



GEF NGO NETWORK SIDE EVENT

PANEL DISCUSSION: ENHANCING PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH NGO ENGAGEMENT

The side event was moderated by András Krolopp, Central East European Working Group for the Enhancement of Biodiversity, and showcased successful work undertaken by NGOs.

Achieving Sustainable Livelihoods through Sustainable Local Governance – Samoa, Matafa Conservation Area, Fiji

Fiu Mata'ese Elisara-Laulu, Executive Director, Siosiomanga Society, outlined a project funded by the GEF SGP in the Matafa'a village, Samoa, which seeks to generate sustainable livelihoods through the establishment of a conservation area. He highlighted partnerships with UNDP, the University of the South Pacific and tourism operators, while noting the increasing competition between the government and NGOs over GEF resources.

Fiu stated that the rationale of the project was to enable the village of Matafa and the community residents of this remote village achieve sustainable livelihoods, from the sustainable management and conservation of their pristine biodiversity resources and mangrove areas in the Matafa Conservation Area.

Providing a brief description of the project he emphasized that the key aim *was to* establish a management committee (MC) in the Matafa Village and mangrove conservation area; achieve measurable poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation at the Matafa village and conservation area; to build management capacity of the resource owners and MC and enhance their understanding of the biodiversity resources attributes of the conservation area in Matafa for the sustainable livelihood of the Matafa villagers and for replication to other villages around Samoa; and to further develop several conservation projects identified through the case studies.

Fiu explained that OLSSI was engaged to plan, coordinate, and help implement activities of this project. Their terms of reference were specifically to set up a village agreement to ensure equitable benefit sharing of the returns from this village project.

Fiu commented that special emphasis was made in ensuring that the natural direct people of Matafaa village itself were the major beneficiaries of the environment and natural resources of the Matafaa and neighboring villages.

Fiu questioned whether this was an NGO project or a UNDP project. Fiu concluded that the combination of the views of the Matafa village on the project implementation complemented by the role of OLSSI in the project development and management resulted in the significant outcomes of the project to date.

“Continental Model”, Peace Parks a tool to conserve the biodiversity. Case studies: SADC TFCAs – Peace Parks Foundation, South Africa

Craig Beech, Peace Parks Foundation, presented spatial information tools to map and monitor the ecological footprint in transfrontier conservation areas in Southern Africa, noting efforts to train local people to manage these areas.

Craig explained that tourism corridors used to link the region. That is why they decided to introduce spatial monitoring and reporting and an adaptive management process. As an example, Peace Parks has undertaken participatory mapping of the Zambezi Basin.

San Hoodia ABS Agreements – Kalahari Desert, Southern Africa

Mathambo Ngakaeaja, Working Group of Indigenous Minorities in Southern Africa, provided a brief history of negotiations undertaken by the San Bushmen to protect their traditional knowledge via the establishment of access and benefit-sharing agreements. He explained that successful access and benefit-sharing negotiations require: involving all stakeholders; establishing equal relationships between parties; capacity building; and the spirit of compromise.

Hoodia is an example of a success story. Mathambo outlined issues of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) as they relate San to Hoodia and to success of partnerships on issues on sustainable use of bio-resources. He explained that the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) worked on a patent which resulted in an ABS agreement with CSIR in 1992. The patent outlined benefits, royalties and milestone payments. An association in South Africa was awarded 2% of the profits. There were politics at the national level with Namibia not recognizing the patent. There were politics among IPs nationally and regionally, and a reluctance among parastatals and the private sector to enter into the ABS agreement specifically pointing to the adverse interest on Hoodia generated by commercialization.

Mathambo stressed the importance of equitable partnerships within the whole process. He continued to explain that although ABS negotiations are lengthy, complex and required compromise there was no equity in the relationship from the beginning. Bio-piracy is common and the need or enactment of local legislation to protect ABS is vital, but the spectrum of stakeholders can be large. Within the international ABS regime harmonization is definitely necessary. In this regard NGO support and capacity building for IPs is crucial for equitable partnerships. Another important element is certification and the need to control trade in bio-products. IPs are not experts in law but know that the government is working on certification issues and that the certificates are issued by the Department of Agriculture.

Mathambo told the participants that UNEP GEF office in Nairobi had extended their interest in funding the IPs. Mathambo welcomed the opportunity within an initiative such as this side event that informs others and the GEF.

Partnership in Action, A Case of the Government of Mexico and the Small Grants Programme – Mexico

Raúl Murguía, UNDP, explained that the SGP is intended to conserve natural resources and increase the quality of life in communities, and that Mexico is using the programme to develop a Mesoamerican organic honey certification scheme.

Raul related that to date 95 countries are participating in SGP within 81 country offices. The SGP grant ranged from USD 5,000 to 500,000 and is targeted to conserve natural resources and increase the quality of life of inhabitants. For instance in Yucatan, in 1994 there were 345 projects and 87 NGOs ranging from organic apiculture, sustainable forestry, tourism and sustainable aquiculture. Catalyzed by the impact of the SGP a Peninsular Fund with three lines of has been created. The aim of the fund was to conserve at least 40,000 hectares of Meso-America through apiculture activities funded by SGP in Mexico and other countries.

Raul mentioned that Mesoamerica has many organic honey certification projects but there is a dire need to develop market channels, networks and certification.

Mainstreaming Indigenous Communities in the Legal System - Mexico

Gustavo Alanis Ortega, Mexican Centre of Environmental Law, detailed legal instruments available to Mexicans for challenging the government or private entities that harm the environment. To ensure a healthy environment, he advocated: strong laws; effective institutions; an informed citizenry; and organizations with the courage to use the law.

Gustavo highlighted that in general people are afraid of lawyers and this can be a great impediment. However, he continued to state that there was a paradigm shift in this mindset when the concept of using the law to protect the environment was introduced in 1993. Although Mexico had good environmental laws enforcement was poor. At present there are 22 lawyers, 80s NGOs have taken issues forward through meetings, mass media action and collective letters. Presently these manifestations are accompanied by legal actions that citizens use to strengthen their proceedings.

There exists a citizen's complement whereby ANY person or social organization can file a complaint before the Agency for the Protection of the Environment (PROFEPA) when an act or an omission causes ecological harm, environmental injury or violates environmental regulations. Citizens can call into this agency to alert them on what is happening on the ground and can keep their identity a secret.

Criminal complaints can be filed under the Fed Law of Ecological Equilibrium and Protection for the Environment (LGEEPA) within the criminal code either at federal or state level. For instance, a PEMES official went to jail for his offences.

