Stakeholder Engagement in UNEP

Regional Consultative Meeting - Latin America and the caribbean

18-19 November, 2013

Panama City, Panama

Presentation by Jose de Mesa

Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch

United Nations Environment Programme

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Part 1
Current Practices in UNEP

UNEP's Rule 69

1. International non-governmental organizations having an interest in the field of the environments, referred to in section IV, paragraph 5, of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), may designate representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Governing Council and its subsidiary organs, if any. The Governing Council shall from time to time adopt and revise when necessary a list of such organizations. Upon the invitation of the President or Chairman, as the case may be, and subject to the approval of the Governing Council or of the subsidiary organ concerned, international non-governmental organizations may make oral statements on matters within the scope of their activities.

UNEP's Approach to Stakeholder Engagement

- Nine Major Groups *and Stakeholders*

- Accreditation for *international* Major Groups organizations

- Participation in GC only as observer with opportunity to provide oral statements
  - Participation in GC: seats allocated to 9 MGS in COW and GMEF
  - Participation in ministerial roundtables
  - Participation in sessional committees

- Access to un-edited working documents of the GC and submission of written input

- Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum

- Regional Consultations Meetings

- Major Groups Facilitating Committee

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Part 2
The Rio+20 Legacy

UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), June 2012

❑ **Paragraph 88** on strengthening and upgrading UNEP as the **leading global environmental authority** that:

1) Have secure, stable, adequate & increased financial resources
2) Coordinate environmental activities in UN system
3) Promote strong science-policy interface
4) Disseminate evidence-based environmental information
5) Provide capacity-building & facilitate access to technology
6) Consolidate HQ functions & strengthen regional presence
7) Ensure participation of all relevant stakeholders

First Universal Session of UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, February 2013

❑ Decision 27/2 on institutional arrangements – new governance structure for UNEP
❑ 58-membership Governing Council changed to "**United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP**" (UNEA) by the General Assembly (March 2013)

Implementation of Paragraph 88 h

Decides that the governing body will ensure the **active participation** of **all relevant stakeholders**, particularly those from **developing countries**, drawing on **best practices and models** from relevant **multilateral institutions** and will explore new **mechanisms** to promote **transparency** and the **effective engagement** of **civil society** in its work and that of its subsidiary bodies, *inter alia* by:

– Developing by 2014 a process for stakeholder accreditation and participation that builds on the existing rules of procedure and takes into account inclusive modalities of the Commission of Sustainable Development and other relevant United Nations bodies;

– Establishing by 2014 mechanisms and rules for stakeholders expert input and advice;

– Enhancing by 2014 working methods and processes for informed discussions and contributions by all relevant stakeholders towards the intergovernmental decision making process;

Stakeholders Expectations

- New Mechanisms to go beyond current UNEP rules and procedures and practices, no regression
- UNEP to set new standards in the United Nations
- Application of the 11 Principles in the spirit of Principle 10
- Strengthening participation at the regional level
- **Meaningful** participation in Agenda Setting, Decision Making and Implementation
- Use of new communication and information technologies
- Full Transparency

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Principles of Engagement

1. Right to full and effective participation in all activities including planning, agenda setting, decision and policy-making, implementation, and evaluation

2. Timely and easy access to all information and documents, including negotiating documents and proactively disseminate information

3. Full participation: access to all UNEP meetings, processes and bodies (including through the final stages of decision-making) at all levels; speaking rights in all meetings, as a rule; the right to submit documents

4. Right of self-organization, including selection of their respective representatives

Levels of Engagement

Agenda-setting

- Policy shaping
- Global political agenda setting
- UNEA agenda setting

Decision-making

- Policy deliberations leading to decision-making
- Transparency and access-to-information

Implementation

- Strategic partnerships for implementation of UNEP's policies
- Strategic partnerships for achieving sustainable development

Expert input and advice

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Meaningful Participation in the UNEA

- Participation in Agenda Setting *and* Decision Making
- Access to all meetings of the UNEA and its subsidiary bodies, including the opportunity to intervene and to provide written inputs
- Timely access to draft decisions
- Transparency on how MGS input was addressed in decisions
- Use of all UN languages
- Major Groups and Stakeholder Fora before open ended CPR and UNEA, to allow MGS to coordinate positions and to prepare input

