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COP17 Side Event Report

Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center (OECC)
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This is part of OECC's report observing side events held at the Seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 17) during November 28, 2011 and December 9, 2011 in Durban - South Africa.

- Title : **“LESSONS FROM THE ADAPTATION FUND”**
- Day : November 30, 2011 (Wednesday) 18:30-20:00
- Organizer : Global Environment Facility
- Place : Levubu River
- Moderator : Ana Fornells de Frutos , Chair of the Adaptation Fund Board

■ Summary

The GEF organized this session with the objective of introducing some organizations that have obtained accreditation successfully from the GEF and consequently, approval for funding of projects. Representatives of these projects talked about their experiences in order to obtain their accreditation.

Sharon Ramclam, [Belize Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT)]

- PACT promotes environmentally sound management of protected areas in Belize. PACT has established a public-private partnerships and consolidated their operations, with a minor share that belongs to the government.
- In their experience, they have obtained accreditation from the GEF in a 3-month process, making them the first accredited organization of the region. They concluded giving some recommendations such as implementation of policy as a key issue, together with a fair independent external review and public disclosure.

Yolanda Dameta, [Fonds national pour l'environnement (FNE), Benin]

- FNE is an organization that works on several issues related to organization's capacity in the area of sustainable exploitation of natural resources, promotion of renewable technologies, among others. They are the 2nd country in Africa that has received accreditation in Africa.
- They recommend having a solid organizational structure. They actually have a climate

change committee working with the community and all stakeholders; and they operate through good knowledge of policies and procedures in order to obtain accreditation.

Speaker [South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI)]

- SANBI works with biodiversity issues in South Africa, and in their experience, they had a stringent and time consuming process in order to prepare all necessary documentation for the application process. The accreditation gave them a major opportunity to become a National Implementing Entity (NIE).
- They recommend working on large number of small projects rather than small number of large projects, since getting experience in cross-sectoral interventions is important.

Mr. Peterson [Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ)]

- Organization that coordinates the implementation of “Vision 2030” National Strategy, and the aim for a sustainable development of Jamaica.
- They have remarked interaction with GEF by phases and a field visit, which was key to verify the process.

Speaker [CSE, Senegal]

- CSE is the NIE of Senegal. They work on adaptation issues, such as coastal erosion in vulnerable areas, and other coastal issues.
- They have obtained US\$ 8 million from the GEF, in an one-step approval process of accreditation

■ Q&A

Q1. [AF NGO Network] To the speaker from Benin: Would you please give further details on the field visit of the Accreditation Panel.

A1. I have to say that the Fund was passing for a huge momentum to get the accreditation from all stakeholders. We have prepared in detail all the information required, but it is also true that continuous interaction with the Fund was key. They have provided all their support. The Climate Change Committee worked hard trying to fill the gaps, where identified.

To access the Side Event Reports, please refer to the following link.

http://www.mmechanisms.org/e/relation/details_oecc_COP17report.html