

# SUMMARY FROM PACIFIC REGIONAL CSO MEETING (06 October 2015)

**GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop**

**(Rarotonga, Cook Islands)**

# Introduction



- ▶ Participation by 24 CSOs and IP representatives from 12 countries :
    - Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, .
  - ▶ Key discussion issues :
    - Overview of GEF and GEF–CSO Network
    - GEF Public Involvement Policy
    - CSO engagement in GEF6
    - Strengthening CSO engagement at country/regional level
- IEO evaluation of the CSO Network

# Overview of GEF-CSO Network



- ▶ Established in 1995 to link civil society organizations to GEF and the CSO Network facilitates input to GEF policy-making and implementation
- ▶ An independent/autonomous network with nearly 500 member organizations from all regions around the world.
- ▶ Governed by a Coordination Committee comprising 16 Regional Focal points and three Indigenous Peoples' Focal points and a Central Focal Point
- ▶ Recognized by the GEF Council and GEF Secretariat as a key entity in the work of the GEF.
- ▶ Organises Civil Society consultations prior to GEF Council and CSO Forum during GEF Assembly
- ▶ Monitors and build capacity at regional and national level for CSO engagement in GEF activities

# Membership

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- ▶ Open to all non profit CSOs working in the focal areas of GEF
- ▶ Application web based with submission of basic information through [www.gefcso.org](http://www.gefcso.org)
- ▶ 7 members in the Pacific Region
- ▶ Membership is equivalent to accreditation to GEF – for participation in GEF related meetings

# Current RFPs/IPFP in Pacific region

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- Fiu Elisara of OLSSI, SAMOA



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# Presentations/Case studies



- ▶ Session 1: An Overview of GEF and the GEF–CSO Network (Fiu Elisara)
- ▶ Session 2: GEF Public Involvement Policy for CSOs (Fiu Elisara)
- ▶ Session 3: Strengthening CSO Engagement at Country/Local Level (Te Tuhi Kelly)
- ▶ Session 4: Case Studies:
  - i. Aitutaki Conservation Trust: Refuse management
  - ii. Matafa'a Village: Potable water
  - iii. Falease'ela: Mangrove planting
- ▶ Session 4: Monitoring and Evaluation (Baljit Wadhwa)



# Discussions from the workshop

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1. What is a CSO?
2. What is the Perception out there?
3. How do we strengthen CSO engagement?
4. Why should Govt engage with us?
5. What's holding us back?
6. How do we get to sit at the table with the power brokers?



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# Conclusions from the workshop



- ▶ How do we show Govt that we have credibility and have something to offer?
  1. Promote and encourage registration
  2. Have more open dialogue with Govt
  3. Empower communities through active participation in national planning
  4. Build CSO capacity and capability through training, education, promotion, marketing and building CSOs as a mature brand
  5. Help contribute to and develop robust national policies.