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Engagement with the CPR

1. Access to all meetings of the CPR, including in thematic debates for expert input and advice, informal consultations with the CPR, to achieve MGS engagement in agenda setting *and* decision shaping;

2. Timely access to written documents, including drafts;

3. Opportunity to intervene in debates and negotiations, submit written contributions/comments/recommendations

Expertise Input and Advice

Scientific input

- The International Resource Panel

- The Foresight Process

- The GEO process

Expert input opportunities:

- Environment and Social Safeguards

- Embedding Environmental Sustainability into SDGs/Post-2015

Inclusive Stakeholder Engagement Approach

- Effective, broad and balanced participation by region and by type of organization, through accreditation

- Expansion of the stakeholders from the nine Major Groups identified in Agenda 21 to other stakeholders, including those who are potentially affected by decisions/policies

- Creation of thematic groupings of relevant Major Groups to provide input

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Enhanced Participation through Use of ICT

- Use of modern information and communication technology to facilitate and broaden participation
  - webcasting of CPR and UNEA meetings
  - virtual participation
  - access to information platforms

Part 3
Expert Views

Experts Group Report

- Expert Group was put in place to prepare for the ED "Report of Experts on New Mechanisms for Stakeholder Engagement at UNEP"

- Members:Jochen von Bernstorff, Lalanath deSilva, Sandor Fulop, Joyeeta Gupta, Patricia Kameri-Mbote, Nora McKeon, and Marcos Orellana, with Stephen Stec as Rapporteur.

- Final report received October 25

Some Views of Experts

- Committee on World Food Security as a good practice

- UNEP is not bound by the current nine Major Groups approach

- A new Environmental Civil Society Mechanism (ECSM) with increased powers of self-organization and with regional representation

- More involvement of social movements and citizens organisation (affected groups)

- Accreditation for national NGOs, government registration not required
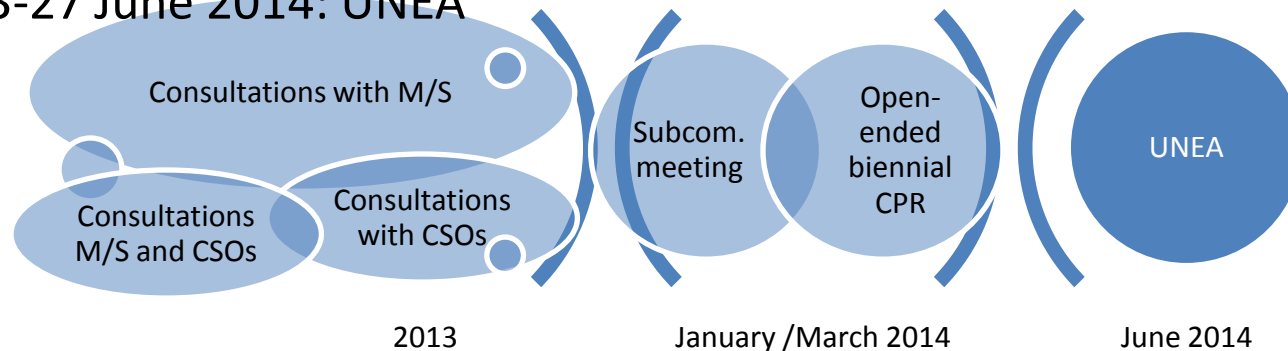
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Some Views of Experts II

- The ECSM would include representatives of some of the existing Major Groups system, but would not include business and industry, local governments, and science and technology, which would instead be included in a new and separate Advisory Body

- In UNEA, CPR, etc. the number of seats allocated to the ECSM to fill could vary depending on the function, within the three main areas of decision-making, agenda setting, and implementation. The Group considered a good model would be to allocate seats at a ratio of 1-5-1 (business – ECSM – local governments).

