

**Second GEF Assembly,
October 16-18, 2002,
Beijing, China**

Workshop Summaries

1. GEF Capacity building

Lessons Learned, Promising Practices, and the Status of the Capacity Development Initiative

Summary: This workshop explored the evolving practice of capacity development in relation to the GEF portfolio. Drawing on the GEF family's practical experience in project design and implementation, the workshop used on-the-ground examples to showcase promising practices and lessons learned. In addition to brief presentations on specific projects and topics, this interactive workshop afforded participants an opportunity to share their views, insights, and experiences related to capacity development through a moderated dialogue. Participants were also briefed on the current status of GEF's Capacity Development Initiative.

2. GEF and Dialogue

GEF Country Dialogue Workshops: Achievements, Lessons Learned, and Options for Future Directions of the GEF Dialogue with Countries

Summary: Over the past 2 1/2 years, GEF Country Dialogue Workshops (CDW) have provided a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform for more than 60 countries to raise awareness of the GEF and to discuss the link between national priorities and the GEF. The objective of this side event was to present CDW achievements and recommendations from OPS2 and the independent evaluation of the CDW; and to provide a forum for country feedback and concrete suggestions for future directions.

3. GEF and International Waters

International Waters/Signing of the Tumen River SAP

Summary: GEF has supported more than 70 projects in the international waters focal area since its inception. GEF contributions have surpassed \$500 million and total project costs have reached \$1.4 billion. This workshop presented experiences with GEF international waters efforts in marine and coastal waters, as well as freshwater basins. It also highlighted the conclusions of the Second Biennial GEF International Waters Conference held in Dalian, China, in September 2002.

4. GEF Small Grant Program

Small Grants Program: The Power of Partnership

Summary: Partnership has made the SGP mission both a reality and a success> Working in partnership on every aspect of the program has enabled SGP to capitalize on the synergy that true collaboration can produce, making grants go further and do more. This GEF SGP side event, entitled "The Power of Partnerships", illustrated how SGP has brought together a wide array of stakeholders and partners (including grantees, GEF implementing agencies, bilateral donors, foundations, international NGOs, national and local government agencies, national environment funds, Indigenous Peoples" organizations, universities, the private sectors, and UNDP core programs) to protect the global environment while generating sustainable livelihoods.

5. GEF and Biosafety

Development of National Biosafety Frameworks

Summary: The Biosafety Workshop allowed all GEF agencies to give an update on the progress made to date on Biosafety under the GEF. It explained the difference between development and implementation projects and described how GEF's initial strategy has been brought to life by different agencies. There was also ample opportunity for questions on actions happening or planned around the world and to hear, first hand, the views of those involved in projects.

6. GEF and Land Degradation

Land Degradation: A local issue with a global reach and partnerships for change

Summary: This side event provided the audience with a better understanding of key issues in land degradation in the framework of its designation as a new GEF focal area. The issue was introduced by an overview of the extent and magnitude of the problems related to land degradation, making it a major global issue. Findings of the workshops of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) on land and water issues were briefly presented as active components for the new operational program in land degradation.

The overview was followed by presentations of partnerships at all levels that address land degradation by generating local and global benefits. Both the GEF Implementing Agencies and Executing Agencies presented concrete examples of projects and case studies with positive impacts on the communities involved as well as at institutional and policy level in terms of sustainable land management. H.E. the Minister of Environment of Algeria, Mr. C. Rahmani introduced the World Desert Foundation. The side event was concluded with a panel discussion with representatives from countries, UNEP, UNDP, the World Bank, FAO, IFAD, UNCCD Secretariat, the Global Mechanism, and ADB.

7. GEF and Biodiversity

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)

Summary: This workshop introduced The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a joint initiative among Conservation International, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank to advance the global conservation agenda, focusing on global biodiversity "hotspots". Grant resources are supporting work in nine hotspots and underwriting initial preparations in six more.

CEPF is a catalyst for strategic working alliances among diverse groups, combining unique capacities and eliminating duplication of efforts for a comprehensive, coordinated approach to conservation challenges. Investments support management of protected areas and coordination of biodiversity corridors; training; trans-boundary planning; and local dialogue with extractive industries; conflict resolution; priority setting and consensus building; the capacity building for indigenous organizations and stronger partnerships between the private sector and protected areas. The CEPF provides funding primarily to nongovernmental, community, and grassroots organizations. Funding complements government initiatives and financial resources already available to governments and official agencies in developing countries.

