



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF) NGO CONSULTATION

**NOVEMBER 13, 2007
The World Bank, H Auditorium,
600 19th Street, N.W. Washington, D.C.**



1.0 Opening Remarks by Co-Chairs: GEF Secretariat and GEF NGO Network

The session opened with a brief introduction of the agenda items and introductions from participants.

2.0 Question and Answer Session with GEF CEO and Chair, Ms Monique Barbut

Faizal Parish took participants back to the last consultation in June, when the CEO and Chairperson of the GEF, Madame Monique Barbut, outlined her vision and strategy for the GEF and challenged the GEF NGO Network to become part of it. In line with that call, the GEF NGO Network would later in the program present its new vision and objectives. After his brief introductory remarks, Faizal Parish welcomed Madame Barbut, CEO and Chair of the GEF, and invited her to address the consultation during the question and answer session.

Madame Barbut thanked all participants for the opportunity to participate in the question and answer session. She announced that the GEF Secretariat been revamped and new appointments made. In this respect, the Chair and CEO introduced Mr William Ehlers (Team Leader of External Affairs and Community), Mr Sekou Toure (Conflict Resolution Commissioner), Mr. Brennan Van Dyke (Political Advisor to the CEO) and Mr. Christopher Briggs (Team Leader, COPFS).

Madame Barbut explained that the position of Conflict Resolution Commissioner had been created to allow members to directly report on any issues from NGOs, the Secretariat and Council. Mr. Sekou Toure was independent and would report directly to the CEO. She described Mrs. Brennan Van Dyke, her new Political Advisor, as very knowledgeable on NGO issues. She explained that Mr. Briggs's position as Team Leader, COPFS was created specifically to address the operational aspects of the GEF.

In a light-hearted manner Madame Barbut told the meeting that she was one of the oldest GEF Secretariat staff at the table. She vowed to get the temperature of the GEF felt at global level. Madame Barbut went on to explain that the GEF reform agenda was already in place; all that remained was its implementation. The reform process was designed to transform the GEF into a more robust institution capable of responding to the needs of country members. Although the reform varied from the historic nature of GEF, it had immense potential to improve the perception about GEF, among its different constituencies.

The GEF Council had been scheduled to run for three days instead of the usual four. An important item on the agenda would be the Evaluation of the Small Grants Program (SGP). Note was taken that the GEF has been a major source of funding for national Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) through the SGP window. By the end of GEF4, SGP will be active in 128 countries. The Evaluation Office had come up with a very positive evaluation of SGP, whose highlights included:

- SGP has contributed positively to institutional reform in various countries.



- SGP is not just delivering national benefits but contributing to global environment benefits.

Madame Barbut thanked the Global Manager of SGP, Mr. Delfin Ganapin. However, she posed some questions on SGP's cost machinery as well as the graduation policy. The Chair and CEO also informed the meeting that GEF had opened another window for NGOs through the World Bank Development Marketplace.

She was optimistic that the GEF NGO Network would be discussing the process and timeline for developing its strategy and operational plan. Madame Barbut emphasized that the document would be required for the next council meeting due in April 2008. In April 2008, the GEF will be presenting to council a paper on the way forward for NGOs. The paper will be accompanied by the strategy and operational plan of the GEF NGO Network.

Turning to the Adaptation Fund, Madame Barbut explained that GEF Secretariat had come up with a government proposal, which she described as revolutionary in terms of the way GEF works. The Secretariat would be seeking Council's consent to take to Bali with a proposal to manage the Adaptation Funds under UNFCCC. Under the proposal, GEF would manage these funds under an independent financial structure as determined by COPMOP.

In concluding, Madame Barbut called on participants to be innovative and creative in their deliberations. The floor was then opened for questions.

Plenary Discussion

Question 1

Rajen Awotar was relieved that the tension that existed a year ago was now a thing of the past. To him this was good omen. Commenting on the Adaptation Fund, he said the network was happy with the contents of the paper and the fact that GEF was working to present a proposal at Bali COP/MOP to manage the Adaptation Funds. This was a progressive move on the part of the GEF. "We always had the feeling that African and developing countries were not pleased with the discussions on Adaptation. Now we feel optimistic that they will be pleased. Time is not on our side as this is vital for Small Island Developing Countries (SIDS) and local communities who have been waiting for so long. Hopefully, with this new proposal we will not have to wait much longer.

"We welcome the report on the SGP Evaluation. However, we are not comfortable with the graduation policy, particularly in its implications for Least Developed Countries (LDCs). We question the logic of taking into account the per capita income. How will we reach a balance that is equitable? Personally, I have reservations on the new Conflicts Resolution Commissioner and his role within the GEF," Rajen said.



Question 2

Khadija Razavi noted that SGP is one of the important GEF programs for NGOs although it is difficult to talk about global benefits when the people are more interested in food security and day-to-day survival. SGP was doing a good job in Iran where it was working hand-in-hand with the government. Its communication and publicity materials were also very useful in promoting the exchange of information. Would it therefore not be a good idea for GEF to provide a separate budget for information dissemination? This was necessary to keep the good work of the program alive.

Question 3

Libasse Ba interjected that when we talk about world populations taking part in the global effort, we are omitting in some way village communities. These were the people directly responsible for managing forests and fighting land degradation. She cited Page 7 of the report to be presented in Bali, which talks about sustainable forest management as it relates to population. The document, she observed, was silent on the various activities grassroots people are involved in and how these contribute to reducing CO² levels in the atmosphere. Should we not include this or are these people simply forgotten, as during COP13 one of the most important topics will be cutting down carbon dioxide emissions/”

Response from Madame Monique Barbut, CEO & Chairperson, GEF

In relation to SGP graduation, Madame Barbut responded that the graduation policy would be implemented rigorously. “What it means after that will be the subject of negotiation. Different options will be looked at, but the modalities of the program will need to change. Since everyone thinks SGP is a success, then the modalities for collaboration should evolve further. We will be able to carry the name of GEF further if we respect certain things,” she said.

She continued: “. . . if countries have been receiving SGP funds for 15 years and are not sustainable yet, maybe SGP is not having the desired effect. We have a problem with the management costs of SGP and we will look at this next year to see how this can be addressed. We agree that LDCs and SIDS should be treated differently with regard to the SGP graduation program. Again, I reiterate, there will be a graduation policy, it will be implemented with a proviso that we look at certain elements and modalities, including LDCs. We will look at it critically to ensure we do not lose past investments.”

GEF had so far injected US\$208 million into SGP. Additional funding had also been channeled to full-size projects, some of them executed by NGOs. There were plentiful opportunities for SGP to become a tool for expansion. For instance, US\$100 million was being invested in the Pacific alone. Referring to this part of the world, Madame Barbut said: “If you look holistically at the islands there, you will discover they do not have as much experience and capacity as SGP. It is my hope that SGP will strategically position itself as a vehicle for the implementation of this program”.



The CEO and CEO of GEF expressed satisfaction at the change of heart on the part of the Caribbean, since the introduction of the program. At country level the most SGP could get was US\$2.4 million. But there was nothing to stop SGP from looking at other sources of funding which could expand its funding potentially to US\$5-6 million.

In response to the question on the inclusion of local people in the management of forests within the Adaptation Program, she said this would be done through delivery mechanisms used in the rest of GEF. “We will look at the existing vehicles, such as SGP, to establish the cheapest way to deal with the many types of adaptation issues. Regarding sustainable forest management we are trying to take care of the questions that you have raised. Not just about carbon but also about how to achieve the lowest carbon levels. Forestry can be dealt with through biodiversity, climate change and sustainable land management. We can deal with it collectively,” she said.

Madame Barbut thanked the meeting for lending its support for the Adaptation Fund.

Question 4

Faizal Parish informed the meeting that the GEF NGO Network had a very fruitful discussions with SGP on joint in activities such as documenting experiences, lessons learnt and capacity building with particular reference to marginalized groups. With regard to Bali, the GEF NGO Network had committed to work with the GEFSEC and had submitted a proposal to this respect. Hopefully, this proposal could be refined in time for Bali.

Response from Madame Monique Barbut, CEO & Chairperson, GEF

In response, Monique said that the GEFSEC was concentrating for this moment on preparation for the Biodiversity COP to be held in Bonn 2008. The GEFSEC had undertaken in collaboration with the German government to do major project on Indigenous Peoples for Bonn 2008.

Question 5

Herve Lefeuvre (WWF) pledged WWF’s support for GEF’s quest to manage the Adaptation Fund in Bali. WWF saw GEF as the only organization with the capacity to manage the UNFCCC Adaptation Funds. He acknowledged that the proposal to Council tomorrow would be on governance. In this regard, he believed the governance structure should be flexible in line with the COP guidelines and proposed that vulnerable countries be given a place in this governance structure. He added that NGOs should have access to these funds and that the principle of co-financing be waived in special cases.

Question 6

Yabanex Batista welcomed GEF’s approach to the management of the Adaptation Fund saying this would help link the two COPs, Climate Change and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Yabanex emphasized that adaptation was not just about infrastructure, but about the whole concept of natural resource management. A new package would be presented would be presented by next April, he said. He, however, wanted to know what would happen once this was approved to make sure the



framework was in place. “It would be good to hear more about the ideas and potential mechanisms for this to have an impact on GEF4,” he said.

Will Nature Conservancy (TNC) and other international NGOs become partners in Pacific Ocean Island States? SGP could benefit tremendously from the challenge. What are the mechanisms for SGP to align itself?

Question 7

Khadija Razavi asked how NGOs could become more involved in full and medium projects in GEF4 as the decision-making had shifted to country governments.

Question 8

According to Faizal Parish, the Resource Allocation Framework (RAF) was a barrier to civil society groups keen to implement full and medium-sized projects. This was a critical issue that deserved to be discussed further as well as the fact that some countries received very small allocations.

Response from Madame Monique Barbut, CEO & Chairperson GEF

Monique welcomed the positive comments on the Adaptation Fund, noting that whatever government structure COP agrees to, Council will need to give GEF the flexibility to implement or apply.

With regard to the Pacific Program, the World Bank was expected to design a monitoring system to be presented in 2008. She, however, ruled out a secretariat to coordinate the monitoring activities. “We need to have a clear monitoring framework and at certain times we do need coordination to address problems and make adjustments. It might take up too many resources, if we go by a program type format for each of the programs. That is why SGP alignment to the Pacific Program is important. We also need to outline which other partners this program will work with. For instance, we will need local NGOs to implement most of the Pacific Program since they have more capacity than governments,” Monique said.

With reference to the full and medium-sized projects, Monique highlighted that there was so much money in these projects for consultation and capacity building. She expressed hope that NGOs will be integrated into these projects and so benefit from the funds as each provided for such partnerships. She acknowledged, however, that the RAF depended on government’s willingness to work with NGOs. This might be an issue worth reflecting on during the mid-term review of the RAF.

Question 9

Johnson Certa asked the CEO to comment on the review policy of protected areas, as there appeared to be conflict in terms of the rights of Indigenous People (IPs) and protected areas. On this issue he stated that IPs were working on establishing a new category of protected areas and he wondered what steps the GEF was taking in this regard.



Response from Madame Monique Barbut, CEO & Chairperson, GEF

Monique told the meeting that GEF was working on a position paper on IPs for the next Biodiversity COP. For now, GEF was engaged in an evaluation, not in the conventional sense, but rather a report of all past activities involving IPs. At the conclusion of this exercise, the GEF would be in a better position to produce new guidelines on working with IPs. She had just come back from a visit to Brazil where she witnessed a large-scale project which could serve as a model of what GEF can achieve.

Question 10

Faizal Parish asked for more details on the new GEF program approach, with specific reference to forestry. He made reference to the last Council meeting where an agreement on Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) was reached. He asked for an update on progress and suggested that Council could consider a similar approach for NGOs to mobilize additional funding for GEF.

Question 11

Rajen Awotar welcomed the appointment of Sekou Toure, the Conflicts Resolutions Commissioner, stating that he had known and worked with him for many years and he was a well respected professional. He had no doubt that he was the right man for the job. Rajen noted, however, that members were still not clear on his responsibilities would therefore welcome his job description along with those of the other newly created positions

Response from Madame Monique Barbut, CEO & Chairperson GEF

Monique welcomed the offer to establish a partnership similar to that of PPPs with NGOs. While a civil society fund was a good idea, she did not think it was possible in GEF4. A good starting point would be to strengthen relationships with NGOs. This principle could also be applied to graduating SGP projects.

On the question of the program approach, Monique explained that there were currently three programs -- two national and one global. At national level, China would present a biodiversity framework and India a land management framework. These will be complemented by a global forest program. However, although these were three different programs, the GEF did not view them as completely divorced from each other.

On the contentious issue of sustainable forest management, Monique disclosed that she was personally disappointed by the NGO response. They were only able to select a few proposals, as the majority of those submitted were of poor quality. GEF was currently working on a framework with the assistance of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Gustavo Fonseca, Team Leader, Natural Resources, was working with the different countries to come up with more forest proposals. GEF was keen to present a global partnership on the Congo, Amazon, etc. It was regrettable that there was little time to get good quality proposals for submission to Council.