There are administrative legal resources but these are not very good but must, however, be exhausted. There are various laws that have been enacted, for instance the New Federal Law of Transparency and Access to Governmental Public Information which gives the right to access to public information and encourages a participatory process such as public consultation in the environmental impact evaluation process. If the project has the capacity to

impact on people, the people have the opportunity to call for a public consultation. Other avenues include civil trial, appeal for legal protection (SC under Article 4 of the constitution), letters directed to the congress and international community under NAFTA 14.

There are strong laws, effective institutions, informed citizens, mainstreamed IPs and groups resulting in an organization that has the strength and courage to use legal means and can effectively enforce the law.


Climate Change “Think Global Act Local” – ENDA, Senegal

Libasse Ba, Environment Development Action in the Third World, described a programme, being undertaken in Senegal, Mali, Guinea Bissau, Tanzania, India and Nepal, which: aims to reduce carbon emissions from deforestation; takes a participatory approach; raises awareness; and builds capacity in communities.

Libasse gave a comprehensive background of the project’s origins and the implementation process starting with the identification of local communities at inception. These communities were also involved in the research for this project. The project works directly with the communities and is currently training them in Geographic Information Systems (GIS). This was being done at a cost of \$5 per hectare which he expected to go down.


For more information on the project, Libasse referred participants to the following website; www.communitycarbonforestry.

Slide 1


 SLM
Sustainable Land Management

LDC-SIDS Targeted Portfolio Project for Capacity Building and Mainstreaming of Sustainable Land Management

(GEF Assembly, Cape Town, 28 Aug. 06)

 GEF

UNDP-GEF

 UN
DIP

Slide 2

Overall Goal (Portfolio Level)



- To assist LDCs and SIDS in promoting effective sustainable land management for global and local benefits
 - ◆ By contributing to enhanced ecosystem integrity, functions and services and improved sustainable livelihoods through the development of capacities for, and mainstreaming of, sustainable land management

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Objective and expected outcomes (Portfolio Level)

To strengthen capacity development and mainstreaming into national development strategies and policies while improving the quality of project design, implementation, outputs & impact; and through ensuring broad-based political and participatory support for the process

Focus on:

- Cost-effective and timely delivery of GEF resources to 47 LDCs and SIDS
- Enhancement of individual and institutional capacities for SLM at the national level
- Systemic capacity building and mainstreaming of SLM principles into development planning
- Enhanced technical support

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Goal of country projects



Contribute to mitigation of land degradation, in particular through capacity development and mainstreaming of sustainable land management

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Objective and expected outcomes of country projects

To strengthen the enabling environment for sustainable land management while ensuring broad-based political and participatory support for the process, through the following expected generic outcomes:

- domestic capacity development (national and local level);
- mainstreaming NAP/SLM into national development strategies and policies; and
- Completion of the NAP
- investment planning and resource mobilization for follow-up implementation of SLM

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Linking the MSP and the NAP



- The NAP is an outcome under the country MSP
- GEF funding can only indirectly benefit NAP preparation (e.g. Land degradation stocktaking) but can not be used to produce the actual NAP
- However, nearly all countries have co-funding available for NAP preparation (such as from GM, UNDP, etc.).
- Many participating countries have initiated the production of their NAPs: the MSPs design/implementation phase informs this process (and *vice-versa*)
- The MSP design/implementation phase is also expected to generate relevant information to update the NAP

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Common barriers to SLM



- Economic growth policies often contradict long-term environmental concerns; e.g. unsustainable land use practices leading to accelerated erosion, increased deforestation, etc.
- Development plans maximize sectoral benefits, often at the cost of other sectors; e.g. mono-cultures
- Land use planning is driven by sectoral policies rather than addressing trade offs between sectors
- Development frameworks are usually not based on what the land can actually sustain and lack an integrated approach
- Information base is usually weak, non-verified

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- Lack of capacity for SLM
 - ◆ Individual = local land users lack access to innovations; expertise is limited; new tools are not disseminated
 - ◆ Institutional = sectoral divisions, overlapping mandates, under-funding, weak extension services
 - ◆ Systemic = policy disincentives; legal constraints (especially land tenure)
- Lack of mainstreaming of LD concerns into national development planning
- Land tenure

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Country examples: Mauritius

- Only 2% of its original forest remains, much of it has a dense undergrowth of invasive exotics
- LD caused by three main factors: deforestation, unsustainable agriculture and recurring wildfires on grass covered mountain slopes.
- Data on forest cover or deforestation are lacking or totally outdated
- Unsustainable agriculture is mainly found on land used other than for sugarcane
- On the island of Rodrigues overgrazing is another factor contributing to soil erosion
- There are considerable differences in land tenure between the islands of Mauritius (mainly privately owned) and the island of Rodrigues (nearly all State-owned)
- The Govt. Of Mauritius initiated various activities and formulated a number of policy frameworks related to land (use) planning and management. Unfortunately for the latter the responsibilities lie with various agencies each working under their own respective legal and institutional frameworks

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Country examples: East Timor

- Land degradation mainly due to deforestation, unsustainable agricultural practices and recurring wildfires on grass-covered mountain slopes
- Compounded effects due to demographic pressure, poverty, illegal tree felling, shifting cultivation and overgrazing
- Widespread destruction of forest ecosystems due to indiscriminate felling prior to independence
- Resulting erosion notably on sloping and steep lands reduced the soil layer, exposed bedrock and removed valuable topsoil (loss of soil fertility widespread), loss of biodiversity mainly due to habitat loss
- Data on degradation of agricultural lands and its economic impact is scarce
- Clear link between poverty and LD
- LD seen as a major obstacle to Govt. to effectively alleviate poverty
- Lack of clarity about land tenure issues

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Country examples: Samoa

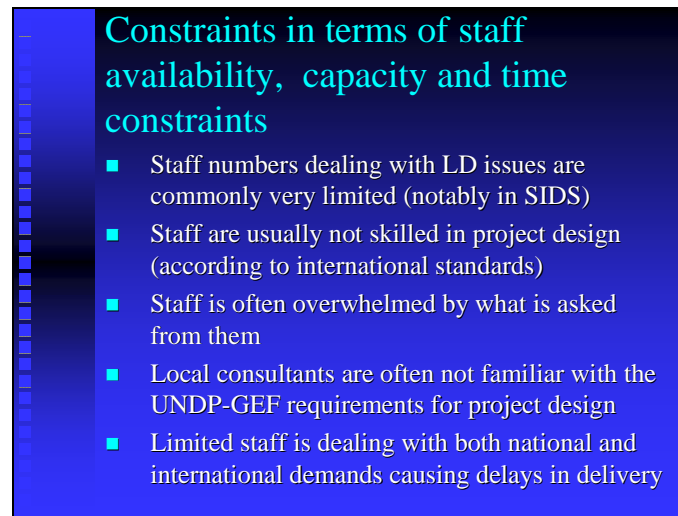
- Land Degradation is a priority issue for Samoa
- Unsustainable agriculture and deforestation are the main contributing factors to land degradation
- Appropriate land use (ie., for the land to support a particular type of land use on a sustainable basis) is seen as a key to sustainable development
- Where rural communities are farming land is primarily under customary ownership
- Rapidly increasing land pressure, particularly in peri-urban areas due to rural-urban migration
- Deforestation pronounced in lowland areas but rapidly expanding within the rainforest areas, leading to loss of biodiversity, reduced river and stream flow and raises concern about adequate fresh water supplies
- The country is particularly vulnerable to natural disasters the effects of which are compounded by the ongoing LD.

