



# Enhancing CSO Participation in GEF Activities

Extended Constituency Meeting, South Asia

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**SGP** The GEF  
Small Grants  
Programme

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# Sri Lanka Programme 1995 - 2015



**Projects 370 – GEF funding US\$7,958,815**

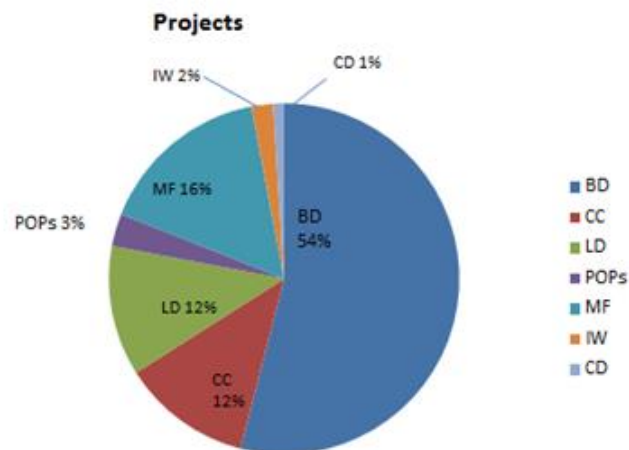
**Co-financing – Cash US\$1,716,982 In-kind US\$2,371,070**

**Programme Co-financing – Cash US\$1,902,500 – In kind US\$145,500**



# Portfolio Distribution over the years

<b>Bio Diversity</b>	<b>54%</b>
<b>Climate Change</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>Land Degradation</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>POPs</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Multi Focal</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>International Water</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Cap. Development</b>	<b>1%</b>
	<b>100</b>



Total Funding Received – US\$ 7.95 m.

Other donor funding from Community Water Initiative,

South-South Grants Facility, Community Based Adaptation, Community Based REDD+

**N.B. GEF/SGP CSO Network formed in 2003 and has been functioning since then with capacity building, knowledge and experience sharing nationally and internationally**

# **Role of GEF/SGP in Environment Conservation**

- **One of the only mechanisms for CSOs to access funding for environment initiatives at present in Sri Lanka particularly in areas such as Biodiversity Conservation, Chemicals**
- **It provides a voice for CSOs – urban/rural/ community groups**
- **A source for capacity development on climate change mitigation and adaptation**
- **Awareness raising on issues such as the excessive use of chemicals and the linkages between agro chemical use and health e.g. PCBs and bio accumulation issues**
- **Sustainable Livelihoods and wide benefit sharing through environment friendly product development**

# Contd. Role of GEF/SGP in Environment Conservation

- **Traditional knowledge conservation/documentation/replication**
  - some linked to eco-tourism
- **Traditional seed conservation**
- **Climate change mitigation i.e. Renewable Energy especially rural energy, Biomass, Biogas, Micro hydro**
- **Climate Change Adaptation**
- **Community Water**
- **South-South Cooperation**
- **Community Based REDD+**
- **Networking for solidarity and knowledge exchange leading to influence & policy and decision making at national level**



# Constraints faced by CSOs

- **Lack of knowledge in technical subjects**
- **Proper understanding of UN Conventions and linkages to the work they undertake**
- **Improvement of quality of products, certification and marketing**
- **Lack of enforcement of laws and regulations, affects conservation activities negatively**
- **Difficulties in obtaining necessary authorizations for conservation activities and Institutional/Agency support**
- **NGOs are ‘informed’ of policy decisions by Government agencies. Their ideas/opinions not sought when formulating policy i.e. knowledge/experience of CSOs not considered as important**
- **Low esteem of NGOs**
- **Lack of cooperation of Local Government Authorities**

# Strategies for more effective participation of CSOs

- **Participating in policy making and planning :**
  - **recognition of the positive role CSOs have played in environment conservation**
  - **More opportunities for CSOs to participate in policy making , planning, COP meetings of UN Conventions**
  - **CSO to become a contributor not a mere listener**
- **Participation at international level meetings**
  - **More opportunities to participate in international level meetings**
- **Encourage networking and sharing for better coordination**
  - **Strengthen CSO networks through due recognition**
  - **Networking will result in achieving better impacts at ground level as GEF promotes landscape level work**

## Contd. Strategies for more effective participation of CSOs

- **Capacity Building**

- **Should be a continuous process as newer partners and remote communities gain access to grant funding continuously**
- **Indigenous Peoples groups, persons with disabilities**
- **Gender considerations, youth groups**





THANK YOU