

Partners for Change



Experiences from UNDP's work with
civil society organizations through
the Global Environment Facility



United Nations
Development
Programme



GLOBAL
ENVIRONMENT
FACILITY

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.

World leaders have pledged to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, including the overarching goal of cutting poverty in half by 2015. UNDP's network links and coordinates global and national efforts to reach these Goals. Our focus is helping countries build and share solutions to the challenges of:

- Democratic Governance
- Poverty Reduction
- Crisis Prevention and Recovery
- Energy and Environment
- Information and Communications Technology
- HIV/AIDS

UNDP helps developing countries attract and use aid effectively. In all our activities, we encourage the protection of human rights and the empowerment of women.

Global Environment Facility (GEF)

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established to forge international cooperation and finance actions to address four critical threats to the global environment: biodiversity loss, climate change, degradation of international waters and ozone depletion. Launched in 1991 as an experimental facility, the GEF was restructured after the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The facility that emerged after restructuring was more strategic, effective, transparent and participatory. During its first decade, GEF allocated US\$4.5 billion in grants, supplemented by more than \$14.5 billion in additional financing, for more than 1,300 projects in 140 developing countries and transitional economies, as well as more than 5,000 projects in 73 countries that participate in the GEF Small Grants Programme, managed by UNDP. In 2002, donors pledged \$3 billion to finance projects from 2002 to 2006.

In addition to its original mandate, the May 2003 GEF Council approved two new focal areas. The GEF now provides financial assistance for the mitigation and prevention of land degradation and persistent organic pollutants. GEF-funded projects are implemented through the following development agencies: UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank. The GEF also benefits from having the following executing agencies: African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Food and Agricultural Organization, Inter-American Development Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

© Copyright 2005
United Nations Development Programme
One United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017

The views expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations, including UNDP, or their Member States.

Partners for Change

Experiences from UNDP's work with
civil society organizations through
the Global Environment Facility

Tehmina Akhtar, Esther Ebrahimian, Bhavna Prasad and Carmen Tavera, Editors

May 2005

Foreword

Experiences from the last decade have only reaffirmed the vital role of civil society in addressing the world's development and environment challenges. Civil society has put forward the concerns of the poor and the marginalized, while emphasizing that development today must in no way compromise growth prospects in the future.

From the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002, civil society has called for a world in which clean water, unpolluted air and a respect for biodiversity are the norm, not the exception.

Civil society has also provided a helping hand to governments in the process of change. Governments have the primary responsibility for meeting national commitments to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention to Combat Desertification, and other global and regional environmental agreements. Civil society is helping to translate these commitments into meaningful action on the ground.

UNDP has a long tradition of close cooperation with civil society organizations (CSOs). This cooperation is being reinforced by an advisory committee that reports to me and that regularly brings together leading development practitioners and non-governmental organization representatives to advise UNDP on our priorities for engagement with civil society. Influencing policy through the scaling-up of community-led initiatives in energy and the environment is one of four key areas slated for strengthened UNDP-CSO partnerships.

UNDP has played a key role over the last decade in helping to launch efforts to protect the global environment as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). We have forged strong relationships with civil society on many levels – from working with CSOs to reach local communities, to relying on their technical expertise and ability to demonstrate innovative solutions, to leveraging their ability to promote strong environmental policies. The best practices which have been generated span a full range of civil society partnerships, from the small-scale local initiatives supported through the GEF Small Grants Programme managed by UNDP, to large-scale national and regional UNDP-GEF projects where civil society has played an equally effective and valuable role. Scaling-up of civil society contributions to energy and environment issues has already begun. UNDP will continue to advocate for this crucial constituency to play a key role in achieving a truly sustainable and inclusive vision of development in order that we can foster a collective effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Mark Malloch Brown

Mark Malloch Brown
Administrator
United Nations Development Programme



Contents

3

Introduction	4
At the forefront of change	5
The multiple roles of civil society	6
Empowering local communities	7
Case 1.1 Guanacaste, Costa Rica	8
Case 1.2 Jozani-Chwaka Bay, Zanzibar	9
Case 1.3 Sarstún-Motagua, Guatemala	10
Case 1.4 Rainforests in southwestern Sri Lanka	11
Stimulating public awareness and action	12
Case 2.1 Gdansk, Poland	12
Case 2.2 Djoudj National Park, Senegal	13
Case 2.3 The Fertile Crescent	14
Case 2.4 The Nan River area, Thailand	15
Case 2.5 The Mopan River area, Belize and Guatemala	16
Shaping policy	17
Case 3.1 Tungu-Kabiri, Kenya	17
Case 3.2 Ten African countries	18
Case 3.3 The Danube River basin, Hungary and Slovenia	19
Case 3.4 Southern coast of Turkey	20
Developing new strategies for sustainable livelihoods	21
Case 4.1 Quebrada Arroyo, Costa Rica	22
Case 4.2 Rural Nepal	23
Case 4.3 Balochistan, Pakistan	24
Case 4.4 Border regions of Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania	25
Testing and disseminating new technology and techniques	26
Case 5.1 Karaganda, Kazakhstan	26
Case 5.2 Gabrovo, Bulgaria	27
Case 5.3 The Himalayas, India	28
Building partnerships and networks	29
Case 6.1 The Cerrado biome, Brazil	29
Case 6.2 Seven Central American countries	30
Case 6.3 Palawan, Philippines	31
Case 6.4 Dominican Republic	32
Acknowledgements	33



Introduction

Civil society organizations are important partners in UNDP-GEF activities both nationally and internationally. In fact, as key actors in formulating policy and in the design and implementation of projects, civil society organizations have been indispensable to the success of our initiatives.