Monique informed the meeting that the PPP was work-in-progress. But before the GEFSEC can go back to Council, it was necessary to put bureaucratic procedures in place. “Clearly up to this point, all we have been dealing with are the logistics of the partnership. The GEF Trust Fund of US\$50 million will be established within a trust fund at IFC. There are discussions on the nature of collaboration between the GEFSEC and IFC, whose first activity will be the capital price on bio-fuel.

Concluding Remarks

Faizal Parish thanked Madame Barbut for a lively and informative session. It was good to hear first hand from the CEO about the challenges and the opportunities. He challenged the GEF NGO Network to see how its new vision could contribute to the GEF reform and harness new and old partnerships. Faizal hoped the Network would continue to grow in stature during the next six months.

3.0 Process and Timeline for Developing GEF NGO Network Strategy and Four-Year Operational Plan, Ermath Harrington, Regional Focal Point (RFP), Caribbean

Faizal Parish, the co-chair for this consultation, introduced the next session. He informed the meeting that a process plan and timeline developed by the GEF NGO Network would be presented during this session. This was in line with GEF’s own strategy of engaging NGOs.

Ermath Harrington presented an overview of the GEF NGO Network Process Plan and Timeline. He prefaced his presentation by noting its timeliness given GEF’s commitment to reform. He was confident that the GEF NGO Network was well positioned to drive this reform process.

In his brief presentation, Ermath hoped to give the audience an overview of the milestones and roadmap. Providing a synoptic background, Ermath told the meeting that this was the time to win an increasing and more influential role in working with GEF and the GEF system. In line with this, the GEF NGO Network embarked on an exercise to re-invent itself and redefine its strategic direction and operational plan. This strategy document was shared with the GEF Secretariat, and subsequently amended to incorporate feedback from the Secretariat.

Ermath outlined the process steps as:

- Destination Planning.
- Formulating the ideas and appreciation of where the network should be positioned in a few years, in the context of the GEF.
- Evolving from this, developing a vision and mission.
- Strategic objectives were identified. Rather than embrace too many objectives, the Network took on the “Keep it Simple” (KIS) approach.
- The next step was the identification of the network pillars, sticking to the concept of enablement and the network’s internal capacity. Some of the key issues identified as militating against the efficient and effective functioning of the network in the past were capability and sustainability.



- After preparation and finalization of the operational plan, the Network plans to consult its constituency as one of the most important components is consolidating the governance structure. If the Network is to be taken seriously as a key player in the “GEF Family” then its governance must be foolproof.

Ermath pointed out that one of the philosophical considerations of the Network was to strengthen civil society partnerships from the bottom up. The potential to create gaps will continue, as money spent generously will not achieve the desired results. This pattern will need to change while the Network needs to bring within its ranks technical capacity along the lines of focal areas identified by GEF.

The four-year operational plan for the GEF NGO Network echoed Madame Barbut’s views in terms of the programmatic approach. By adopting this programmatic approach, the Network felt it could embrace many concepts. In line with this, the concept focuses on results rather than activities and tasks. The framework is divided into short, medium and long-term plans in order to define the pace of the Network.

Ermath described the key components of the operational plan as capacity and capability. These were both fundamental issues that would affect the viability of projects and programmes as well as the realization of results. The secret to the turnaround of the Network lay in tapping on the expertise of members and bringing in NGOs who had the heart and not the hand to expose them to more sophisticated project and programme management.

“Looking at sustainability, we interrogate to what extent we are seeing the required results based on what we have. There are multiple opportunities for value added partnerships with SGP and NDI,” he said.

Ermath then took the meeting through the milestones and timelines. He proposed that the Network share the documents with the broader constituencies of NGOs to ensure that the final document was one crafted from the bottom up. He reminded the meeting that timing would be of the essence in terms of Madame Barbut’s revelation earlier that the documents should be ready for April 2008.

Ermath opened the floor to questions and comments.

Question/ Comment

Tim Geer (WWF) congratulated the NGO Network for taking the time to develop a strategy document. What was, however, missing in the mission statement was its contribution to GEF’s policies and actions? The Network needed to push for intellectual products based on information of experiences of NGOs and GEF. The last objective on communication and lesson sharing was, in his opinion, a very good step forward.



Response

Ermath thanked Tim Geer for his words of encouragement. He reiterated that the main objective of his presentation was to solicit participants' input on the vision and mission statement. The overarching goal was to elicit multiple party contributions to the strategy and plan. It was a quick win way to get comments such as these, to achieve congruency between the Network and GEF.

Question/Comment

Vanessa (Forest People's Program) thanked Ermath for his excellent presentation. She questioned where the Network sees the sanctioning in safeguarding the environment in a right spaced environment, making human rights is included.

Response

Ermath prefaced his answer with a question. What is the definition of rights? He suggested that this word "rights" was often used in a manner that made it look cosmetic or glamorous. He wondered how it was possible to juxtapose "right space" in safeguarding the environment with promoting sustainable development. It was therefore not easy to apply a blanket answer to that question. The bottom line was that there are different realities. "We cannot respond to 'right spacing' now but hope that this will be incorporated in the course of our consultations," he said.

Question/Comment

Jagdeesh Puppala noted that when drafting the strategy and operational plan, the Network looked at the needs and rights of different sectors. It was therefore difficult to put a value position and impossible to come up with one value system.

Question/Comment

Rajen Awotar noted that the network had gone through some trials and tribulations, but this was the first time it had produced a document of his nature and was proud of it. He reiterated that it was not easy to coordinate the Network whose members are dispersed throughout the world. It was also constrained by lack of resources, but this did not stop it from producing results.

"We do not claim this is a perfect document, butt it is an evolving document which will be significantly improved as we broaden the consultation to the various constituencies," he said.

He was optimistic that by March 2008 the Network would have reached its destination. He also pointed out that consultation with the wider networks will inform the document and certainly add value to the process.

Conclusion

Faizal called on participants to continue discussions on the document and urged those wishing to make contributions to contact the CFP.



4.0 Evaluation Results and Recommendations on Small Grants Program (SGP), Aaron Zazueta, Task Manager, GEF Evaluation Office

In his presentation, Aaron Zazueta, the Task Manager, GEF Evaluation Office, explained that the just completed evaluation of SGP was a joint effort between the GEF Evaluation Office and the UNDP Evaluation Office. He noted that previous evaluations had not been considered sufficiently independent and had left many important questions unanswered. These included issues like relationship with other GEF activities, whether global benefits are targeted and achieved and the expected impact. Other questions pertained to the trade-off with local benefits, cost-effectiveness and new issues relating to SGP and the RAF. The key questions addressed in the evaluation were: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, key factors affecting results and monitoring and evaluation.

During this evaluation the evaluators were able to talk about cost efficiency. It emerged that SGP apparently did not have a cost-effective way of dealing with projects resulting in the constituencies' benefits being more than two-thirds. The management costs were found to be in the high to medium range compared to other GEF programs. Nevertheless, given the services and outputs provided, these costs made sense. This, Aaron said, was a very important point to acknowledge as it was necessary to pay what it costs to provide a good program. Overall, the evaluation found that SGP was a cost-effective way for achieving sustainable development. But on the debit side, the evaluation did find cracks in the system, which if not addressed as a matter of urgency will only widen.

Turning to the report's recommendations, Aaron said:

Recommendation 1 merited further discussion.

Recommendation 2 states that the wide diversity within SGP should be acknowledged.

Recommendation 3 highlights instances of conflict of interest. Out of a sample of 23, three instances of conflict of interest were found. This was a serious issue for which there should be zero tolerance.

Recommendation 4 suggests that the system is working well, but there is still room for improvement.

Recommendation 5 needed revision.

Questions and Answers

Question

Rajen Awotar referred the presenter to the chart which contained several unanswered questions. One such question was on the need to "... move away from an arbitrary % to more transparency and better accountability". According to Rajen, effectiveness seemed to be the focal point of the evaluation, the need for better audits another, as was competition with other GEF programs. He wanted clarification on whether the evaluation was done by UNDP and/or GEF office.



Response

Aaron Zazueta explained that this time the evaluation was conducted by GEF and UNDP and was completely independent. This was not an independent evaluation, but a procedural issue. Some aspects of the evaluations were, however, managed by SGP.

“Regarding transparency and accountability, programs at country level have found some means of dealing with country programs’ needs. We understand that what they have done is important but it is not the right way of doing things. Cost effectiveness was reached in a highly triangulated fashion. Related to this the analysis looked at the management costs and resources being harnessed in terms of co-financing compared to expenditure and investments. We are talking about cost effectiveness at this level. In totality and considering the levels of achievement SGP is quite a cost-effective approach,” Aaron said.

With regard to the auditing, some aspects still needed clarification. There were problems in the Philippines, Kenya and Pakistan. The bone of contention here was the role of the National Steering Committees, Aaron noted. He went on: “The questions relate to pursuing. The amounts were not that huge, but it is significant and important, as there were issues of public presentation of results. SGP is taking these issues seriously and is addressing them.”

On competition, several issues came under the spotlight. It was mentioned that GEF was competitive from within. This was not something people should be alarmed about. Sometimes SGP might portray itself as unique in some ways.

On the question of governance within civil society, there were elements of successful governance structures, such as Trust Funds. There are other initiatives within GEF, such as the World Bank Marketplace that should be acknowledged. Funding for SGP is only a third of the overall GEF funding capacity. The question is how SGP can link better with other GEF initiatives such as the Nile Basin.

Conflict of interest arose mainly from the fact that National Steering Committees were taking advantage of their privileged positions to get the lion’s share of funds. For example, more grants were channeled to organizations whose members sat on the Steering Committee. “When this happens several times, it becomes a real red flag and poses a high risk of conflict of interest. For instance, in Mexico NGO members of the Steering Committee are not allowed to submit proposals. You cannot have the same formula across the board, but you do need to have checks and balances to deal with this problem,” Aaron stressed.

Question

Khadija Razavi wanted to know the main differentials in terms of cost effectiveness between SGP and full-size projects. She proposed that ways be found whereby SGP gets part of the funds allocated to full-size projects. Khadija expressed surprise that when something was working well and delivering



good results, there were calls for change. She also took the opportunity to point out that country priorities should be community-driven.

Response

Aaron Zazueta pointed out that it was difficult to compare the cost-effectiveness of SGP and full-size projects as the two were at opposite ends of the scale. In the assessment, the Evaluation Office concluded SGP was cost effective. On the question of full-size projects allocating funds to SGP, he said this was where the linkage of SGP to other initiatives should come into play. SGP needed to explore these possibilities, as US\$440 million was allocated to components in this range compared with US\$220 million under SGP.

On why change was necessary when SGP was delivering good results, Aaron said this was in line with the findings of the evaluation. “What we are saying is that SGP is at a critical stage where somehow it needs to reinvent itself. The current structure has done an excellent job at the start-up of countries in LDCs and SIDS. But GEF must ensure that it does not throw away these gains.”

He agreed with the community-driven approach emphasizing that one of the admirable things about SGP was that it responded to the needs of global livelihoods. It was also worth noting that SGP grants financed projects within national strategies.

Question

Tim Geer (WWF) sought clarification in terms of benefits, with particular reference to sustainability and impact. He agreed with the recommendation that when Council looks at graduation, they are mindful that gains are not lost and follow-up mechanisms are put in place.

Response

Aaron Zazueta submitted that SGP, by its very nature, started small and served as a catalyst for up-scaling. He said sustainability and impact were measured in terms of sample grants.

5.0 SGP Proposed Actions on Evaluation and Potential Linkages for GEF NGO Network and SGP, Delfin Ganapin, Global Manager SGP

In his presentation, Global Manager for SGP, Delfin Ganapin made it clear that the proposed actions were biased towards advocacy and lobbying, rather than management issues *per se*. He revealed that there would be 23 new country entrants to the SGP over the next three years, among them Afghanistan, Congo and Liberia. In anticipation of this increase, the SGP was looking at the management costs involved. A provisional figure of US\$4 million was expected to raise the management costs to 30%. These additional costs could be reduced by resorting to cheaper coordination, for example by using non-UN staff. He admitted that this would in some ways compromise the quality and/or effectiveness of the program as “you need the right people to achieve the same success factor”. If the funds for activities



such as capacity building, knowledge management were included under management costs, that will be another constraint. In addition, considerable logistical organization was required to reach remote and vulnerable areas.

Delfin went on to present the SGP proposed actions. For a start, SGP would assess the management costs on a country-by-country basis with the help of a team comprising UNDP, GEF Secretariat and the GEF NGO Network. The report would be submitted not later than April 2008. Regarding the cracks in the management structure, SGP was in the process of creating an operational design. Conflict of interest was bound to occur given the flexibility built into the SGP operational plan.

