

GEF Bosnia Herzegovina Partnership Development to Conserve the Global Environment

**GEF National Dialogue (Consultation) Workshop for BiH,
Sarajevo, 5-6 February 2004**

Conclusions and Recommendations

1. The meeting has contributed to raising the awareness of global environmental issues and the GEF. Regular flow of information from the GEF to relevant stakeholders in BiH will be needed to keep the momentum. The GEF operation focal point system in the country should be strengthened; BiH will explore the opportunities available under the GEF Support to OFP programme. Adequate national capacities (Institutional, Human) needed for GEF programme development and implementation. The GEF-BiH partnership potential is not widely known and may have not been fully utilized. National stakeholders should be more proactive and take advantage of the focal points appointed by the government.
2. While BiH is commended for ratifying some of international environmental conventions such UNFCCC, UNCBD, etc, there remain several conventions/agreements that BiH is to expedite the process of ratification others (POPs, UNCCD, Aarhus Convention, Agreement on Danube River Protection!, etc) building on the existing legal frameworks.
3. Currently, national implementation plan is being developed for only the Ozone Layer protection - Vienna Convention, there is an urgent need to develop strategies and implementation plans for the other conventions. The enabling activities funding modalities of the GEF is a potential source of support to BiH in its fulfillment of the conventions obligations. BiH will submit EA proposals to assist with UNFCCC national communications, POPs, CBD reporting and NBSAP. The GEF is urged to expedite approvals for such projects.
4. Developing environmental legislation at the state level is of top priority. There is also a need to develop broad and long term strategies to guide national sustainable development efforts at all levels that take into consideration gender aspects and effective inter-sectoral coordination. The upcoming National Capacity Self-Assessment for the Global Environment Management (NCSA project already approved by GEF) will be useful tool to identify national priorities for capacity building at the systemic, institutional and individual levels.
5. Establishing a scientific and programme advisory committee (group) within the National Steering Committee for Environment and Sustainable Development in BiH will contribute to the effectiveness of the delivery and integration of external support (including GEF) into national programmes (sectoral and otherwise) as this Committee

will be charged with screening and reviewing the impact of development assistance projects. BiH will explore the opportunities available under the Support to OFP programme to strengthen the work of the proposed Committee.

6. NGOs play an important role in the environment protection. Their representation in the state level environment policy & coordination bodies (e.g NCSD) is beneficial. The GEF should consider a Small Grants Programme (SGP) for BiH which will be mainly to support the work of the NGOs and local communities

7. Immediately initiate dialogue with the GEF on supporting projects in the field of energy efficiency and energy conservation including the possibility of developing a national long term energy strategy to forecast future energy needs, resulting emissions, required investment, the potential for renewable energy sources and efficiency programmes. The private sector should play a major role in this process.

8. Forestry and biodiversity conservation were highlighted by a number of participants to be of priority in ensuring sustainable management of natural resources.

9. Environmental education and training, environmental monitoring and assessment should also be supported.

10. Given that BiH is a relatively new participant in the GEF, this is a timely opportunity to pilot projects that explore/implement synergetic activities among the GEF supported conventions

11. There is a necessity to start the preparation of the strategy for sustainable development for BiH to be supported by different international development agencies.