

# 5<sup>th</sup> GEF Assembly Side Event

## Cancun, Mexico

**Title:** [Meet the New GEF Project Agencies](#)

**Date:** Tuesday, May 27, 2014

**Time:** 17:45 – 19:15 (5:45pm – 7:15pm)

**Room:** Otoch, Moon Palace Convention Center

**Moderator:** Dr. Yasemin Biro Kirtman, Global Environment Facility Secretariat

**Contact:** [ybiro@thegef.org](mailto:ybiro@thegef.org)

### **Background:**

The GEF Council decided, in May 2011, to launch a pilot program to broaden the GEF Partnership by accrediting “up to ten” new agencies, called GEF Project Agencies, to assist countries in implementing GEF-financed projects.

The Accreditation Pilot, a multi-stage process, began in January 2012 after 16 agencies submitted Stage I applications to the GEF Secretariat. Based on the outcome of the Stage I Value-added Review of these applicants, the Council, in June 2012, approved 11 applicants to progress to the Stage II of the accreditation process for review by the independent GEF Accreditation Panel to assess whether they comply with the GEF’s minimum Fiduciary Standards as well as its Environmental and Social Safeguards including Gender Mainstreaming.

These 11 national and international applicant entities were:

- Development Bank of Southern Africa – South Africa (DBSA)
- Fundo Brasileiro para a Biodiversidade – Brazil (FUNBIO)
- Foreign Economic Cooperation Office – China (FECO)
- National Environment Fund – Peru (FONAM)
- VTB Bank – Russian Federation (VTB)
- Banco de Desarrollo de America Latina (CAF)
- Banque Ouest Africaine de Développement (BOAD)
- World Wildlife Fund, Inc. (WWF-US)
- Conservation International (CI)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC)

Since June 2012, the independent GEF Accreditation Panel has been conducting Stage II reviews of these applicants, in line with the criteria established by the GEF Council. Thus far, four applicants (WWF-US, CI, IUCN and DBSA) have completed their Stage II review process and demonstrated that they fully comply with the GEF's minimum standards, receiving approval from the Panel to move from Stage II to Stage III of the accreditation process.

WWF-US and CI completed Stage III in 2013, having signed all legal paperwork with the GEF Secretariat and the GEF Trustee. DBSA and IUCN are expected to complete Stage III in 2014.

During this side event, these four new GEF Project Agencies will be introducing themselves to the GEF community.

**Agenda:**

<b>17:45 – 18:00</b>	Introduction and Overview of the GEF Accreditation Process	<b>Dr. Yasemin Biro Kirtman</b> Manager of Accreditation Sr. Environmental Specialist Operations and Business Strategy, GEF Washington, DC <a href="mailto:ybiro@thegef.org">ybiro@thegef.org</a>
<b>18:00 – 18:15</b>	Presentation of the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA)	<b>Mr. Mohale Rakgate</b> General Manager, DBSA Johannesburg, South Africa <a href="mailto:MohaleR@dbsa.org">MohaleR@dbsa.org</a>
<b>18:15 – 18:30</b>	Introduction to IUCN	<b>Dr. Cyriaque N. Sendashonga</b> Global Director, Policy and Programme Group, IUCN Gland, Switzerland <a href="mailto:Cyriaque.SENDASHONGA@iucn.org">Cyriaque.SENDASHONGA@iucn.org</a>
<b>18:30 – 18:45</b>	Presentation of Conservation International (CI)	<b>Lilian Spijkerman</b> Vice President, Global Public Partnerships and Interim Director, Center for Environment and Peace, CI Arlington, VA <a href="mailto:lspijkerman@conservation.org">lspijkerman@conservation.org</a>
<b>18:45 – 19:00</b>	Presentation of World Wildlife Fund, Inc. (WWF-US)	<b>Carter Roberts</b> CEO and President, WWF-US Washington, DC <a href="mailto:David.McCauley@WWFUS.org">David.McCauley@WWFUS.org</a>
<b>19:00 – 19:15</b>	Q&A session	