Part 4
Process and Way Forward

Chronological Overview

- 12 November 2013: Subcommittee meeting (stakeholder engagement)
- 19 November 2013: Subcommittee meeting (stakeholder engagement)
- 3 December 2013: Thematic debate on the role of the UNEA in the UN system
- 5 December 2013: Subcommittee meeting on the amendments of the RoP
- 14 January 2014: Subcommittee meeting (RoP and stakeholder engagement)
- 24-28 March 2014: Open-ended biennial CPR
- 23-27 June 2014: UNEA

Consultations with M/S

Consultations M/S and CSOs

Consultations with CSOs

Subcom. meeting

Open-ended biennial CPR

UNEA

2013

January /March 2014

June 2014

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Part 5
UNEA 2014

United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

- Universal membership
- Meets biennially starting in 2014
- Concludes with a 2-day high level segment

Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR)

- Missions accredited to UNEP

Other Meetings

• Regular quarterly meetings, ad-hoc meetings, thematic debates and briefings

Open-ended Meeting

• Meets in even years for 5 days

Subcommittee Meeting

• Meets annually for five days

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UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY OF UNEP (UNEA)

- **Decision 27/2, Para 5 .** *UNEA to take strategic decisions and provide political guidance:*

  (a) Setting the global environmental agenda;

  (b) Providing overarching policy guidance and defining policy responses to address emerging environmental challenges;

  (c) Undertaking policy review, dialogue and exchange of experiences;

  (d) Setting the strategic guidance on the future direction of the United Nations Environment Programme;

  (e) Organizing a multi-stakeholder dialogue;

  (f) Fostering partnerships for achieving environmental goals and resources mobilization.

- **First UNEA to take place from 23-27 June 2014 in Nairobi**

- **Governed by Rules of Procedure** (to be amended)

Part 1 - The Rio+20 Legacy: the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

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❑ **Decision 27/2, Para 9.** *CPR is the subsidiary inter-sessional body of the UNEP governing body*

(a) Contribute to the preparation of the agenda of its governing body

(b) Provide advice to its governing body on policy matters;

(c) Prepare decisions for adoption by its governing body and oversee their implementation;

(d) Convene thematic and/or programmatic debates;

(e) Promote effective ways and means to facilitate participation of the non-resident members of the Committee, particularly from developing countries

(f) Perform any other functions delegated to it by its governing body;

Rio+20:
From Outcome to Implementation

The First Universal Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum
United Nations Environment Programme
Nairobi, 18-22 February 2013

PROPOSED UNEA STRUCTURE

	Morning (10am – 1pm)	Afternoon (3-6 pm)
23 June	1. Opening of the UNEA 2. Organisation of work: sessional committees including CoW, drafting group and Friends of the President 3. Amendments to the Rules of procedures	1. COW: Policy issues; review of draft decisions 2. Amendments to the Rules of procedures
24 June	1. COW: Policy issues; review of draft decisions 2. Amendments to the Rules of procedures 3. Stakeholder events (tbc)	1. COW: Policy issues; review of draft decisions 2. Amendments to the Rules of procedures 3. Stakeholder events (tbc)
25 June	1. COW: Policy issues; review of draft decisions 2. Amendments to the Rules of procedures 3. Multistakeholder dialogue (tbc)	1. Report back COW 2. Report back amendments to the Rules of procedures 3. Stakeholder events (tbc)
26 June	High level segment	High level segment
27 June	High level segment	1. High level segment 2. Closure of the session

- Reviewing Progress on Sustainable Development Goals in the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

- The Science-Policy Interface: Keeping the Global Environment under Review

- Rule of Law, Illegal Wildlife Trade and Environmental Crime

Parallel Symposium on financing a Green Economy "Financing Change, Changing Finance"

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Proposed Questions for Discussion

- What do you expect from the UNEA?

- What would be the priority topics you would like to address at the UNEA?

- What are the limitations of UNEP's current system for stakeholder engagement, and what are proposed solutions?

- What form of stakeholder participation in the CPR can be applied?

- In line with "The Future We Want", should the current Nine (9) Major Groups approach applied by UNEP be revisited to include additional stakeholders?

- Shall the new mechanism be designed in line with the standards set by the High Level Political Forum (HLPF)?

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Part 6
Options Paper

- New inclusive accreditation criteria;

- Two types of consultative status to be granted to non-governmental observers;

- Participation in global environmental agenda setting; and in meetings of the Bureaus of UNEA and CPR, for agenda setting in UNEP;

- Participation in all meetings of the CPR;

- Thematic clusters for expert input and advice;

- Nine major groups plus approach or UNEP's identification of its own groups, versus a more open civil society approach;

- Stakeholders facilitating body;

- Funding mechanism.

