

GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop



**1-3 August 2012
Maputo, Mozambique**

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS FROM CIVIL SOCIETY



Acknowledgements

The Co-Rapporteurs gratefully acknowledges to be given such an opportunity to record proceedings of GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop which was conducted in Maputo, Mozambique from 1-3 of August 2012. We would also like to thank the participants that were drawn from all country in the Southern African Sub Region.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The GEF Expanded Constituency Workshops (ECW) are held once a year in each region and are aimed at keeping the GEF national focal points, convention focal points and other key stakeholders, including civil society, abreast of GEF strategies, policies and procedures and to encourage coordination.

2.0 ORGANISATION OF THE WORKSHOP

2.1 *Workshop Duration*

Three days deliberations and one afternoon reserved for a field visit to Madjadjane Biodiversity Conservation Centre in Matutuine.

2.2 Reception

This was generously offered by GEF Secretariat.

3.0 PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS

- (a) The Host Country through the Government of Mozambique followed by various government representatives from departments and line ministries including representatives from Civil Society.
- 4.0 Chairperson, GEF Focal Point (Thelma Manjate, Mozambique's Government Representative)
- 5.0 Vice Chairperson, William Ehlers, GEF Secretariat

6.0 LOGISTICS

Robert Schreiber

7.0 FACILITATORS

- GEF Secretariat
- Government of Mozambique

- GEF Evaluation Office
- GEF Agencies
- CSOs

8.0 RAPPORTEURS

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

9.0 APPROACH

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

10.0 CHRONICLE OF EVENTS

Arrival and Registration of participants: **31st July 2012**

Participants were given folders containing:

- ❖ Workshop Bag containing folder for Programme
- ❖ A Note Book
- ❖ A Pen
- ❖ GEF T-Shirt

DAY ONE: 1st August 2012

Welcome remarks

In her opening remarks, the Chair, Thelma Manjate representing the Government of Mozambique, welcomed the delegates to the workshop. She welcomed participants to Mozambique and wished all a happy stay in the country. She concluded by noting the Government of Mozambique's resolve to building

mutually beneficial relationships between the GEF and its agencies through programme implementation and support to derive global environmental benefits.

OFFICIAL OPENING - 09:00 hrs

William Ehlers, Head GEF Secretariat External Affairs introduced the ECW and explained that these events are an opportunity for focal points to meet with their counterparts from other countries in the region and other GEF partners to discuss and review policies and procedures and to share lessons and experiences from development and implementation of GEF projects and their integration within national policy frameworks.

He explained that the GEF unites 182 countries in partnership with international institutions, civil society organizations (CSOs), and the private sector to address global environmental issues while supporting national sustainable development initiatives. He concluded by highlighting the fact that the GEF is the largest public funder of projects to improve the global environment through grants for projects related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer, and persistent organic pollutants.

The GEF also serves as financial mechanism for the following conventions:

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPS)
- UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS led by William Ehlers

Participants were made to introduce themselves citing their respective names and institutions, which they represented.

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

A range of papers were presented by different interest groups including GEF Secretariat, GEF Agencies, GEF M & E Office, CSOs and host government. The first day was characterized by the following paper presentations: Accessing the GEF, STAR, LDCF/SCCF, NPIF, Adaptation Fund, Broadening the GEF

Partnership, Private Sector Strategy, Website Demo and a PMIS demo. Other presentations included GEF as Financial Mechanism of the Conventions, Results Based Management at the GEF, Monitoring and Evaluation Policy in the GEF, Roles of Country Stakeholders in the GEF, Monitoring and Evaluation in the GEF – OPS5.

The second day included a practical exercise and a presentation by CSOs while the conclusive chapter had bilateral meetings amongst different parties, GEF, GEF Agencies, Government and CSOs.

The paper presentations discussed a range of issues relating to the development and implementation of GEF projects and programmes in the Southern African region. Specific discussion groups were organized through desks to discuss the needs and options to strengthen the work of GEF at country level to address global environment issues in the region and enhance the functioning of the GEF. Bilateral discussions were also held at the end of the workshop on the third day with various participating organizations and representatives.

Opportunities for cooperation at country and regional level were described including: policy input (especially to the GEF Council); input to GEF project identification and design; Project implementation (SGP, MSP, FSP); acting as project partners or service providers and facilitating the engagement of indigenous and local communities and other project target groups; monitoring and enhancing CSO access to GEF resources.

A briefing was given on the main GEF policies related to the GEF Public Involvement Policy; GEF Policy on Minimum Agency Environmental and Social Standards; and the GEF Gender Policy. Information was also given on the process to develop the GEF Guidelines on involvement of indigenous peoples in GEF.

The Capacity Development Strategy was presented and the possibility of submitting proposals in accordance to the National Capacity Self Assessment (NCSA) Reports at the country level.

A field trip to Madjadjane was conducted to sum up the workshop proceedings.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Harnessing cooperation between state actors, non state actors (CSOs), private sector and other stakeholders in fostering participatory action and generating needs in environmental protection and preservation.

Challenges

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

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

The main conclusions were:

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

Recommendations

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

- Enhance the collaboration between environmental CSOs and related government agencies through dialogues and joint activities and oblige governments to involve CSOs in medium and full sized projects with certain percentage.
- GEF should provide support for regular Regional meetings and other knowledge sharing and technical exchange opportunities among stakeholders in the region
- Increase the GEF SGP budget in the region and strengthen SGP outreach and capacity building activities for CSOs; strengthen existing GEF SGP networks link them to the GEF NGO Network;;

SGP should consider support for joint projects between NGOs in adjacent countries to facilitate sharing and joint capacity building

- Annual meetings should be held in each country between CSOs and the GEF Operational focal points (as agreed by GEF Council Nov 2010).
- Action should be taken by members of the GEF NGO Network together with the government focal points to help inform civil society stakeholders on opportunities for involvement in the development of full-sized projects.
- GEF Public Involvement policy needs to be fully implemented in this region especially in the development of government led projects. In particular –
 - Early engagement of CSOs in national consultation and portfolio development processes.
 - Development of clear guidelines for Civil society engagement – both generic and country specific
 - Effective participation of civil society in project development and formulation.
 - Special policy/mechanisms for engagement of indigenous and local communities
 - Enhanced consideration of gender and social issues
- Specific guidelines or tools/learning materials (eg documentation of lessons learned and good practices should be developed to stimulate enhanced stakeholder engagement in GEF project and programme development in the region.

Closing

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