

**GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop
CSO Meeting
15th July 2013
Zambezi Sun, Livingstone**

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS



Report Prepared by:

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Acknowledgements

I would like to thank all the host country Zambia through the Political and Operational Focal Points (PFP/OFP) Madam Daisy Ngambi and Mr Godwin Fishani Gondwe respectively.

In addition, I would like to sincerely recognize the enormous measure of support as provided by participants in the Southern African sub region through sharing of experiences, professionalism and informed lively debates. Further, I recognize the immense level of support from GEF Secretariat through William Ehlers, Susan Waithaka, Robert as well as Baljit from the Evaluation Office.



1.0 INTRODUCTION

The GEF Expanded Constituency Workshops (ECW) are held annually and are aimed 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.

Although this report covers deliberations during the CSO Meeting, it shall also include some activities covered during the main ECW Meeting from 16th to 18th July 2013.

2.0 ORGANISATION OF THE WORKSHOP

2.1 *Workshop Duration*

One day of deliberations for CSOs including a field day to a programme (18th July 2013)

2.2 Evening Reception

This was generously offered by GEF Secretariat (16th July 2013).

3.0 PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS

- (a) The Host Country through the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) followed by various government representatives from departments and line ministries including representatives from Civil Society.

4.0 Chairperson, GEF Focal Point (Mr Fishani Godwin Gondwe, Director, Environment and Natural Resources Department, Ministry of lands, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (MLNREP)).

5.0 Vice Chairperson, William Ehlers, Head-External Affairs, GEF Secretariat

6.0 LOGISTICS

6.1 Robert Schreiber, GEF Secretariat

6.2 Martin Kachingwe, World Bank, Country Office, Zambia

7.0 FACILITATORS

- GEF Secretariat
- Government of Zambia
- GEF Evaluation Office
- GEF Agencies
- GEF NGO Network

8.0 RAPPORTEURS

1. Victor Kawanga- Zambia
2. Malintle C.M. Kheleli-Lesotho

9.0 APPROACH

- Paper presentations
- Plenary Sessions and Demonstrations
- Visual presentations through PowerPoint and Charts
- Field trip

10.0 CHRONICLE OF EVENTS

Arrival and Registration of participants: 14th July 2013

On 16th July 2013, participants were given folders containing:

- ❖ Workshop bag containing folder for Programme
- ❖ A Note pad
- ❖ A Pen
- ❖ GEF T-Shirt

10.1 DAY ONE: CSO MEETING 15th July 2013

10.1.1 Welcome remarks

In his opening remarks, the GEF NGO Network RFP, Southern Africa, Victor Kawanga, welcomed the delegates to the workshop. He wished all participating individuals a warm welcome to Livingstone and a happy stay in the country. He noted the poor representation of some countries in the region at such important fora.

11.0 The meeting was then followed by personal introductions.

12.0 Baljit Wadhwa, Senior Evaluation Officer from the GEF Evaluation Office was given an opportunity to share the new approach being undertaken by the evaluation in gauging the performance of GEF with respect to its mandate.

13.0 Overview of GEF NGO Network

The above was presented by the RFP, Victor Kawanga as provided below:

- The GEF NGO Network was established in 1995 to link civil society organizations accredited to GEF and facilitates input to GEF policy-making (as further strengthened in 2011-12)
- GNN is an independent/autonomous network with nearly 500 member organizations with experience and expertise in GEF's areas of work from all regions around the world.
- It is governed by a Coordination Committee Comprising 16 Regional Focal points and three Indigenous Peoples' Focal points and a Central Focal Point
- It has been recognized by the GEF Council and GEF Secretariat as a key entity in the work of the GEF.
- Engagement with private sector and development of GEF Policy on Indigenous Peoples
- Supporting GEF Public Involvement Policy, Principles & Guidelines

14.0 Objectives

(TO ENHANCE THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN SAFEGUARDING THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT):

14.1. Support outreach and awareness on global environment.

- Undertake outreach programs and campaigns to raise awareness on key global environment issues in partnership with Network members and other NGO/IP Networks.
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14.2. Document and disseminate experience and best practice to address global environment issues.

- Develop a knowledge exchange platform on the role of Civil Society in safeguarding the global environment.
- Collate and disseminate results and lessons learned through GEF and non-GEF related activities to address key environmental challenges.

