

OVERVIEW

The [GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop \(ECW\)](#) (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay + Brazil, Colombia y Ecuador) took place in Brasilia, Brazil from March 14 to 17, 2017, to conduct the [2017 ECW Agenda](#) with over 90 participants.



Participants at the ECW South America in Brazil

As [Participants](#), in addition to GEF Secretariat colleagues who led the workshop, attendees were GEF and Convention focal points, representatives from Civil Society Organizations and GEF Agencies, as well as representatives from Convention Secretariats, the GEF Independent Evaluation Office, and other institutions.



Brasilia | Host City, ECW South America

DAY 1 | Tuesday 14 March

CSO Meeting

There was a half-day [Meeting of Civil Society Organizations \(CSOs\)](#), led by the GEF CSO Network Regional Focal Point Representative, Mr. Ricardo Delfino Schenke from Argentina. About 20 CSOs and Agency representatives attended the meeting where they discussed ways to enhance the level of Network activities at country and regional levels. Items in the agenda also included informing the CSOs on GEF-7 processes and obtaining feedback on the current level of engagement of civil society in GEF projects, in the region, and how to move forward.



CSO Meeting

GEF-7 Replenishment preparatory meeting

The GEF Political Focal Point for Argentina Ms. Marcia Levaggi, presented her role as the **Latin American and Caribbean Observer to the GEF-7 Replenishment discussions**, briefing the audience of GEF Political and Operational Focal Points on preparations and expectations, as well as collecting inputs and suggestions for the upcoming discussions in Paris.

SGP Consultation



SGP consultation

GEF Focal Points were joined by the CSO group to participate in the [GEF Small Grants Program \(SGP\) Consultation Agenda](#), in which the GEF SGP Central Program Management Team (CPMT) Representative, Ms. Angelica Shamerina, presented some of the work being conducted by the GEF SGP in the region, and focused the discussion on what should be the areas of work for GEF-7.

DAY 2 | Wednesday 15 March

GEF ECW

The opening of the ECW was jointly conducted by representative of the host country government, Ms. Clarissa Nina, Head of the Environment Division at the Foreign Ministry of Brazil, and by the representative of the GEF Secretariat, Mr. Gustavo Fonseca, Programs Director.

Following introductions, the workshop began with a GEF Secretariat presentation on the [GEF-7 Replenishment process](#). There was also a discussion about synergies amongst [Multilateral Environmental Agreements \(MEAs\)](#), presented by the GEF Secretariat and by the UNFCCC Secretariat on the [Improvement of Synergies for Climate Action](#). The GEF Secretariat also conducted a presentation, discussion and exercise on [Green Finance](#). A WWF River Basin board game and scorecard provided an opportunity for participants to assume different project stakeholder roles in relation to a common objective of sustainably developing a river basin area.



Opening Session | Ms. Clarissa Nina, Foreign Affairs Ministry, Brazil | Mr. Gustavo Fonseca, Programs Director, GEF Secretariat | Mr. William Ehlers, Country Relations Coordinator, GEF Secretariat

DAY 3 | Thursday 16 March

GEF ECW



The Art of Knowledge Exchange Training

The GEF Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) conducted a presentation on [Monitoring and Evaluation](#), followed by a Secretariat presentation, discussion and exercise on [Stakeholder Engagement and Gender Equality](#), as well as a presentation on [Cross-Cutting Capacity Development](#). Using GEF projects as examples, a training course on [the Art of Knowledge Exchange](#) showed best practices, key procedures and tools behind successful knowledge exchange.



DAY 4 | Friday 17 March

GEF KNOWLEDGE DAY



Project: [GEF SGP Eco-Social Products Project, Strategic BRA/15/01](#)
During the **GEF Knowledge Day**, participants were able to learn about a Cooperative of Small Farmers from the Brazilian Savannah, the *Cerrado Central Cooperative*, and its role in supporting 30 producers to market their products. Secondly, the association *APROSPERA* displayed the market model of Community-supported Agriculture (CSA), aimed at structuring the relationship between producers and retailers in advance of production, so that producers are aware of market expectations and can plan ahead for production goals and mitigate shortages accordingly. Thirdly, the president of the Social

Movement of Babassu Coconut Crackers (MIQCB), *Lady Dijé*, explained the historic struggle against major corporations acting in various parts of Central and Northern Brazil to maintain access to their traditional farming lands, in order to be able to harvest the babassu coconut, a key local resource for over 400,000 women. Fourthly, participants were able to learn more about the *Cerrado* biome, a threatened area of Savannah that covers a fourth of the country's territory, through an informative walking tour around the original vegetation park, including snacks prepared with many of the exquisite native ingredients. Navigating in small groups through different learning stations a variety of project beneficiaries discussed lessons learned, challenges faced throughout different project cycle phases, and potentialities for replication of practices across the region, including through international multi-stakeholder partnerships.



Participants were also provided with a [Knowledge Passport](#) which they used to answer questions and note results from each Learning Station. After interacting at the learning stations, participants had snacks with the community and participated in a debriefing session sharing what they had learned and experienced.



4 Learning Stations