



PRESS RELEASE



THE GEF SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

COMMUNITY ACTIONS FOR GLOBAL IMPACT

For immediate release

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Location: Nassau. The Bahamas

Date of event: September 16th – 19th, 2013

The GEF SGP implemented by the United Nations Development Programme host Capacity Development Workshop “Grant Writing for Local Civil Society Organisations”

On September 16th, 2013, the Global Environment Facility’s Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) launched its second Capacity Development Workshop for Local Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in partnership with The College of The Bahamas and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). It was the second workshop of its kind to develop capabilities of local actors in grant writing, developing proposals, implementing projects, undertaking monitoring and evaluation, resource mobilization, budgeting and understanding co-financing for project grants.

The event took place at the *Harry C. Moore Library at The College of The Bahamas, Nassau* with the opening ceremony of the workshop held on 16th September 2013. The opening ceremony was addressed by three key speakers representing the partnership between the Government of The Bahamas, The College of The Bahamas, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and the GEF Small Grants Programme implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);

Photos of GEF SGP Workshop Opening Ceremony 16th September 2013 at the Harry C. Moore Library, The College of The Bahamas.



Mr. Manuel Messina, Representative, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), (photo above)



The Honourable Kenred Dorsett, M.P., Minister of The Environment and Housing, who brought remarks on behalf of the Government of The Bahamas. (photo above), and



the keynote address by **Dr. Arun Kashyap**, United Nations Resident Coordinator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative, The Bahamas, Jamaica, Turks and Caicos Islands and The Cayman Islands. (photo above)

Beneficiaries of the training workshop included some thirty-one (31) delegates of which 90 percent were women representing approximately 20 local civil society organisations from across five major (5) islands of The Bahamas.

The opening ceremony was moderated by Mrs. Davinia Blair, Director of Development, COB who introduced Mr. William Fielding, the chairman of the GEF SGP National Steering Committee (NSC) in The Bahamas. Mr. Fielding brought greetings on behalf of the GEF SGP Bahamas and The College of The Bahamas host of the workshop. Mrs. Blair then introduced to Mr. Manuel Messina.

Mr. Manuel Messina, IICA's Representative expressed his delight to once again play such a significant role in supporting the GEF SGP Capacity Development Workshop through a partnership that allowed for the provision of the technical trainer for the workshop in the person of Mr. Kervin Stephenson, Regional Project Specialist, IICA. Further, Mr. Messina reaffirmed the interest of IICA in supporting the emerging agricultural sector in The Bahamas as it continues to develop in a sustainable fashion supported by local Civil Society Organisations. Mrs. Blair then introduced to the Honourable Minister of Environment and Housing, Mr. Kenred Dorsett.

The Minister of the Environment and Housing, The Honourable Kenred Dorsett, M.P. again affirmed the commitment of the Government of The Bahamas to further engagement of Civil Society in the management of the local environment. Minister Dorsett applauded the GEF Small Grants Programme implemented by UNDP for its efforts in providing support to the Local CSOs in provision of the technical training offered through the workshop for its second consecutive year. Minister Dorsett further encouraged the CSOs present through the announcement of a government lead Environmental Conclave to be held later in the year. It is hoped that the conclave will give the Government another forum through which it can engage Civil Society Organisations in the participatory process of promoting sustainable development throughout the country.

Mrs. Blair then gave introduced Dr. Arun Kashyap.

Dr. Arun Kashyap, UNDP's Resident Representative reassured the delegate of the committed support of the United Nations and the UNDP as it relates to the further implementation of the GEF SGP in The Bahamas. He noted that UNDP is committed to provide support to strengthen the related policy framework that will contribute to mitigating the negative effects of climate change while developing adaptive capacity in the Bahamas. This would include greater resilience building among local populations to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters.

The programme was not only punctuated with speeches from officials, but five grantees who are recipients of grants in 2013 were all presented with certificates of awards by Dr. Arun Kashyap. The total GEF SGP grants awarded was in excess of USD \$130,000.00 for projects proposals approved in June 2013. To date the GEF SGP Bahamas has awarded nearly USD \$400,000.00 in grants to local civil society organisations. The GEF SGP Bahamas is committed to fund up to USD \$1,000,000.00 in grants to local CSOs through 2014.

Photos of Dr. Arun Kashyap, UNDP Resident Coordinator making grant award presentations to grantees.



Mrs. Bethell on behalf of St. Andrew's School receives award from Dr. Arun Kashyap, UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative, Bahamas, Jamaica, Turks and Caicos Islands, and The Cayman Islands.



Mrs. Martha Hanna-Smith on behalf of the Exuma Foundation receives award from Dr. Arun Kashyap, UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative, Bahamas, Jamaica, Turks and Caicos Islands, and The Cayman Islands.



Mrs. Joanne Johnson, Bahamas National Pride Association receives award from Dr. Arun Kashyap, UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative, Bahamas, Jamaica, Turks and Caicos Islands, and The Cayman Islands.



Ms. Davinia Blair, Director of Development, College of The Bahamas receives award from Dr. Arun Kashyap, UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative, Bahamas, Jamaica, Turks and Caicos Islands, and The Cayman Islands.



Member of Cans for Kids receives award from Dr. Arun Kashyap, UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative, Bahamas, Jamaica, Turks and Caicos Islands, and The Cayman Islands.

Of the five projects awarded grants in June 2013, there was one in Biodiversity conservation and four in Climate Change focal areas which are the priority areas for the Bahamas' Country Programme Strategy 2010 - 2014. The total GEF SGP contribution to these projects in grants is USD \$149,400.00 which had already attracted a total of USD \$325,782.00 in cash and in-kind co-funding.

The opening ceremony concluded with the vote of thanks by the National Coordinator

and a brief presentation to recognize the members of the National Steering Committee (NSC) and to thank Mrs. Rochelle Newbold, Past Chairperson of the NSC who served on the NSC 2010 – 2012.



Ms. Rochelle Newbold, past NSC Chairperson receives a token of appreciation from Mr. William Fielding, Chairman, NSC GEF Small Grants Programme – Bahamas.



(Left-Right) Mr. William Fielding, Chairman GEF SGP National Steering Committee, Mr. Manuel Messina, Representative, IICA; Dr. Arun Kashyap, UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative The Bahamas, Jamaica, Turks and Caicos Islands and The Cayman Islands; The Hon. Kenred Dorsett, Minister of the Environment and Housing; Mr. Deon Stewart, National Coordinator, GEF SGP.

Background for editors

About the GEF

The GEF unites 182 countries in partnership with international institutions, civil society organizations (CSOs), and the private sector to address global environmental issues while supporting national sustainable development initiatives. Today the GEF is the largest public funder of projects to improve the global environment. An independently operating financial organization, the GEF provides grants for projects related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer, and persistent organic pollutants.

Since 1991, GEF has achieved a strong track record with developing countries and countries with economies in transition, providing \$10 billion in grants and leveraging \$47 billion in co-financing for over 2,800 projects in over 168 countries. Through its Small Grants Programme (SGP), the GEF has also made more than 13,000 small grants directly to civil society and community based organizations, totalling \$634 million. For more information, visit www.thegef.org.

About the GEF Small Grants Programme

Launched in 1992, SGP supports activities of nongovernmental and community-based organizations in developing countries towards climate change abatement, conservation of biodiversity, protection of international waters, reduction of the impact of persistent organic pollutants and prevention of land degradation while generating sustainable livelihoods.

Since its creation SGP has provided grants to 13,000 communities in 122 developing countries. Funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as a corporate programme, SGP is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on behalf of the GEF partnership, and is executed by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

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