As the following pages show, civil society – when given the opportunity – can make critical contributions to the achievement of project objectives and is a valuable partner in integrating project goals within the broader development context. Engagement of civil society strengthens local ownership as communities become custodians of their own resources and sustain the process initiated by our projects. The pace of development is usually much faster and more sustainable when local knowledge is used to tailor projects to community needs.

Overall, about 70 per cent of the 250 full- and medium-sized projects in the UNDP-GEF portfolio involve civil society organizations. Their participation takes many forms, from representing communities at the local level, to providing technical and policy support, to managing projects. On average, six civil society organizations are actively involved per project. In addition to ensuring that UNDP-GEF project objectives are integrated within a broader development context, civil society organizations receive direct support through the GEF Small Grants Programme that UNDP manages on behalf of the GEF partnership. To date, over 5,000 small grants, each under \$50,000, have been awarded to civil society organizations through Small Grants Programme national steering committees in 73 countries, and where civil society comprises over 50 per cent of the membership of these committees.

UNDP-GEF takes great pleasure in issuing this publication, which documents best practices and highlights the dynamic, innovative and versatile role that civil society organizations have played in ensuring the success of initiatives to protect the global environment and to promote sustainable development. The 24 case studies presented here, which illustrate the involvement of civil society organization across a number of focal areas and a range of countries, are illustrative of UNDP's close engagement with civil society organizations.

Frank Pinto
Executive Coordinator
Global Environment Facility
Bureau for Development Policy
United Nations Development Programme

At the forefront of change

5

World leaders at the Millennium Summit declared that equitable globalization is the most pressing challenge of the new century. An approach to development involving multiple stakeholders is central to achieving that objective.

Civil society is both a critical component of and an essential resource in addressing a wide range of development and policy challenges. And many civil society organizations,¹ or CSOs, have been at the forefront of advocating principles of social justice, equity and environmental conservation. Sustainable development cannot be achieved today without a robust partnership with such organizations.

The growing involvement of civil society organizations complements the growth in UNDP-GEF's project portfolio. This publication highlights the depth and diversity of civil society contributions to UNDP-GEF projects in global environment management. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations and academic institutions have served as facilitators, catalysts and key partners in these projects at varying levels. The publication draws examples from GEF focal areas (biodiversity, climate change and international waters) in all regions. Projects of various sizes are included as well, from the GEF Small Grants Programme (providing grants of a maximum of \$50,000, averaging \$20,000 in size) to medium-sized projects (under \$1 million) and full-sized projects (above \$1 million).

The GEF Small Grants Programme channels financial and technical support directly to NGOs and community-based organizations for activities that conserve and restore the environment while enhancing people's well-being and livelihoods. These projects have demonstrated that with small amounts of funding, local communities can be empowered to undertake activities that integrate economic, social and environmental concerns. Some of these community-based initiatives have yielded extraordinary results. UNDP-GEF has, in turn, benefited from this experience and has significantly increased its involvement with civil society's diverse resources and expertise, further strengthening the effectiveness of these partnerships. Civil society is involved in approximately 70 per cent of the full- and medium-sized projects of UNDP-GEF, while all projects under the GEF Small Grants Programme are executed by CSOs.

Civic engagement is the participation of private actors in the public sphere, conducted through direct and indirect interactions of civil society organizations and citizens-at-large with government, multilateral institutions and business establishments to influence decision making or pursue common goals. Engagement of citizens and citizens' organizations in public policy debate, or in delivering public services and contributing to the management of public goods, is a critical factor in making development policy and action responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people and potentially of the poor.

(Reuben, 2002)

“Civil society occupies a unique space where ideas are born, where mindsets are changed, and where the work of sustainable development doesn't just get talked about, but gets done.”

—Kofi Annan
United Nations Secretary General



¹ The term 'civil society organizations' includes all of the following: national and international non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, academic institutions, and associations or groupings of indigenous peoples.

The multiple roles of civil society



Civil society helps address global environmental problems in a variety of ways. The experiences described in this publication are organized according to six key roles that CSOs have played in UNDP-GEF's work in helping conserve the global environment in developing countries. These roles include:

- Empowering local communities by building capacity and knowledge at the local level, and by helping communities organize themselves in ways that give them a greater voice and ability to manage their resources and their own development.
- Stimulating public awareness and action by communicating to the public and reaching out to local communities.
- Influencing government, including on environmental policy and sustainable development.
- Working with communities and community-based organizations to demonstrate new and improved strategies for sustainable livelihoods at the local level.
- Testing and disseminating new and improved technologies and techniques for the benefit of local communities and adoption by governments. This is possible through the increasingly sophisticated technical and scientific expertise of CSOs and the flexibility they have to innovate.
- Bringing together diverse stakeholders in partnerships and networks to promote more effective environmental conservation. As independent, non-governmental actors, CSOs have been able to play an effective role in bringing diverse parties together.

The 24 project examples that follow are drawn from diverse regions, including Africa, Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East, Central and Eastern Europe, and Central and South America. They include ten from the GEF Small Grants Programme, eight medium-sized and six full-sized UNDP-GEF projects.

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_13324