8. GEF and Energy

Renewable Energy: Building Markets for Renewable Energy in Developing Countries

Summary: This workshop presented a review on progress and challenges for establishing markets for renewable energy in developing countries. It drew on experiences in developing countries with renewable energy, citing progress and remaining challenges in policy and regulatory reform, capacity building, micro finance, income generation, social uses, and off-grid and grid-connected renewables. Emerging lessons were discussed together with how these insights were shaping the next generation of renewable energy projects in developing countries.

9 GEF and POPs

Partnerships for the Implementation of the Stockholm Convention in Africa

Summary: This workshop a description was presented of early efforts by the GEF “family” to assist countries to implement the Stockholm Convention and reduce or eliminate releases of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and subsequent human and environmental exposure. The State Environmental Protection Administration of China presented an overview of the program to phase out POPs in China.

The workshop presented an overview of the African Stockpiles Program (ASP), followed by a panel discussion. ASP brings together the GEF, implementing and executing agencies, convention secretariats, NGOs, and pan-African organizations to clean up, safely dispose of, and prevent further stockpiling of obsolete pesticides. This program relates closely to several international legal instruments that address various aspects of chemical and hazardous material management. The workshop also showed how complementary initiatives funded by the GEF, such as the development of National Implementation Plans for the Stockholm Convention, reinforced this effort.

10 GEF and Transport

Sustainable Transport and the GEF

Summary: The workshop focused on emerging priorities for GEF Operational Program number 11 (OP11) for sustainable transport, including the promotion of land-use planning, mass public transit, and non-motorized transport in developing countries. The session described how these interventions can contribute to climate change mitigation, how this contrasts to initial projects proposed under OP11, and how new priorities can be integrated into transport planning and investments in developing countries. Good practice examples from developing countries were highlighted.

11. GEF and Private Sector

Strategies for GEF to Engage the Private Sector

Summary: Coordinated and led by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), this workshop explored a number of the key themes underlying this issue. GEF’s interest in this area is evident from the conclusions of the GEF’s Second Overall Performance Study (OPS2), the recently launched “Review of GEF Engagement with the Private Sector”, and the forthcoming GEF policy paper to be presented to the GEF Council in May 2003.

The workshop described initiatives by IFC and other GEF Implementing Agencies to use grant and non-grant contingent financial modalities to mobilize the private sector and commercial capital sources in support of GEF objectives and share the lessons being learned. The workshop concluded with a question-and-answer session and panel discussion on the topics raised.

12. GEF and the Asia/Pacific

GEF Regional workshop on Challenges and Responses in GEF's Asia Region Program

Summary: This workshop focused on some of the key challenges facing GEF projects in the Asia Region and how a number of innovative GEF co-financed projects are addressing them. The workshop featured several short project case studies from the different GEF focal areas, with time for discussion after each case study and an open discussion session on other regional portfolio issues.

The cases include *Fostering local stewardship of biodiversity: experience from the Periyar Tiger Reserve in India* (Vinod Uniyal, Director, Periyar Tiger Reserve); *The Peoples' Republic of China/GEF partnership on*

land degradation (Nessim Ahmad and Bruce Carrad, Asian Development Bank); *Promoting regional collaboration and coordination to address threats to the South China Sea* (John Pernetta, Director of the UNEP South China Sea Program); *Conserving agricultural biodiversity - examples from the FAO Global Program* (Matthias Halwart, Cambodia case study, and Lim Guan Soon and Prof. Li Shaoshi, China case study).

13. GEF and Western Asia

Promoting Sustainable Livelihood in the Arab Region through Global Environment Management

Summary: The document *GEF in the West Asia and North Africa Region* was presented, followed by three GEF project presentations, including work on Socotra (Yemen) and in the Red Sea. The workshop highlighted the role of the GEF in promoting national capacities through GEF enabling activities directed at strategic biodiversity and climate change planning. Finally, it shed light on activities supported under the Small Grant Programme in the region.

15. GEF and the ECA region

GEF projects in Europe and Central Asia Region: An Evolving Portfolio

Summary: The workshop reviewed a sampling of GEF projects under implementation in the region in the biodiversity, international waters, climate change, and persistent organic pollutants focal areas and provided an opportunity to discuss constraints, opportunities, and challenges in developing GEF projects with GEF operational and political focal points from the region.

16. GEF and the LAC Region

GEF Regional Workshop for the Latin American & Caribbean Region

Summary: This workshop included presentations by UNDP, WB, UNEP, and FAO followed by a Panel discussion. Three focal area specific presentations were presented on the regional program retrospectively; a fourth presentation was made on the new operational programs; and a fifth presentation addressed the regions program as it compares with other regions. This was followed by a short panel discussion on the future directions and visions for GEF in the region. The panel was moderated by the Chairwoman of STAP.

