

GEF Council Meeting
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Washington D.C.

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND
TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY PANEL (STAP) TO THE COUNCIL**

Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel



The Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, administered by UNEP, advises the Global Environment Facility
26 October 2009

Report of the Chairperson of the Scientific and Technology Advisory Panel (STAP) to the Council

Introduction

1. This report summarises the work undertaken and results achieved in the period July to October 2009. It includes:
 - Summary of STAP's work towards Focal Area Strategies for GEF-5;
 - An outline of Project Cycle screening results;
 - A summary of progress achieved within the STAP Work Program, FY10;
 - Briefing on STAP's contributions to formulating the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources – STAR;
 - Work undertaken in liaison with Conventions and their subsidiary bodies;
 - Note on the STAP Meeting October 13, 2009 and progress achieved against decisions recorded at the April 2009 Meeting;
 - A note on the UNEP-convened Second Meeting of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), Nairobi October 5-9, 2009; and
 - Recommendation of the Chairperson to the Council.

GEF-5 Focal Area Strategies

2. Further work was undertaken by the Panel within the Technical Advisory Groups, set up to draft strategies.
3. The Panel confirms that the Focal Area Strategies adequately reflect its advice to the GEF, however, further work is recommended on the Sustainable Forest Management section and on cross-cutting aspects to reduce unforeseen trade-offs and enhance co-benefits between focal area strategies.

Project Cycle

4. Two Work Programs for approval in June and November Council meetings were screened by STAP. These comprised a total of 95 PIFs and 3 PFDs with further screening completed in advance of later CEO approval. Out of 95 PIFs screened, STAP required 19 to undergo minor revision but only 2 requiring major revision (equivalent to 22% of PIFs requiring corrective action leading to the full project brief). One Program, the "Sustainable Med", required minor revision.
5. STAP has noted previously that PIFs only weakly convey a clear scientific or economic rationale and statement of the expected global environmental benefits, and this continues to be the case.

Progress achieved within STAP's Work Program, FY10

6. The status of the Panel's work as set out in the Work Program for FY10¹, is briefly reviewed in Annex 1. The work agreed with GEF partners is organized into seven categories: Corporate, Cross-cutting, Biodiversity, Climate Change, International Waters, Persistent Organic Pollutants, and Land Degradation. At present there are no actions agreed under Ozone Depleting Substances.
7. Annex 1 lists the agreed outputs/products and notes their current status. The majority of work originally scheduled for FY09 was completed on time, however, exceptions brought forward after June 2009 included XC#2, IW#2. LD#1 was previously delayed and was carried forward from the FY09 Work

¹ http://stapgef.unep.org/docs/Activities/STAPWPDocs/GEF_C.35_Inf.11%20STAP%20Work%20Program%20FY10.pdf

Program period. Panel advisory work provided to GEF project steering committees is listed under XC#4, CC#4 and LD#2; the first two are ongoing, LD#2 is now completed.

8. In total 17 guidance/advisory products are expected to be delivered within FY10, and these will be submitted for endorsement to the Council at successive meetings, resulting in a library of strategic guidance to the GEF, which is intended to progressively replace the *ad hoc* advice provided by STAP within the project cycle.

Resource Allocation Framework (and “STAR”)