Part 7
Indigenous People

Indigenous People

Presentation

http://www.unep.org/civil-society/Partnerships/tabid/104806/Default.aspx

Policy is also available in Spanish:
http://www.unep.org/civil-society/Portals/24105/UNEP_IPPG_Guidance_es.pdf

Development an e-learning tool kit to introduce the IP policy.

Participation in The UN Permanent Forum in New York

http://www.unep.org/civil-society/NewsandEvents/Events/PastEvents/SideeventattheUN-PermanentForumonIndigenous/tabid/106402/Default.aspx
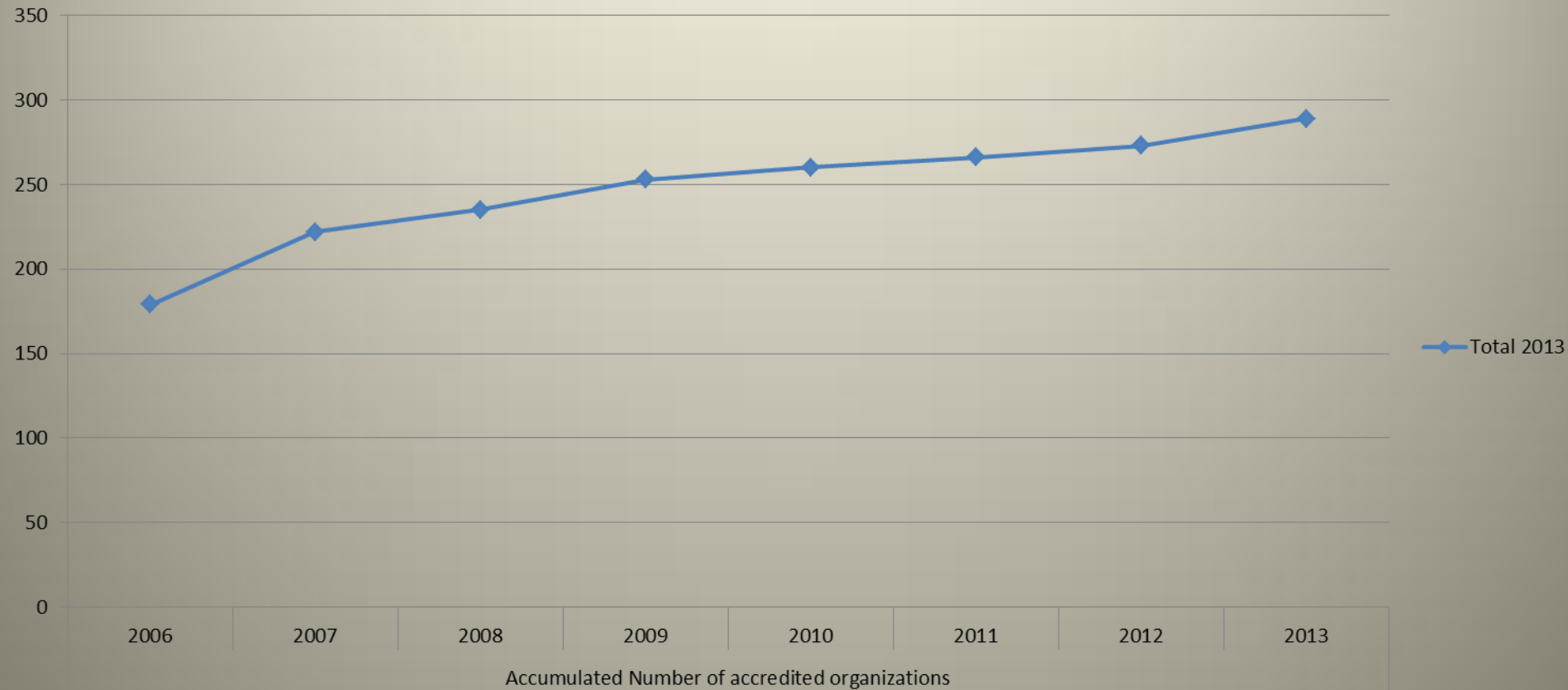
Revision of Guidelines in 2014
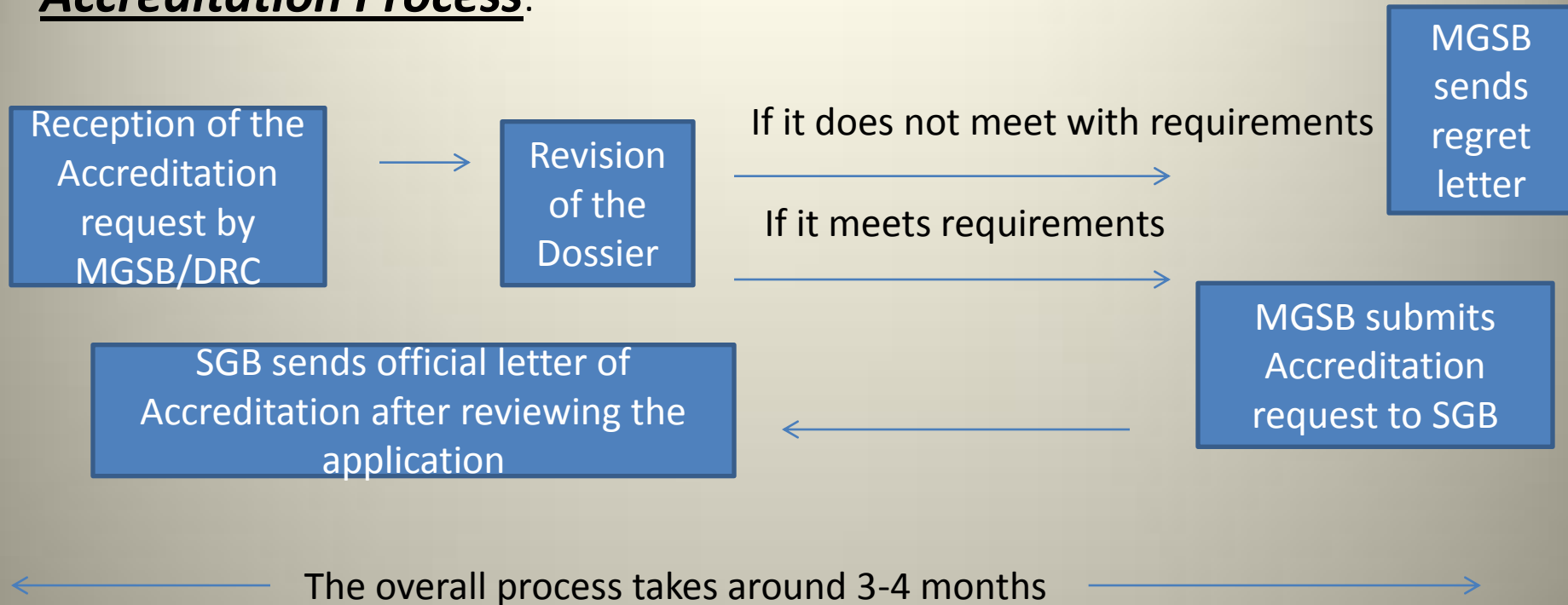
Part 8
Accredited Statistics