To address this, all National Steering Committee members would be required to sign a commitment of impartiality. These committees would comprise diverse groups. Another recommendation was to circulate proposals to a wider range of NGOs. Training in ethics and conflict of interest would be delivered to all national offices. There will be an audit of all country programs in GEF4. The cost of such audits will be US\$10,000 per country while the overall budget would be US\$1 million.

With reference to Recommendation 4 on monitoring and evaluation, Delfin submitted that record keeping of project visits required improvement. SGP had adopted new indicators and a system for documentation of site visits. Performance evaluation would include completeness of database entries. A country assessment would be made at the end of each year. An agreement had been reached to amend the guidelines to limit the fees to \$2,000.00 from core funding.

Turning to the prospects of joint efforts between SGP and the GEF NGO Network, Delfin indicated that one of the first steps was to link each national coordinator to a GEF NGO Network member. This would help the SGP to get impartial feedback on what is happening in different countries and will complement the system of checks and balances already in place. The Network could also lend a hand in the country audits. There was criticism that SGP marketed itself as unique. With the help of the GEF NGO Network, SGP could widen its scope of lessons learnt to other GEF projects. He outlined six areas for potential collaboration between the GEF NGO Network and SGP.

Questions and Answers

Question

Felipe Villagran stated that there were cases where SGP only works in one part of the country. SGP in Mexico, for instance, means the south of Mexico. Countries like Mozambique and Egypt had also taken a similar geographical focus. It was imperative to find ways to improve the geographical spread.

Response

Delfin Ganapin's reaction was that the graduation policy and design will include inputs from the GEF NGO Network.



Question

Titilope Akosa wondered how SGP could implement additional controls to allow “neutral” people to serve on National Steering Committees without preventing them from submitting proposals for funding.

Response

Delfin Ganapin responded that some controls had been put in place. In some countries, for example, priority was given to CBOs and IPs. This was done in-country.

6.0 Identifying Innovative, Sustainable Development Ideas, Kristina Stefanova, Development Marketplace

Kristina Stefanova described the Development Marketplace (DM) as a knowledge exchange forum, an opportunity to share best practices, showcases techniques, good project design and communication. It spawns a generic cross-cutting theme of interest to project implementors. The timeframe was one year for country regions and two years for global projects. For global projects, an advisor is assigned to the project by the World Bank, tasked with managing and supervising implementation of the project and providing technical assistance and support.

To give an indication of the flavor of the themes, in 2007 it was health, in 2006 sustainable livelihoods, while in 2005 the focus was on delivery systems. The main partner in 2007 for the theme on health was the Bill Gates Foundation. During the year a total of 2,600 proposals were received, and grants totaling US\$4 million awarded to 31 winners. The most recent theme was “Lighting in Africa” under which 20 winners will be selected. The majority of finalists were civil society organizations

Kristina Stefanova explained that DM invites applications from all interested parties, including NGOs, government agencies, private businesses, development agencies, foundations and the World Bank. A broad cross-section of the development community is invited to assess the proposals and serve as jurors at the Marketplace. Here, all of the finalists set up booths and share their ideas with the jurors, other members of the development community and the general public. At the end of the Marketplace, the jury declares the winners; over the next few weeks they receive their grants, either at once or in multiple tranches.

Global DM winners are monitored by the DM team in conjunction with a local World Bank staffer; lessons are shared and success stories highlighted

For project tracking, activities can be summarized as Monitor, Evaluate and Broker.



Question and Answers

Question

Salah Sahabi asked whether the package covering these projects was arbitrarily defined or were there other mechanisms? “You stated that the global competition could award US\$50,000-200,000 for each grant, what is the ceiling for the regional competition? You mentioned that it costs between US\$10,000 and US\$30,000 to invite 100 countries to Washington, DC. Is this realistic?” Salah asked.

Response

Kristina Stefanova stressed that there were two programme activities --- global and regional. The global competition is on a larger scale and 100 finalists are brought in from all over the world. At regional and country level, the competition takes place locally. The number of finalists is usually less than 100 depending on the scale of the competition.

7.0 Note on the Adaptation Fund, Boni Biagini, Program Manager/Senior Climate Change Specialist

Boni Biagini expressed her happiness to participants in the NGO consultation and for the opportunity to introduce the Adaptation Fund. She said that she saw the exchange as an ongoing dialogue. Presenting an outline, Boni said that the UNFCCC Adaptation Fund would be one of the items on the agenda in Bali. Historically, it is a COP and Council decision. There will be a submission by GEF to manage the UNFCCC Adaptation Funds. On the rationale for writing the paper, she explained that during COP7, three funds were established --- two under the convention and one under the Kyoto Protocol. Here it was understood that these were assigned to GEF.

The discussion reopened at COP11 and the discussion could still be open in Bali or maybe a decision will be made. The third report of IPCC shows that issues of adaptation are very important. Throughout the history of GEF, there has been a discrepancy. The paper seeks the consent of the GEF Council to allow GEF to serve as the Secretariat for the Adaptation Fund and to be guided by COP decisions. This Fund is essential because it opens opportunities for more robust financing for this critical issue.

Following guidance from the UNFCCC, the GEF originally adopted a “staged approach” towards adaptation. Stage I encompasses assessments and Stage II focuses on capacity building. In addition, the GEF-financed projects under Stages I and II have built the capacities of developing countries, and especially small island states, to gather and process data. The projects have also helped establish the institutional and local capacities to move to the next step and start implementing adaptation projects on the ground. The GEF received the mandate from the Climate Convention in 2001 to finance adaptation projects on the ground.



Thanks to this guidance, the GEF began piloting adaptation action under three financing avenues: 1) Strategic Priority on Adaptation (SPA), a US\$50 million pilot within the GEF Trust Fund; 2) Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), whose resources are accessible only to the 49 Least Developed Countries (LDCs); and 3) Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), whose resources are accessible to all developing countries. The funds integrate adaptation measures into development practices.

UNFCCC had already agreed to principles for the functioning of the Adaptation Fund, Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties (COP/MOP) to the Kyoto Protocol, in Nairobi, Kenya, November 17, 2006. These principles ensure that the integrity of the GEF will be respected. If the GEF were to host this Fund, it would apply the approved COP/MOP principles applicable for the management of this Fund. This a revolutionary proposition by the GEF as it might necessitate a separate financial management structure. The GEF Secretariat is seeking from Council its consent for the CEO to adopt a flexible approach to the establishment and operationalization of the Adaptation Fund in response to decisions by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP).

Questions and Answers

Question

Rajen Awotar commended the paper as enlightening and reiterated the wish of the CEO and Chair of the GEF for the GEF NGO Network to assist in convincing parties. He said the Network was not sure how it would go about this. It would be good to be flexible and to have a separate governing structure outside the GEF structure. He still had the impression that GEF has a heavy structure with too much conditionality. This is something GEF would have to dispel in Bali. There is no other suitable candidate to host this Fund. A decision in this regard was therefore urgent.

Reza (Iran) wanted enlightenment on the challenges the GEF Secretariat would face if assigned the task of managing this Fund. He also asked whether members would be comfortable with a separate replenishment mechanism for this Fund.

Yaba Batista emphasized the importance of the Fund being managed by GEF as a major landmark and step in the right direction in making links between conservation management and climate change. He asked how this will be adapted to deal with ecosystems and natural resources.

German Rocha asked about access to the Adaptation Funds by governments, GEF agencies and NGOs.

Herve Lefeuvre looked beyond the decision in Bali on how the GEF will ensure communication and access to the most vulnerable sectors.



Response

Boni Biagini acknowledged Rajen Awotar's comments that GEF's efforts towards flexibility made NGOs feel more comfortable about GEF managing these funds.

She said the challenges were mostly related to the Adaptation Fund and so members' fears were premature. GEF would not make any rules; its role would be to operationalize. The rules would be decided by COP/MOP. The challenge will be to follow these rules and turn theory into practice.

The Adaptation Fund would have a separate replenishment mechanism, different governance and different donors, etc. The voting procedure for the Adaptation Fund would be strictly one head, one vote, thereby doing away with the double majority voting structure. There will be a different approach in the way contributions are made to this fund. GEF will also do its best to maintain the quality of management.

Referring to the national resources, Boni restated that it will be COP/MOP's decision and not that of the GEF. In her own personal experience in managing adaptation funds, she said most cases of adaptation were human development issues, such as food security, health, agriculture. These were not GEFable projects in the past. Natural resources would be taken into account but human development will be a priority. Often human life and food security depended on natural resources.

The parties would decide on access and fiduciary standards. Unless governments can prove that they have the capacity, the fiduciary standards will more than likely need Agencies. Regarding the management of the Fund with respect to resources for vulnerable countries, COP/MOP will develop the methodology or rules, giving priority to countries that are more vulnerable. She was not sure they would have a pre-defined share as this would be a political decision within developing countries.

8.0 Relations with Conventions and Other International Institutions, Ravi Sharma, Program Manager/Senior Capacity Building Specialist

Ravi Sharma informed the meeting that his paper would focus on developments of interest to the GEF occurring since the GEF Council meeting in June 2007 within the context of the UN Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (the Stockholm Convention), the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa (UNCCD), and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the Montreal Protocol).

The Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention (COP) met for its third session, from 30 April-4 May 2007, in Dakar, Senegal. The GEF Secretariat and Agencies held a well attended side-event



on “Partnerships in Implementing the Stockholm Convention” that showcased progress in implementing GEF POPs projects in partnership with civil society, the private sector, governments and other organizations. The COP took a number of decisions, including on DDT, Best Available Techniques/Best Environmental Practices (BAT/BEP), Effectiveness Evaluation, and Technical Assistance.

The eighth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (COP 8) welcomed the GEF reforms approved by Council in June 2007, culminating in a streamlined project cycle, adoption of a revised focal area strategy on land degradation for the fourth replenishment of the GEF (GEF4), adoption of a cross-cutting focal area strategy on sustainable forest management, as well as development of a results-based management framework.

As his presentation was very brief, he did not expect too much discussion on this topic.

Questions and Answers

Questions

Faizal Parish said it would be an important precedent to see how the Council deals with the Adaptation Fund. In previous discussions concerns had been raised on the time lag between GEF Council and the convention, what steps will be taken to ensure a more timely response?

Response

Ravi Sharma responded that when the COPs took decisions, they did not look at resource constraints. It was up to the Council to decide what resources are available. If we report back, at every COP there are ongoing discussions and good mechanisms by which these things can be evaluated.

9.0 Terms of Reference for Mid-Term Review of the RAF, Siv Tokle, Task Manager for RAF Terms of Reference, GEF Evaluation Office

Siv Tokle presented the Terms of Reference for the Mid-Term Review of the RAF. This was basically a straightforward presentation, outlining the process for this evaluation. She touched on the reasons for the review, the process of the TORs and the emerging issues so far. She went on to outline the three areas assessment as (a) Extent the design of the RAF facilitates maximization of the impact of GEF resources (quality and indices?); (b) Extent early implementation of the RAF is providing countries with predictability and transparency as well as enhancing country-driven approaches (changes from past?) and (c) Compare GEF RAF with other systems (any new experiences?).

Siv also highlighted the key areas for NGOs, the design and methodology, capping her presentation with an outline of the team and timeframe and topics for discussion.



Questions and Answers

Questions

Faizal Parish posed a question on the GEF prioritization process stating that he hoped future RAFs this gap would be eliminated. There is need to have this information available so that a full picture is presented. He also asked how the Evaluation Office could engage with the GEF NGO Network. He stressed the need to put instruments and tools. Faizal hailed the idea of surveys, but solicited for more details.

Rajen Awotar had a query on how NGOs could get involved. How could the Network members participate? With reference to the RAF, the main sticking point was the disappearance of the MSPs which has had an enormous impact on NGOs. He also requested the Evaluation Office to produce simplified information, which was NGO-friendly. He raised concerns on the aims of the mid-term review. He also pointed out that many NGOs did not understand the RAF as no workshops had been held to explain it to them. He inquired about the survey form and its format and requested elaboration on the countries that will be surveyed as well as the timeframe.

Using the NDI in India as an example, Jagdeesh Puppala pointed out that different interpretations of the RAF could ground projects for years. Regarding PIFs in the pipeline, he wondered what would happen if a PIF was caught at the tail end of GEF4.

Response

Siv Tokle affirmed that the Evaluation Office needed the support of NGOs to gather information. It is impossible to go through 156 countries, looking at examples of issues with the same pattern and engaging in country visits. She said that they would be able to go through the pipeline but what they needed help with is to define how these changes came about. Questions will have to be targeted. Surveys are easy to do electronically. The challenges would come with the NGO communities which did not have access to email. Although she suggested the use of websites, this still required access to the Internet. Written surveys were also a possibility.

Regarding the request to produce more simplified notes, she explained that the TORs were written for a specific purpose. It was not the job of the Evaluation Office to explain what the RAF is. She acknowledged that many people had difficulty understanding what it entailed. Tools would have to be developed in order to do this. At country level, she said they would select a sample and hold focus group meetings. She referred to a meeting with NDI and CSP and explained how they would piggyback on regional consultations and selected dialogues in-country.