9. Following the April STAP meeting, the Panel agreed to participate in work coordinated by the GEF Secretariat. At that point the Panel were waiting for policy guidance on whether the RAF (new acronym² ‘STAR’) would build links between indicators for allocation and indicators for programming. If there were to remain no linkage between allocation and subsequent programming of allocated resources then there was no need to design a complicated index. A STAR Working Group was convened by the GEF CEO following the June Council meeting, in which it was confirmed that no linkages between allocation and programming were to be made.
10. The STAR working group first met on July 1 chaired by the Special Assistant to the CEO, and met on a two weekly/weekly basis. Outputs of this work included updated indicators for climate change (mitigation), biodiversity, land degradation and chemicals. International waters remained outside the STAR and no further work was delivered regarding this focal area.
11. STAP provided a briefing to GEF Agencies on July 28, 2009 which reported STAP’s work to date on the GBI and GPI, and sought Agency review of its work regarding:
 - a dialogue over a policy for selection and use of indicators,
 - review of STAP’s advice regarding specific GBI – related indicators and,
 - advice on development of recommended criteria for use of global and regional exclusion funds (“GRE” or global and regional set-aside, “GRS”, now re-named focal area set-aside funds “FAS”).
12. With one exception (UNEP commented on the use of global and regional exclusion funds), no GEF Agency responded substantively to these points. Regarding the GRE/GRS, STAP took into account UNEP’s suggestions and provided a paper to the GEF Secretariat which proposed:
 - A. Top level criteria which always have to be satisfied:
 - Interventions consistent with GEF Strategic Goals, AND;
 - that will deliver transboundary Global Environmental Benefits incremental to foundational; and
 - national commitment to GEBs through the use of national STAR resources;
 - B. Subsidiary criteria to be applied provided that the top level criteria are satisfied:
 - Global/regional projects/programs addressing transboundary ecosystems;
 - Global/regional assessments and methodologies advancing delivery of GEBs for the entire GEF partnership;
 - Corporate-level projects/programs advancing learning objectives and implementation science across focal areas.
13. STAP’s suggested top level criteria for use of GRE/GRS/FAS were included (in modified form) in the STAR paper³ considered at the Second Meeting of the Ad hoc Committee of the GEF Council on the STAR, as follows:

Building on STAP’s recommendation on the use of FAS resources that are not directed to enabling activities and SFM, the Secretariat is proposing the following generic guidelines for the use of set-asides for global and regional projects across all focal areas:

² System for Transparent Allocation of Resources – STAR

³ See: GEF/STAR AHC.2/1, paragraph 24, 21 September, 2009

- *Any proposal to access FAS resources must be consistent with GEF Strategic Goals and should deliver additional global environmental benefits (GEBs) that would not be achieved via national commitments only.*
 - *Regional projects must be endorsed by each participating country.*
14. The STAP Secretariat attended the Second Meeting of the Ad hoc Committee of the GEF Council on the STAR on 16 October in Paris. If requested, STAP could consider further participation in refinement of the GBI and criteria for set-asides.

Liaison with GEF-related Conventions

15. **CBD:** Targeted liaison and substantive technical work has been undertaken including: participation in CBD's International Expert Workshop on the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators and Post-2010 Indicator Development (July 6-8, 2009); a visit by the STAP Chairperson supported by the STAP Secretariat on September 14, 2009 (further details are provided in Annex 2.); participation by the STAP Secretary on behalf of the Chairperson at the 3rd Third Meeting of Chairs of Scientific Advisory Bodies of Biodiversity-Related Conventions, October 4, 2009; and representation at the CBD's Expert Workshop on the Removal and Mitigation of Perverse, and the Promotion of Positive, Incentive Measures (October 6-8, 2009).
16. **Stockholm Convention:** Results of the STAP commissioned study on benefits and trade-offs between energy conservation and release of uPOPs were presented at the side event organized at the COP-4 meeting of the Stockholm Convention on May 6, 2009.
17. **UNCCD:** The Panel, supported by the STAP Secretariat, at the invitation of UNCCD Secretariat, attended the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) Bureau meeting (CST 8) in Bonn, May 25-26, 2009, at which a Panel Member presented the status of the GEF's Land Degradation RBM-based indicator proposals, within the CST session on impact indicators. The CST International Group of Experts paper considering a minimum set of impact indicators was informally reviewed by a STAP consultant at the invitation of the UNCCD Secretariat. At the first week of the CoP9 in Buenos Aires, Argentina (September 25-29, 2009), STAP attended the UNCCD's First Scientific Conference, and a keynote paper was contributed by a Panel Member.

Note on the STAP Meeting October 13, 2009 and progress achieved against decisions recorded at the April 2009 Meeting

18. The Panel held its first meeting of Financial Year 2010 on October 13, 2009 in Washington DC. The Summary Report of the meeting is provided separately as GEF C.36/Inf.9. Satisfactory fulfilment of the decisions taken at the April 2009 meeting is recorded in Annex 3.

