GEF Conflict Resolution System

GEF Introduction Seminar

Washington, D.C.
January 30, 2020
GEF -- working for the global environment ...

... Includes addressing conflicts and responding to concerns of affected people
Projects to protect the global environment -- but it’s complicated out there and things can go wrong

A project in the highlands of Nicaragua
GEF Conflict Resolution System

- Addresses complaints involving Safeguards and Fiduciary Risk (claims of fraud, corruption)

- Agency required to have response mechanisms in place, in line with minimum standards in both Policies

- New requirements just adopted by GEF Council for Agencies to report on cases under formal review

- Secretariat CRC has facilitation role; see also website
Examples of concerns raised

- Lack of stakeholder engagement as required by GEF Policy
- Failure to carry out required environmental and social impact studies
- Failure to respect rights of indigenous communities (FPIC, access to lands)
- Conflict of interest in procurement
- Fraud, misuse of funds
Some key elements

❖ Accessible and known to affected people
❖ Independence and integrity
❖ Impartial fact-finding
❖ Protecting anonymity when requested
Larger purposes

- Better and more responsive projects – issues do come up
- Resolving problems and addressing risks
  - Strong governance system from design to implementation
- Giving people a voice and enlisting their expertise
- Lessons for the future