14.3 Encourage civil society contributions to the negotiation and implementation of Conventions.

- To promote and support involvement of civil society organizations in negotiation and implementation of environmental conventions.
- Organize regular dialogues at convention meetings in partnership with GEF Secretariat and Agencies, network members and other partners.
- Channel ground level experiences from GEF programmes with civil society to convention meetings and implementation processes.

14.4. Strengthen capacity of civil society to address global environment issues through engagement in policy making dialog at the national, regional and global level.

- Organize network expertise and capability to support capacity building programs and facilitate involvement in design and implementation for GEF projects.
- Organize periodic training and other capacity building activities for NGOs/IPs and other civil society organizations in partnership with GEF agencies and projects.



To strengthen global environmental policy development through enhanced partnership between civil society and the GEF

14.5 Support promotion of GEF programs and activities to Civil Society.

- Disseminate information materials on GEF programmes to civil society in partnership with GEFSEC and Agencies.
- Document Civil Society involvement with GEF activities for use in information and outreach programs.
- Collaborate with GEFSEC in the implementation of the GEF communication strategy.
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14.6 Enhance Civil Society involvement in GEF Country, regional and global Projects.

- Work with GEF Focal points and GEF Agencies to identify opportunities for civil society involvement in the preparation and implementation of GEF projects and programs.
- Promote and facilitate the inclusion of Civil society representatives in country program consultations and GEF project and program governance mechanisms.

14.7 Provide strategic input to GEF policy making, planning and reviews.

- Maintain regular contact with network members to solicit feedback on specific and /or general policy and programs of the GEF.
- Collate experience and lessons learned from Network members and other civil society organizations on GEF programme implementation.
- Undertake policy analysis and review in relation to the key technical, managerial and governance issues related to the operation of the GEF through operation of task forces on focal areas and conventions.
- Facilitate input to the GEF through input to council, constituency and technical meetings.
- Establish effective and formal linkages between the Network and the GEF Independent Evaluation Office to contribute to the evaluation of projects distill best practices and make the evaluation process more transparent and accountable to public.

14.8 Enhance Governance capability of the GEF NGO Network.

- Enhance Network activities at the national levels.
- Strengthen communication between the RFPs and their constituency.
- Enhance focus and activities at the regional and country levels to assess GEF activities and implementation of projects.
- Prepare a financial management framework including budgeting process to manage and administer NGO Network funds and budget.

14.8 To promote active membership.

- Maintain and strengthen membership base.
- Strengthen communication within and across local regional and international levels.

14.9 Improve the NGO Network Communication and procurement of funding.

- Enhance communication channels between the various stakeholders and the regional/ country/ SGP / and Central Focal Points and also with the GEF SEC.
- Developing and building up Communication and Network resources for the GEF NGO network.
- Establish and support a communication strategy to ensure that all global regions have adequate representation at Council meetings.
- Assess opportunities and activities to utilize capacity of the GEF NGO Network members.

- To secure adequate resources for the network from international donors.

15.0 Key Strategic/Focal Areas

- Ensure that projects address the overall objectives and needs to address local and global environmental impacts.
- Provide strategic input into GEF Council deliberations
- Provide an opportunity for CSOs to learn first-hand of key GEF initiatives and challenges including
- Key issues related to environmental and social safeguard standards
- Engagement with private sector and development of GEF Policy on Indigenous Peoples
- Supporting GEF Public Involvement Policy, Principles & Guidelines

16.0 Gaps Identified by CSOs during Meeting affecting the ability to interpret GEF Mandate at Country to Country level

- Focus is on poor and vulnerable communities - literacy challenges to completing applications – 1st stage Concept Doc + 21 page application – (Catch word: How can we develop best practices to include all communities?)
- Country ownership – link to its national steering committee – challenges exist across countries
- Standing Committee – how to ensure that CSOs have oversight regarding standing committee's applied criteria and/or performance criteria?
- Is there a possibility to increase SGP \$50K per CSO provided at country level?

