

Civil Society Forum Sessions - Overview

1

Effective Collaboration for Systems Change

This breakout session will showcase examples of effective collaboration between civil society/IPLC, governments and the private sector, and will highlight innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships at local, national or regional levels that have contributed to sustainable energy, food production or other areas with positive impact in terms of accountability and good governance for system change. It will present experiences and lessons learned emerging from these alliance, the "tools" and "methods" used by them to enable effective collaboration as well as challenges faced by them, and it will identify and promote concrete ways to facilitate effective civil society participation in GEF-7 implementation to enhance shared learning, accountability and sustainability.

- Moderator:** Zaheer Fakir, Operational Focal Point South Africa. Head of the International Governance and Relations Division, Department of Environmental Affairs of South Africa
- Discussants:** Carola Van Rijnsoever - Director of the Inclusive Green Growth department. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands. GEF Council member.
Jennifer Rubis, Programme Specialist in the Science Policy and Capacity-building Division of the Science Sector, and Coordinator of Climate Frontlines
Kenya Government Representative (TBC)
Ana Maria Currea, Knowledge Management, Gender and Communications Coordinator for the GEF Small Grants Program

2

Influencing Change: the power of Advocacy and Innovative Environmental Action

This breakout session will showcase examples of innovative tools and mechanisms used by civil society and indigenous peoples and local communities in achieving these transformations. It will also present examples of how governments and international institutions, including the GEF and Multilateral Environmental Agreements, have provided opportunities for citizens' engagement in processes to achieve these changes.

In an interactive format, discussants from government, agencies, civil society, Indigenous Peoples and local communities will address lessons learned and recommendations for this type of positive action in view of GEF-7.

- Moderator:** Tint Lwin Thuang, Executive Director. Myanmar Program, The Nature Conservancy.
- Discussants:** Lucy Mulenkei: Executive Director Indigenous Information Network,(IIN)
Mario Nicácio, (Wapichana People of Roraima) - Deputy General Coordinator of COIAB (Coordination of the Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon)
Giovanni Reyes: Convener, ICCA Consortium, The Philippines. IPAG Member for Asia.
Martha Rojas Urrego - Executive Secretary of the RAMSAR Convention.
Nithi Nesadurai- President, Environmental Protection Society Malaysia (EPSM) & Regional Coordinator, Climate Action Network South-East Asia (CANSEA).

3

Pathways for inclusive GEF Projects and Programs: Operationalizing GEF's Stakeholder Engagement and Gender-responsive Approach in GEF-7

The updated Policy on Stakeholder Engagement (2017) is a reaffirmation of GEF's commitment to open, inclusive and transparent engagement of stakeholders in GEF's programs and projects. Likewise, the approval of a new Policy on Gender Equality in 2017, GEF-7 will mark the operationalization of a more ambitious, gender-responsive approach across GEF operations. This session will contribute to the Civil Society Forum by providing recommendations to the Civil Society Call for Action linked to the implementation of the GEF-7 programming strategy. It will seek to define and contribute with at least three concrete action-oriented recommendations.

Moderator: Jimmiel Mandima. Director for Program Design and Partner Relations. African Wildlife Foundation.

Discussants: Laura Bermúdez- Colombia Operational Focal Point and Council Member. Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia.
Dr Bernadette P. Resurrección, Senior Research Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute.
Thelma Munhequete. Country Manager. Africa Foundation for Sustainable Development.
Laura Whitford, Director of Development Policy and Partnerships, The Nature Conservancy.
Ian Kissoon, Technical Advisor. Conservation International.
Pilar Barrera Rey, Coordinator of Partnerships, GEF Secretariat
Gabiella Richardson-Temm, Coordinator for Gender and Social Issues, GEF Secretariat

4

Role of the CSO Network in Effective Collaboration for Sustainable Transformation

To facilitate a transformational change of the GCN to function as a strong and active civil society network in the GEF systems, there is a need to engage the network with multi-focused facilities and opportunities. The GEF supported CSO Forum in the upcoming GEF Assembly is one of the important events for the GCN to address the needs. From the CSO Forum, the GCN aims to learn the effective collaborative mechanisms to strengthen the members in country levels, empower the national and regional elected Regional Focal Points along with well-functioning GCN secretariat to meaningfully contribute in the global levels. Focusing on that perspectives, the presentation will demonstrate experiences and effective collaboration between GCN and the greater civil societies, IPCLs, governments, private sectors and line actors at local, national, regional and global levels to accelerate to achieve the GEF goals. It would highlight best practices, lessons learned, challenges and impacts.

Moderator: TBC.

Discussants: Sano Akhteruzzaman, Vice Chair and Southeast Asia Regional Focal Point of GEF CSO Network, Chief Technical Adviser of Save the Earth Cambodia.
Victor Kawanga, Chair and Southern Africa Regional Focal Point of GEF CSO Network
Peter Lallas, Advisor to the CEO and Conflict Resolution Commissioner, GEF Secretariat.
Yoko Watanabe, Global Manager, GEF Small Grants Programme, UNDP
Other invited speakers (TBC)