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Some issues faced by LDCs/SIDS during the design of country MSPs

1. Constraints in terms of staff availability, staff capacity and time constraints
2. Unfamiliarity with regard to UNDP/GEF requirements for project design
3. Constraints in terms of lack of political support or prioritization
4. Constraints in terms of finding adequate co-financing
5. Lack of basic information

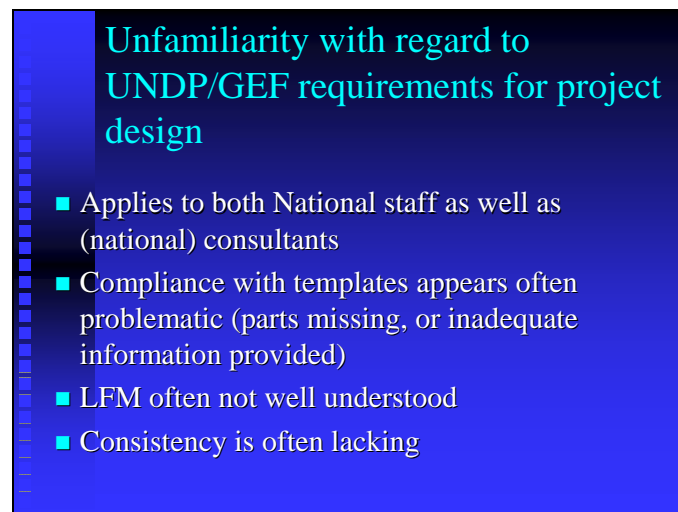
Slide 13



Constraints in terms of staff availability, capacity and time constraints

- Staff numbers dealing with LD issues are commonly very limited (notably in SIDS)
- Staff are usually not skilled in project design (according to international standards)
- Staff is often overwhelmed by what is asked from them
- Local consultants are often not familiar with the UNDP-GEF requirements for project design
- Limited staff is dealing with both national and international demands causing delays in delivery

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Unfamiliarity with regard to UNDP/GEF requirements for project design

- Applies to both National staff as well as (national) consultants
- Compliance with templates appears often problematic (parts missing, or inadequate information provided)
- LFM often not well understood
- Consistency is often lacking

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Constraints in terms of lack of political support or prioritization

- ◆ Lack of understanding/support for the initiative, and
- ◆ Other national or international obligations may be considered more pressing/important

As a consequence the initiative gets low priority

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Constraints in finding adequate co-financing



- Misconception that co-financing needs to be in cash
- Donors' turnover time to determine if co-funding can be committed
- Donors may feel that they loose "the credits" when "their" project is put forward as co-funding
- For support in "cash" donors usually want to review the final MSP before committing themselves (additional delays)

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Lack of basic information



- Most countries lack adequate and basic information affecting project design
- In most countries the extent of the problem is unknown (neither quantified nor qualified)

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PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STATUS (Aug 06)

Since the signing of the Implementation Agreement for the Portfolio Project between UNDP and UNOPS on 18 Nov. 2004:

PACIFIC (13 countries):

- All countries had their PDFAs approved and are drafting or finalizing their MSPs except for Samoa and Niue: their MSPs were recently cleared by GEFSec.

SE+S ASIA (7 countries):

- All countries had their PDFAs approved and are drafting or finalizing their MSPs. East-Timor had its MSP officially cleared by GEFSec in May 2006.

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PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STATUS (cont'd)

CARIBBEAN (13 countries):

- All countries had their PDFAs approved and are drafting or finalizing their MSPs.

AFRICA (14 countries):


- All countries (except Comores) had their PDFAs approved and are drafting or finalizing their MSPs. Mauritius was the first country to have its MSP cleared by GEFSec (mid 2005).

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Lessons learned from completed country MSPs

Examples from 3 regions:

- Mauritius (Africa)
- East-Timor (SE Asia)
- Samoa (Pacific)



Thank you



Contacts :

- UNDP Regional & Country Offices
- UNDP-GEF Principal Technical Adv.
(maryam.nyamir-fuller@undp.org)
- Global Support Unit : Global Coordinator
(hans.eschweiler@undp.org)

Additional Info:

- See the GSU website: www.gsu.co.za

Slide 1

An Overview of the San Hoodia ABS Agreement



Mathambo Ngakaeaja.

GFF General Assembly. Capetown

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Slide 2

Orientation



Some Demography


- 100 to 120,000 San with click languages in Southern Africa.
- WIMSA, SASI and SASC: San organisations which supported the San through ABS negotiations.

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The Hoodia

- Desert succulent.
- Thirst and hunger suppressant due to P57.
- Used by San hunters and gatherers.
- No commercial product on market yet based on P57 patent of CSIR.



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Background

- CSIR started work on the patent in 1964.
- Patent Went through in 1996.
- WIMSA learns about the patent through though news paper in 1997.
- 1998, ABS Negotiations start.
- 2002: ABS agreement is signed by SASC

- The ABS Agreements
 1. CSIR
 - Royalties (2 payments so far)
 - Milestone (pending)
 2. Hoodia Growers Association (RSA).
 - Royalties from proceeds on Hoodia sales

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Some Dynamics

- The battle between the various indigenous peoples' groups and other local community groups.
- The negotiations among the San themselves.
- The reluctance of the parastatal and the corporate world to enter in to ABS.
- The immense interest suddenly generated by; research institutes, media, governments, the corporate, local communities and individuals.
- Challenging to prioritise and balance the immense interest.

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Lessons on ABS from the San

- Equitable Partnerships are crucial for meaningful and effective ABS agreements.
- ABS agreements are reactionary in form. This puts TK holders in a difficult negotiation position
- Benefit sharing discussions locally tend to be resolved through compromise by the locals.
- Value addition to TK can pose biodiversity challenges due to high demand of the biodiversity resource.
- NGO support is important.
- ABS Agreement negotiations may be complex and lengthy.
- Domestic legislation on CBD enhances ABS efficiency. User countries need domestic legislation to regulate trade on bio-products. eg **Hoodia sales in Europe and USA.**
- Spectrum of stake holders can be large.
- International ABS Regime and Harmonization necessary.
- Capacity building is inevitable for Indigenous Peoples' and Local Peoples to negotiate as equal partners.