# Recommendations

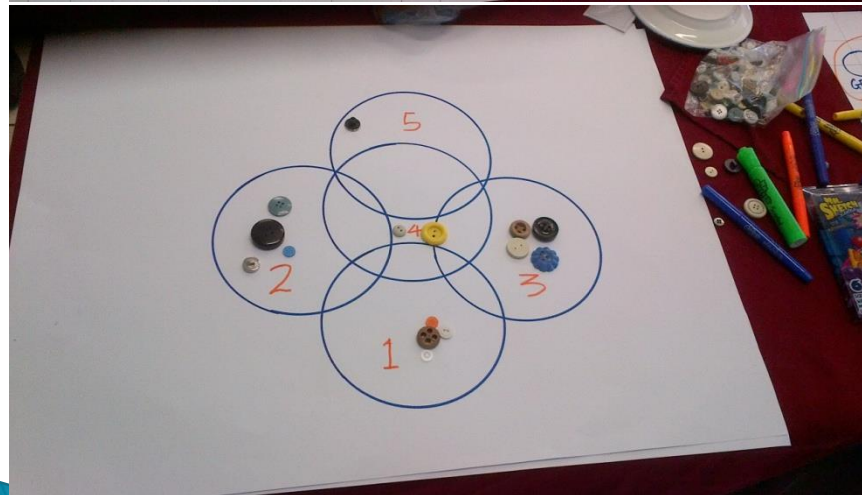
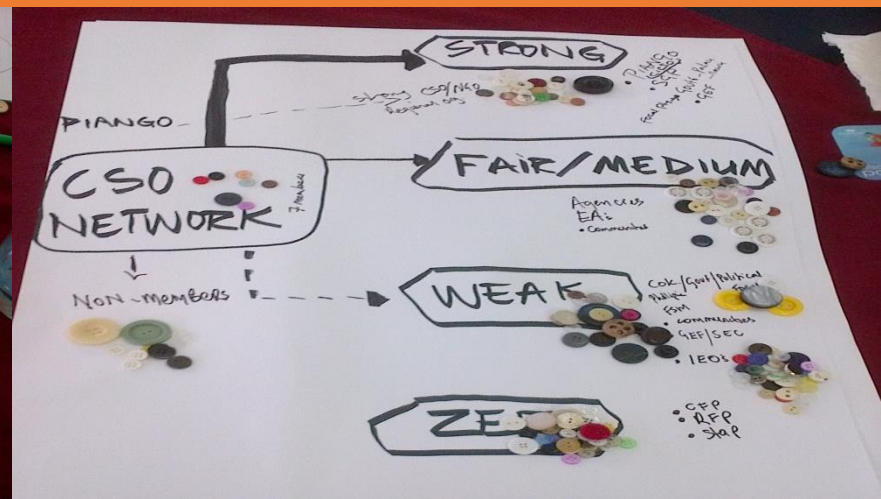
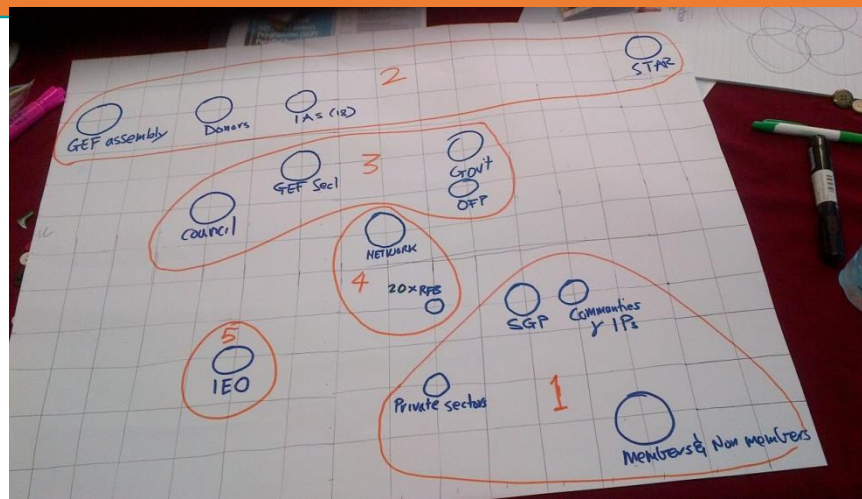
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1. CSOs present a united front through one voice/network
2. We register as a collective
3. We invest in the Public Involvement Policy
4. Build relationships with and partner with Govt
5. Demonstrate our relevance and benefits through our diversity
6. We offer practical, pragmatic and affordable solutions
7. We show that we can contribute at the table through our unique perspectives.

# Summary

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1. GEF CSO workshop
2. Historical overview
3. Strengthening CSO Engagement
4. Conclusion and Recommendations
5. Practical Exercise



**THANK YOU**

# Practical Exercise

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1. Identify main current constraints for engagement of Civil Society in GEF Medium and Full sized projects and programmes in your country.
2. Identify three practical actions which could enhance the engagement of Civil society in GEF projects or programmes in your country
3. Elaborate one specific action (from Point 2) that you propose to be implemented in the next 12 months for your country.