Statistics on Accredited organizations to UNEP (updated Nov 2013)

Total 2013

Accumulated Number of accredited organizations

	Accumulated Number of accredited organizations							
	2006	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**
Total 2013	**179**	**222**	**235**	**253**	**260**	**266**	**273**	**289**

Accreditation Process:

| Reception of the Accreditation request by MGSB/DRC | → | Revision of the Dossier | If it does not meet with requirements → | MGSB sends regret letter |

If it meets requirements →

SGB sends official letter of Accreditation after reviewing the application ← MGSB submits Accreditation request to SGB

← The overall process takes around 3-4 months →

A list of accreditation organizations can be found at:
http://www.unep.org/civil-society/Portals/24105/documents/Accreditation/DB_Accredited_Organizations_20_December_2012.pdf
The "Modalities for accreditation of civil-society organizations to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme" can be found at:
http://www.unep.org/civil-society/Portals/24105/documents/Accreditation/accreditation-modalities-eng-4-7-08.pdf
The complete Application form for Accreditation to the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) can be found at:
http://www.unep.org/civil-society/Portals/24105/documents/Accreditation/accreditation_form/en_Accreditation_application_form.pdf

# Regional distribution of accredited organizations

UNEP Regions	Nov-13
Africa	54
Asia and the Pacific	41
Europe	105
Latin America and the Caribbean	18
North America	58
West Asia	13
Total	289