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

19. In liaison with the UNCBD, UNEP convened the Second Meeting of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), Nairobi October 5-9, 2009, at which participants reached consensus⁴ on the need for a strengthened science-policy interface, but did not reach consensus on the need for a mechanism. The meeting was preceded by the Meeting of the Chairs of Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity related Conventions, which reached consensus on the need for an IPBES and through its Chair (CBD SBSTTA Chair), called for the creation of a Platform. The STAP Chairperson was represented at these meetings. It is expected that a Third Meeting will be convened by UNEP in early 2010 to seek consensus on the creation of a mechanism to manage an IPBES.

⁴ <http://www.iisd.ca/yimb/biodiv/ipbes2/>

Recommendation of the Chairperson to the Council

20. STAP was very engaged in the development of focal area strategies for GEF-5 and has been exploring the important area of cross focal area integration. The Panel's recommendation on the rationale for promoting cross-focal area integration has been accepted and highlighted in the latest "GEF-5 Programming Document". The next critical step is to provide project developers with operational guidance based on sound concepts for promoting joint benefits across-focal areas and managing tradeoffs between focal area benefits.
21. STAP applauds the emphasis on including learning objectives in GEF-5 and continues to support efforts to encourage the GEF to learn rather than simply apply what others claim to have learned. More work remains to be done on this topic and the Panel is willing to contribute.
22. STAP continues to be engaged in discussions about the most useful way for it to formulate and communicate the latest scientific developments of relevance to Council. Discussions have gone beyond the initial notion of a science conference, to consideration of other potential modalities such as a collaboration with the International Council for Science (ICSU) or a biennial state of the science document.
23. STAP is also exploring the most useful global environmental issues it might focus on at the GEF Assembly in May 2010. A (side) event may be held on specific topics such as Carbon Capture and Storage, ocean acidification or nanotechnology, or more broadly on the relationship between Global Environmental Benefits and national/development benefits.
24. STAP notes with concern the increasing impact of climate change on all focal areas, and the necessity to address the climate resilience of GEF focal areas and projects. STAP will explore the possibility of (1) assessing the degree to which the potential impacts of climate change are being addressed in the GEF portfolio and (2) developing guidelines and methods to assist project developers to evaluate these potential impacts and consider potential adaptation responses.
25. STAP should also assess the implications of the Copenhagen climate change agreements for GEF programming in focal areas and across focal areas.

ANNEX 1. STAP Work Program FY10 record of achievement

Corporate work

ACT. Nr.	Output / Product	Status
C#1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. STAP Science Vision as a contribution to the framing of priorities for GEF-5 2. Scientific and technical inputs to the formulation of the long term strategies and strategic objectives 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completed 2. Panel Members time contribution to TAGs (ongoing to end 2009)
C#2	Analysis of GEF portfolio in each GEF Work Program for GEF Council	Ongoing task
C#3	STAP expert database established and populated accessible through the STAP website	Internal listings generated by Panel Members and external network organizations used as resource for selection of experts. Accessibility under review; continuing task
C#4	Guideline document on Conducting Experimental Trials in the context of the GEF portfolio (includes Methodology for experimental and quasi-experimental evaluation)	Completed, under peer review, release expected in December 2009
C#5	Targeted Research modality reviewed and redesigned	Awaiting decision on relation of TR to Learning Objectives