In relation to the effect on NGOs, she promised that the Evaluation Office would look at this in the context of RAF and other changes. It was the character of GEF to look for new trends and patterns. There were challenges in the GEF's transition. It was too soon to say what PIFs will be outstanding. The



Evaluation Office had been tasked to look at the 50% rule and how it is designed in terms of GEF4. This would, however, be addressed in more detail in the final OPS4.

10.0 Countdown 2010- TEMATEA (issues based Modules: An Example from Theory to Practice, Ines Verleye, Countdown Secretariat, IUCN World Conservation

Ines Verleye moved swiftly through the concept of Countdown 2010, a partnership between IUCN World Conservation and UNEP. She said that because of the huge political support for this program there were calls to extend it. As such it was no longer a European initiative but was spreading out to embrace the biodiversity spectrum worldwide. She highlighted that people who dealt with these issues at national level understood these concepts as they dealt with very concrete areas. It was, however, difficult to bring the international discussions down to national level. The project, she explained, dealt with issue-based modules. Instead of looking at the conventions, it looked at subject experts who deal with (a) biodiversity and climate change; (b) inland waters; (c) invasive alien species; (d) protected areas; and (e) sustainability.

It was a capacity building project targeted at helping national cooperation on these topics. These were the basic mandate for countries to work with. The project also tried to lift out activities to tell countries what to do, but this was voluntary. For example, countries that have used these modules can get to cover COP decisions, not directly related to GEF. It gives the potential to cover quite a lot of ground for the COP decisions. At national workshops countries are asked to make an inventory of all national plans and commitments. UNEP and IUCN were together in this partnership.

Questions and Answers

Questions

Faizal Parish thanked the presenter for demonstrating to the meeting how to link to the conventions.

Jagdeesh Puppala described his impressions of the GEF-initiated process on CCD at the NDI in India and urged Network members to take this process forward from the donor perspective.

Diego Diaz Martin (VITALIS) asked if IUCN had this information in Spanish to enable them to reach a wider and more diverse audience.

Response

Ines Verleye informed the meeting that IUCN had plans to translate this information into Russian and Spanish.



11.0 VITALIS Experience in Integrated Water Management and Methodological Guidelines for the Evaluation of Protected Areas, Venezuela Case", Diego Diaz Martin, Executive Director of VITALIS

Diego Diaz Martin presented an overview of VITALIS's activities in his country since 2000. VITALIS was part of the first group to craft proposals for the evaluation of protected areas in Venezuela. It was a unique ecosystem project with components on forestry coverage and related goods and services. In Venezuela, he explained, there were truths and half-truths, reality and fiction. There existed high indices of threatened species, the highest deforestation rate in Latin America. Among the threats, 355 of the vegetation had disappeared, there was massive soil degradation while disagreements marred the reform process. Much of the legislation was unclear, the environment was not a priority in the national budget (only 09.08% is allocated to the environment).

Against these difficulties, VITALIS --- with the inspiration of the quote "If you can imagine it, you can achieve it . . ." --- came into being in 2000. They recruited people who were sensitive to its vision and started implementing community-based projects. The major focus was on Biodiversity and Protected Areas, Eco-efficiency and Green Offices and Climate Change. The organization embarked on building different green house models, mobilizing university groups and promoted global citizenship with the basic principle of becoming more active at community level on the environment. In its work, the organization uses the key elements of multidisciplinary, technically based, direct contact with shareholders, high visibility through the media, proactive action and constructive action.

This presentation will look at just two of the projects implemented by VITALIS over the years. The first is the Integrated Water Management. It is a network on water, comprising 14 regional water partnerships. Members are drawn from national governments, local governments, universities and the private sector. The initiative looks at urban floods and regional and national dialogues. In addition, VITALIS has developed a toolbox to evaluate local cases and document successful cases all over the world. It has trained engineers and others who do not ordinarily interact with the environment. By linking its work to everyday activities, VITALIS has made this fashionable and an extraordinary opportunity. In addition, it has successfully linked environmental issues and techniques directly to basic human rights.

The second project is national parks. VITALIS has developed 35 criteria and 43 indicators for national parks as an essential human right to the environment. The goal here was to make comparisons with other evaluation methods for national parks. VITALIS wanted to have scientific support and backing to assess with the help of statistics what they were doing and demonstrate the principles presented. There is a need for this type of information and this is a fantastic resource. In all its work VITALIS recognizes local and indigenous people. VITALIS also developed the Green Light, which deals with the establishment and permanence of protected areas, the ecosystem approach and is ecologically sustainable.



The results obtained include high visibility, internal review, threat analysis, conservation needs, citizen mobilization, some NGOs and governments reached and action taken. As a final comment, networking is a must. It is critical to look at imagination vs. resources, have the innovation to convince, neutral space with strong technical basis, influence from the inside, independence and healthy and visible efforts.

The next steps for VITALIS are sustainable quality (efficiency and effectiveness), imagination vs. resources, innovation and conviction. When you are passionate about something you can always achieve it.

Questions and Answers

Question

Rajen Awotar asked that since Venezuela is an oil-producing country, how did this fit into VITALIS's project portfolio.

German Rocha assumed that VITALIS had received some support for GEF for its projects. He wanted to know which Implementing Agencies were involved and for which projects.

Response

Diego Martin said in its studies VITALIS carries out evaluations. They have been relying on public information to monitor this problem (oil as a threat to the environment). The problem was, however, difficult to overcome because of the legal framework, paucity of skills and (lack of political) will.

On project funding, Diego Martin said until recently VITALIS did not receive any funding from the GEF.

12.0 Sustainable Development of Serra of Capivara National Park and the American Homme Museum, Brazil, Dr. Niéde Guidon, Executive Director of FUMDHAM.

Dr. Nided Guidon explained that she was a teacher in Paris doing ecological research in a semi-arid region of Brazil. After three years, in 1973 various scholars found that this region was very important ecologically. The contact point is between two geological structures (a) erosive valleys (plants, trees, vegetation typical of the Amazon. In the south it is more typical of the Atlantic. The region not only boasts numerous rivers, but also rock art. But, above all, it is drought prone.

In 1986 Dr Guidon and her team set up an NGO --- American Museum of Man. For eight years they carried out a strict surveillance program of endangered species. During that time two or three endangered species became extinct.



The study also found out that during the dry season the larger animals migrated to the southern region in search of water. But because this part of Brazil had been turned into farmland, this migration was no longer possible. It was difficult for these animals to survive without water or food. Sometimes hunters killed female animals leaving the offspring stranded. An orphanage was been set up at the training centre to look after these vulnerable animals.

Following a request from the Brazilian government, the American Museum of Man carried out a study funded by Inter American Bank. Technical experts concluded that agriculture was not viable because of the poor quality of the soil. They instead recommended tourism. There are four entry points for tourists to the 128 archaeological sites. Two sites --- Ferade and Pedra --- had evidence of human habitation. The sites are humanity, mankind heritage sites. There exist here the biggest concentrations of such paintings in the world. The paintings, some as old as 2,700 years, come in different styles and sizes. Unfortunately, some paintings had been damaged by hunters and others by bonfires over the years. The vegetation was not spared either.

In addition, there are a number of hand prints, evidence of a rudimentary communication system. Excavation started in 1983; and continues to this day as 10% of the sites are still to be excavated. The local youth have been trained in excavation and conservation work. Preliminary findings suggest that gigantic animals existed there in prehistoric times.

The project site is one of the poorest regions in Brazil and a tragic example of modern man's recklessness in exploiting the environment. As a result there is massive deforestation, emaciated goats, with nothing to eat for months on end. In some cases the region has gone nine months without rain and the native people plant cactus to feed their animals. There is little shade and the heat is unbearable. Waste disposal is also a problem. Lakes and rivers disappear because of erosion. Worse still, some people have planted plants in water bodies, which accelerate the drying of water bodies.

In 1999 with the help of the Italian government the project was able to build a school. But within a year the project was terminated. Italy pledged support to the project for a fixed period, after which the Brazilian government would take over. This did not happen. FUMDHAM also started a pottery and beekeeping project funded by Inter America Bank. They erected water reservoirs for the animals that can no longer migrate. For all archaeological items, a museum has been established. There are laboratories to carry out research, built and equipped by the French government. The site is fighting for government to allocate the national parks a fixed budget so that the tourism project can be implemented. In 1996, the government undertook to construct an airport to boost tourist arrivals, but this is yet to happen.



Questions and Answers

Questions

Khadija Razavi hailed this initiative which he said had some useful lessons for the Network.

Jagdeesh Puppala commented about the innovative mix of archaeology and ecology. It presented a remarkably rare picture of a semi-arid area. Said Jagdeesh: “We have in our minds the picture of a lush Amazon forest---oblivious to the other side”. He asked about the artificial lighting, and whether it did not pose a danger to the paintings. He was also curious to know the effect of the artificial lighting on animal behaviour.

Response

Dr. Niéde Guidon informed the meeting that the site was open to students with an interest in parks ecology. They were welcome to take part in the research. The use of artificial lighting did not pose any danger to the paintings as it was switched on for limited periods only. A zoologist had recommended that the lights stay on for 20 minutes at a time.

13.0 Galapagos Species at Risk - Invasive Species, Community Participation Ecuador, Dr. Graham Watkins, Executive Director of the Darwin Foundation of the Galapagos Islands

The presenter apologized on behalf Dr Graham Watkins who could not make it in time due to flight problems.

Galapagos is 965 kilometers off the coast of Ecuador. This area is volcanic, barren with small amounts of vegetation. Because of its isolation most of the animals and plants on the islands are found nowhere else in the world. The animals do not normally live together.

The islands have a high level of endemism, which makes the region extremely fragile. **Galapagos** is the thermometer of the world. The human population has increased from 4,000 (1970); 10,000 (1980) to 32,000 (2007), thanks to the islands booming tourism. At least 140,000 tourists visited the islands in 2007, a far cry from 10,000 in 1980. There is a strong linkage between the growth in tourism and the surge in population. A number of fishermen also poach fish in Galapagos waters, which gives rise to endless conflicts. Although domestic tourism is low, the foreign tourism is high volume and is getting out of control. The human impact of this is significant. Its downside includes the introduction of 36 vertebrate species, 52% terrestrial species threatened, introduction of the mosquito and domestic animals. With the introduction of disease, the government cannot keep pace. The darkest side of the tourism boom was the introduction of goats.

With funding from GEF, local people were trained to hunt both on the ground and aerially. Literally, the challenge was to claim the island of Isabella, the largest in the **Galapagos**. With funding from GEF, they



were able to bring in an international team. After 10 days a decision was made to reclaim the island. This project transformed traditional approaches to conservation in the **Galapagos**. There were three components: eradication of goats; eradication of cats, pigs and a trust fund to be capitalized with funds from the GEF (this was not achieved). This project was unprecedented in terms of size and scope, it developed new techniques and local capacity for large scale eradication and monitoring, it helped increase research and build capacity to evaluate risks and solutions. It increased awareness about invasive species and local participation in ecological restoration.

The Charles Darwin Foundation's skills go beyond just eradication of invasive species. For instance, it has expertise in the development of ecological controls. The President of Ecuador and the Governor of **Galapagos** in April declared **Galapagos's** conservation a national priority. It shows that education is critical. There were significant challenges and issues; GEF funding was helpful, although it did not manage to address socio-economic and tourism issues. It did, however, succeed in addressing native issues. This, to our knowledge, had not been done anywhere else in the world.

Questions and Answers

Questions

German Rocha asked if higher tourism fees had been considered and the impact of the new fishery regulations (affecting catch and pregnancy of the fish of **Galapagos**). What happened to the trust fund?

Response

The GEF grant provided for a Trust Fund. This did not happen as the project was not designed for work on endangered species. After seven years no one asked how the US\$5 million was spent. The private sector was supposed to pledge US\$15 million to the Government of Ecuador.

Regarding tourism fees, foreign tourists pay more. The fisheries contribution is a drop in the ocean --- US\$2 million per year compared to \$140 million per year for tourism. About US\$6 million is earmarked for the maintenance of Galapagos National Park.

14.0 Peatlands Biodiversity and Climate Change: Implications for the Implementation of GEF 4 Strategy, Faizal Parish, Regional Focal Point South East Asia and Director Global Environment Centre

Faizal Parish informed the meeting that the Peatlands Biodiversity and Climate Change project was funded by the GEF. The assessments were supported by a medium-sized project financed through UNEP. The duration of the project was three years.