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95 countries are participating in SGP. There are 81 country offices, two regional offices, two sub-regional offices and a Central Program Management Team.

More than 6,200 grants have been awarded worldwide to date.

Is a decentralized Program, decision-making about National Strategy and grant awards are under the direction of a voluntary National Steering Committee.

SGP The GEF Small Grants Programme

Slide 4



SGP has three funding options:

Planning Grants up to \$5,000 (USD) dedicated to support project design and formulation.

Full Grants up to \$50,000 (USD)

Strategic Project Grants up to \$150,000 dedicated to enable successful projects, and NGO/CBO implementers, with increased capacities to upscale their efforts.

SGP The GEF Small Grants Programme

Slide 5

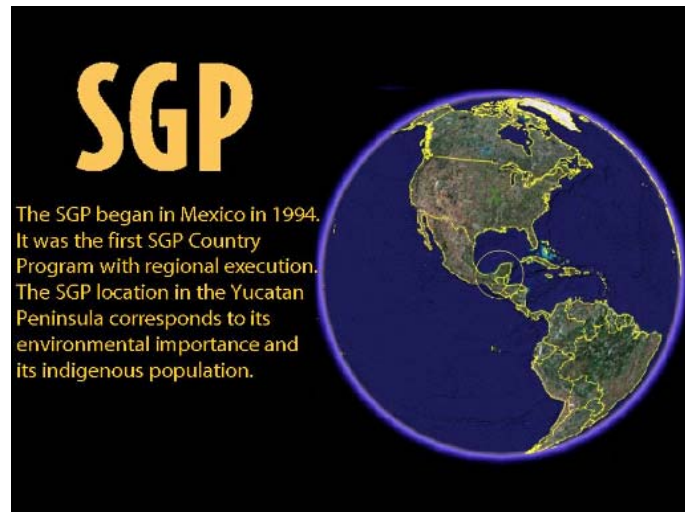


The slide features a background of green leaves. On the left side, there are three logos: the GEF logo (a white circle with a line through it), the UNDP logo (the UN emblem above the letters 'UN' and 'DP'), and the SGP logo (the letters 'SGP' in a large, bold font, with 'The GEF Small Grants Programme' written in a smaller font below it). On the right side, the text 'Strategic Projects Objectives:' is followed by a numbered list of six objectives.

Strategic Projects Objectives:

1. Create greater impact and closer links between local efforts and global environmental benefits by providing larger funds, thereby supporting more extensive geographical coverage and/or thematic consolidation for policy improvement and effective knowledge management.
2. Make effective use of the built up capacity of successful local NGOs, CBOs and communities.
3. Improve the capacity of the SGP and its partners to leverage larger funds from potential donors.
4. Strengthen the sustainability of SGP projects.
5. Accumulate national and global experience in the development and implementation of community-based projects of larger coverage.
6. Enable SGP to more effectively link with the MSP and FSP modalities of the GEF as well as that of other donors and governments, promoting increased participation of communities, CBOs and NGOs in these modalities.

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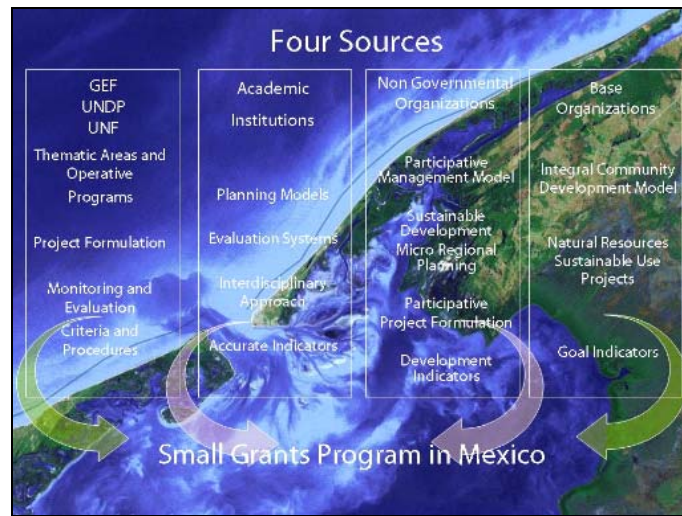


The slide has a black background. On the left, the letters 'SGP' are written in a large, bold, yellow font. Below this, there is a paragraph of text in a smaller, yellow font. On the right side, there is a circular image of the Earth showing the Americas, with a blue circle highlighting the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico.

SGP

The SGP began in Mexico in 1994. It was the first SGP Country Program with regional execution. The SGP location in the Yucatan Peninsula corresponds to its environmental importance and its indigenous population.

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El Programa de Pequeñas Donaciones del F.M.A.M.

PN UD

PAUAL

CORREDOR BIOLÓGICO MESOAMERICANO

I Reunión Apícola Regional

Playa del Carmen, Quintana Roo, México
10 - 12 de Marzo del 2004

SGP National Coordinators and beekeepers representatives of Mesoamerican countries held a meeting in May of 2004 to analyze the conservation of tropical forests through organic apiculture. The Strategic Project here presented is a result of that meeting.


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The Context:

Mesoamerica contains, in its relatively small surface, 3 biomes, 20 life-zones, 33 eco regions, more than 60 vegetal associations and 350 landscape forms ranging from cloud forests with rainfall greater than 7,500 mm to thorn scrub in semiarid areas where the rainfall reaches only 400 mm.

The diversity of botanical families is particularly high inasmuch North and South American flora meet and overlap in this Region.

The level of endemism in the region is also high with at least 4,715 endemic plants and 451 endemic vertebrates. Endemic species can be found distributed in large areas or in special locations.



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The Context:

Mesoamerica's biological diversity is echoed by its human diversity.

The region is home to 32 distinct ethnic groups with a population of more than 9 million (45% of the regional population).