17.0 Overall Performance Study

- Strengthen OPS to emphasise the importance of Govt Relationship with CSO and inform the required mechanism in the next cycle
- Ensure that OPS captures all project application themes particularly those declined and/or outside of the GEF scope
- Ensure that OPS is relevant from the ground level up to meet Donor frameworks in the middle

18.0 Indigenous Peoples in GEF

- GEF to work more closely with CSOs within Country engagement platforms to encourage traditional and/or indigenous knowledge systems and practices in today's global environmental challenges
- GEF can help provide a supporting role to facilitate the establishment of "Best Practices" knowledge library for other communities to benefit from
- GEF/National Dialogue

19.0 End of Project Cycle

- Projects that are maturing or are coming to the end of their project timelines – (Catch word: What is the GEF view regarding further support for the project's sustainability beyond SGP maturity stage?)

20.0 Group Exercise

- 1) Are you satisfied with the involvement of civil society organizations in GEF activities in your country? Please give examples.
- 2) In what ways could civil society organizations be more involved with GEF activities and projects?
- 3) What are the barriers to the involvement of civil society organizations in GEF activities in your country?
- 4) Are there any other issues you would like to raise regarding the involvement of civil society organizations?

20.0 Report backs and Discussions

Zimbabwe:

Q2: CSOs could be more involved by enhancing their knowledge of GEF projects. Some CBOs/NGOs are not even aware of what GEF is. Government can help create platform to help share this information.

Q3: Limited communication tools, limited ways to reach out to CSOs. There is also a negative government perception of NGOs which hinders contribution since govt is hesitant to engage them fully

Q4: CSOs lack of capacity to mobilize resources to participate more fully, CSOs lack capacity to come up with GEFable projects because of GEF mechanisms.

Swaziland:

Q1: Minimal involvement of CSOs. We are also making recommendations – for CSOs can also submit proposals working with OFP to ensure they are part of the process.

Another issue is that of national dialogues, this is where most of the issues could be resolved

Issue of capacity – NGOs – they do lack capacity – issues of awareness creation. Working with OFP directly, they can bring forth their challenges. We felt that as a recommendation, the office of OFP should be a fully-fledged office and not a tag on to other duties.

All in all, we will take back some of these issues to determine how we can work best with government.

Botswana:

Q1: CSO involvement at SGP level is adequate although there is a geography imbalance.

But at MSP/FSP – NGOs don't have access to decision making on how country allocation should be spent, capacity to engage with OFPs on project documents

Q2: National dialogue provisions could help a great deal to help be more involved and breaking down misconceptions

Q3: Mistrust between govt and NGOs. Friction Botswana is having with international NGOs – because bushmen are being relocated and this has affected the relationship so there is some mistrust. Both are to blame.

Namibia:

Q1: No CSOs here does not mean that CSOs are not involved in GEF projects in Namibia. Our response is that CSOs are very involved and consulted with.

Angola:

Q1: Answer is no we would like to have more active participation and would like to have small grants undertaken by our civil society.

Q2: CSOs are best to answer this questions. Pls provide your contacts so that we can share with CSOs and come up with ways for better dialogue

Q3: We don't perceive barriers. We have provided avenues, meeting other organizations including transport and exchange information. Maybe the language is the barrier. We need to find out. The skills that we have as government reps we got our skills from civil society, we grew up in civil society.

Q4: Other issues – we need to find ways to improve capacity of CSOs and information flow of GEF activities.

South Africa:

Q1: We are not satisfied (CSO said this – we need to build a country level network. Those that are funded by SGP should be a dialogue)

Q3: The elephant in the room is there is a trust issue – between civil society and government b/c CSOs are supposed to affect policy. One way to go forward and understand each other's mandate, not change. Dialogue is important – we need also a diverse network of NGOs, we are looking for constructively engage government to affect policy that

Q4: Other actors that we need to keep in mind and work with government to involve private sector who in some way or other affect the environment. We need to expand our network of communication and bring private sector to affect the change. We have advocacy, policy but who is the activity player – effectively it is the private sector. Sometimes we are not speaking to all of the relevant players and this is probably a systemic problem. Sometimes we are shouting at each other but we are not saying anything. We need to move closer with all the key players to affect the change and policy.

Gilbert: We also identified lack of trust as a barrier, issue of communication is a barrier – govt has to engage some more and understand each other.