17. GEF and the African Region

Africa Regional Workshop: the Environment Component of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Summary: To the greater extend this workshop focused on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) for which the GEF provided financial support to further develop and finalize the environmental component of NEPAD. This support has been provided in the form of a medium-sized project grant that supports the development of an Environmental Action Plan for Africa including a detailed program of interventions within ten thematic areas. Against the background of the recently published "Africa Environment Outlook" and the results of WSSD, this workshop presented an outline of the Action Plan being developed and invited participants to consider the ways and means of its implementation and financing, including the contribution of the GEF Agencies.

18. CUBA

Protecting biodiversity and establishing sustainable development in the Sabana-Camaguey Ecosystem, Cuba

Summary: The Sabana-Camaguey Ecosystem (SCE) encompasses an approximately 465-kilometer strip along the Cuban northern central zone. The study area covers about 75,000 km² and comprises the northern

watershed (19,000 km² watershed, which includes the whole mainland and has been defined as the watershed or hydrographic basins draining in the coastal waters of the ecosystem); the archipelago (8,311 km² sea shelf with its keys, which totaling 3 400 km² and they represents 60% of all the keys in Cuba) and the Exclusive Economic Zone (oceanic zone). The archipelago has been designed as a high priority area for biodiversity conservation both at national and international level (PSSA by OMI). It is subject to a wide tourism development program, it is the second important fishing zone in Cuba and oil is prospected and extracted in its western edge. The target goal of the project in a first phase was addressed to formulate a strategic plan which fully integrates tourism and other economic development activities with biodiversity conservation, on the basis of the strengthen the capacities and awareness for the protection and sustainable development of the SCE.

A second ongoing phase is an implementation process of prioritized actions derived from the above mentioned strategy, comprising the establishment of 8 prioritized Protected Areas as well as an Integrated Coastal Management Authority for the SCE, assessment and monitoring of ecosystems of global concern, the implementation of a system of five provincial monitoring stations (laboratories), the application of environmental economy to some priority biodiversity issues, the strengthening of public education and awareness about local biodiversity problems and opportunities, elaboration of both strategic and detailed environmental zoning and planning for the protection and sustainable development in ecologically sensitive areas. It also includes training on environmental monitoring and on sustainable development practices to local relevant stakeholders, decision-makers and communities, as well as the documentation and transfer of the experiences and lessons learned to other coastal areas.

19. GERMANY

Implementation of the OECD/DAC Guidelines on Integrating the Rio Conventions in Development Cooperation: Case studies from German bilateral aid

Summary: The objective of the seminar was to present and discuss the OECD/DAC guidelines on Integrating the Rio Conventions into Development Co-operation and how examples in German bilateral aid strive to implement the guidelines. Ms. Ingrid Hoven, head of the environment division of the German Federal Ministry for Development and Cooperation, introduced the workshop and Mr. Joseph Gamperl, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau, presented the content of the OECD/DAC Guidelines. The main part of the workshop was reserved for an illustration to what extent the OECD/DAC Guidelines have already been taken into consideration in current projects especially in China.

20. JAPAN

Environmental Policy of Japan and the GEF

Summary: Japan has overcome serious pollution problems that occurred in the past. There have been active involvements of the private sector and citizens in addition to the effort of the government. Internationally, Japan recognizes the importance of tackling global environmental problems and is involved in the formulation and promotion of international treaties as well as contributing to the financial mechanisms including the GEF. In this GEF side event, development of Japanese environmental policies and Japan's contributions to the international society was introduced, and a practical discussion was held among participants including international organizations and stakeholders in developing countries on how to expand the involvement of NGOs and the private sector of Japan in GEF projects, and to match the application of Japanese technologies to actual needs in the field.

21. SWITZERLAND

Global Environment Dimensions of the Regional Environmental Action Plan for Central Asia.

22. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Opportunities for Developing a Global Initiative on Banking Business and Biodiversity: Results of initial assessments and further work plan.

23. GEF and the CHINESE NGO community.

Promoting Sustainable Development in China - What's the Role of the Chinese NGOs?

Summary: Four speakers from different kinds of NGOs made presentations at this workshop on their efforts to promote sustainable development. After each presentation, the audience had the opportunity to comment and have a dialogue with the speakers.

Friends of Nature played a coordinating role for a group of Chinese NGOs participating in the Assembly who were very interested in what the NGOs in other countries do - NGOs being a new phenomenon in China. The discussions focused in particular on practical experiences in promoting sustainable development locally.

