

GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop CSO Meeting (West Africa)

RADISON BLU, MAMA YOKO, FREE TOWN, SIERRA LEONE

10th May 2016

REPORT



Report Prepared by:

Regional Focal Point (RFP)
GEF CSO Network, West Africa

Table of Contents

1. Preamble.....	3
2. Main expectations and objectives of the CSOs' participation in the meeting:.....	3
4. Agenda.....	3
5. Summary of identified barriers	4
6. Comments and/or suggestions	4
7. Way Forward.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Annex 1. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS	5
Annex 2. AGENDA FOR THE REGIONAL CSO MEETING	6
Annex 3. PHOTOS.....	7
Annex 4. CSO/NGO members from 8 countries	Error! Bookmark not defined.

1. Preamble:

The GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop (ECW) for coastal West African countries held in Freetown Sierra Leone from the 10th to 13th of May, 2016. As part of the activities of the ECW, the CSO members representing 8 West African countries converged at the Radisson Blu Mama Yoko Hotel, Freetown, Sierra Leone on the 10th of May 2016 to discuss and identify concrete steps to enhance engagement in GEF CSO Network activities in the region. The session started with opening remarks presented by the Regional Focal Person, Priscilia Achakpa represented by Okezie Kelechukwu. She welcomed the CSO participants to the event apologising for her absence due to most pressing exigencies. She appreciated GEF for their support to the CSO network and further enjoined the CSO network to remain focused and committed to the objectives of the Network. Susan Waithaka, on behalf of GEF Secretariat welcomed participants and encouraged them to come up with good deliberations that will strengthen the network and empower her.

2. Main expectations and objectives of the CSOs' participation in the meeting:

CSOs attending the CSO meeting had the following expectations:

- To learn about the GEF-CSO Network
- To learn about the GEF and GEF policies
- Criteria for accessing GEF Medium and Full sized projects
- Improve on general coordination in all aspects of the CSO Network
- To share experiences and showcase their recent GEF-funded projects
- To network with other CSOs active in the region
- To network with governmental officials and the GEF Secretariat
- To learn about funding opportunities within the SGP framework
- To find new opportunities for more CSOs' active involvement in GEF activities on regional and national levels
- Provide input to GEF 7 developments

3. Agenda

The CSO Meeting agenda was well suited to the interests of the CSO participants in the meeting. The time allocated for presentations was short but manageable.

4: IEO Report

Baljit Wadwa from the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) gave update on the evaluation of the GEF CSO network by the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO)). She gave insight on their findings and recommendations for the strengthening of the network.

4. Summary of identified barriers

The following problems and observations were provided in the CSO meeting, SGP Consultations and ECW:

- Having a regional balance in the governance structure of the network is critical for cohesion
- Insufficient capacity building within the network
- The GEF CSO network is weak at the national (country) levels
- Cooperation with government is weak and with the OFPs and PFPs at the national level
- CSO involvement in MSP and FSP is low

5. Comments and/or suggestions

The participants developed the following suggestions:

- Development of topical networks for CSO involvement in MSP. The networks can operate, share information and develop applications for MSPs based on a common focal area,
- Formation of modalities concerning CSO involvement in FSPs and MSPs.
- CSO's should work together across shared objectives and present joint proposals.
- Arrangement of meetings between CSOs and Governments aiming to improve the operations of CSOs in GEF related projects and increase the capacity for their involvement, as well as provide bottom-up feedback to governmental bodies.
- CSOs in the region should provide valuable guidance and advice to governments on specific environmental and ecological challenges.
- SGP is a strong and practical instrument for CSOs involvement in GEF funded projects, therefore, STAR-allocation for SGP GEF in GEF 7 Cycle should be increased.

