

## **Extended Constituency Workshop for the Caribbean**

**Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts And Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago**

**Antigua, May 8-10, 2012**

### **Report from Civil Society Organizations**

#### **Introduction**

The second Expanded Constituency Workshop (ECW) for the Caribbean took place in Antigua from May 8-10, 2012. The GEF Secretariat sponsored the participation of 10 civil society organizations (CSOs). The meeting was opened by government officials of the Ministry of Environment in Antigua, followed by words from William Ehlers of the GEF Secretariat. The agenda included a presentation on the ways to access GEF funding, an explanation of the Result-Based Management Framework, the monitoring function and a practical exercise where all members participated.

#### **Expectations from Civil Society Organizations**

Before the meeting, CSOs had the following expectations:

To get a better understanding of how CSOs can be more involved in the work of the GEF and access funding from the facility.

To better understand the role and function of the GEF

To share challenges and experiences with other fellow CSO members

To get to know other CSOs in the region

To plan future projects

Gain consensus on policy decisions

According to the participants, these expectations were met.

#### **Reflections**

The CSOs agreed that the agenda was a vast improvement over the last ECW in Belize (2011) as it was more focused on the specifics of the Project Information Form (PIF)<sup>1</sup>. The workshop exercise was very

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<sup>1</sup> The format in which the project concept is submitted to the GEF Secretariat

useful as it gave CSOs for the first time an insight into how the PIFs are prepared and the issues for consideration that go into their preparation. It can also provide them with enhanced knowledge in with which they can position themselves to engage with the operational and political focal points in project and program design. In addition, the topics discussed were very useful in terms of their relevance for Rio and other conventions implementation as well as the issues and concerns of the region, covering the important areas of the GEF Institutional Framework and Accessing the GEF. Some participants believed that the workshop exercise had the best benefit, as it allowed them to put in practice a realistic situation.

#### **Interventions of the civil society members:**

There were few interventions by CSOs, but they focused on the issue of creating the opportunity for the regional operational and political focal points to engage with CSOs throughout the Caribbean

Participants were interested in learning how to become engaged with the GEF and access funds and submit proposals.

There was interest in the possibility of CSOs submitting regional projects.

There was a proposal for the National Steering Committee Members to be recognized for their voluntary services in the GEF-Small Grants Programme.

There was a sentiment that CSOs should participate in these meetings, since they play a key role in disseminating information to grass-root organizations relating to GEF and the environment.

### List of civil society participants

	Name	Country	Organization
1	Maycock, Vashti	Bahamas	Friends of the Environment
2	Harrington, Ermath	Barbados	Caribbean Conservation Association
3	Burke, Reginald	Barbados	Caribbean Youth Environment Network
4	Williams, Paula	Dominica	Cooperative (STARS Multipurpose Cooperative of Castle Bruce)
5	Nunez, Liliana	Cuba	Fundacion Antonio Nunez Jimenez de la Naturaleza y el Hombre
6	Jean-Belval, Bertina	Haiti	ODIFF (Organisation pour le Développement Intégré des Femmes du Nord Est )
7	Maryam, Amsale	Jamaica	Association of Development Agencies
8	George, Denia	St Lucia	Saint Lucia National Trust
9	James, Brian	Trinidad and Tobago	Caribbean Forest Conservation Association (CFCA)
10	Espinal, Juan J	Dominican Republic	Centro para el Desarrollo Agropecuario y Forestal (CEDAF)