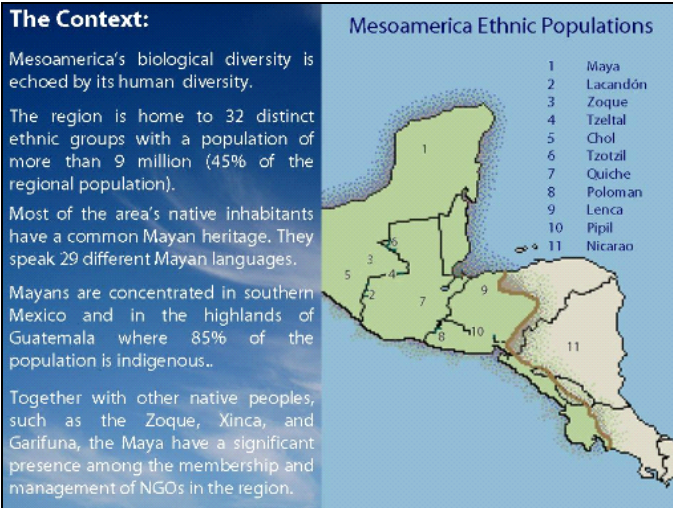
Most of the area's native inhabitants have a common Mayan heritage. They speak 29 different Mayan languages.

Mayans are concentrated in southern Mexico and in the highlands of Guatemala where 85% of the population is indigenous.

Together with other native peoples, such as the Zoque, Xinca, and Garifuna, the Maya have a significant presence among the membership and management of NGOs in the region.

Mesoamerica Ethnic Populations

- 1 Maya
- 2 Lacandón
- 3 Zoque
- 4 Tzeltal
- 5 Chol
- 6 Tzotzil
- 7 Quiche
- 8 Poloman
- 9 Lenca
- 10 Pipil
- 11 Nicaraio



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The Problem:

Mesoamerica has some of the highest world deforestation rates.

About six million hectares of natural forest cover were cleared or burned each year from 1990-1995, resulting in degradation of 30 million hectares of forest.

Today, approximately 80% of the region's original primary vegetal cover have been cleared or significantly modified.

Many flora and fauna species are threatened with extinction.

It is estimated that if deforestation continues at the current rates much of the last 20% of the region's forests will be destroyed during the first decades of the 21st century, leaving only remnants in parks and reserves.

Mesoamerica: a forest fire report, April 26, 2003, NASA

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The Problem:

Mesoamerica area involved in the Strategic Apicultural Project has a surface of approximately 66 million of hectares and has some 42 million inhabitants. Despite its wealth of natural resources and proximity to major markets, its extreme poverty index is in some countries two times higher than the Latin American average. Nearly 50 percent of the region's population live below the poverty line. In rural areas, more than 70 percent of the population is poor or needy.

The region is also highly exposed to natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods, and earthquakes.

Poverty is contributing to environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity. Poor people needs the ecosystems subsidize to survive: rural peoples cut down trees to use or sell as firewood; migrants live as squatters on protected land; traditional agriculture based in the slash and burn system is expanding because the growing of population and the low soil productivity, animals and plants are collected and sold.

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Project Focal Areas:

Organic apicultural projects require the conservation of the vegetal cover, are immediately linked with the conservation of Biological Diversity.

Apiculture stops the growing of the agricultural and cattle raising grass land border and reduce the use of fire, contributing to reduce the Global Warming decreasing the green house gases emission to the atmosphere.

GEF

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Strategic Priorities

The project is corresponding with the following GEF Biological Diversity Strategic Priorities:

- 1 Strengthening conservation, management and sustainable apicultural use of tropical forest ecosystems, which have been identified by the national governments as important for its high diversity, large numbers of endemic or threatened species, or wilderness.
- 2 Capacity-building in NGOs and CBOs, and institutional development, to participate in the conservation of the tropical forest biological diversity through its sustainable apicultural use.
- 3 The organic apiculture promotes the sustainability of project benefits; that offer a potential contribution to experience in the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components which may have application in any tropical forest.
- 4 Organic apiculture projects really strengthen the involvement of local and indigenous people in the conservation of the tropical forest biological diversity.
- 5 Organic apiculture projects also are integrating the social dimensions and are an excellent tool to reduce rural poverty.

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Operational program: Forest Ecosystems



1 Apicultural Projects promote the conservation in-situ of the tropical forest ecosystems, allowing its crucial role in maintaining global biodiversity. Tropical forests provide the most diverse sets of habitats for plants, animals, and micro organisms, holding the vast majority of the world's terrestrial species.

2 Organic apiculture in Mesoamerican Trans boundary regions, also allows the maintenance of forest ecosystems crucial for the conservation of biological diversity shared among neighbour countries, which are providing ecological services and livelihoods for at least one million of people.

3 The indigenous culture of the Mesoamerican peoples contains a long standing beekeeping tradition, linked with the management of the forest biological diversity.

4 The Tropical Forest Conservation through Organic Apiculture project has an integrated ecosystem approach.

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Project Characteristics:

Organic honey production is a good forest conservation indicator. Each certified apiary implies the existence of at least 63,03 hectares of well preserved forest.

Organic beekeeping allows the incorporation of rural population, principally the Maya indigenous people to a different process, where a new relation between nature and society is developed.

Establish an SGP common Mesoamerican agenda and work plan of work for the conservation of the tropical forest through the organic beekeeping.

Increase the number of apiaries and beehives by apiary to increase both forest protection and beekeepers income.

Establish a Mesoamerican commercial platform, for honey and other apicultural products, to have better condition approaching the European Fair Market.

Country political platforms to influence national and local policies of promotion for the organic apicultural production

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Project Results:

Conservation of at least 40 000 hectares of Mesoamerica tropical forests, through the consolidation of the apicultural activities financed by SGP in Mexico and expand this practice to the other SGP Mesoamerican countries.

Increased doubly the yearly income of about 1,600 people who are now under the poverty line and principally indigenous.

A trademark international register for organic honey produced by the SGP financed organizations

A Mesoamerican Organic Honey Trade Social Enterprise

A Mesoamerican Network of organic honey producers.

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Project activities:

- Sharing experiences through three Mesoamerican Meetings
- Diagnoses of honey production in six micro region, one in each participating country
- Diagnoses of vegetal cover in six micro region, one in each participating country
- Training to have one qualified technician in each beekeepers organization participating in the project.
- Financing the beekeepers organization to increase the number of beehives and apiaries.
- Financing the transformation from traditional to organic honey production.

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SGP The GEF
Small Grants
Programme

**SGP Regional Strategic Support to
non-governmental and
community-based organizations**

Slide 1



MEXICAN LEGAL ACTIONS TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES.



CEMDA



Slide 2



During the 80's and the early 90's NGO's manifested their environmental worries through meetings, manifestations, mass media and collective letters for the governments.



Nowadays these manifestations are also accompanied by the use of different legal actions that citizens use to strengthen their pleadings and complaints.



CEMDA



Slide 3



CITIZEN'S COMPLAINT.