Regional distribution of Accredited organisations
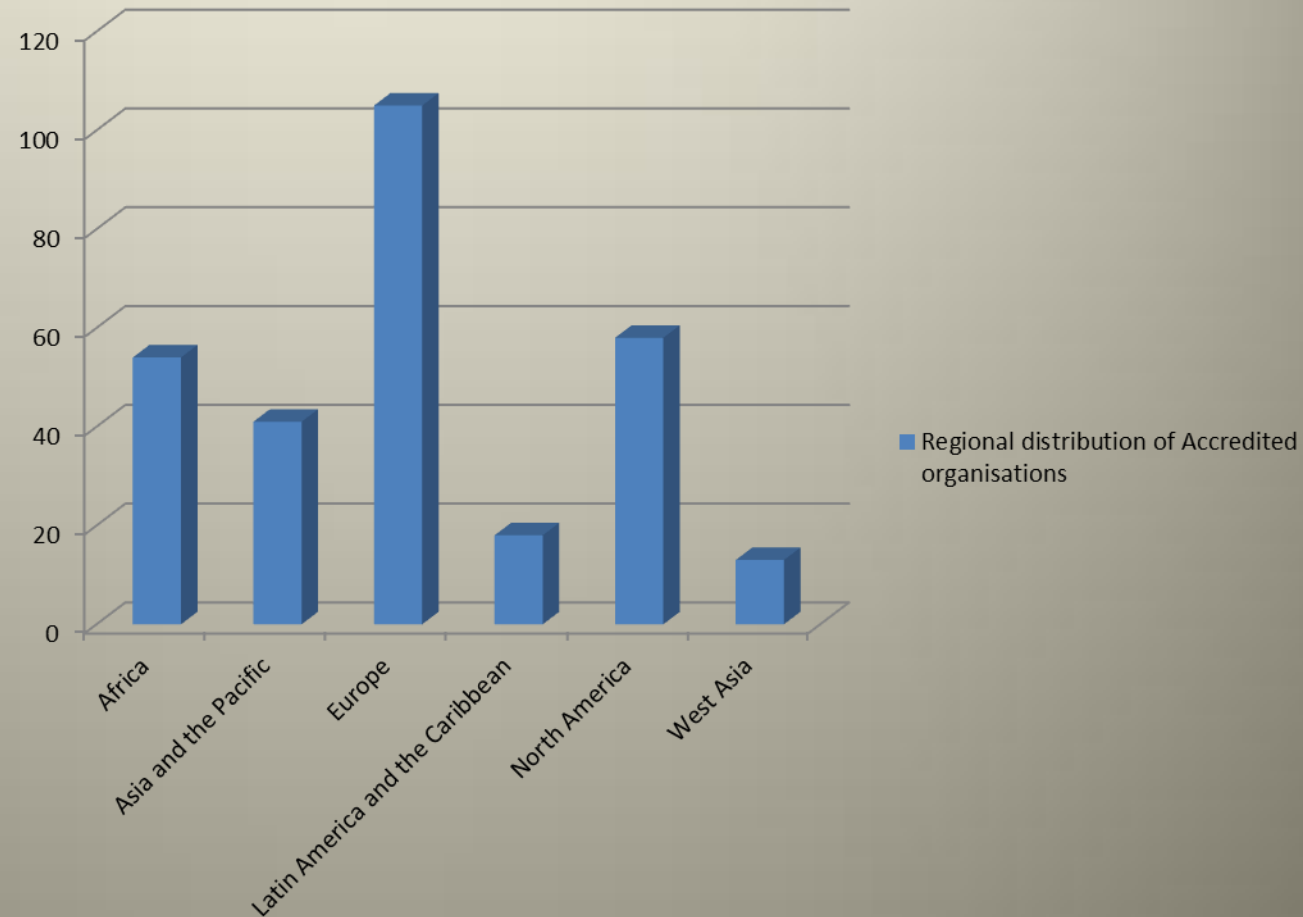
Distribution of Accredited organization by Major Group

Major Group	Total 2013
Business and Industry	24
Children and Youth	15
Farmers	3
Indigenous peoples and their communities	12
Local Authorities	4
Scientific and technological community	20
Women	11
Workers and Trade Unions	4
NGOs	196