Mozambique:

Q1: Very disappointed that I don't see more colleagues on this table of CSOs. We take these questions as homework and we really need to get together to see the best way forward in terms of GEF. I did apply on-line and had no communication and I shared this yesterday. I want to be pro-active.

Govt (Thelma): NGOs participate in the SGP which is coordinated by the UNDP. She is trying to contact the SGP coordinator and has not heard back. I am not saying we are doing well. When we did the NPFE last year, we ran this in every region and we invited all the CSOs from each region and even within the govt we have a depart that is dealing with the NGOs.

Malawi:

Q1: A national steering committee does have a civil society representative, the same for the convention committees. So we do feel they are fairly represented but we see their involvement of NGO network over the last 2 years. They need to left up to national level so there is better interaction with the OFP.

The process that NGOs get accredited leaves out the OFP. Only the network itself knows who is being accredited within a country. The coordinator does not inform the OFP.

More awareness needs to be done from OFP view – there are so many organizations on the ground and we need to invite their knowledge so that more projects are implemented by civil society and not just the small grants program.

CSO – YES it is true some steps are being taken to reach out to CSOs. A committee on climate change has been set up and CSOs is a member of that. What we have noted is that CSOs are not as active as they were in the past in terms of creating awareness. There is a department that is responsible for environmental education and that dept is almost dead. In the same office, a different officer has the information. This is disappointing to CSOs. The fact that GEF NGO network – doesn't include all the CSOs in our country, we are looking at the importance of this network and how it can contribute to council meeting. We also have to request our government that they support the network bearing into fact we can influence GEF discussions. Although we are local NGOs we are not lesser NGOs we have same opportunity to feed into GEF. We can bring awareness to other NGOs that here is a platform that we can influence the GEF. We represent communities and we know that what we get from there is always important. We may look small but we represent communities.

Moderator: Malawi is an example of best practice – good interactions and relations between the two.

Lesotho:

Q1: No – it is not satisfactory and they mostly participate in SGP and we feel that is not enough. To overcome the barriers would increase participation. Barriers are:

NGOs – lack of coordination within CSO community; there is no clear program of activities throughout the year, this contributes to lack of participation in GEF activities; and that is NGO mentality vs. govt mentality. Government has a certain presumption about NGOs and vice versa. These two entities need each other but they are not working together. Solution would increase participation of NGOs.

Q4: If NGOs could be more organized they could be very very important partner to govt for govt to reach the communities.

Zambia:

Q1: (CSO) We are not. We realize their efforts are in place from govt to improve this situation. We realize government realizes importance of partnering with NGOs as seen in the new policies, e.g. Wildlife policy

CSO involvement in CC issues has been quite good and should be improved on but we realize relation btw government and CSOs is like a marriage – I am a qualified marriage counselor – we think this should be improved upon.

Swaziland:

(Government): Most of the presentations were being made by the NGOs themselves. I expected governments to take the lead. Some statements that CSOs that they represent the communities – does that mean that governments don't represent the people? If we compete we will fail. We cannot compete. We cannot say we are at equal level. Government will always be superior. We know NGOs are front runners and they can deliver faster on the ground. The spirit is let us work together. We know that each has advantages.

Remember NGOs, GEF will not hear you if you don't have the support of your government. So let's recognize that we need each other.

21.0 Recommendations

- GEF (similarly with CSO) needs a higher profile of awareness – as a partnership meant to serve as a financial instrument to affect local and Global environmental benefits
- Country government structures differ from country to country–GEF should use its mandate as a source of funds to help foster relationships and support of CSOs?– Through SGPs, national dialogue mechanisms/ environmental platforms/ECW/Council meetings as well as through both political and operational focal points?
- Strengthen links within CSO Networks associated with Conventions (CAN, IPEN, etc) and promote partnership and operation in focal areas-related in the mailing lists.
- Enhance awareness of GEF and GEF NGO Network among convention-related CSO fora; more active engagement of Network members in Convention issues at country level: There is a need for stronger requirement to include the brand “GEF” with all implementation partners
- Enhance cooperation and participation between GEF and CSO Networks linked to the Conventions.
- Continue increasing level of information on the Convention issues to CSOs and network members
- Countries such as Angola, Namibia and Botswana help provide feed back on why there is poor participation of CSOs in GEF NGO Network activities

22.0 Main ECW Workshop Summary Recommendations (16th to 18th July 2013)

The GEF ECW for Southern Africa was a useful platform to share experiences from all stakeholders within the GEF mandate. The gathering recognized the need for:

Harnessing cooperation between state actors, non state actors (CSOs), private sector and other stakeholders in fostering participatory action and generating needs in environmental protection and preservation is an important step to translating the GEF mandate from the ground, up.



