

Workshop on Lessons Learned from Relevant Funds and Institutions for the Design of the Green Climate Fund, July 12, 2011, Tokyo, Japan

Establishing the Green Climate Fund - Perspectives from Civil Society

Faizal Parish, Central Focal Point, GEF NGO Network

fparish@gef.org.my

www.gefngo.org

Key points from presentation made during CSO panel

Civil society are key Potential partners in the work of the Green Climate Fund

- ⊙ Long History of CSO engagement in UNFCCC
- ⊙ Civil society is directly impacted by climate change
- ⊙ Civil Society can provide major contributions to addressing climate change -
 - Mitigation and adaptation
 - Mobilising global support for low carbon society
 - Supporting and ensuring sustainability of GGF programmes
- ⊙ Long history and good track record in programme development and implementation

GEF and Civil Society

- ⊙ GEF has 20 years experience working in partnership with civil society
- ⊙ GEF was one of the first financial mechanisms to actively engage CSOs in its projects, programmes and policy development.
- ⊙ Key involvement areas:
 - Access to GEF funds for specific projects
 - Involvement in GEF project implementation
 - Involvement in policy making through GEF Council
- ⊙ Specific policies related to Civil society
- ⊙ Dedicated CSO engagement mechanism (the GEF NGO Network)

GEF NGO Network

- ⊙ Established in 1995 to facilitate CSO input to GEF Governance
- ⊙ More than 400 active members in 15 regions
- ⊙ Facilitate Civil society input to GEF policy making and implementation.
- ⊙ Organise CS consultations integrated with biannual GEF Council meetings
- ⊙ Provide active input to GEF Decision making – statements on all key agenda items in GEF Council
- ⊙ Country contact points, elected regional and global focal points
- ⊙ Formal rules and procedures
- ⊙ Established track record
- ⊙ Linkages to CSOs working with each convention
- ⊙ Open to all non profit CSOs working in the focal areas of GEF
- ⊙ Application web based with submission of basic information through www.gefngo.org

- ⊙ Membership is equivalent to accreditation to GEF – for participation in GEF related meetings
- ⊙ Network empowered since 2010 to administer accreditation/membership
- ⊙ 15 regional focal points facilitating work in regions. Rotating secretariat or Central Focal Point – currently in Malaysia
- ⊙ Global governance body with 15 regional focal points, central focal point and Indigenous peoples Focal Points (3)

Lessons for Green Climate Fund from 20 yrs of CSO engagement in GEF

1. Engage CSOs as core partners not outside observers or adversaries

- ⊙ CSOs have worked as formal partners of GEF for nearly 20 yrs as:
 - ⊙ **Inspirers** (CSO vision and initiative have stimulated or supported development of many innovative GEF programmes)
 - ⊙ **Implementers** (CSOs have directly led implementation of more than 15% of GEF programmes)
 - ⊙ **Funders** (CSOs have facilitated or contributed \$2 billion of co-financing and actively supported replenishment)
 - ⊙ **Monitors** (CSOs have played a key role on monitoring and evaluating the success of GEF programmes)
 - ⊙ **Experts** (CSOs have great expertise on outreach, social and technical aspects of programme implementation).
 - ⊙ **Advisors** (CSOs sit on the steering committees or advisory groups of many GEF programmes)

2. Establish clear policies for CS engagement in all aspects of programme and project design and implementation

- ⊙ GEF Public Involvement Policy 1996
 - Mandatory CS engagement - critical to the success of GEF-financed projects.
 - Projects must address social, cultural, and economic needs of affected communities
 - Involvement from conceptualisation to evaluation.
 - Resources allocated to ensure effective engagement
- ⊙ Monitoring and Evaluation Policy (2006)
- ⊙ Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy (2011)
- ⊙ Gender Policy (2011)
- ⊙ Indigenous People's Policy (in development)

3. Have efficient and effective Project and programme Cycles

- ⊙ GEF Cycle initially efficient but became too complex and slow (60 Months average)
- ⊙ Starting in 2007 GEF introduced a streamlined cycle reduced to 12-18 months while maintaining quality.
- ⊙ There is a need to balance speed of disbursement with good technical design, quality control and stakeholder engagement.

- ⊙ Project cycles need to incorporate opportunities for CSO Input and review
- 4. Ensure strong country ownership over programme development**
 - ⊙ GEF has moved from centralised to decentralised model
 - ⊙ GEF-1-3 Top Down – Agency Driven
 - ⊙ GEF 4-5 Country driven through Country allocations, country programming
 - ⊙ Independence of GEF Secretariat has enabled it to balance country needs with Agency experience
 - ⊙ Avoid conflict of interest by ensuring Secretariat/Fund Manager has no direct interest in Programme implementation.
 - ⊙ GCF should allocate the majority of funds for use at country level
 - 5. Stimulate cooperation at regional and global level**
 - ⊙ Climate change problems and solutions transcend borders
 - ⊙ Key Value-added from GEF is specific finance and convening power to address regional and global issues in partnership among many countries
 - ⊙ GCF should ensure at least 20-25% of resources are allocated to support regional or global level activities
 - 6. Ensure multi-stakeholder engagement in programming**
 - ⊙ Involvement of a range of stakeholders (central, local government, NGOs, communities, private sector) in programme design encourages innovation and synergies and contributes to long term sustainability
 - ⊙ Establish Multi-stakeholder programme development processes at country level.
 - ⊙ Ensure CSOs are partners in government programmes (technical, outreach and sustainability).
 - 7. Create Dedicated CSO financing windows**
 - ⊙ Dedicated CSO financing windows are critical to ensure that CSOs don't have to compete with governments for resources.
 - ⊙ GEF CSO funding window – GEF SGP has disbursed \$295 million with \$408 million co-financing to more than 12,500 CSO projects in 120 countries and has been assessed as one of GEFs most successful programmes.
 - ⊙ \$543 million with \$1,500 million co-finance for larger CSO led projects.
 - ⊙ GEF MSP was initially designed in 1996 as a CSO window with many innovative successes – but now most goes to Government institutions.
 - ⊙ GCF should set aside 10-15% for CSO funding window.
 - 8. Generate multiple benefits and ensure effective synergy with other Conventions**
 - ⊙ Don't focus only on single theme funding windows – eg Energy, Mitigation, Adaptation etc
 - ⊙ Facilitate multiple benefits – eg Adaptation through low carbon society
 - ⊙ Combined mitigation and adaptation through better forest and land management.

- ⦿ Enhance synergy with other conventions: GEF was investing in “REDD+” 20 years ago through Biodiversity and land degradation funding.
- ⦿ Multiple benefits enhances stakeholder support, co-financing and sustainability.
- ⦿ Ensure that there is added value – that the combined benefits of multifocal activities is more than separate actions.

9. Be open, transparent and accountable

- ⦿ GEF is the/a financial mechanism of four conventions and so has experience on accounting to convention bodies
- ⦿ GEF has led the way in openness and accountability
- ⦿ CSOs are active participants in GEF Council and replenishment meetings – and can speak on almost every Agenda item.
- ⦿ All GEF documents are open access and web posted.
- ⦿ GEF Monitoring and evaluation policy calls for active stakeholder engagement.

10 Don't reinvent the wheel

- ⦿ GEF has evolved over 20 years with many painful lessons.
- ⦿ GCF should not try to reinvent the wheel and make the same mistakes
- ⦿ The models of GEF and GEF NGO Network structures and Policies are available and can be built on.
- ⦿ GCF should disburse funds through existing organisations and mechanisms rather than create new institutions