Total 2013
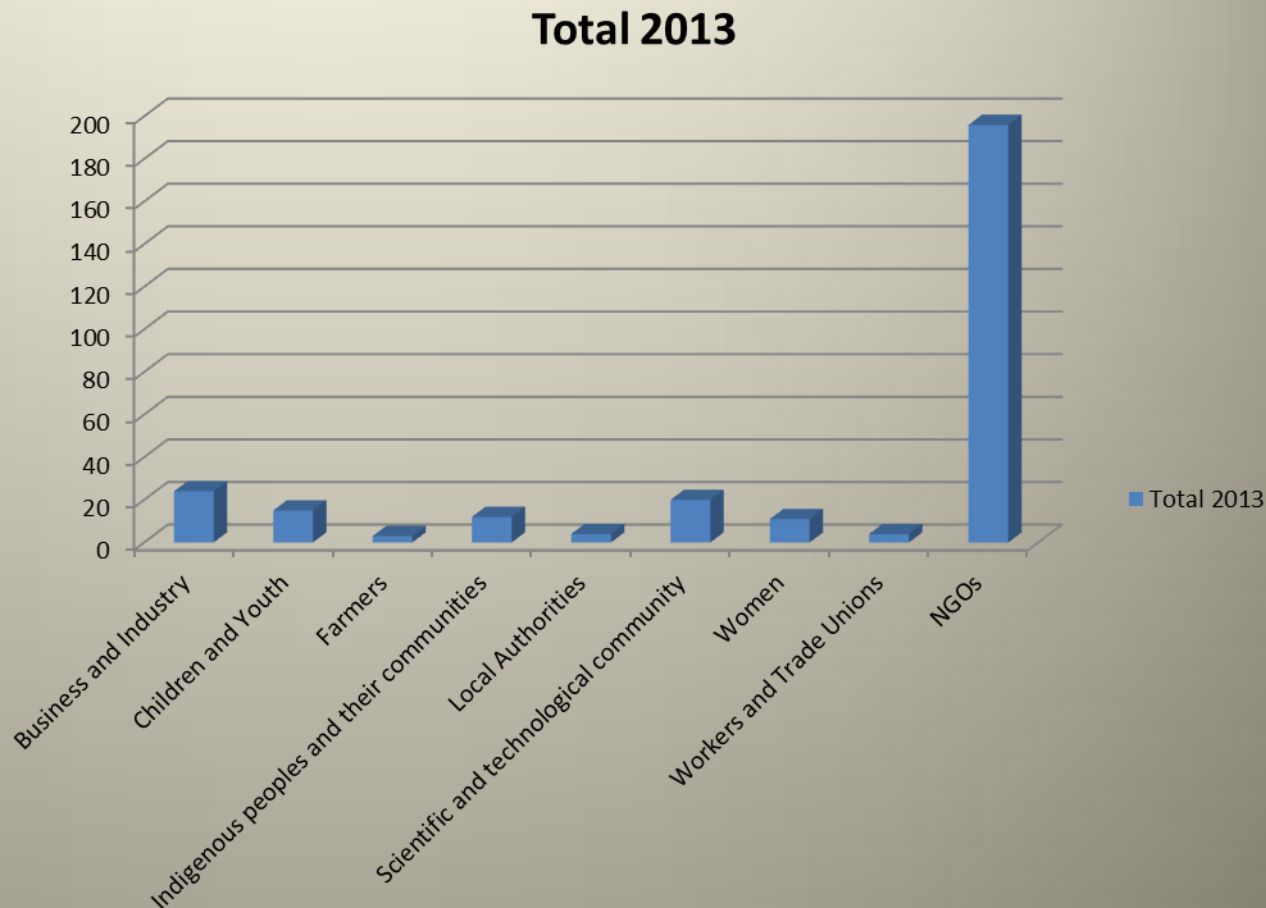
Increased number of accredited organizations per year
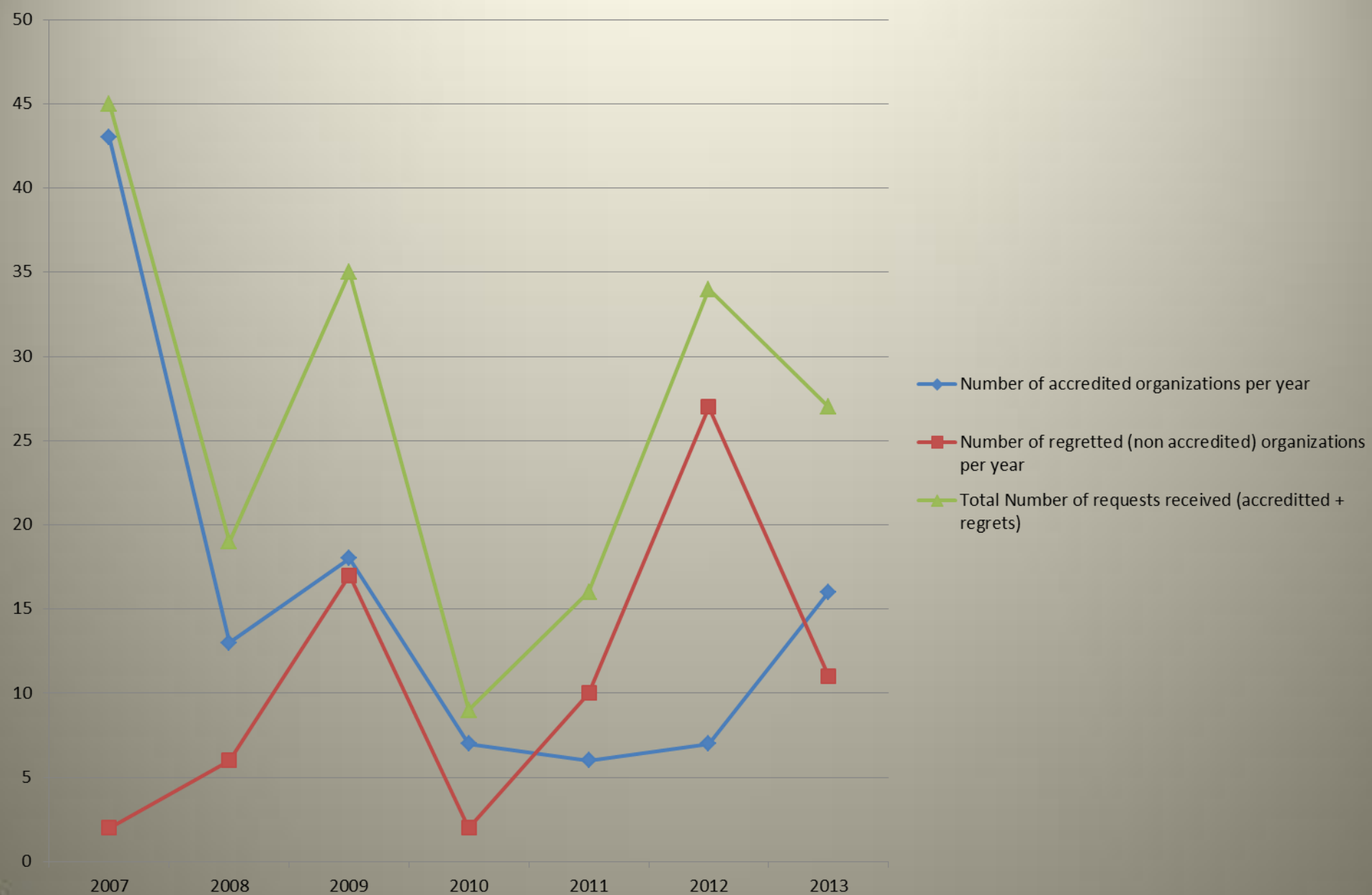
Accredited organizations attending the GMGSF and GC

	Total Number of organizations Attending the GC	Number of Accredited Org. Attending the GC	Number of Accredited Org. Attending the GC that are self funded	% of accredited organizations attending the GC with respect the total number of Accredited org.
2012	111	31 (28%)	7 (6%)	11%
2013	124	39 (31%)	15 (12%)	14%

In the 13th GMGSF 2012 we had 141 registered participants
In the 14th GMGSF 2013 we had 182 registered participants

THANK YOU

Developing New Modalities for Stakeholders Engagement in UNEP:
http://www.unep.org/civil-society/GetInvolved/DevelopingNewModalitiesforMajorGroupsandSta/tabid/128498/Default.aspx

Regional Consultative Meetings With Major Groups and Stakeholders 2013:
http://www.unep.org/civil-society/IntheRegions/2013RCMs/tabid/130279/Default.aspx