Susan making a presentation on behalf of GEF Secretariat: Photo courtesy of Judith Kateule

Challenges

Some of the challenges to the effective operationalisation of GEF mandate in the region were identified as:

- Weak cooperation between CSOs and their respective governments
- Lack of democratic and enabling environment in many countries
- Weak institutional infrastructure poor capacity in many organisations to undertake their mission
- Policy shifts at government level



Practical demonstration of honey extraction from a project funded under adaptation funds during a field visit to Kazungula: Photo credit by Judith Kateule

The main conclusions were:

- There is significant potential in public institutions in the region in development and implementation of GEF projects – both SGP and full sized projects
- Governments, their line departments, inter-governmental organizations, and CSOs have great experience in outreach and engagement of local communities as well as technical areas related to all GEF focal areas.
- In most countries in the region –historically there has been little direct involvement of CSOs in the development of country plans and projects.
- The Small grants programme has been important in many countries to support CSOs but there have been few opportunities of involvement of CSOs in medium and full sized projects.
- There is not enough coordination between CSOs and Government and few joint projects.
- Meetings between GEF Focal Points - CSOs regular are not being organised in most countries and until recently there has been no option for regional CSO meetings.

Recommendations

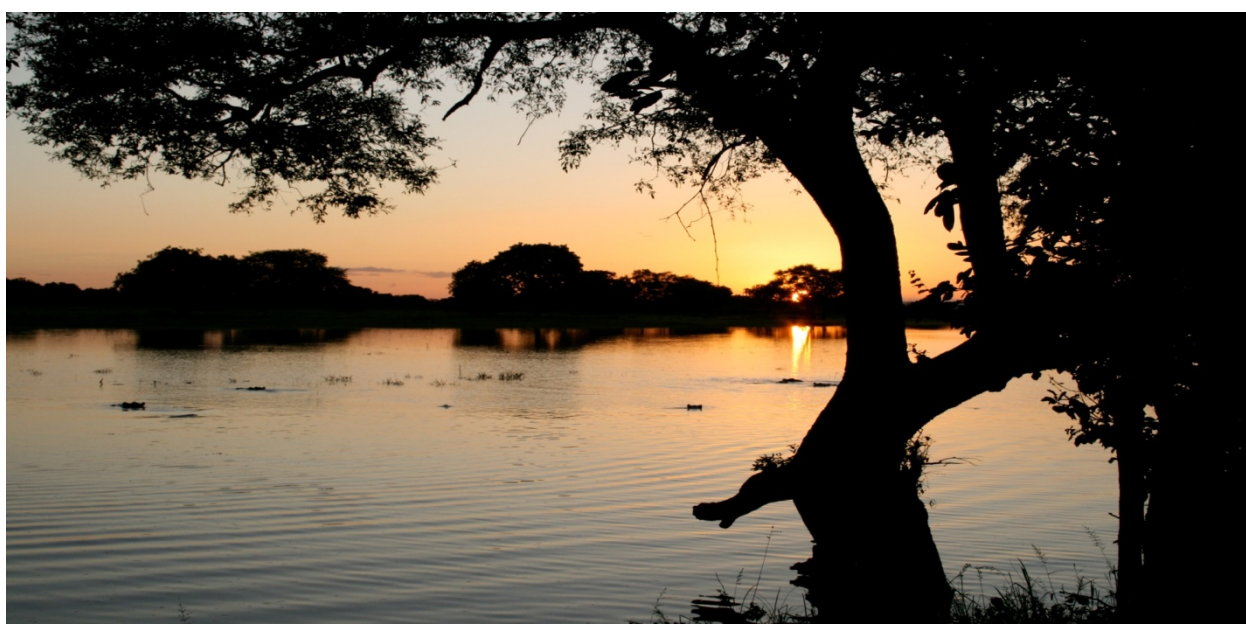
A range of recommendations to overcome the challenges were identified including:

