

**Extended Constituency Workshop for South America
Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay
Lima, Peru. May 22-24, 2012**

Report from Civil Society Organizations

Introduction

The second Expanded Constituency Workshop (ECW) for South America took place in Lima, Peru from May 22-24, 2012. The meeting was opened by Gabriel Quijandria, Deputy Minister for Strategic Development of Natural Resources at the Ministry of Environment of Peru, 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

The ECW provided a good opportunity for civil society members to get together and exchange experiences, to meet, interact and exchange views with the GEF Political and Operational Focal Points from each country and to have a more direct contact with officers from the GEF Secretariat and the GEF Agencies.

The main expectations the group had were:

- To learn about the GEF Institutional Framework: Assembly, Council, STAP, GEF Secretariat, Independent Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, GEF Agencies, United Nations Conventions, GEF-NGOs Network.
- To learn how to access the GEF: project idea , project concept (PIF), project endorsement, GEF SEC reviews, project preparation(Agencies), CEO approval, project implementation and monitoring and evaluation.
- To learn about focal areas, operational programs, strategies and mechanisms available to the civil society to obtain the financial support from the GEF.
- To learn about the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) and how to access the Adaptation Fund and other Funds that the GEF manages.
- To know more in depth on the GEF National portfolios at the country level.

The agenda allowed for civil society members to learn more about the opportunities for participation in the design, development and implementation of the National Portfolio

Exercises at the country and local levels. Discussions focused on the strengthening of civil society engagement in GEF activities and projects financing, the enhancement of the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) and the need to launch it in Colombia. Participants understood that there are opportunities for civil society to participate in GEF Monitoring and Evaluation activities.

Finally, they agreed that there is a need to raise awareness among the GEF Focal Points, on the comparative advantage of civil society organizations in capacity building and knowledge transfer at the ground level.

Civil Society Organizations interventions and suggestions:

During the workshop, civil society participants had the opportunity to provide some suggestions and insights in terms of the relationship between CSOs and the GEF:

- There's a need for more guidance on opportunities and mechanisms for CSO engagement in GEF projects.
- It was suggested that the GEF Secretariat facilitates annual meetings in each country between CSOs, the GEF Operational Focal Points and the GEF agencies
- A call for enhanced financial support for more CSO representatives to attend GEF CSO Consultations and GEF Council meetings was made.
- Request for financial support to the CSO RFP in South America for collating, producing and distributing GEF information in Spanish
- There's a need to ensure CSOs engagement in national consultations for the GEF Portfolio exercises
- It's important to have effective involvement of CSOs in monitoring and evaluation activities of GEF projects
- A request to the GEF CEO was made to not endorse PIFs that don't show the CSOs engagement in the project concept and project preparation, and its effective participation in the project implementation and its monitoring and evaluation
- Request the GEF to consult the RFPs in the selection process of participants to GEF events for attaining a broader representation from all the member countries of the constituency
- The civil society has valuable ideas and initiatives that should be taken into account by the governments during the preparation of National Plans. This is a key aspect for creativity, innovation, transparency and continuously overseeing public management.

- Requesting the GEF Council to allocate funds to encourage effective Civil Society participation in GEF Projects in addition to the global allocation for the Small Grants Programme.

List of civil society participants:

| Name | Country | Organization | Title |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|--|--|
| Buonomo, Massimo | Brazil | Amigos do Protocolo de Kyoto | Chairman |
| Aguilar, Martha Leonor | Colombia | Fundación Renacer Colombiano | President |
| Rocha, Germán | Colombia | Corporación País Solidario | President. GEF NGO Network Regional Focal Point for South America |
| Ulloa, Mónica Janette | Ecuador | EcoCiencia | Executive Director |
| Garcia Natascha | Paraguay | OIPIC | General Manager |
| Zaldívar. Elsa | Paraguay | Asociación de ONGs del Paraguay POJOAJU | Member |
| Martin, Ricardo | Peru | Caritas Piura Tumbes | General Director |
| Piñeyro, Miguel Angel | Uruguay | Red Uruguay de Organizaciones No Gubernamentales Ambientalistas | President |