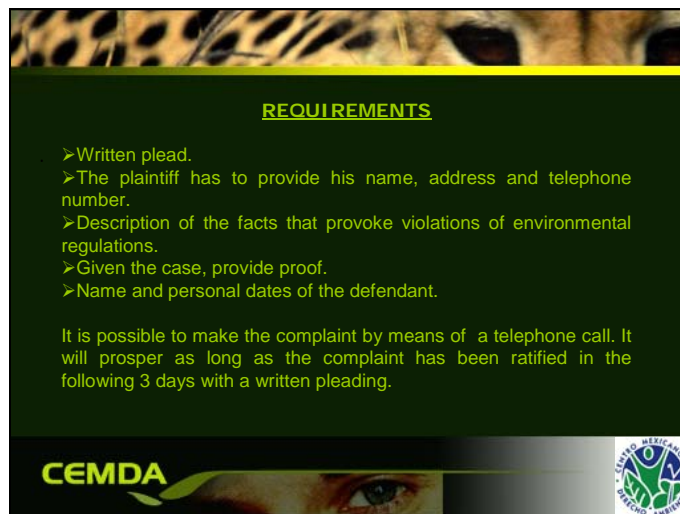
Any person or social organization can file a complaint before the General Attorney for the Protection of the Environment (PROFEPA) when an act or an omission causes ecological harm, environmental injuries or violates an environmental regulation.



CEMDA



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REQUIREMENTS


- >Written plead.
- >The plaintiff has to provide his name, address and telephone number.
- >Description of the facts that provoke violations of environmental regulations.
- >Given the case, provide proof.
- >Name and personal dates of the defendant.

It is possible to make the complaint by means of a telephone call. It will prosper as long as the complaint has been ratified in the following 3 days with a written pleading.

CEMDA



Slide 5




If the plaintiff asks it, his identity can be maintained in secret by PROFEPA. This is important in some regions of the country where the plaintiff and his family can suffer from menaces, injuries, beatings.

Once PROFEPA receives the complaint, it has the duty to realize the diligences to verify and prove the existence of the denounced acts and impose the proper sanction.

If the action constitutes a crime under the Criminal Code, PROFEPA has to send the file to the Public Prosecutor.

The citizens complaint is a federal and local action.

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Slide 6



Criminal Claim

Another legal instrument provided by Federal Law of Ecological Equilibrium and Protection for the Environment (LGEEPA) and Criminal Code, either at a Federal or State level.

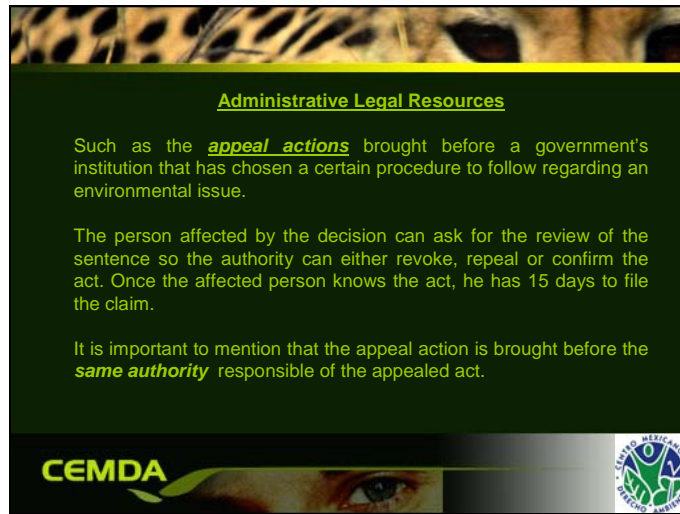
If the defendant is found guilty he shall be condemned to punitive and compensatory damages as well as imprisonment.



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Slide 7

The slide features a leopard's face in the top and bottom sections. The main content area is dark green with yellow text. The title is 'Administrative Legal Resources'. The text explains that 'appeal actions' are brought before a government institution regarding environmental issues. It states that affected persons can request a review, and the authority can revoke, repeal, or confirm the act. A 15-day deadline is mentioned for filing a claim. It also notes that the appeal must be brought before the 'same authority' responsible for the original act. The CEMDA logo and the logo of the 'SECRETARÍA DE MEDIO AMBIENTE Y ENERGÍA' are at the bottom.


Administrative Legal Resources

Such as the **appeal actions** brought before a government's institution that has chosen a certain procedure to follow regarding an environmental issue.

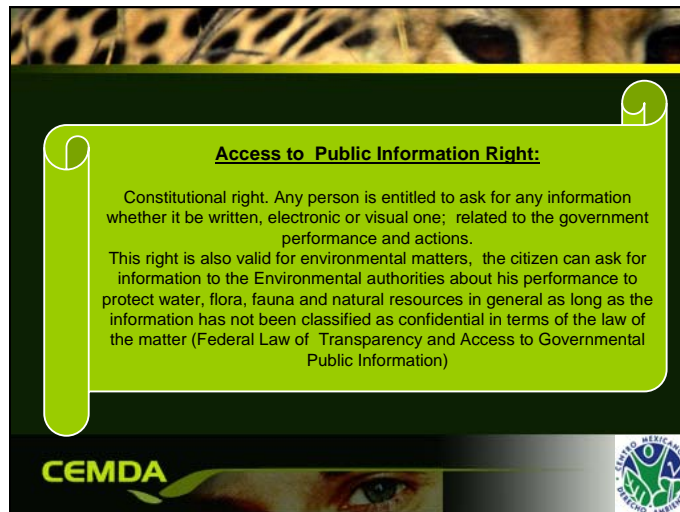
The person affected by the decision can ask for the review of the sentence so the authority can either revoke, repeal or confirm the act. Once the affected person knows the act, he has 15 days to file the claim.

It is important to mention that the appeal action is brought before the **same authority** responsible of the appealed act.

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Slide 8


The slide features a leopard's face in the top and bottom sections. The main content area is dark green with a light green scroll-shaped box containing text. The title is 'Access to Public Information Right:'. The text describes it as a constitutional right to ask for information related to government performance. It also states that this right applies to environmental matters, allowing citizens to ask for information about government performance in protecting water, flora, fauna, and natural resources, provided the information is not confidential. The CEMDA logo and the logo of the 'SECRETARÍA DE MEDIO AMBIENTE Y ENERGÍA' are at the bottom.

Access to Public Information Right:

Constitutional right. Any person is entitled to ask for any information whether it be written, electronic or visual one; related to the government performance and actions.

This right is also valid for environmental matters, the citizen can ask for information to the Environmental authorities about his performance to protect water, flora, fauna and natural resources in general as long as the information has not been classified as confidential in terms of the law of the matter (Federal Law of Transparency and Access to Governmental Public Information)

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Slide 9

Participation Processes

Such as the **Public Consultation** in the Environmental Impact Evaluation process.