- Enhance the collaboration between environmental CSOs and related government agencies through dialogues and joint activities and oblige governments to involve CSOs in medium and full sized projects with certain percentage.
- GEF should provide support for regular Regional meetings and other knowledge sharing and technical exchange opportunities among stakeholders in the region
- Increase the GEF SGP budget in the region and strengthen SGP outreach and capacity building activities for CSOs; strengthen existing GEF SGP networks link them to the GEF NGO Network;. SGP should consider support for joint projects between NGOs in adjacent countries to facilitate sharing and joint capacity building
- Annual meetings should be held in each country between CSOs and the GEF Operational focal points (as agreed by GEF Council Nov 2010).
- Action should be taken by members of the GEF NGO Network together with the government focal points to help inform civil society stakeholders on opportunities for involvement in the development of full-sized projects.
- GEF Public Involvement policy needs to be fully implemented in this region especially in the development of government led projects. In particular –
 - Early engagement of CSOs in national consultation and portfolio development processes.
 - Development of clear guidelines for Civil society engagement – both generic and country specific
 - Effective participation of civil society in project development and formulation.

- Special policy/mechanisms for engagement of indigenous and local communities
- Enhanced consideration of gender and social issues
- Specific guidelines or tools/learning materials (eg documentation of lessons learned and good practices should be developed to stimulate enhanced stakeholder engagement in GEF project and programme development in the region.

Closing

The ECW Meeting was officially closed by William Ehlers on behalf of the GEF Secretariat.



List of CSO Attendants (CSO Meeting and Main ECW Workshop)

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GEF EXPANDED CONSTITUENCY WORKSHOP (ECW), SOUTHERN AFRICA

Livingstone, Zambia

JULY 15TH 2013

(CSO MEETING PRIOR TO ECW WORKSHOP)

AGENDA

Time	Agenda item
09.00- 09.15	Welcome and Introduction – Victor Kawanga, GEF NGO Network RFP, Southern Africa
09.15 – 10.00	Dialogue with the GEF Secretariat on CSO involvement in the GEF, Susan Waithaka, GEF Secretariat
10.15 – 11.45	Session 1: Enhancing Civil Society Participation in GEF : Overview of GEF NGO Network, Victor Kawanga, RFP
11.45:13.00	Moderator: Maynard Nyirenda, Sustainable Rural Growth and Development Initiative (SRGDI), Blantyre, Malawi Discussion
11.45-13.00	Session 2: Dialogue with GEF Small Grants Programme, SGP Coordinator, Zambia, Gertrude Chiholyonga: Enhancing CSO Participation in GEF Activities The 39 th GEF Council considered a key paper on enhancing the engagement of Civil society in GEF. This session will update CSOs on the effective engagement and implementation as well as experience of SGP in actualizing the council decision in implementation of GEF programmes. Moderator: Judith Kateule, JC Foundation, Mufulira, Zambia Discussion
13.00-14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 14.30	Afternoon Session : Discussion on the ToR of the GEF OPS5 M & E
14.30-15.00	Baljit Wadhwa, Senior Evaluation Officer, EO, USA Moderator: Mamolapo Malintle Kheleli, GEM, Lesotho Discussion
15.00- 15.30:	Enhancing the participation of indigenous peoples in GEF Activities At the GEF Assembly in May 2010, Indigenous peoples called for the development of a GEF Policy on Indigenous peoples. This session will update CSOs on elements of such a policy from the perspective of Southern Africa. Emmanuel Mutamba, GLM, Zambia Moderator : Welton Phalira, Malawi Discussion
15.30 – 15.45	Coffee break
15.45 -17.00:	Enhancing CSOs participation as partners in Convention(s) implementation , Godwin Fishani Gondwe, Director, Environment and Natural Resources Department, MLNREP, Zambia This session will update CSOs on key emerging issues from the CBD Conference of Parties as well as the UNCCD. It will map out the challenges and opportunities to enhance working relations between the Conventions and GEF and the role of Civil society in convention implementation. Moderator : Thelma Munhequete, AFSD, Mozambique Discussion

17.00 -17.30	Summary on enhancing role of Civil Society in GEF and Convention Implementation, Romano Daniels, AFSD, South Africa
17.30	Closing by William Ehlers