Peatland wetlands are ecosystems in which water-logging delays decay. Ten percent of the world's water resources are stored in peatlands. Peatlands are critical for biodiversity and the support of communities and livelihoods. For instance, the chewing gum tree is a critical resource for local communities as it provides food and also prevents floods. Peatlands preserve history, are unique and complex and provide the most space-effective carbon stocks of all terrestrial ecosystems. Regarding tropical forests, the fact that peatlands cover 3% of the world area is extremely important. This was not so clearly recognized prior to the global assessment. The integrated management of peatlands has generally not been sustainable and has had more impact on biodiversity and climate change. An ASEAN Peatlands Management Strategy was developed for 2006-2010. This strategy had 25 objectives and 100 actions in 13 focal areas. The strategy was endorsed by ministers of 10 ASEAN countries in November 2006 and supports the active participation of civil society.

Some of the experiences from countries were to effectively reduce emissions and protect biodiversity, changing attitudes, dialogues and rehabilitation of degraded peatlands through blocking abandoned drainage. Because of this and the absence of fires, the vegetation started to grow back resulting in the rehabilitation of vegetation --- 62,000 tons of carbon was recovered. As an outcome of these results, the communities were able to develop interest in this approach through alternative livelihoods, non-timber forest products, agriculture, fisheries, animal husbandry and appropriate financing mechanisms.

The key findings were that if local communities are properly supported and empowered with the appropriate technology and land management; they will be able to rehabilitate and make significant contributions to global carbon recovery. Even in situations of conflict and illegal logging this can be turned into something positive.

The lessons for GEF4 are that through debate at the last Council meeting the program on forestry management will be adjusted to integrate some components from the peatland project. It is not necessary to have huge projects with high inputs. But it is important to remember that country projects can generate very generous emission reductions.

Questions and Answers

Question

The question was asked whether the project had undertaken any economical analysis and whether government was associated with these changes.

Rajen Awotar asked about the project's connection with the Climate Change Convention.

Response

Faizal Parish explained that the MSP did not include any economic analysis. What was apparent was that with relatively low inputs it was possible to make significant contributions to carbon decrease. This



is what was being flagged in connection with carbon finance and options of financing. There had been no broader analysis of other benefits.

As a whole, peatlands are not recognized by the Climate Change Convention which focuses more on industry and to a limited extent on forests with the capability of even reducing emissions from deforestation. It is difficult to get total consensus. However, if peatlands are not given higher priority, emissions from peatlands will exceed emissions from other sources.

15.0 GEF Mid-Size Projects: Experiences as an Executing Agency and Advantages of NGO Implementing Agencies vis-a-vis Government, Luz Maria, Rodriguez Saenz

Luz Maria told the meeting about innovative practices to promote economic and social incentives and significant in facilitating land development and consensus. According to Luz, every year there were significant changes in land use, some of which were ill-planned. Seven social organizations participated in the early stages of the coffee project, with the help of World Bank funding. NGOs believe the management is efficient, bottom up and that there is institutional commitment. To consolidate the technical aspects of the process, organizations are seeking financing mainly in order to sell coffee. Producers can produce coffee but they need the resources to pay for harvesting. There is another agency in the bank that provides loans for this activity. The government and other players enjoy a good relationship.

Through certification, organizations have been able to increase the value they get for the coffee. Organizations could send technical experts trained in marketing so that other organizations could comply with all the requirements for certification. Turning to environmental sustainability, in 1999 the area under organic coffee expanded from 500 hectares to 4,100 hectares, 910 hectares of which was certified as shade coffee. This type of certification yields the best price. Shade diversified coffee can yield up to 25 pesos --- four times the value --- for the producer. Nine hundred hectares of forests are preserved and used for conservation purposes. Coffee, however, can conserve a wealth of species compared to other crops.

There are monitoring systems, where communities were trained to identify species that are part of the land and which relate to social sustainability. Today, more than 1,000 producers have been awarded certification for fair commerce. This is ample proof that democratic processes can be transparent. There are agricultural teams to promote technocrats living in co-operations and they deal with everything related to the support required. The capacity within organizations has been strengthened. The organizations, in turn, are partners in alliance at state and national level. This helps to identify better markets and negotiate for better prices. At the beginning of the program only one corporation sold organic coffee, now there are 11. Producers obtain 30-100% more than local prices. No corporation was able to obtain a loan in 1999 but at present corporations can get loans of up to US\$ 150,000. For success there must be interactions, exchanges and a learning experience. The central focus was on the producers



and NGOs who implemented this project as well as partnerships with government and academic institutions.

Outstanding issues include the need for annual certification training and to increase production of organic coffee by 50%. An agreement needs also to be reached by all coffee growers to meet certain minimum requirements. Hopefully, they can achieve what Columbia has achieved.

The lessons learnt from this project are that NGOs can be highly efficient in the implementation of MSPs. Flexibility is paramount to be able to adapt and grapple with changes. Certifying organizations was key to economic gains. NGOs allow for the building of sustainability that enables achievement of positive results. There should be a bridge between organizations to the next so that new entrants should not go through the same pathway. The project was profitable and contributed to environment conservation. More organizations will be submitting projects to government for funding. These resources will have to be used up in two years. It is not easy but it is very important to develop capability. The concept of “Think globally, act locally” has been significantly displayed in the results of this project and the experiences have helped the communities to do exactly the same with a palm tree project.

16.0 GEF Communications and Outreach Strategy, William Ehlers, Team Leader, External Affairs

The meeting moved on to discuss the Communication and Outreach Strategy. William Ehlers congratulated participants for their stamina and staying power. The Communication and Outreach Strategy was necessary because in spite of 15 years of good work by the GEF, it is natural that unless the GEF makes an effort to promote its visibility, it is the Agencies who will have a visible face and who will get the credit. Not many people are knowledgeable about the GEF financing mechanisms. His was partly because GEF at present does not have a personality.

It is a respected, trusted funding source and partner. The Communication and Outreach Document is a framework document. It intends to create a clearer identify and branding of the GEF with a clear mission statement. The GEF intends to work with the Agencies to ensure that all speak with one voice. For the GEF it is now necessary to publicize success stories. From the public and media perspective GEF has to be more targeted to cater for an expanded array of stakeholders, investors, private sector, parliamentarians and NGOs.

GEF would like to reach the heart of countries and to ensure at all times that projects are recognized as being funded by GEF. There are parallel tracks that will be taken to ensure this happens, like branding, web publications including annual reports, establishing a strategy for the media, etc. The GEF needs to get feedback and connectivity to its stakeholders. It has to go beyond the closed circles of its Agencies and partners to increase its visibility, importance and relevance in global environmental issues through well recognized branding.



Questions and Answers

Question

Djim Nanasta thanked William for the informative presentation. He told him that the Network had gone through the document and discussed it in detail. However, the document was silent on NGOs. There was need to connect with the GEF NGO Network, which is an important arm for effective communication and outreach to the frontline. It would be beneficial to include NGOs in this strategy to carry out activities on the ground. GEF should also allocate resources to the Network to help them carry out these activities and to do it well.

Response

William Ehlers' response was that the Network was included in the document and was clearly an integral part of this strategy. A budget allocation had not been included because there was no clear indication of the activities planned. These figures were clearly not fixed and would be adjusted according to the various dialogues and as a concrete plan evolved. It was thought prudent to leave them out to avoid coming across as generic to the Council.

17.0 The State of Obsolete Pesticides in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, John Vijgen, Director International HCH & Pesticides Association

The next and final presentation took participants the other side of Europe that many are not familiar with, not to mention the seriousness of the obsolete pesticide problem. See full presentation in Annexure.

Closing

The co-chair, Faizal Parish, thanked all participants for a fruitful deliberation. He also thanked the interpreters for a job well done and the GEF Secretariat for continuing to facilitate this consultation. He extended appreciation to all the presenters for a wonderful job. He said that the discussion were rich and hoped that all participants were left with something to take home and reflect on. All participants were invited to a cocktail party hosted by GEF.



ANNEXURES

GEF-NGO NETWORK CONSULTATION Tuesday, 13 November 2007, 9.00am- 18.00pm The World Bank, H Auditorium, 600 19th Street, N.W. Washington, DC	
09h00 09h15	Registration and election of co-chair (NGO) Opening Remarks and Introductions by Co-Chairs: GEF Secretariat and GEF NGO Network
09h15 –10h15	Question and Answer Session with GEF CEO and Chair, Ms Monique Barbut
10h15 -10h45	Process and Timeline for Developing GEF NGO Network Strategy and Four Year Operational Plan- Facilitated by Ermath Harrington, Regional Focal Point (RFP) Caribbean Open Discussion
10h45 – 11h30	Evaluation Results and Recommendations on Small Grants Program (SGP), Aaron Zazueta, Task Manager, GEF Evaluation Office SGP Proposed Actions on Evaluation and Potential Linkages for GEF NGO Network and SGP, Delfin Ganapin, Global Manager SGP
11h30 – 12h00	Identifying Innovative, Sustainable Development Ideas , Kristina Stefanova, Development Marketplace
12h00 – 12h30	Note on the Adaptation Fund, Boni Biagini, Program Manager/Sr. Climate Change Specialist Relations with Conventions and Other International Institutions, Ravi Sharma, Program Manager/Sr. Capacity Building Specialist
12h30 – 13h00	GEF Communications and Outreach Strategy, William Ehlers, Team Leader, External Affairs
13h00 – 14h00	LUNCH



14h00 – 14h30	Terms of Reference for Mid Term Review of the RAF, Siv Tokle, Task Manager for RAF Terms of Reference, GEF Evaluation Office
14h30 – 15h00	Countdown 2010- TEMATEA (issues based Modules: An Example from Theory to Practice, Ines Verleye, Countdown Secretariat, IUCN World Conservation
15h00 – 15h30	“Galapagos Species at Risk - Invasive Species, Community Participation Ecuador, Dr. Graham Watkins, Executive Director of the Darwin Foundation of the Galapagos Islands
15h30 – 16h00	Vitalis Experience in Integrated Water Management and Methodological Guidelines for the Evaluation of Protected Areas, Venezuela Case", Diego Diaz Martin, Executive Director of VITALIS
16h00 – 16h30	"Sustainable Development of Serra of Capivara National Park and the American Homme Museum” Brazil, Dr. Niéde Guidon, Executive Director of FUMDHAM.
16h30 – 17h00	“Peatlands Biodiversity and Climate Change: Implications for the Implementation of GEF 4 strategy” , Faizal Parish, Regional Focal Point South East Asia and Director Global Environment Centre
17h00 – 17h30	“GEF Mid Size Projects: Experiences as an Executing Agency and Advantages NGO Implementing Agencies vis-a-vis Governments”, Luz Maria, Rodriguez Saenz
17h30 – 17h45	“The State of Obsolete Pesticides in Eastern Europe and Central Asia”, Laurent Granier



Process and Timeline for Developing GEF NGO Network Strategy and Four Year Operational Plan - Facilitated by Ermath Harrington, Regional Focal Point (RFP), Caribbean

BACKGROUND

- The new GEF CEO Monique Barbut challenged the Network to develop a strategic and action plan in the context of working with the GEF
- The Network RFP's developed the strategic plan document and submitted to GEFSEC for review and comment
- The Network RFP's have prepared the draft operational plan for circulation to members for comment, feedback and collation to final version

THE STRATEGIC PROCESS STEPS

- ❖ Destination Planning, Vision and Mission
- ❖ Identification of Strategic Objectives
- ❖ Identification of the Network Pillars
- ❖ Preparation of Operational Plan
- ❖ Development of Governance Framework

DESTINATION PLANNING, VISION AND MISSION

Vision: *"To be a dynamic civil society influencing policies and actions at all levels to safeguard the global environment and promote sustainable development"*

Mission: *"To strengthen civil society partnership with GEF by enhancing participation, contribution to policy and stimulating action"*

The rationale for our strategic plan is based on:

- ❖ Defining the parameters for engagement with the GEF family
- ❖ Adding value to the work and operations of GEF
- ❖ Articulation of the GEF network modus operandi

OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- ❖ To improve the ability of the NGO's to participate and contribute to the promotion, formulation and implementation of the GEF agenda and related UN Conventions and the associated policy dialogues
- ❖ To articulate the views of Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples (IP) on the application of GEF resources
- ❖ To facilitate networking, collaborative relations and outreach between the GEF and Civil Society
- ❖ To assess and provide feedback on GEF related activities at local and regional levels to ensure compliance, accountability and transparency

THE GEF NGO NETWORK PILLARS

- ❖ Governance



- ❖ Communication and Outreach
- ❖ Planning and Strategy
- ❖ Thematic Technical Groups

THE OPERATIONAL PLAN

- ❖ The operational plan framework is designed on a programmatic methodology aligned to the strategic objectives.
- ❖ It adopts a *results* based and not activity / task based focus
- ❖ The programmatic framework is divided into short, medium and long-term programmatic areas

KEY COMPONENTS OF THE PLAN

- ❖ Customized Capacity Building Toolkit Program
- ❖ Monitoring and Evaluation Component that is Results focused
- ❖ Firm Governance Framework for management of the Networks operations
- ❖ Communication and outreach to engage and attract more NGOs to the GEF family
- ❖ Deeper working relationship and influence with the SGP and NDI