Request of Environmental Impact Authorization → 10 days for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be made public

*"If the project involves a big chance to impact significantly the public health or the ecological equilibrium then a **Public Information Meeting** can be requested by a citizen."*

Within the next 20 days the citizen has the right to make observations and to propose alternative mitigation measures to diminish environmental impacts

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Slide 10

In the **Public Information Meeting** the party responsible of the project has to explain to the assisting audience the content of his project, the technical and environmental information to make it clear and the audience has the right to participate and propose alternative measures and procedures to carry out the project in an attempt to minimize its environmental impact.

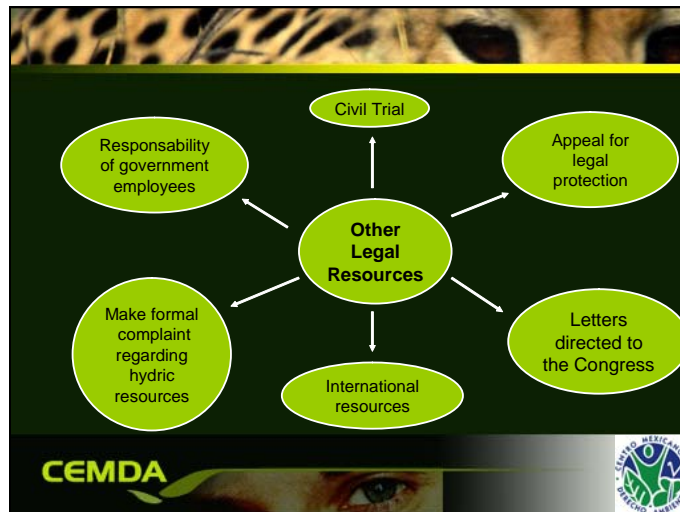
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Slide 11

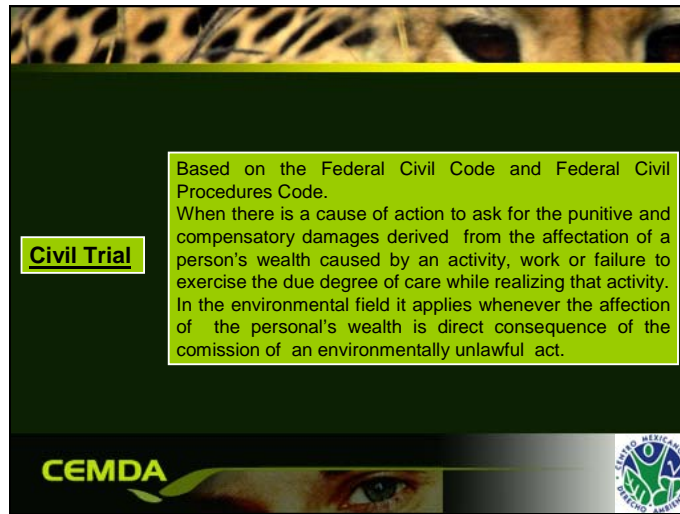
Counsel for Sustainable Development of the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT)
Participation mechanism to ensure the interaction among the different social actors in order to create, apply and watch for the environmental policies. These policies have to accomplish the sustainable development and environmental protection standards.
The National Counsel advises the Secretariat to take into consideration certain environmental problems in the country in order to consider them in the development of ulterior inner policies.

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Slide 13


The slide features a leopard's face in the top and bottom sections. The main content is on a dark green background. A yellow box on the left contains the text "Civil Trial". A larger yellow box on the right contains text about the Federal Civil Code and Civil Procedures Code, defining a cause of action for punitive and compensatory damages based on the affectation of personal wealth. The bottom of the slide includes the CEMDA logo and a circular logo for the "SECRETARÍA DE MEDIO AMBIENTE Y ENERGÍA" of Mexico.

Civil Trial

Based on the Federal Civil Code and Federal Civil Procedures Code.

When there is a cause of action to ask for the punitive and compensatory damages derived from the affectation of a person's wealth caused by an activity, work or failure to exercise the due degree of care while realizing that activity. In the environmental field it applies whenever the affection of the personal's wealth is direct consequence of the commission of an environmentally unlawful act.

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Slide 14

The slide features a leopard's face in the top and bottom sections. The main content is on a dark green background. A yellow box on the left contains the text "Appeal for Legal Protection" and a paragraph explaining that it is a cause of action based on constitutional rights violations, specifically the right to an appropriate environment. It notes that despite the Supreme Court's failure to interpret this right correctly, it remains a legal resource that can be improved. To the right of the text is a black and white icon of a gavel. The bottom of the slide includes the CEMDA logo and a circular logo for the "SECRETARÍA DE MEDIO AMBIENTE Y ENERGÍA" of Mexico.

Appeal for Legal Protection

Cause of action based on **constitutional right's violations**.
Every person has the right to enjoy of an appropriate environment for his development.


Despite of this, the Supreme Court has failed to interpret correctly this constitutional right and therefore to give the proper application and prosecution to make it effective. However it is a legal resource that can be improved through its use in the courts.



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Slide 15




Letters directed to the Congress


To look for allies in the Congress whenever an environmental problem is not solved.

To write a letter to the members of the Congress and ask them to demand from the Executive Power the proper attention to a particular environmental problematic or the effective application of law and regulations.

The Congress shall emit what is called and **Agreement Point** based on the letters.



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Slide 16




International Resources

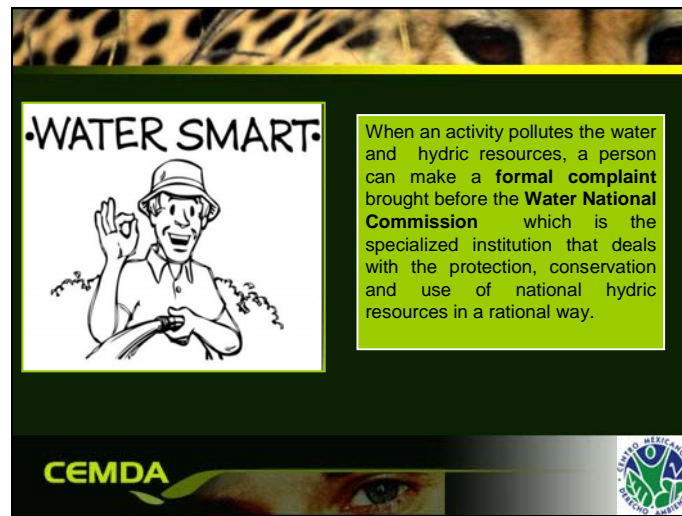
Such as the **Citizen Submissions on Enforcement Matters** provided by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), international organization created by Canada, Mexico and the United States under the **North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation**.

