

OVERVIEW

The [GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop](#) (ECW) for the Southern Africa Constituency took place in Swaziland from 21 to 24 February 2017. Over 90 participants, including GEF and Convention focal points, representatives from Civil Society Organizations, GEF Staff and GEF Agency colleagues from FAO, UNDP UNEP, IFAD, IUCN, WB and WWF as well as a representative from the UNFCCC Secretariat participated in the four-day workshop. ([Agenda](#) | [Participants](#))



Participants at the Swaziland ECW

DAY 1 | Tuesday 21 February

CSO MEETING

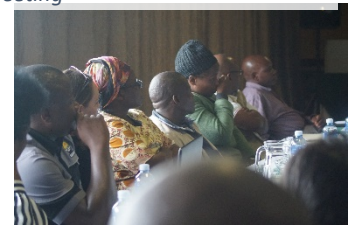
The first morning was dedicated to a half-day CSO meeting, led by the CSO Regional Focal Point Mr. Victor Kawanga (Zambia). About 15 CSOs and representatives from UNDP, UNEP and the GEF Secretariat attended the meeting where they discussed ways to enhance the level of Network activities at the country and regional level. Items in the agenda also included informing the CSOs on GEF-7 processes and obtaining feedback on the current level of engagement of civil society in GEF projects and how to move forward. ([Final Report, Agenda and Participants](#))



CSO Meeting

SGP CONSULTATION

In the afternoon GEF OFPs and PFPs joined with the CSOs to participate in the GEF SGP Consultation. The Consultation was led by Charles NYANDIGA from SGP head office in New York. The discussion and presentations focused on key strategic initiatives of the proposed GEF7 SGP Impact Program including: how can SGP's GEF7 initiatives align with countries' priorities in GEF7 in terms of environment and sustainable development needs; what modalities and approaches can best leverage the potential of communities and CSOs to meet these needs in GEF7 and; how can SGP promote broader adoption and scalability including through CSO-government-private sector dialogues. ([Agenda](#))



CSOs, GEF OFPs and PFPs at the SGP consultation

DAY 2 | Wednesday 22 February

GEF ECW

This was the inaugural ECW for 2017 and Hon. Mr. Christopher Gamedze, Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Swaziland gave opening remarks.

The [agenda](#) for the ECW began with interactive exercises and discussions regarding updates on the GEF-7 Replenishment process, the role of the GEF's partnership and Facilitating Synergies in implementing Multilateral Environmental Agreements towards sustainable development. In the afternoon there were presentations and discussions on Stakeholder Engagement and Gender Mainstreaming and an interactive Multi-stakeholder/Ecosystem Scorecard Simulation Game developed by WWF-US.

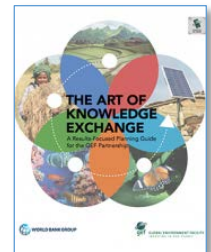


Hon. Mr. Christopher Gamedze, Minister of Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Swaziland.

DAY 3 | Thursday 23 February

GEF ECW

The second day of the ECW began with presentations on Monitoring and Evaluation from the GEF Independent Evaluation Office (IEO), followed by a presentation, discussion and exercise on [Green Finance](#). The Second half of the day was devoted to a training course on “[The Art of Knowledge Exchange](#)”. Using GEF projects as examples, this hands-on activity shows best practices, key ideas and methods behind successful knowledge exchange.



DAY 4 | Friday 24 February

GEF KNOWLEDGE DAY

Project: [Lower Usuthu Sustainable land management Project \(LUSIP\)](#)

GEF Agency: **IFAD**

The last day of the ECW was a GEF Knowledge Day where participants visited a GEF project as a basis for learning and knowledge exchange. The Lower Usuthu Sustainable land management Project (LUSIP), completed in 2015, provided assistance to 11 Chiefdoms to rehabilitate lands, prevent biodiversity loss and mitigate climate change.

When participants arrived at the site they were welcomed by more than fifty members of the local community and received a project briefing. Participants then divided into 4 groups and proceeded to visit 4 “Learning stations”. (Learning Stations are a tool developed by the GEF to support experiential knowledge exchange.) Each Learning Station showcased a distinct aspect of the project and allowed participants to interact with project staff and stakeholders discussing results, lessons learned and challenges faced throughout the implementation of the project. Participants were also provided with a “[Knowledge Passport](#)” which they used to answer questions and note results from each Learning Station. After interacting at the learning stations, participants had lunch with the community and participated in a debriefing session sharing what they had learned and experienced.

The learning stations included:

- 1: Land Degradation** - Discuss how the project rehabilitated severely damaged lands due to flooding and over grazing.
- 2: Climate Smart Agriculture** - Discuss how the project has enabled the community to better manage crops for food security and income.
- 3: Sustainable Land Management** - Discuss the projects SLM activities including: social fencing water management, protecting and reintroducing native species and promoting bio-diversity.
- 4: Scaling UP** - Discuss the upcoming GEF Food Security-IAP: [Climate-Smart Agriculture for Climate-Resilient Livelihoods \(CSARL\)](#) and how GEF activities mature and build upon previous success. The CSARL project expands on LUSIP from 11 to 35 chiefdoms, aiming to sustainably enhance food and nutrition security and incomes through diversified climate resilient agricultural production and market-linkages for Smallholder households.



Participants learn and exchange ideas during the GEF Knowledge Day