MILESTONES AND TIMELINES

Milestone

Preparation and approval of strategic plan
 Development of Enabling Pillars
 Development of Draft Operational Plan
 Development of Draft Governance Framework
 Approval of Governance Framework
 Collation of feedback on the operational plan from Constituency NGOs
 Finalization and approval of Operational Plan
 Mobilization to implement Operational Plan

Status

Completed
 Completed
 Completed
 Completed
 due Nov 2007
 Due Jan 2008
 Due Feb 2008
 Due Mar 2008

Q & A



Evaluation Results and Recommendations on Small Grants Program (SGP), Aaron Zazueta, Task Manager, GEF Evaluation Office

Background

- Previous evaluations not considered sufficiently independent
- Important questions not yet answered:
 - Linkage with other GEF activities?
 - Are global environmental benefits targeted?
 - Are they achieved – what is the expected impact?
 - Trade-off with local benefits?
 - Cost-effectiveness?
- New issues: SGP and RAF, Graduation

Key questions

- Relevance to GEF and to country sustainable development and environmental priorities
- Effectiveness in generating global environmental benefits
- Efficiency
- Key factors affecting results
- M&E of the SGP
- June 2007: request of the Council to look at potential impact of graduation policy, especially on SIDS and LDCs

Implementation

- Independent Evaluation Office of UNDP became a partner in the evaluation
- Desk studies, datasets, literature reviews
- Country programme case studies – 22
- Project sample survey – 229 grants
- Interviews, on-line survey
- More than 25 evaluators involved
- Total cost: circa \$400,000
- Triangulation, validation and verification were made possible through variety of tools and data sources

Relevance and results (1)

- SGP is successful in achieving global environmental benefits.
 - Contributes to institutional and policy reforms
 - Simultaneously addresses livelihood needs
 - Has progressed in targeting the poor
 - Interacts with other GEF projects (various forms)



Relevance and results (1)

- Conclusion 1: The SGP has a slightly higher success rate in achieving global environmental benefits and significantly higher rate in sustaining them than Medium and Full Size Projects

	MSPs and FSPs	SGP
% of satisfactory outcomes	84	90
% of low risks to sustainability	61	80

- Conclusion 2: SGP has contributed to numerous institutional reforms and policy changes in the recipient countries to address global environmental issues.
- Conclusion 3: The SGP has contributed to direct global environmental benefits while also addressing the livelihood needs of local populations.

Relevance and results (3)

Table 5: Relevance and Effectiveness of Outcomes (percentage of projects)

Rating	Outcome Relevance	Outcome Effectiveness
Highly Satisfactory	50%	37%
Satisfactory	34%	42%
Moderately Satisfactory	11%	15%
<i>Satisfactory Range</i>	<i>96%</i>	<i>94%</i>
Moderately Unsatisfactory	3%	4%
Unsatisfactory	1%	2%
Highly Unsatisfactory	0%	0%
<i>Unsatisfactory Range</i>	<i>4 %</i>	<i>6%</i>

(Relevance: Projects reviewed=180; projects rated=180, unable to assess=0; Effectiveness: Projects reviewed =180; projects rated =167, unable to assess = 13)

Relevance and results (4)

- Conclusion 4: The SGP has made significant progress in targeting its efforts to help the poor
 - From OP2 to OP3 grants targeted to the poor increased from 55% to 72%
 - In SIDS this was 39% and in LDCs 89%
- Grants targeted to women: 26%
- Indigenous and ethnic groups were reached, but not specifically targeted



Relevance and results (5)

- Conclusions 5: The SGP country programs, especially the older ones, are effective in promoting the GEF agenda
- Some elements are:
 - Developing and strengthening institutional capacity
 - Reaching out to stakeholders, raising awareness and knowledge sharing
 - Stakeholder participation
 - Partnerships
 - Programmatic approach

Efficiency / cost-effectiveness (1)

- Conclusion 6: All country programs reviewed had interaction with other GEF projects
- Conclusion 7: The SGP's overall knowledge sharing practices have been satisfactory
- Conclusion 8: Although M&E has improved significantly, there is scope for further improvements

Efficiency / cost-effectiveness (2)

- Conclusion 9: The SGP is a cost-effective instrument for the GEF to generate global environmental benefits through NGOs and community-based organizations
- Elements are:
 - Management costs
 - Mobilization of co-financing
 - Efficiency of the country programs
 - Efficiency in grant delivery
 - Efficiency of grant outcomes (94 % satisfactory)

Efficiency / cost-effectiveness (3)

- Management costs:
 - SGP somewhat more expensive but delivers more services which are essential to the SGP's success
 - Decrease in costs in OP3 was made possible by an increase in overall funding and same level of involvement in countries – strain on central management is increasing
- Mobilization of co-financing:
 - Not completely on target but OP3 closed earlier

Efficiency / cost-effectiveness (4)

- Country programs:
 - Program management was *efficient* or *highly efficient* in all 22 countries studied



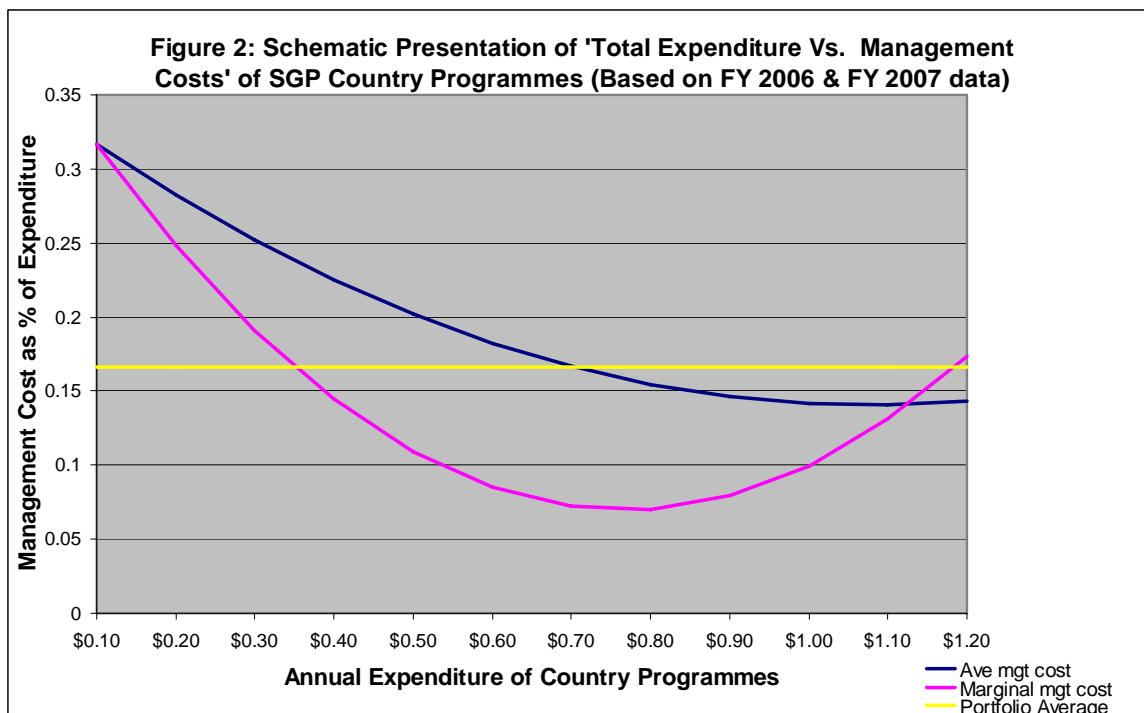
- Grant delivery:
 - SGP more efficient than small grants components of MSPs and FSPs and fewer delays in grant cycle
- Grant outcomes:
 - 94% rated satisfactory on efficiency of achieving outcomes

Graduation policy

- Policy of December 2006: countries with eight years of funding will need to graduate from SGP and will no longer receive GEF funding
- Council requested an *analysis* not an evaluation
- Analysis:
 - Well established country programs have become a cost-effective way of achieving sustainable global environmental benefits
 - SIDS and LDCs: less cost-effective, but well suited to capacities (absorptive and operational) capacities in SIDS and LDCs

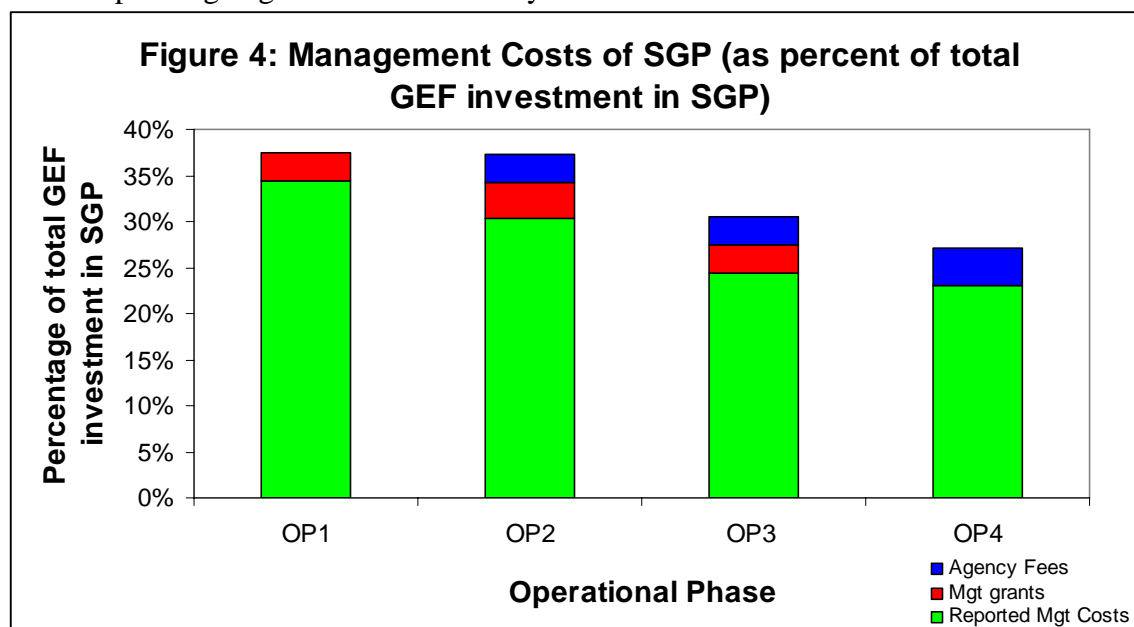
Efficiency / cost-effectiveness (5)

- Conclusion 11: SGP Country Programs operate at maximum cost efficiency at an annual expenditure level of US\$1 to 1.1 million



Efficiency / cost-effectiveness (5)

- Conclusion 12: The higher level of GEF investments in SGP during OP3 facilitated SGP in operating at greater cost efficiency levels than OP1 and OP2



Efficiency / cost-effectiveness (6)

- Conclusion 13: The current management model of SGP has reached its ceiling and is not suitable for a new phase of growth
- Rapid increase in countries from 100 → 120 – thus the same amount needs to be spread thinner
- Increasing demands on CPMT
- More differentiated needs of country programs
- Less possibility to interact
- More competition with other GEF agencies and programs

Recommendations (1)

- Recommendation 1: The level of management costs should be established on the basis of services rendered and cost-efficiency rather than on the basis of an arbitrary percentage
 - Move away from an arbitrary percentage to more transparency and better accountability
- Recommendation 2: A process needs to start to change SGP's central management system suitable for the new phase of growth and to address the risks of growing complexity

Recommendations (2)

- Recommendation 3: Country program oversight needs to be strengthened



- Conflict of interest procedures need to be improved
 - Audits should be budgeted and carried out
 - Grievance procedures
- Recommendation 4: Monitoring and Evaluation needs to be strengthened further
 - Database and record keeping needs to improve further

Recommendations (3)

- Recommendation 5: The current criteria for access to SGP resources should be revised to maintain cost-efficiency
 - December 2006: limit of total funding – SGP+RAF = US\$600,000 – this is below highest efficiency level for management costs
 - Requirement of matching (SGP=RAF) also leads potentially to lower efficiency level for management costs of country program

Recommendations (4)

- Recommendation 6: The intended SGP country program graduation policy needs to be revised for GEF 5 to address the risks to GEF achievements and cost-effectiveness, especially in SIDS and LDCs
- Argument for graduation from SGP core funding is persuasive
- Funding from RAF of older country programs could be considered
- Older programs could continue to apply the success factors of the SGP, without drawing on support from CPMT or core-SGP funding
- If 20 older country programs could graduate from SGP to become “franchise” versions – the load on CPMT would be reduced from 120 → 100
- The “franchise” programs would need to address strategic priorities of the GEF focal areas



SGP Proposed Actions on Evaluation and Potential Linkages for GEF NGO Network and SGP, Delfin Ganapin, Global Manager SGP

Recommendation 1

Level of management costs be established on basis of services rendered and cost efficiency

Issues:

- Allocation per country in OP4 has declined; reduction of management costs will curtail programmatic services
- Grants that address country program management cost are to be stopped but evaluation also recommends that activities that generate global benefits such as knowledge sharing products be fundable with grants
- with 23 new countries to be started up, additional \$4 million needed, raising management cost ratio to 30% with programmatic support and oversight
- program can lower the additional costs with non-UN contracts and lower post levels – but this could put new country program at risk especially in the more difficult countries; starting up a new country program is a most difficult period
- if funds for activities such as knowledge sharing, capacity building, networking and policy advocacy are considered management costs then SGP will be limited in mainstreaming its lessons learned and helping poor/vulnerable communities access SGP and other resources.

