

MoEF&CC, UNDP & TERI hold Regional Inception Workshops under SGP-OP7

As part of GEF-UNDP Small Grants Program, three Regional Inception Workshops were organized in Bhopal (8th September), Chennai (13th September) and Guwahati (20th September). The inception workshops saw the participation of around 200 NGOs, officials from UNDP and MoEF&CC, State Governments, District Collectors, and experts from various thematic areas. The Small Grants Programme is a global grant-making programme funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and implemented by UNDP.

The GEF Small Grants Programme provides financial and technical support to community projects that provide global environmental benefits while enhancing the lives of local communities. Under the overall guidance of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), the Government of India and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) is implementing the GEF Seventh Operational Phase of the Small Grants Programme in India (SGP-OP7).

The SGP-OP7 aims to provide financial and technical support to local communities, community-based and civil society organizations, mostly in poor and often remote areas, for initiatives that conserve and restore the environment while enhancing people's livelihoods and wellbeing.

The three thematic areas of SGP for this cycle include: Biodiversity, Land Degradation, and Climate Change. It is being implemented in the three regions of the country: (a) Central Semi-arid region of India (b) Indian coastal regions and (c) Highlands of the Northeast.

Delivering the opening remarks at the first Regional Inception Workshop, Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director General, TERI noted "Small programmes bring organisations with diversity on board and show us what is needed at the grassroots. Their participation is essential to address the global problems of climate change and resource depletion".