6. Way Forward

- Expanding the CSO-GEF membership to be more representative including marginalized and specialized groups to enrich the composition.
- Give publicity and generally strengthen the network at national level.
- CSO's should work together across shared objectives and present joint proposals.
- Generally strengthen the capacity of CSO's. Thematic trainings should be identified and organized.
- Establish a designated platform which will be used among others to share experiences, explore capacity building opportunities among others

Annex 1. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS (CSOs, GEF, OFP/PFPs)
Regional CSO Network Members

#	Member Country	Gender	First Name	Last Name	Job Title	Organisation	Email
1	Ghana	Female	Mary Jane	Enchill	Country Coordinator	Climate Action Network-Ghana	Mjane.enchill@gmail.com
2	Nigeria	Male	Etiosa	Uyigue	Executive Director	Community Research and Development Center	etiosa@credcent.com
3	Liberia	Female	Kona S	Kollie	Founder/Executive Director	Young Liberian Womens Organisation (WOFIM)	ylbwofim@yahoo.com
4	Nigeria	Male	Kelechukwu	Okezie	Executive Director / Founder	Neighbourhood Environment Watch Foundation	newfoundationngo@gmail.com
5	Sierra Leone	Female	Nabeela	Tunis	Program Manager	Womens Network for Environmental Sustainability	ntunis@yahoo.com
6	Benin	Male	Marius Hugues Mavo	Degla	Program Officer	Initiatives for Integrated and Sustainable	hugdegla@gmail.com
7	Ivory Coast	Male	Coulibaly	Seydou	Program Officer	ntunis@yahoo.com	Seydouc72@yahoo.fr
8	Togo	Male	Komlanvi Edem	Kougbenou	Program Director	Globe Vert	edemkougbenou@gmail.com
9	Guinea	Male	Balde	Mamadou Saliou Oulenko	Formateur	Pride	oulenkobald@gmail.com

Annex 2. AGENDA FOR THE REGIONAL CSO MEETING
GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop, 10th May 2016

VENUE: Radison Blu, Mama Yoko Hotel, Freetown Sierra Leone

Time	Details
8.00 – 8:30	WELCOME REMARKS Priscilla M Achakpa , <i>RFP West Africa / Sussan, GEF Secretariat</i>
8:30 – 9:30	SESSION 1 : INTRODUCTION Moderated by: Nabeela Tunis - Women’s Network for Environmental Sustainability Presenter: Priscilla M Achakpa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-introductions • Objectives and agenda of meeting (participants state their expectations) • An Overview of GEF and the GEF-CSO Network • GEF CSO Network Strategic Plan 2015-2022 • Update on evaluation of GEF CSO Network by IEO • Agenda of ECW meeting and key issues for CSO engagement • Mode of operation
9:30 – 10.00	Coffee break
10.00 – 11.30	SESSION 2 : GEF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT POLICY Moderated by: Mary Jane Enchill - Climate Action Network, Ghana Presenter: Etiosa Uyigie -Community Research and Development Centre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing on ongoing review of Public Involvement Policy and interim findings • Key areas requiring input from CSOs and ECW participants (based on PIP-WG guidance) • Discussion and inputs from CSOs on level of engagement of CSOs in GEF Programme implementation in respective countries/region • Presentation of a Case study of successful/ challenges of CSO engagement in GEF project (by CSOs)- Etiosa
11.30 – 12.00	SESSION 3 : GEF 7 PROCESSES Moderated by Komlanvi Edem Kougbenou Presenter: Kona S. Kollie <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GEF7 replenishment • Funding needs assessment for CBD implementation
12.00-13.00	SESSION 4 : THE WAY FORWARD Moderated by Marius Hugues Mavo Delga -Integrated Initiative for Sustainable Development Presenter of the Summary Deliberations: Okezie Kelechukwu <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of options to enhance CSO engagement in GEF CSO Network activities in the region • Capacity strengthening needs and opportunities for CSOs • Summary of deliberations and meeting outcome to the ECW Closing
13.00 – 14.30	Lunch

Annex 3. PHOTOS



Cross section of participants



GEF Secretariat

#	Name	Designation		Country	Email
1	Esther Udol Okon	REP PFP	Senior Scientific Officer	Nigeria	Estherkon42@yahoo.com
2	Kone B Alimata	GEF OPP	Permanent Secretary	Ivory Coast	
3	Nasere Kaba	GEF PFP	Director of Cabinet	Ivory Coast	
4	Baljit Wadhwa	GEF IEO	Senior Evaluation Officer		bwadhwa@thegef.org
5	Samuel Dotse	CEO	HAT-OF-Ghana	Ghana	Samuel.dotse@hotmail.com
6	Awougnon Comlan	GEF OFP	Council Member	Togo	eawougnon@yahoo.fr
7	Susan Waithaka	GEF		USA	swaithaka1@thegef.org