Proposed Action:

- Committees led by UNDP with members from the GEFSEC and the GEF NGO Network to assess management cost needs of SGP and explore options on meeting such needs in the most cost-effective manner; report to be submitted on April 2008.

Recommendation 2

Process needs to start to change SGP's central management system

Issues:

- With expansion and growing complexity of SGP, some of the functions of the CPMT can be devolved to UNDP's focal area regional teams. However, critical issues such as costs and clear roles have to consider.

Proposed Actions:

- Country program can benefit from regional unit support in work related to resource mobilization, mainstreaming, etc.
- Aside from UNDP, other IAs and EAs to identify regional support resources that can be provided SGP
- SGP NCs/SRCs and NSCs/SRSCs to be involved



- Committee assessing various options for meeting SGP management costs to also incorporate above considerations into the assessment.

Recommendation 3

Country program oversight needs to be strengthened

Issue:

Conflict of interest issues arise from the flexibility of the SGP Operational Guidelines that allow NGOs with members sitting in the NSC to submit proposals. The flexibility is necessitated by the fact that in many countries, especially LDCs and SIDS, there are few NGOs. Volunteers from these NGOs are needed to serve in the NSC.

Proposed Actions:

- Additional controls on proposals from NGOs with members in the NSC/NFG
- Retraining/training on ethics and conflict of interest issues
- UNOPS to strengthen financial oversight with UNDP COs; all MOAs to be uploaded to database and double-checked
- Audit of all country program in GEF-4
- CPMT to link with GEF Ombudsman and UNDP COs for a system for resolving complaints

Recommendation 4

Monitoring and evaluation needs to be strengthened further

Issue:

Projects on the whole are well supervised but record keeping of project visits need to be improved. Errors resulting from the upgrade of the SGP database (going back to historical data, inclusion of new indicators) need to be corrected. Performance assessment of the NCs/SRCs are deemed not a complete surrogate for program assessment

Proposed Actions:

- System for documentation of site visits to be implemented; to be included in audit assessments; key site visit findings to be included in database
- Continuous monitoring of database clean-up and entries; progress in clean-up and accuracy of entries to be part of NC performance rating; training on indicators and database entry to be provided
- Performance assessment of the NC/SRC to be separated; sections of the PRA referring to country program to form the Country Program Annual Report.

Recommendation 5

Current criteria for access to SGP resources should be revised to maintain cost efficiency

**Issues:**

- Opportunities for cost efficiency gains by curtailing management activities are limited.
- The other option is to increase upper limits of RAF contributions to increase cost efficiency
- Core funds are needed to be allocated to the management cost of new countries and expansion in grant making

Proposed Actions:

- Revise guidelines so that only up to US\$200,000 of core funds is accessed by countries with up to US\$15 million in RAF; but such countries to be allowed to contribute up to US\$400,000 in RAF funds – this will allow more core funds to be accessed by new countries and many LDCs and SIDS.

Recommendation 6

Intended SGP country program graduation policy needs to be revised.

Issues:

- Graduation of the most mature and successful country programs also leads to loss of knowledge sharing and the high co-financing that comes from these countries
- Country programs that graduate will either be disbanded or work for the priority of its new financiers

Proposed Actions:

- CPMT with UNDP, GEFSEC, GEF OFPs and NCs will explore the “franchise” modality recommended by the evaluation
- Operational concept to be deliberated in a workshop planned for next year
- Final policy and design to be submitted for GEF SGP Steering Committee deliberation in April 2008

Joint Efforts with GEF NGO Network**SGP Needs the GEF NGO Network:**

- SGP budget limitations on mainstreaming, networking and policy advocacy
- Expertise in GEF NGO Network
- SGP needs wider network to communicate new measures

GEF NGO Network can gain from SGP:

- SGP NCs can be link points
- Key national NGOs are in NSC
- SGP reaches CBOs in remote areas
- SGP NSC/SRSC can be venue for policy advocacy



1. GEF NGO Network identifies national contact; SGP NC will establish operational link
2. Developing an appropriate system for participation in monitoring/feedbacking and management audits of SGP
3. SGP and GEF NGO Network to jointly gather experiences of NGOs with the RAF policy and provide input on the evaluation of RAF by the GEF EO
4. Joint publication on work by NGOs on adaptation (i.e. community-based adaptation)
5. SGP to support GEF NGO Network “clean-up” and “build-up” of network roster with GEFSEC
6. GEF NGO Network communication link to SGP KM Platform



Identifying Innovative, Sustainable Development Ideas, Kristina Stefanova, Development Marketplace

Development Marketplace is a competitive grant program that seeks new solutions for sustainable development challenges

Program Objectives

- Identify **innovative, early stage ideas** with potential for high impact
- Help build the capacity of implementing organizations to execute and scale up their ideas
- Serve as a convening platform for funders and other development actors

DM administers competitions/knowledge exchanges at the global and country levels, and monitors winners.

Program Activities

- Global Competition & Knowledge Exchange
 - Sector-focused event
 - Held every 12-18 months
 - Awards of US\$50,000 - US\$200,000

Two-year implementation

- Country / Regional Competitions & Knowledge Exchanges
 - Themes align with country development agendas
 - Multiple events per year (9 in FY07)
 - Awards of US\$10,000 - US\$30,000
 - One-year implementation
 -
- Project Services
 - Supervision and technical assistance
 - Networking opportunities via the DM communications
 - Identification of follow-on funders and TA providers



The process includes several steps before and after the Marketplace and Knowledge Exchange



Recent DM Competitions

Global DM2005 – Sustainable Livelihoods

2,600 proposals; 31 winning projects; US\$4 million

Partners: GEF, Conservation International, MacArthur Foundation

Global DM2006 – Water Supply Delivery Systems

2,600 proposals; 30 winning projects; US\$5 million

Partners: GEF, Gates Foundation, Global Village Energy Project, International Finance Corporation

Global DM2007 - Health, Nutrition and Population

2,800 proposals; 22 winning projects; US\$4 million

Partners: Gates Foundation, PharmaAccess Foundation

Statistics on DM finalists (Global DM2007, as example)



**EXAMPLES: Ha Tien - Habitats and Handbags, Vietnam
DM2003, US\$102,750 and Community Carbon Collectors: Briquetting in Kenya
DM2005, US\$132,773**

Thank you!

For more information, visit: www.developmentmarketplace.org

Or stop by the DM booth by the registration area

You can also email us at dminfo@worldbank.org



Terms of Reference for Mid-Term Review of the RAF, Siv Tokle, Task Manager for RAF Terms of Reference, GEF Evaluation Office

Context

Why this “review”?

- Part of the GEF-4 negotiations and requested by the Council: evaluate after two years of implementation
- Propose changes for the implementation of the second half
- A second evaluation should be carried out in the context of OPS4

The Process to TORs

- Approach paper was finalized in August 07 with period for comments
- Draft TOR in web for comments (September 28)
- Extensive consultations via the Internet and emails
- Comments by donors, NGOs, governments
- TOR completed as Council document (October 15)
- TOR will be discussed and approved by the Council in November 07
-

Emerging Issues so Far

- Benefits Indices: balance between terrestrial and marine; vulnerability to climate change
- Performance Indices: recognition of countries with lower capacity to perform or countries emerging from conflict
- Exclusions: funding out of RAF too high?
- Co-funding requirements: RAF timeframe not sufficient
- RAF in relation to guidance of the Conventions
- Implementation/Organization:
 - quality of information for implementation;
 - effect on country-level decisions and operations;
 - changes on the roles of GEF Agencies and civil society;
 - effect on transparency and predictability

Objectives of the MTR

Evaluate the degree to which resources have been allocated to countries in a transparent and cost-effective manner based on global environmental benefits and country performance

Three Areas to Assess

1. Extend the Design of the RAF facilitates maximization of the impact of GEF resources (quality and indices?)
2. Extent early Implementation of the RAF is providing countries with predictability and transparency as well as enhancing country-driven approaches (changes from past?)



3. Compare GEF RAF with other systems (any new experiences?)

Key issues for NGOs

- How has the RAF affected the funding of:
 - The Small Grants Program?
 - LDC and SIDS?
 - NGOs and civil society?
 - Relevant databases by NGOs? Other data?
- Involvement in RAF design + Implementation
- Effects on project execution and pipeline:
- NGO involvement and nature of projects?
- Involvement in GEF priority-setting at country level
- Effects of *other* changes or factors?
- Other issues?

Design and Methodology

- Literature and desk reviews: GEF documents, other similar evaluations, GEF EO evaluations
- Delphi approach: panel of experts assessment of the indices
- Analysis of the emerging portfolio and comparison with previous GEF phases
- Surveys, interviews, stakeholder consultations
- Country-level case studies and visits

Team and Timeframe

- Managed and executed by GEF EO
- Team: GEF EO Director, Senior Evaluation Officer, Lead Consultant, Specialized and Junior consultants
- TOR to Council in November 07
- Implementation: December 07 to July 08
- Draft report: August 08
- Submission to Council: October 08

Topics for Discussion

- What results are you expecting from the MTR? What should be included in the report?
- Suggestions on how to improve the methodology: how do we reach all GEF stakeholders?
- How do we reach accredited NGOs/ networks?
- How do we reach NGOs at country level?
- What inputs can you provide?

rafevaluation@thegef.org, <http://www.thegef.org/gefevaluation.aspx?id=18472>

Thank you!



Countdown 2010- TEMATEA (issues based Modules: An Example from Theory to Practice, Ines Verleye, Countdown Secretariat, IUCN World Conservation

Countdown 2010:

Take action to save biodiversity

Loss of nature – loss of life

- Species go extinct at more than 100 times the normal rate.
- The average abundance of species has declined by 40% in 30 years.

Two of three ecosystem services are declining

The 2010 Biodiversity Target

“That biodiversity decline should be halted with the aim of reaching this objective by 2010“

Presidency Conclusions of the EU Summit in Gothenburg, 2001

“To achieve, by 2010, a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national levels as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on earth.”

Decision VI/26 CBD Strategic Plan 2002

What is Countdown 2010?

A powerful network of active partners working together towards the 2010 biodiversity target

The Countdown 2010 Objectives

- Encourage and support the full implementation of all the existing binding international commitments and necessary actions to save biodiversity;
- Demonstrate clearly what progress is made in meeting the 2010 biodiversity target.
- Gain maximum public attention for the challenge of saving biodiversity by 2010.

Countdown 2010 Hubs worldwide: Canada, Europe, Russia, China, Lower Mekong, Japan, South America, Southern Africa.

.....Mind the implementation gap

tematea
**Issue-Based Modules for the coherent implementation
of biodiversity-related agreements**

www.tematea.org



Project Coordinator Ines Verleye

The Challenge

- Many environmental and sectoral agreements/declarations, often with similar provisions (articles, decisions, etc)
- Need to be aware of all these provisions and improve coordinated/coherent approach
- National experts face problems communicating across conventions and with sectors
- Much emphasis on need for coordination at different fora

Project on Issue-Based Modules

- Facilitate coherent implementation of regional and global biodiversity commitments, through
 - Issue-Based Modules as reference tools that structure negotiated text in a logical framework and lower the threshold for experts to understand how commitments from other conventions relate to their own work
 - Capacity building based on the modules to promote national cooperation and communication across conventions and sectors.
- The modules help experts understand how their work fits within the overall puzzle and promote coherence
- Issue-Based
- Analysis of existing decisions of global and regional agreements on the specific, cross-cutting issues
- Analysis of relationship between decisions of different agreements to demonstrate overlaps, conflict or gaps
- Present the ‘action-oriented’ part of the decision in simplified language within a logical framework
- Voluntary and evolutionary tool
- Web-based and available on www.tematea.org

TEMATEA application options

1. Identification of priorities and focusing of activities
2. Development and verification of national legislation, programs and planning
3. Interaction between experts across MEAs and across sectors
4. Development of coherent positions for different MEA meetings
5. Development of focused national reports
6. Training and induction of new staff
7. Preparation of case studies and reports for MEAs
8. Development and assessment of multi-convention proposals
9. Design of research programs and projects



10. Raising awareness for international obligations
... and many more

National Capacity Building Workshops

- So far: Norway, Seychelles, Cuba, Peru, Georgia
- Inventory of existing implementation of MEA obligations on one of the six topics
- Evaluate strengths and weaknesses
- Formulate recommendations to improve national implementation

Example: Seychelles evaluated implementation of biodiversity and climate change provisions. Will use multi-convention approach based on modules to develop CCD NAP.

