

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility



Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel

An independent group of scientists which advises the Global Environment Facility





The Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP)



STAP is an independent advisory body of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)¹.

The Panel consists of seven members and a Chairperson with expertise in the main focal areas of the GEF². Panel members work on a part time basis for the GEF, typically on loan from their home institutions

STAP's mandate is to:

- Provide objective, strategic scientific and technical advice on GEF policies, operational strategies, programs and on projects and programmatic approaches.
- Interact in a complementary manner with other relevant scientific and technical bodies, particularly with the subsidiary bodies of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention to Combat Desertification and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.
- Provide scientific and technical advice on priorities for GEF funding, for focal areas in which the GEF is not operating as a convention's financial mechanism.
- Provide expert scientific advice to inter-agency task forces and bodies handling other GEF processes, when such advice is requested.

1 The GEF Instrument specifies that "UNEP shall establish, in consultation with UNDP and the World Bank and on the basis of guidelines and criteria established by the Council, the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) as an advisory body to the Facility. UNEP shall provide the STAP's Secretariat and shall operate as the liaison between the Facility and the STAP." The Executive Director of UNEP appoints the STAP members, and seeks the GEF Council's approval for the STAP appointments.

2 The six current Focal Areas of the GEF are Climate Change, Biodiversity, International Waters, Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)/ Chemicals, Ozone, Land Degradation. A single Panel member covers POPs/Chemicals/Ozone. The seventh Panel member acts as focal point for Adaptation Work governed by the LDCF/SCCF Council.

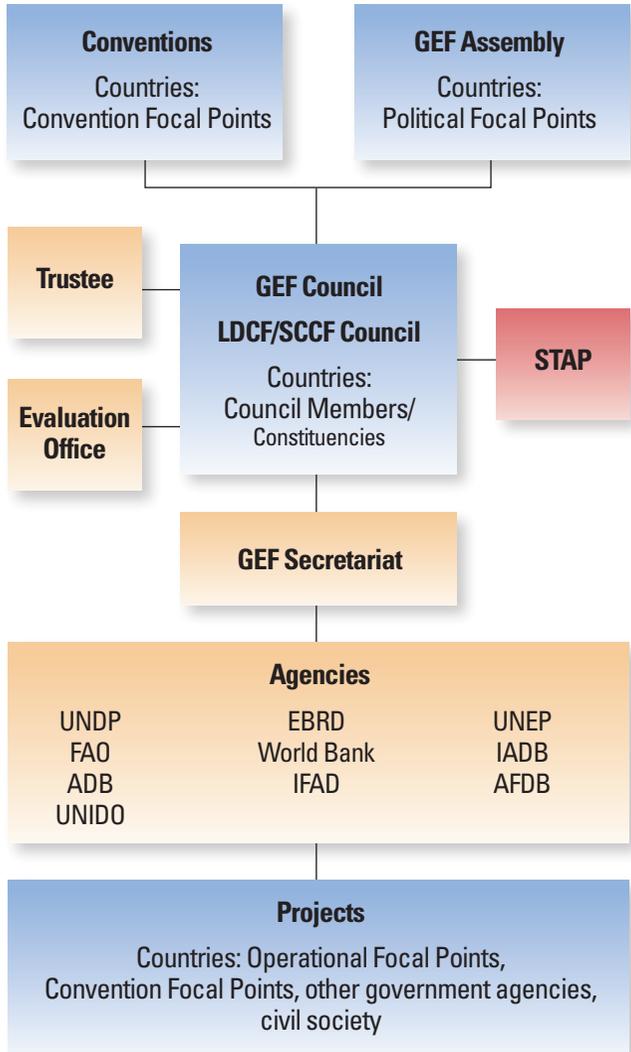
In addition, the GEF currently has operational management of the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The GEF also reports to a dedicated LDCF/SCCF Council as it would the GEF Council.

Having received official guidance from the LDCF/SCCF Council in May 2011, STAP has begun formalization of its role in the adaptation programme of the GEF and the operations of LDCF/SCCF Funds, recruiting a seventh additional Adaptation Panel member to ensure that LDCF and SCCF funded projects and programmes reflect the latest scientific thinking on adaptation.

In conjunction with the other Panel Members, the Adaptation Panel member will give the STAP the advisory capacity to:

- Review the scientific rationale and technical validity of all LDCF/SCCF full size projects in the context of climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation;
- Provide strategic advice on LDCF/SCCF strategies and policies as required;
- Advise on project or program development on a selective basis at the invitation of Agencies;
- Help design and implement approaches to test the Adaptation Learning Objectives; and work with the Secretariat and Agencies to undertake analysis of at least one of these per year;
- Assist in developing impact and vulnerability profiles for global environmental benefits that can be applied across all three trust funds; and
- Assist in further refining and increasing the precision of the Adaptation Monitoring and Assessment Tool.

STAP in the GEF



Advice to the GEF Council and to project proponents

The STAP Chair reports to every GEF Council meeting, briefing Council members on the Panel's work and emerging scientific and technical issues.

