

REPORT OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS TO THE GEF

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(Regional Focal Point –Eastern Europe and Central Asia)

GEF Extended Constituency Meeting

Location: Tirana, Albania

Date: 27th – 29th March 2012

Participating countries: Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine

Participating CSOs/NGOs: See attached list

The purpose of ECW meetings is to develop understanding about the GEF and communication between the operational focal points, convention focal points, GEF employees and civil society within the scope of the region. The ECW also serves to facilitate joint learning processes and lays groundwork for upcoming GEF Council meetings.

The meeting took place over 3 days and was structured in an interactive manner; the first day was primarily presentations, the second day was a practical exercise and the final day was a field trip.

The agenda of the meeting is outlined below

Day 1

- **Accessing the GEF** – This presentation covered the following issues, “Traditional” method, STAR, LDCF/SCCF, NPIF, Adaptation Fund, Broadening the GEF Partnership, Private Sector Strategy, PMIS Demo, and a GEF Website Demo. The chair of the meeting noted that CSO involvement in this region is below average. Also, the chair outlined the possibility of organizations (including CSOs) to gain ‘GEF Project Agency’ status.
- **GEF as Financial Mechanism of the Conventions** – The presentation covered the following issues - CBD COP, UNCCD COP, UNFCCC COP, Chemicals Strategy, GEF Support for Enabling Activities. The chair gave a special mention to the new Green Climate Fund, a \$100 Billion funding mechanism the GEF is hosting with UNFCCC. GEF Funding for enabling activities – defined by conventions, for \$500,000, \$220,000 and \$150,000 (Depending on the focal area) was also highlighted.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation in the GEF** – The presenter highlighted a number of issues of importance to CSOs. CSOs were encouraged to become a part of Climate-Eval, which shares best practice on Climate Change; they were also encouraged to visit the GEF Evaluation office website, which contains informational ‘signpost’ sheets on the GEF’s evaluation programme.
- **Results Based Management at the GEF** – Presentation, Group Exercise and Discussion took place.
- **Roles of Country Stakeholders in the GEF** - Group Exercise, Review of Questions, Presentation of OFP Guidelines and CSP Toolkit. During this exercise, a number of ways to involve the CSOs in GEF activities were highlighted:
 - Awareness raising activities
 - GEF NGO network in each country; a special web page with information for the local NGOs on the GEF possibilities
 - Seek for broader participation at the country level
 - Join the GEF NGO Network

- Apply to participate in GEF meetings and workshops
- To be actively involved in GEF project participation
- Through the SGP (where possible)
- Through national consulting processes
- Lobbying to become more involved
- Participate in networks
- Provide feedback on GEF projects
- Public awareness raising
- Use of information and exchange networks
- GEFNN website
- Get access to the mind of the GEF through the SGP then use this experience to upscale the project/s

Day 2

Day two consisted of a practical exercise, where participants divided into groups and drafted potential GEF projects using a range of GEF funding mechanisms. The exercise was well received by the attendees, who gained an understanding of the requirements to apply for GEF funding. After the exercise, some attendees mentioned that it would have been a bit more relevant if the example country selected had been in the region. At the end of the day prizes were awarded to attendees who made significant contributions, including CSO representative Elmedina Krilasevic.

Day 3

Field trip to see various GEF funded projects in the country. This day offered a chance to see the on-the-ground results of GEF funding and also provided an opportunity for participants to network in an informal situation. The day also allowed the CSOs to gather and discuss the meeting and its bearing on their work.

CSOs that attended the meeting were particularly interested in learning more about the GEF-NGO Network, and suggested a presentation by a member would have been beneficial. NGOs were also interested in the 'Accessing the GEF' presentation, the 'Roles of country stakeholders in the GEF', and the final day, which allowed for networking with other attendees.

CSO Representatives at the Tirana ECW		
Name	Organization	Country
Humfrey Legge	Caucasus environmental NGO Network (CENN)	Georgia
Sopiko Akhobadze	REC Caucasus	Georgia
Iris Benes	Brod Ecological Society	Croatia
Elmedina Krilasevic	Forestry and Environmental Action	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Elena Scobioala	Ecological Movement of Moldova	Moldova
Nikolco Kolev	Agricultural Association of Machinery Ring-Probistip	Macedonia
Jovana Janjusevic	NGO Green Home	Montenegro
Olena Kozak	GEF NGO network Ukraine	Ukraine
Mehmet Metaj	ALBAFOREST	Albania
Zamir Dedej	Institute of Natyre Conservation in Albania (INCA)	Albania
Albana Bregaj	Environmental centre for Development, Education and Networking	Albania



CSO representatives with ECW chair, Mr Danielius Pivoriunas