Cross-Cutting work

ACT. Nr.	Output / Product	Status
XC# 1	Evidence base (or state of knowledge) document on the relationship between biofuels, climate change mitigation and biodiversity	Under peer review expected completion in December 2009
XC# 2	(GEFSec's contracted work:) Climate Proofing: To examine the GEF portfolio across all focal areas taking into account adaptation needs and the delivery of global environmental benefits in those areas, to devise a methodology or safeguard tool that can be used in all GEF focal areas to ensure that the GEB's from the GEF portfolio will be robust in the face of climate change	Work postponed, awaiting GEFSec guidance
XC# 3	Case made for having a common set of generic indicators of expected impacts of GEF projects in the NRM grouping	Approach Paper submitted to GEFSec in late 2008. No further work planned
XC# 4	Scientific and technical rationale and methods for integrating two methods of tracking change in total system carbon.	First Steering Committee in May 2009. Ongoing task for 3 years (LD Panel Member)
XC# 5	Knowledge base on interlinkages between energy efficiency interventions and releases of unintentionally produced POPs.	Completed, released July 2009
XC# 6	Science-based document on emerging chemicals in developing countries and policy advice for GEF-5 and beyond	Start delayed, now commissioned for delivery in October 2009
XC# 7	Guidance on integrating mitigation/adaptation synergies across portfolio	For presentation to October 2009 STAP meeting

Biodiversity

ACT. Nr.	Output / Product	Status
BD# 1	Analysis of the potential points of entry for the GEF in Payments for Environmental Services (PES) programs and implications for BD programming	Completed
BD# 2	Evidence base document for community forest management impacts on global environmental benefits.	Under implementation, to complete by December 2009 (revised from October 2009)
BD# 3	Guideline document that briefly summarizes the current evidence base on the effectiveness of marine protected areas (MPAs) for biodiversity objectives inside and outside MPAs, summarizes the latest thinking on connections between MPAs and fishery management, and offers guidance on how the GEF can better evaluate its investments in these areas and build the evidence base on MPA management	Under peer review, expected completion November 2009

ACT. Nr.	Output / Product	Status
BD# 4	Guidance document on whether and how certification can lead to ecosystem use changes correlated with environmental services and biodiversity	Resources for the Future contracted to deliver by December 2009 (on track)
BD# 5	Evidence-base documents to identify where the gaps in our understanding of GEF-5 learning objectives (LOs) lie (one document for each LO), guideline documents that describe how to best fill the gaps (one document for each LO), and advice in the design of TORs and GEF-funded projects that can help contribute to each LO.	July 2009 to June 2010 period. Not yet contracted, awaits GEF-5 strategy confirmation

Climate Change

ACT. Nr.	Output / Product	Status
CC# 1	Recommendations for GEF- 5 Strategic Objectives and Programs; a science-based analysis for the Climate Change Focal Area	Completed
CC# 2	REDD, Forest Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management; Options for GEF-5	Completed
CC# 3	Regionalization of GEF portfolio and Strategic programs: Exploratory Paper towards GEF-5	Cancelled (request by GEFSec)
CC# 4	UNEP MSP on biofuels implemented with additional guidance provided by STAP	First Steering Meeting held, ongoing task for CC Panel Member
CC# 5	Methodology for measuring GHG impact of transport projects funded by GEF	Workshop with ADB held in October 19-20, Manila
CC# 6	Guidance on peatland management for conserving carbon stocks and reducing CO ₂ emissions (based on GEF project experience and using IMCG expertise)	Originally to start August 2009, delayed until December 2009
CC# 7	Guidelines for LULUCF under GEF-5 (post-Copenhagen)	April 2010 to May 2010

International Waters

ACT. Nr.	Output / Product	Status
IW#1	Three Approach Papers and a method for integrating indicators at the country level.	Completed
IW#2	STAP report on Dead Zones	Expert Consultation held in October 2009, complete policy review in March 2010
IW#3	Design of session on technologies for GEF-IW projects at GEF-IW 2009 conference	Technology Session
IW#4	IW climate responses: Scoping of the climate change linkages that GEF-IW should factor into its portfolio and how.	November 2009 to June 2010. CC Panel member leading, with completion of primary report in September
IW#5	Areas beyond national jurisdiction: Provide GEF with a background review and pilot product development guidance of the scientific, technical and legal issues in protecting biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) from the impacts of fishing for highly migratory species and bottom trawling on seamounts	Awaits endorsement of GEF-5 strategies before commissioning work.