Advice to Council can include review and/or co-authorship of GEF Policy papers, where there are significant scientific or technical issues, for example:

- Methods for calculating resource allocations (the "STAR")
- Policies for the use of "set-aside" funds.

Since the fourth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund, the Panel contributed to the development of focal area strategies for GEF investments, by

- Convening international expert workshops;
- Providing written submissions; and
- Participating in the Technical Advisory Groups that drafted the strategies.

In the GEF Project Cycle³, STAP focuses on providing advice on scientific and technical matters to the GEF with a focus on global environment benefits. This advice includes the following:

- Screening all full size project concepts and selected medium sized project concepts for scientific and technical coherence;
- Advising on program and project development on a selective basis; and
- Identifying priority topics to be addressed by GEF Targeted Research.

³ <http://www.thegef.org/gef/content/what-gef-project-cycle>

STAP's work program

Through collaborative interaction with the various partners and bodies in the GEF partnership, and scientific authorities, Panel Members of STAP identify priorities for work over their period of appointment. Supported by the STAP Secretariat and under direction of the Chair, their mandate enables them to interact directly with members of the GEF Secretariat, Agencies and Conventions in reaching a consensus on priorities, and to support the work of other Panel Members.

The Panel's work program is developed through a consultative process and is formally approved by the GEF Council. The Panel meets physically twice a year, with representatives of the GEF partnership; also hosting or engaging in numerous technical workshops. These meetings provide a further opportunity for items to be reviewed, and for new items to be added to the Panel's work program.

An aerial photograph of a coastline, showing a river flowing through a forested area towards the sea. The image is partially obscured by a yellow banner at the top and a white text box on the right.

STAP and the global scientific community

The Panel achieves much of its work through collaborations with leading scientists on specific issues around the world. STAP commissions studies by institutions or individuals, convenes expert working groups and holds workshops to identify the latest scientific knowledge and translates it into practical, policy-relevant advice for the GEF.

By working in a complementary manner with the scientific bodies of Conventions, the Panel's advice is fully integrated into the GEF policy framework and relevant to the guidance provided by the Conventions to the GEF.

For example, STAP:

- Co-chaired the scientific review of the CBD's Global Biodiversity Outlook, 3rd Edition.
- Developed advice on synergies and trade-offs between energy and POPs releases highlighted at the COP-4 of the Stockholm Convention.
- Served on the Dryland Science for Development consortium, which organized the scientific inputs to UNCCD's first Scientific Conference in 2009.

The Panel is also mandated to collaborate with the GEF's independent Evaluation Office on scientific and technical issues.

ACRONYMS

CBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
LDCF	Least Developed Countries Fund
SCCF	Special Climate Change Fund
STAR	System for Transparent Allocation of Resources
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

STAP is increasingly focusing its efforts on developing advisory documents on common or potential interventions supported by GEF funding. These documents serve a range of purposes, including updating the Council on the scientific rationale for GEF investments, helping agencies draft proposals, helping the GEF Secretariat review proposals, and monitor impacts.

For example, the Panel has recently produced, or will soon release, advisory documents on:

- Payments for environmental services
- Energy conservation and releases of persistent organic pollutants
- Community forest management
- Environmental Certification
- Carbon dioxide capture and storage
- Coastal waters “dead zones”
- Marine protected areas.
- Selection of Persistent Organic Pollutant Disposal Technology for the GEF
- A Marine Debris solutions based framework focused on plastic

Some of STAP's more recent publications (2009-present)

Benefits and Trade-offs Between
Energy Conservation and Releases
of Unintentionally Produced Persistent
Organic Pollutants

July 2009



Payments for Environmental Services
revised March 2010



The Evidence Base for Community
Forest Management as a Mechanism
for Supplying Global Environmental
Benefits and Improving Local Welfare
September 2010



Environmental Certification and
the Global Environment Facility
September 2010



Advancing Sustainable Low-Carbon
Transport through the GEF
November 2010



Manual for Calculating GHG Benefits for GEF Transportation Projects

January 2011



Hypoxia and Nutrient Reduction in the Coastal Zones

September 2011



Selection of Persistent Organic Pollutant Disposal Technology for the GEF

November 2011



Marine Debris as a Global Environmental Problem: Introducing a solutions based framework focused on plastic

November 2011



See <http://www.unep.org/stap/Publications/STAPsAdvisoryProducts/tabid/79136/Default.aspx>
for a complete list of STAP's Advisory Products.

www.unep.org/stap

About STAP

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel comprises seven expert advisers supported by a Secretariat, which are together responsible for connecting the Global Environment Facility to the most up to date, authoritative, and globally representative science. The Panel and Secretariat are hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme.

STAP Secretariat
900 17th Street NW, Suite 506
Washington DC, 20006
USA

Phone: +1 202 974 1311
Fax: +1 202 223 2004
stapsec@unep.org
<http://www.unep.org/stap/>



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