24. EUROPEAN BUSINESS COUNCIL / SWITZERLAND)

European Business Council: The Role of Small and Medium Enterprises in the GEF Context

Summary: The following topics had been discussed at this workshop which was organized by the European Business Council with the support of Switzerland.

- Challenge and future, welcome address by Director Philippe Roch of the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forest and Landscape
- Climate is business, the e5 strategy by Sebastian Gallehr, Managing Director European Business Council
- GEF - Private Public Partnership - Small & Medium Enterprises a chain as strong as its weakest link by Alex Arter, Managing Director of Entec AG, Switzerland
- The untapped Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency potential by Daniel Ruoss, Managing Co-Director Enecolo AG, Switzerland
- The need for technology and know-how transfer by Prof. O. Voigt, CEO Wind Solar AG, Germany
- Panel Discussion (Roch, Gallehr, Voigt, Arter, Ruoss, Prof. Z. Kegong)

25. GEF and WSSD

Report on GEF Roundtables

Summary: The workshop provided an opportunity for invited speakers to reflect on the recommendations of the GEF roundtables, the achievements of WSSD on these substantive issues, as well as critical next steps which must be taken to ensure success on these fronts in the coming decade.

26. Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC)

The Circumpolar Arctic and GEF

Summary: This workshop gave the opportunity to learn more about the importance of the Circumpolar Arctic region. The region can be characterized as a "barometer" or "indicator" of the globe's environmental health, particularly in relation to climate change and long-range transport of persistent organic pollutants and mercury.

Inuit, Sami, Athabascans and many other Indigenous peoples use and occupy millions of square kilometers of land and ocean in the circumpolar Arctic as a result of their hunting, fishing, trapping, herding, and gathering economies. Notwithstanding significant social and economic changes in recent decades, these peoples maintain and use traditional knowledge to manage the natural environment. The eight Arctic states have partnered with six Indigenous peoples organizations through the Arctic Council enabling both traditional knowledge and science to underlie, inform, and enable the Arctic to act as the globe's barometer. The Global Environment Facility, already co-funding projects in northern Russia, should promote projects in the circumpolar Arctic to integrate traditional knowledge of Arctic Indigenous peoples into environmental monitoring arrangements that benefit the globe. The Inuit Circumpolar Conference and Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North outlined these arguments and opportunities at the workshop

27. GEF and Monitoring and Evaluation

Overview of GEF Program and Project Results

Summary: At this workshops an overview of GEF Program and Project Results was presented by GEF M&E team. The workshop was based on the 2001 GEF Program Studies and the recently completed publication of the same name. GEFM&E staff presented findings and conclusions of the five Program Studies conducted in 2001.

28. Millennium ecosystem Assessment

Bridging the Science-Policy Gap

Summary: The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) side event "Ecosystems and Human Well-being" was held on October 17 during the GEF Assembly in Beijing. The side event provided an opportunity for Assembly participants to learn more about the MA, including specific presentations on the conceptual framework (expected to be published in mid-2003), capacity building, and the Western China Sub-global Assessment that is part of the MA. There was also considerable time for questions from audience members. Speakers for this panel discussion included: Robert Watson (MA Board Co-chair, Chief Scientist and Director, Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development Network, World Bank); Habiba Gitay (MA Capacity Building Coordinator); Alvaro Umana (Leader, Environmentally Sustainable Development Group, United Nations Development Program); and Tian Xiang (Coordinator, Western China Sub-global Millennium Assessment, Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences).

Launched in June 2001, the MA is an integrated, multi-scale assessment, designed to meet some of the information needs of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention to Combat Desertification, and other users including the private sector, civil society, and Indigenous peoples. The MA is designed to help meet the needs of decision-makers for peer-reviewed, policy-relevant scientific information on issues they are confronting concerning ecosystems and human well-being. The MA will also build human and institutional capacity to provide such information. Among other sources of financial and in-kind support, the MA received a core grant of US\$7million from the GEF, which was integral to the initiation of the project. For more information about the MA please visit the MA Website at <http://www.millenniumassessment.org> or contact Valerie Thompson, thompson@millenniumassessment.org

29. M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF)

Ecology of Hope Initiative

Summary: At this workshop the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), presented a study, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the MacArthur and Lemelson Foundations, co-jobs and eco-entrepreneurships. This study documents existing initiatives in both developing and industrialized countries that offer employment and livelihood opportunities through environmentally sound enterprises.