Persistent Organic Pollutants

ACT. Nr.	Output	Status
POP S#1	Practice guide on combustion and emerging non-combustion technologies for POPs in developing countries	In draft, will complete before end October 2009. Delayed due to consultant illness. Other consultant completed report.
POP S#2	Guidance document on the use of indicators for allocating resources in POPs FA for GEF-5	GEFSec decided to let a contract to their own consultant. STAP to peer review in August 2009
POP S#3	A guidance document for GEF on E-waste	Scheduled for January 2010 to June 2010
POP S#4	Advice on POPs monitoring and measurements	Scheduled for March 2010 to June 2010

Land Degradation

ACT. Nr.	<i>Output / Product</i>	<i>Status</i>
LD# 1	(1) Global Impacts of Land Degradation (2) The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) Methodology and Land Degradation (3) The Trade-offs Between Sustainable Land Management, Global Environmental Concerns and Local Socio-Economic Impacts	Final drafts in editing for publication Expected completion by end 2009
LD# 2	STAP reviews and contributes to KM Land MSP outputs	Completed
LD# 3	A pragmatic set of Indicators applicable at LD portfolio level to provide a fair and acceptable means of allocation of LD funds to countries that have need for investments in SLM	Completed
LD# 4	Guidance on the benefits of investing in the LD focal area and in SLM	Completed as part of LD TAG work

ANNEX 2. Convention bodies – STAP Cooperation

STAP/CBD Secretariat working agenda (arising from a liaison visit, September 14, 2009)

1. STAP was invited to review the draft Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-3) report.
2. The STAP Chair was chair a meeting of the scientific review panel on the draft GBO-3 report in Montreal, Canada, 4-5 November 2009.
3. The Executive Secretary recommended that STAP advise the GEF Council on how it should support ABS and the scientific issues associated with ABS, which include implications of the regime for the research community.
4. The concept of a science (side) event at the GEF Assembly in 2010 was discussed. The Executive Secretary recommended that STAP convene an event with its panel members and 4 or 5 scientists from recipient countries to showcase STAP and discuss major scientific issues for GEF-5.
5. The STAP Chair was invited to the High level segment of COP-10, 26-29 October 2010, Nagoya, Japan.
6. The STAP Chair was invited to the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) closing ceremony on 12 December 2010, Kanazawa, Japan.
7. STAP will share the final draft of its report on “State Of The Evidence Base: Marine Protected Areas” with SCBD.
8. SCBD will share the outcomes of its “Expert Workshop on Scientific and Technical Guidance on the use of Biogeographic Classification Systems and Identification of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction in need of protection” with STAP to help inform STAP’s advice to the GEF on ABNJ.
9. SCBD will inform STAP of plans for a CBD workshop on REDD+ in 2010.
10. SCBD would like STAP’s view on the importance of the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON) initiative.

Current areas of cooperation in work programs

The STAP Secretariat held individual meetings with SCBD members on recent and current areas of collaboration which include:

- A) Ongoing information exchange on ABS, Invasive Alien Species (IAS) and Protected Areas initiatives.
- B) STAP participation in the CBD’s International Expert Workshop on the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators and Post-2010 Indicator Development (6-8 July 2009, Reading).
- C) STAP’s submission on the CBD’s ‘Guide to integrating protected areas within wider landscapes, seascapes and sectoral plans and strategies’. The Panel noted that it will be a useful resource for the preparation of GEF proposals, drawing on and adding significantly to STAP’s (2005) guidance on mainstreaming biodiversity in production landscapes.
- D) STAP’s participation in the CBD Expert workshop on the removal and mitigation of perverse, and the promotion of positive, incentive measures (6-8 October, Paris). The Panel nominated an expert to attend the workshop on its behalf and report back to it on the outcomes of relevance to the emerging GEF-5 biodiversity focal area strategy.