Recognition by end-users

- References at international fora
 - Ramsar COP9, Resolution IX.5,
 - CMS COP8, Resolution 8.11
 - CBD SBSTTA11, 4 recommendations
 - CBD COP8, 5 decisions COP8, one in particular invites UNEP to further develop the modules and report back at COP9
 - WHC 30th Session, Decision 30 COM6
 - 11th AMCEN meeting
- UNEP was asked to continue the project

UNEP-IUCN Partnership

To continue the project after strong political support (CBD, Ramsar, CMS, WHC, AMCEN), UNEP signed an agreement to partner up with IUCN

- to further develop and maintain the issue-based modules (Secretariat hosted by Countdown 2010),
- to extend the modules towards all regions and countries (Latin America + Asia),
- to extend to other key biodiversity issues (e.g. PA, ABS, Forests, etc.), and
- to support the national use of the modules (national workshops, case studies).

Please visit the modules on

www.tematea.org

Any comments on content, form, general approach or national application are welcome at:

iverleye@yahoo.com



Peatlands Biodiversity and Climate Change: Implications for the Implementation of GEF 4 strategy”, Faizal Parish, Regional Focal Point South East Asia and Director, Global Environment Centre

Assessment on Peatlands Biodiversity and Climate Change

- Global Multidisciplinary team
- Pilot countries China, Russia and Indonesia
- 2005-2007
- Coordinated by Global Environment Centre and Wetlands International
- Financed by UNEP-GEF
- Supported by Canada, Netherlands, APN, ECBP

What are peatlands?

Wetland Ecosystem with high diversity of types. Peatlands are wetlands where waterlogging delays decay and dead plants form peat. Peat accumulates for thousands of years storing concentrated carbon in thick layers. Peatlands are everywhere. Covering 4 million km², primarily in the boreal, subarctic and tropical zones, peatlands are found in almost every country

... from the tundra: Yakutia, RF

... to the tropics: Borneo

...to the end of the Earth: Tierra del Fuego Argentina

... from the mountains : Kyrgystan

... Over permafrost :NWT, Canada

...Under grasslands: Sichuan, China

along the rivers: Ruaha River Tanzania

to the sea: Archangelsk, RF

Peatlands are water: Flow Country, Scotland

Peatlands regulate climate: Pechora, RF

Peatlands have species biodiversity: Estonia

Peatlands have high ecosystem diversity: Finland

Peatlands support communities: Jelutong - Chewing Gum tree, Indonesia

Peatlands Feed communities: Fishing, Pahang, Malaysia. Aboriginal people, known in Malaysia as “Orang Asli” of the Jakun tribe live along the rivers of the forest.

Peatlands provide water and prevent floods

Peatlands preserve history: Denmark

Ch. 5: Peatlands and biodiversity- W-Siberia, RF. Peatlands are unique and complex ecosystems of global importance for biodiversity conservation

Peatlands support biodiversity far beyond their borders by regulating the hydrology and climate of adjacent areas.

They provide habitats for endangered species and those displaced by climate changes (adaptation).

Ch. 6: Peatlands and carbon- Kyrgistan. Peatlands are the most space-effective carbon (C) stocks of all terrestrial ecosystems.

In the (sub)polar zone, peatlands contain 3.5 times, in the boreal zone 7 times, in the tropical zone 10 times more carbon per ha than other ecosystems - Onega delta, Russia

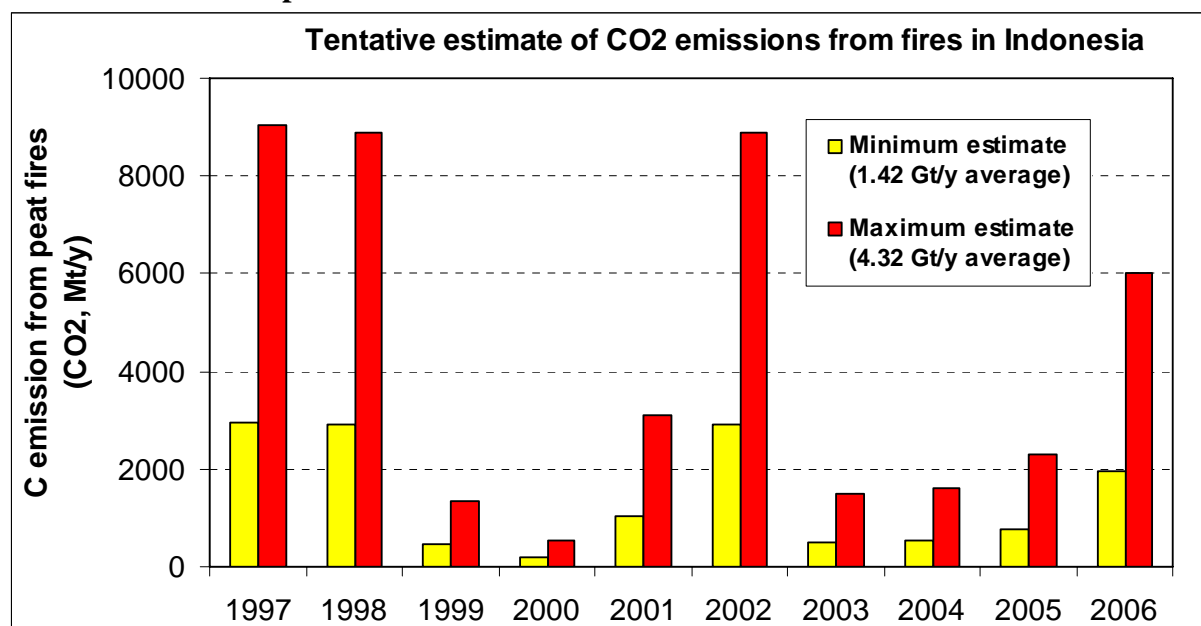
While covering only 3% of the world's land area, peatlands contain 550 Gt of carbon in their peat. This is equivalent to, 75% of all atmospheric C, equal to all terrestrial biomass, and twice the carbon stock in the forest biomass of the world. This makes peatlands the top long-term carbon stock in the terrestrial biosphere. Coal and lignite and part of the "mineral" oil and natural gas originated from peat deposits of previous geological periods. The main impacts on peatlands include drainage for agriculture and forestry and associated peat fires, peat extraction, building over, road construction, inundation, contamination and pollution.

Drained peat releases carbon - Drainage to 1 meter = emission of 90 ton CO₂/ha/yr

- SE Asia: Agriculture & agroforestry on 12 million ha contributes around 632 MtCO₂/yr (drainage only)

Burning peat releases more carbon: Peatland Fires Russia

CO₂ emissions from peat fires





- > 60,000 fires in 3 out of 10 years (1997, 1998, 2002)
- In 2006: > 40,000 fires
- Tentative average annual emissions estimate: 1400 to 4300 Mt CO₂/y



Global Impacts -The Asian Haze

Peatland drainage and fires are currently the largest single source of carbon released to the atmosphere from the land use sector.

Action: integrated management of Peatlands

- The current management of peatlands is generally not sustainable and has a major negative impact on biodiversity and climate change.
- Simple changes in peatland management can improve the sustainability of land use and reduce its impacts on biodiversity and climate change
- Restoration of peatlands can be a cost-effective way to generate immediate benefits for biodiversity and climate change by reducing peatland subsidence, oxidation and fires.

ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy 2006-2020

- 25 Objectives and 100 Actions in 13 focal areas
- Endorsed by Ministers of 10 ASEAN Countries in November 2006.
- Now under implementation
- Supports active participation of civil society

Communities can protect peatlands reduce emissions and protect biodiversity

- Changing Attitudes: Dialogues and peer learning for peatland protection and restoration
- Rehabilitation of degraded peatlands through blocking abandoned drainage
- Rehabilitation of peatland vegetation

Alternative Livelihoods

Community based Sustainable peatland management

- Non-timber forest products
- Agriculture – appropriate species



- Fisheries
- Animal husbandry
- Appropriate financing mechanisms
- Conflict resolution

Lessons for GEF 4

- Integrated management of peatlands – can generate multiple global benefits for biodiversity, climate change as well as address land degradation and poverty.
- As a result of the Assessment - Peatlands have been identified as a key issue by CBD SBSTTA in relation to biodiversity and climate change.
- Conservation and rehabilitation of peatlands is an extremely cost effective approach for climate change mitigation and can also contribute to adaptation.
- Can contribute to the multiple benefit areas being developed under the GEF-4 strategy – e.g. SFM and other combined LD/CC/BD activities.
- Significant global benefits can be generated by actions by communities at local level.

Thank you



The State of Obsolete Pesticides in Eastern Europe and Central Asia”, John Vijgen

Obsolete Pesticides: the side of Europe we do not know about

COUNTRY/STATE	ESTIMATED TOTAL TONS OPS
ALBANIA	3
ARMENIA	800
AZERBAIJAN	4 000
BELARUS	6 000
BULGARIA	11 222
CZECH REPUBLIC	400
ESTONIA	700
GEORGIA	3 000
HUNGARY	314
KAZAKHSTAN	10 000
KOSOVO	8
KYRGYZSTAN	2 000
LATVIA	2 000
LITHUANIA	3 280
POLAND	9 000
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA	6 600
ROMANIA	1 000
RUSSIA FEDERATION	100 000
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	300
SLOVENIA	400
TAJIKISTAN	3 300
TURKMENISTAN	1 671
FYR MACEDONIA	38 000
UKRAINE	25 000
UZBEKISTAN	12 000
TOTAL CENTRAL EUROPE = EECCA REGION	240 713

Thousands of former pesticides stores: Alone in Ukraine 4,500 stores with obsolete pesticides

On many sites children are playing: What if it would be . . . your child?

She lives next to a pesticides dump and cattle grazes. How safe is the food we are eating then?

This food is contaminated by obsolete pesticides

Obsolete Pesticides in the middle of vineyards. What about the wine we drink?

.....illegal digging at a pesticides burial

Then repackaged with new labels and sold on the local market



Yes in ...2007

This family lives next to a former pesticides store, where pesticides have been stored for many years and mixed for planes to spray.

The heavily polluted soil they mix with straw and make "pancakes" as energy bricks for heating and cooking in winter . . .

Would your child be allowed to play here?

These are not the 10 or 100 most contaminated sites in the world. But . . . thousands of smaller sites that have infested Central, Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia

It is everywhere but . . . we do not want to know it and/or we do not always know what to do...

Former Burial the largest owners of POPs pesticides, example Armenia
Conference end of October 2007 field visit

Down here are the people living. Would you dare to to invest all you money in a summer houseHere is the 800 tons pesticide dump. Eroding everywhere, polluted rainwater running downwards.....You still want to buy that summerhouse?????

Armenian and Dutch Women Organizations are screaming for help.....No international reactionsince 2004 and now again in 2007

Vashka burial site (polygon) Tajikistan

Kanibadam polygon on border from Tajikistan to Uzbekistan. Illegal transport threatening a town.

What if you where living in that town below? You would just wait and see for the next decade. This is clearly unacceptable . . . we shall take it upon us and do something about it!



Young people protesting

COUNTRY	TONS (estimated)
Kazakhstan	10,000
Kosovo	8
Kyrgyzstan	2,000
Latvia	2,000
Lithuania	3,280
Poland	7,000-9,000
Moldova	6,000 (WB/GEF ongoing)
Romania	1,000 (left after EU project)
Russian Federation	>20,000
Serbia and Montenegro	Unknown
Slovak Republic	300
Slovenia	350-400
Tajikistan	15,000
Turkmenistan	1,671
FYR Macedonia	33,000-38,000
Ukraine	31,700
Uzbekistan	10,000-12,000
Total Central European + EECCA region:	
233,000-241,000	

It can be more . . . It can be less . . . But one thing is sure . . . the problem is huge . . .

Conclusion

- We need a joint Action Plan
- We need joint commitment from countries and EU Parliament and EU Commission
- We need funding "sooner than possible"

. . . in order to Save our Food, People's Health and the Environment

What are we doing?

- Preparation for GEF funding of EECCA capacity building project for 11 countries with FAO
- 3 demonstration awareness + repackaging projects in Moldova, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan co-ordinated by Dutch NGO Milieukontakt Int
- Regularly convene HCH and Pesticides Forum in the region to promote awareness and information exchange; nine times over the past 15 years

What more are we doing?

- Member of European Parliament Kuc established the Working Group on obsolete pesticides, to increase support in the EU for clean-up



- Working with China, Asian Development Bank, US Environmental Protection Agency to develop demonstration projects to address pesticides landfills in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan
- Development of technical advice on POPs destruction methods

Finally to you

- Do not hesitate
- We have been waiting over 25 years
- You can now make a difference by helping us to eradicate the other side of the EECCA countries
- Join forces now !

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