The focus was on the application of innovative technologies towards the sustainable use of natural resources, including biochemistry and genetics, biodiversity and energy, and land and water resources. An international database has been set up to inform partners in government, non-governmental organizations, small businesses, and local groups on the types of environmental enterprises; eco-technologies used; outcomes in terms of employment, income, and markets; and other basic descriptive information.

30. GEF NGO Network¹

Title: *NGO Experiences with GEF: Voices from the field*

Summary: Voices from NGOs from all over the world were heard in this workshop. Representatives from Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East, Africa and Asia shared their experiences and lessons learned, providing feedback, information for improved participation, transparency and efficiency for the implementation of GEF-funded projects.

31. GEF NGO Network²

Enhancing the GEF-NGO Partnership: An assessment of the GEF-NGO network

Summary: A review of the GEF-NGO Network was carried out during this session, in order to identify ways to enhance its performance, its outreach efforts, and its impact at the international, regional and national levels.

32. GEF and Second Overall Performance Study)

The first decade of the GEF

Summary: The First Decade of the GEF: Second Overall Performance a Study which was lead by Leif Christoffersen, OPS2 Team Leader. This workshop complemented the presentation during the Assembly's plenary. Mr. Christoffersen took the opportunity to further discuss findings and recommendations put forward by the OPS2 study with the participants in this workshop.

33. TNC

Financing biodiversity conservation: Lessons, tools, capacity building and new initiatives

Summary: Program elements of the workshop were:

- Highlights of recently completed GEF Study of financial arrangements for biodiversity conservation;
- Overview of conservation finance alliance;
- Review of conservation finance guide tools (brief demonstration);
- Overview of plans for training program on conservation finance;
- Ideas on new conservation funding initiatives.

34. World Heritage Foundation

Importance of the World Heritage Sites

Summary: International recognition and acclaim is almost always a mixed blessing. When UNESCO designates a particular place as a "World Heritage Site," it highlights and energizes two potentially conflicting interests: 1) the interest of the world community in preserving and protecting the site for the enjoyment of present and future generations; and 2) the interest of the adjacent communities in profiting from the increased prestige and tourism that will inevitably result. The World Heritage Foundation workshop introduced to individuals and organizations (Professor Xie Ninggao, head of the World Heritage Research Center of Peking University, and Dr. Xie Yan of the Eco-Security Task Force of the Chinese Academy of Sciences) engaged in innovative and effective work in China; work aimed at insuring the

preservation of bio-diversity, and cultural and environmental integrity, at World Heritage Sites in China. An introduction was made of a new prototype methodology for creating baseline assessments for use in evaluating threats, needs and opportunities at World Heritage Sites around the world.

35. (Y E S)

Youth Employment and Sustainable Development

Summary: The Youth Employment Summit has launched a decade campaign of action to ensure that an additional 500 million youth, especially youth facing poverty, can gain productive employment by the year 2012. The Objective of this Workshop was to generate awareness on the potential that Renewable Energy has to achieve the twin goals of creating livelihoods (by providing employment) and conserving the environment.

Publications on Renewable Energy circulated at the workshop. These included a report on employment opportunities in Renewable Energy as well as a toolkit on how to start a Renewable Energy Enterprise, and also a YES Perspective on Sustainable Development which stresses on the role that Renewable Energy plays in promoting Sustainable Development. In addition, this workshop provided an opportunity to make links and find new ways of working together.

36. UNFCCC

Presentation on the Executive Secretary's Report of the Review of the Financial Mechanism

Summary: When the Parties to the UN Climate Change Convention meet in New Delhi starting 23 October, they would review the GEF's performance as the operator of the Convention's financial mechanism. The Climate Change Secretariat had prepared a synthesis report on this issue based on country views. COP and SBI documents, the GEF's annual reports to the COP, the second overall performance study of the GEF, and other relevant documents.

The side event offered the possibility of GEF delegates who do not necessarily attend the meetings of the Climate Change Convention to get familiar with the report. Key delegates gave their perspective on the report and on cooperation between the Climate Convention and the GEF (a summary of the report was made available to participants).

37. IPEN

The Stockholm Convention and Civil Society

38 GEO

Global Environmental Outlook

Summary: This workshop included a welcome from Mr. Klaus Topfer, Executive Director of UNEP; presentation of GEO and the GEO for GEF Booklet *Change and Challenge* (Ms M Cheatle, Head, GEO Section, DEWA/UNEP); Launch of Chinese GEO-3: State Environment Protection Administration (SEPA), China and UNEP; a panel discussion on GEO and meeting the environmental information needs of tomorrow's decision makers.

39. TVE

Presentation of Latin America and Caribbean micro/macro GEF project