The citizen submission is a mechanism that enables the public to play an active whistle-blower role when a government appears to be failing to enforce its environmental laws effectively

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Slide 17

The slide features a leopard's face in the background. On the left, a white box contains the text "WATER SMART" above a cartoon of a man in a hat holding a hose. On the right, a green box contains text about formal complaints to the Water National Commission. The bottom of the slide has the CEMDA logo and the Mexican coat of arms.

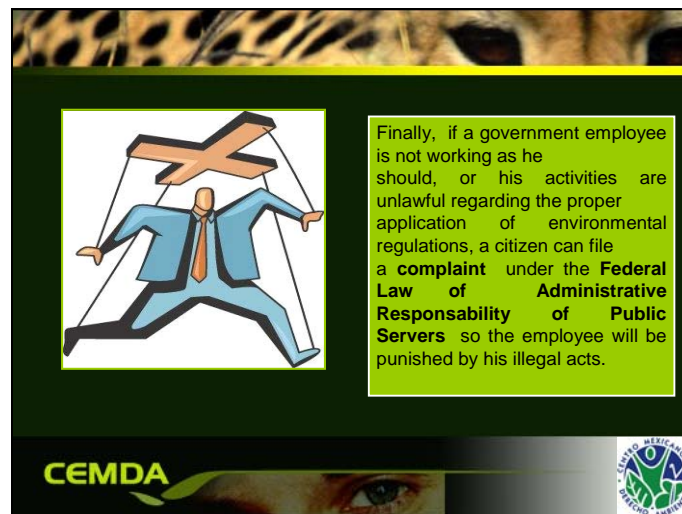
WATER SMART

When an activity pollutes the water and hydric resources, a person can make a **formal complaint** brought before the **Water National Commission** which is the specialized institution that deals with the protection, conservation and use of national hydric resources in a rational way.

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The slide features a leopard's face in the background. On the left, a white box contains a cartoon of a man in a suit with a large 'X' over his head, suspended by strings. On the right, a green box contains text about filing a complaint under the Federal Law of Administrative Responsibility of Public Servers. The bottom of the slide has the CEMDA logo and the Mexican coat of arms.

Finally, if a government employee is not working as he should, or his activities are unlawful regarding the proper application of environmental regulations, a citizen can file a **complaint** under the **Federal Law of Administrative Responsibility of Public Servers** so the employee will be punished by his illegal acts.

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Slide 19



This way, as we have seen, Mexican law provides citizens a complete universe of legal resources to protect the environment and demand the effective application of laws and regulations regarding environmental problems.



Of course all these actions can be supported by mass media which often simpatizes with the environmental cause and gives considerable pressure to the Environmental Authorities.



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Slide 20



THANK YOU FOR THE ATTENTION
GUSTAVO ALANIS ORTEGA
PRESIDENT
MEXICAN CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW
www.cemda.org.mx

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Slide 1



Think Global, Act Local Project (KTGAL)

A partnership in research and capacity building project on community carbon forestry

***GEF-NGO Network Side Event
3rd GEF Assembly
August 29, 2006
Cape Town (South Africa)***

Libasse BA
ENDA




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Slide 2

Objectives: the GEF-NGO Network Forum/the KTGAL project

- TOR
 - Making available the existing information to local actors and communities
 - Develop networks of research centers, Universities, Private sector and local communities




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Slide 3

Objectives of the project:

- Reduced carbon emissions (from tropical deforestation and degradation)
- Poverty reduction and livelihood support (from payments for carbon credits for emissions reduced)
- Improved forest management providing a variety of environmental and social benefits
- Develop a partnership
 - **Contribute to the design of CFM/CDM activities**
 - **Integrate local communities concerns**
 - **Help the monitoring of CFM/CDM activities**




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Policy objectives of the research

- Raise awareness and interest among developing country governments and NGOs in forest management as a Kyoto strategy
- Lobby for inclusion of forest management (specifically, CBFM) for carbon abatement, in future climate agreements



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Slide 5

Methodology:

- **Field visits in the local communities**
- **Participatory approach**
- **Identification of key discussion topics with local communities**
- **Lobbying**



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Slide 6

Partners in the research


- TSD – research leadership and management
- ITC – technical and conceptual support
- 3 regional partners managing fieldwork
 - ENDA in West Africa,
 - Univ. of Dar-es-Salaam in East Africa
 - ICIMOD in Himalayan area
- Various local field agencies in Senegal, Mali, G.Bissau, India, Nepal, Tanzania and Uganda
 - in sites where community forest management is already in place
- Junior researchers as linking element




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Slide 7

Participatory process



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Research questions

- Does community based forest management result in reduced rates of deforestation and/or degradation, with associated reductions in carbon emission? (How much?)
- Can carbon levels and stock changes be monitored by local people as partners?
- What is the relative cost and accuracy of this compared to same work by 'experts'?

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Social impacts

- What are the opportunity costs?
- Under what conditions does the carbon premium make economic sense? What is the pay-off?
- Who will get the benefits within the community - Will it increase or decrease rich/poor gaps?
- What is the impact of managing forest for carbon, on other forest products and values
- What are the impacts on sustainable development in the broader (social) sense

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Slide 10

Hand held computers/Mapping boundaries



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What you see on the screen



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Measuring biomass




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Slide 13


Pull down menus for tree data entry



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Slide 14

Learning to input data




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Field results

- No problems mapping boundaries
- No problem carrying out standard forestry biomass surveys and recording
- Costs: about 50% of professional cost in first year (will be less later)
- Cost now \$5 per ha but should drop to \$1 – 2
- Rate of carbon accumulation (India):
3 tons/ha/year (based on local allometric equations)
- Partnership



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Strength

- The partnership:
 - Possibilities to widen the experience in countries
 - Possibility of exchanging results and experiences with other members of project
 - Enrichment from climate talks
 - Proximity with rural areas
- Research




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Slide 17

Weakness

- Valorizations of experience in CFM in the countries.
- Tools (GPS/IPAQ) used are still in experimentation.
- The added value of the project about taking into account their livelihood concerns (Africa: energy needs, education, health).
- Expectations of population of local communities (other activities) according to the long lasting process.
- Negotiations with country partners takes too much time.



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Immediate next steps

- Continue field data collection
- Analysis of carbon results in terms of management strategies and ecological circumstances (see database)
- Management in terms of: silvicultural operations ('active management'); conservation rules ('passive'); and technological (charcoal kilns, improved stoves etc)
- Analysis of opportunity costs using control areas
- Contribution to international policy debate



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Please look us up:

www.communitycarbonforestry.org



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Slide 20



enda tiers-monde

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