Yes |
| 3 | Georgia | Tbilisi | Male | Vakhtang | KOCHORADZE | Environmental Officer | CENN (Caucasus Environmental NGO Network) | vakho.kochoradze@cenn.org | Yes |
| 4 | Moldova | Chisinau | Female | Iuliana | CANTARAGIU | Project Expert | National Environmental Center | iulinac@gmail.com | Yes |
| 5 | Montenegro | Podgorica | Female | Srna | SUDAR | Director | REC | ssudar@rec.org | Yes |
| 6 | Montenegro | Podgorica | Female | Azra | VUKOVIC | Project coordinator | NGO Green Home | azra.vukovic@greenhome.co.me | Yes |
| 7 | Ukraine | Kiev | Female | Maryna | DYACHENKO | CSO Network Coordinator | Education for Sustainable Development | gefnetukr@gmail.com | Yes |

Annex 2. AGENDA FOR THE REGIONAL CSO MEETING

(One day prior to GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop, 15 March 2016)

VENUE: Hotel Splendid Conference Center, Budva, Montenegro

| Time | Details | Responsibility |
|---------------|--|---|
| 09:00 – 09:15 | WELCOME REMARKS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome• Introductions• Meeting Objectives• Agenda | RFP – Vakho Kochoradze and GEF Sec Representative |
| 09:15 – 10:00 | SESSION 1 : INTRODUCTION <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An Overview of GEF and the GEF-CSO Network• GEF CSO Network Strategic Plan 2015-2022• Q&A | RFP – Vakho Kochoradze |
| 10:00 – 10:15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brief update on evaluation of GEF CSO Network by IEO | RFP – Vakho Kochoradze |
| 10:15 – 10:30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coffee Break | |
| 10:30 – 11:15 | SESSION 2: GEF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT POLICY <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Options for CSO engagement in GEF Implementation of GEF Public Involvement Policy• Briefing on ongoing review of Public Involvement Policy and interim findings | RFP – Vakho Kochoradze |
| 11:15 – 12:00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Involvement of CSOs in GEF activities (Case studies, experiences)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Azra Vukovic – Greenhome Q&A○ Maryna Dyachenko - Education for Sustainable Development Q&A | CSO Attendees |
| 12:00 – 13:00 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key issues and recommendations for CSO engagement — Group Discussion | RFP – Vakho Kochoradze |
| 13:00 – 15:00 | Lunch | |

Annex 3. LIST OF PRESENTATIONS

- Greenhome – Montenegro
- Education for Sustainable Development - Ukraine

Annex 4. PHOTOS



CSO Meeting, 15 March



CSO Meeting, 15 March



SGP Consultation, 15 March

Annex 5. CSO/NGO members from 12 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 Center of Environment Forecasting (NCEG)/ECO-REAL |
| 8. | Belarus | APB-BirdLife Belarus (Akhova ptushak Batskaushchyny) |
| 9. | Belarus | Public Association "Belarusian Environmental Movement" |
| 10. | Georgia | Association for Farmers Rights Defence |
| 11. | Georgia | Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN) |
| 12. | Georgia | Regional Environmental Centre Caucasus (REC Caucasus) |
| 13. | Georgia | International Center for Caucasus Tourism (ICCT) |
| 14. | Georgia | Sustainable Development Center "Remissia" |
| 15. | Georgia | Union "Green Way" |
| 16. | Kazakhstan | Aral Tenizi |
| 17. | Kazakhstan | Biodiversity Conservation Fund of Kazakhstan |
| 18. | Kazakhstan | Climate Change Coordination Centre (CCCC) |
| 19. | Kazakhstan | Farmer of Kazakhstan |
| 20. | Kazakhstan | Socio - Ecological Fund |
| 21. | Kyrgyz Republic | Public Association "Ekois-Bishkek" |
| 22. | Kyrgyz Republic | Independent Ecological Expertise |
| 23. | Kyrgyz Republic | Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users (KAFLU) |
| 24. | Kyrgyz Republic | Rural Development Fund |
| 25. | Kyrgyz Republic | Youth Ecological Movement "BIOM" |
| 26. | Moldova | Public Association BIOS |
| 27. | Moldova | Ecological Movement of Moldova |
| 28. | Moldova | Women's Association for the Environment Protection and Sustainable Development (AFPMDD) |
| 29. | Moldova | Terra-1530 |
| 30. | Russian Federation | Environmental Educational Center |
| 31. | Russian Federation | Russian Association of indigenous Peoples of the North RAIPON |
| 32. | Tajikistan | Foundation to support civil initiatives (FSCI, Dastgirie-Center) |
| 33. | Tajikistan | CSO "Sustainable development" |
| 34. | Tajikistan | National Association of Dehkan Farms Republic of Tajikistan |
| 35. | Tajikistan | Young Generation of Tajikistan |
| 36. | Tajikistan | Association of Forest and Land Users of Tajikistan |
| 37. | Turkmenistan | Tebigy Kuwwat Social Unit Enterprise |
| 38. | Ukraine | Ukrainian Society for the Protection of Birds |
| 39. | Uzbekistan | Ecoforum of Uzbekistan |