

**Name of Issue: How NGO's are involved in NP?
What can NGO's contribute in NP?**

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Highlights from the discussion

To give the discussion a clear direction was impossible because of the following facts:

Discussion

- Some of the represented NGO's were more aware of the fact, that there are problems concerning the collaboration between the NGO and the formal sector than others.
- The representatives of the formal sector pretend to have already built up a network with NGO's by themselves in their countries and that the NGO's should make more effort to get in contact with them and to use the infrastructure presented by them.
- The needs and aims from both sides are very different from country to country. Each NGO has build up its own niche within its national system, where the circumstances can be completely different from each other.

Future/Next step:

- To improve the collaboration between NGO's and formal sector, representatives of each national government who are responsible for the implementation of the National Plan of Action should build up national working groups where NGO's and representatives of the formal sector meet on a very early stage of the discussion.
- Within the working groups the two partners should elaborate national projects together that are adapted to their national situation and needs.
- Both sides must know from each other what services they can offer and which work they could fulfil.
- If a service from one side is needed it has to be paid and the costs have to be implemented in the budget of the projects. Although work without payment has to be valued in the project in a certain way.
- During the Discussion Everybody agreed that NGO's play a very useful role in the question of public awareness. They should be supported in that kind of work. Nevertheless some participants wanted to stress out that this is not the only contribution of the NGO's. For example monitoring work should be executed by NGO's.