

PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF CIVIL SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES TO ATTEND EXTENDED CONSTITUENCY WORKSHOPS OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

Objective

1. This document outlines the requirements necessary to enable an efficient and effective process of selection and participation of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the Extended Constituency Workshops (ECW) that will be organized by the GEF Country Support Program (CSP) during GEF-5.
2. The ECWs are organized by the GEF Secretariat as part of the CSP. As approved by the Council in document C.37/8/Rev.2 ECWs will serve to keep the GEF national focal points, convention focal points and other key stakeholders, including civil society, abreast of GEF strategies, policies and procedures and to encourage coordination. These meetings will also allow interaction with staff from the GEF Secretariat (including technical staff) and the GEF Agencies to discuss priority issues, review policies and procedures, and share lessons and experiences from the development and implementation of GEF projects and their integration within national policy frameworks.
3. Since one representative of CSOs per country will be invited and sponsored to each workshop the following procedure will be applied to identify the institution that will represent each country's CSO community at each workshop.

Criteria for selection of CSO representatives

4. The GEF seeks to identify active and major CSOs that are genuine civil society representatives and that have the capacity to address environmental issues related to Rio Conventions at national and/or regional level.
5. The identification of a pool of suitable CSOs to attend ECW will be carried out by the GEF Secretariat through a review of the applications and of the views of GEF focal points, relevant stakeholders and partners including the GEF NGO Network. Members of the Network in a country shall determine which organization among them will represent them in those workshops. The Regional Focal Points of the Network will ensure that this coordination takes place within each country in their region through an open and consultative process.
6. Only one CSO representative per country can be invited. Nevertheless, requests from self-funded CSO representatives may be considered if space permits. Local representatives of international NGOs would normally be expected to be self funded.
7. Criteria for selecting CSO representatives are the following:
 - National stature and credibility;
 - Good working relationships with other CSOs, including participation in environment/ development networks;
 - Capacity to communicate what has been learned at the ECW to other national CSOs



- Significant experience in representing civil society and communities, participatory environment and development;
- Substantial involvement and technical expertise in environmental issues related to the GEF focal areas and the Rio conventions;
- Rotation as appropriate.

Application and selection procedures

8. All CSOs interested in participating in the ECW shall submitted their application via the web site at: <http://www.thegef.org/gef/csos>