

# Country Support Programme (CSP)

Keywords: [Country Dialogue Workshop](#) <sup>[1]</sup>

The main objective of the Country Support Program is to strengthen the capacity of GEF Focal Points to effectively carry out their mandates for supporting global environmental programs in their countries and constituencies, including the improvement of overall national and constituency coordination on global environmental issues.

Until December 2010, the program was jointly implemented by UNDP and UNEP under the strategic guidance of an inter-agency Steering Committee, chaired by the GEF CEO. Currently the programme is managed by the GEF Secretariat.

Given its importance in conveying the strategies, policies and programs of the GEF at the country level, as well as in ensuring that the GEF identity is linked to the results accomplished through GEF financed activities, during GEF-5 (starting on January 2011) the Country Support Program will be managed by the GEF Secretariat.

The new phase of the CSP will provide support to the Focal Points through the following activities:

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## National Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues

The dialogues inform the countries about global environmental issues and GEF policies and procedures; they also support countries to take stock of GEF-financed activities and results of GEF country portfolio, further define priorities for funding and develop national strategies and plans, strengthen national GEF coordination processes and mechanisms and inter-sectoral coordination, enhance inter-agency collaboration and partnerships and promote the integration of the GEF in national environmental and sustainable development plans and processes.

The dialogues involve a diversity of government ministries and agencies, NGOs, communities, academic and research institutions, the private sector, as well as partners and donors in the country.

**>> [Calendar and documents](#)** <sup>[2]</sup>

## Expanded Constituency Workshops (ECW)

These workshops aim 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 events are an opportunity for focal points to meet with their counterparts from other countries in the region and other GEF partners to discuss and review policies and procedures and to share lessons and experiences from development and implementation of GEF projects and their integration within national policy frameworks.

**>> [Calendar, documents and multimedia](#)** <sup>[3]</sup>

## Constituency Meetings

During GEF-4, the practice has been to hold two constituency meetings per year to discuss issues before each Council meeting. Since the Expanded Constituency Workshops will replace one constituency meeting in the format of a workshop, Council Member support will be reduced to one constituency meeting per year. These meetings will be organized at the request of the Council Member, who will organize the meeting. Only the focal points of the Constituency's member countries will participate. The purpose of this activity is to enable the Council Members of recipient countries to meet with their constituency partners in order to discuss matters and to define constituency positions for Council meetings. These meetings also provide an opportunity to share information and obtain feedback on issues on the Council's agenda, to review country and constituency coordination issues, to enhance communication and outreach efforts, to decide upon constituency governance issues, such as the order in which countries will assume Council Member and Alternate seats (rotation agreements), and discuss implementation of GEF projects and share lessons learned.

## National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE)

As agreed by the GEF-5 replenishment Participants, voluntary NPFEs are meant to be tools to help interested recipient countries to establish or to strengthen national processes and mechanisms to facilitate GEF programming. The recommendation on voluntary NPFEs is an outgrowth of Recommendation 5 of the Fourth Overall Performance Study of the GEF, which called for the GEF to “further develop programming at the national level by supporting the creation of GEF national committees and GEF national business plans.” NPFEs are country executed activities. The choice of whether a country executes a voluntary NPFE is solely at the discretion of the country government and they are not a pre-requisite for obtaining GEF grants.

>> [More information, templates and reports](#) <sup>[4]</sup>

## Familiarization Seminars

The seminars are currently aimed at new GEF Agency personnel and a handful of new operational focal points. During GEF-5, a GEF Familiarization Seminar will be held once a year in Washington, D.C, to train new country focal points and GEF Agency officers on GEF strategies, policies and procedures.

>> [Calendar and documents](#) <sup>[5]</sup>

## Knowledge Management Platform

The CSP Knowledge Platform was designed to support the information and knowledge sharing needs of GEF Focal Points on the basis of the requirements and needs expressed by them. During GEF-5 this tool be further developed to reflect the evolving needs of GEF focal points, and also to target other relevant stakeholder groups, in particular convention focal points. In order to avoid repetitions and improve the users' experience, the Secretariat has integrated the old KM platform within this new website.

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