ANNEX 3. Summary record of progress achieved against actions arising from the STAP April 2009 Meeting

<i>Action. (numbered references refer to the Minutes⁵ of the September 2008 meeting):</i>	<i>Progress achieved and proposed next action</i>
STAP Progress report: Decision 4.1: STAP will continue advising on the developing GEF-5 resource allocation system.	Participated in the STAP Working Group July-September 2009. Awaiting results of Paris STAR sub-group meeting, October 16, 2009
Decision 4.2: STAP will continue to monitor and compile statistics on the outcomes of project (and programmatic approach) concept screening including trends over time and correlation with GEFSEC and Council comments.	Ongoing work, analysis to be included in November Council briefing by STAP Chairperson
Decision 4.3: STAP confirms that it is responsible for ensuring that its project screening comments are addressed through dialogue with Agencies.	Ongoing work
Presenting the Panel's advisory products Decision 5.1: STAP agreed to contact the UNFCCC Secretariat to discuss further the work requested of it.	Secretariat contacted
Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) next steps Decision 7.1: STAP will advise the TAGs for SFM and Climate Change to address capacity building activities to assist countries to report that they are enabled to prepare themselves to take advantage of mechanisms that may emerge that provide positive incentives for climate change mitigation and conservation in specific ecosystems that may be prioritised for GEF interventions.	SFM TAG has not discussed next steps
Decision 7.2: STAP recommends continuing a dedicated framework strategy for SFM, without prejudice to the needs for other important ecosystem, but will work through the SFM and Focal Area TAGs to clarify what will be supported under the strategy and the ways in which countries can access GEF support for SFM interventions.	SFM will be continued within GEF-5
GEF-5 strategies, an integrated approach Decision 8.1: As proposed by the GEF Evaluation Office STAP can play a major role in making GEF-wide results-based management framework consistent with the maximized delivery of GEBs across focal areas and including cross-cutting issues at the level of strategic goals/objectives.	STAP has proposed specific cross-cutting goals, further work will be coordinated with the RBM Coordinator, GEF Secretariat
Decision 8.2: STAP will start working on ecosystem carbon services. The first step is proposed work on peatlands and post-Copenhagen LULUCF methodology.	For post Copenhagen action by the Panel
Decision 13.1: STAP will provide further advice regarding the interlinkages between focal area strategies including the incorporation of adaptation to climate change.	Advice provided has not resulted in improved interlinkages
Decision 13.2: STAP will aim at producing a consolidated opinion on biofuels.	Advisory paper completed and under peer review
Decision 13.3: STAP will contribute to a clear definition of GEBs in a wider chemicals focal area.	To be reported at a later meeting
Decision 13.4: STAP will contribute to an improved M&E framework for LD	No action taken
Oceans and over-fishing Decision 9.1: It was agreed that Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction need to be addressed by GEF, that existing projects such as the CTI which are otherwise well-grounded need fisheries elements, and that GEF fisheries work needs to address legal instruments, in the context of a common resource management approach.	ABNJ included under a high replenishment scenario
Improved Chemicals Management Decision 10.1: STAP will continue providing advice in the Technical Advisory Group on chemicals emphasizing promotion of integrated chemicals management as a primary aim of the focal area.	Completed advisory input to the TAG
Decision 10.2: STAP Work Program for FY10 will include 1. Study on emerging chemicals for GEF-5 and beyond that will propose, inter alia, criteria for supporting particular chemicals in the GEF (potential to deliver global environmental benefits); 2. Guidance document for GEF on electronic waste; 3. Advice on cost-effective methods for POPs monitoring and analysis.	Included in FY10 Work Program
Biofuels, food security and biodiversity Decision 12.1: STAP acknowledges the significance of adherence to sustainability criteria in	See Decision 13.1. Further action will follow on completion

⁵ http://stapgef.unep.org/docs/Activities/Meetings/Sep2008/SummMtgRep_200809.pdf

supporting biofuels projects in the GEF. STAP recommends considering biofuels in the context of bioenergy with implications for promotion of sustainable agricultural practices and reiterates its position on biofuels in GEF-5 expressed in the STAP document prepared for TAG on climate change (http://stapgef.unep.org/activities/technicalworkshops/CC_GEF5).	of peer review of the STAP report
Decision 12.2: STAP will serve as an advisor to GEF targeted research project "Assessments and guidelines for sustainable liquid biofuels production in developing countries".	Implemented, Panel Member attends advisory group