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STAP SUMMARY REPORT

JULY 2007 – OCTOBER 2007

(Prepared by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel)



United Nations Environment Programme

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PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

STAP Summary Report

July 2007-October 2007

*Prepared by the Chairperson and the Secretary to the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP)
of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)*

Introduction

1. This report is a summary only of the full presentation to be made on behalf of STAP to the Council in November 2007.

STAP reconstitution

2. Following the approval by the Council at its June 2007 meeting for the reform and reconstitution of STAP, UNEP formed a Search Committee in July to identify suitable candidates to fill the six panel member positions, including the position of Chairperson. The STAP secretary was appointed as Secretary to the Committee, which sought nominations from the GEF agencies, and GEF related Conventions as well as the Third World Academy of Science and the International Council of Scientific Unions.
3. The Search Committee, comprising of representatives of the World Bank, UNDP, the GEF Secretariat and chaired by UNEP, screened 45 nominations from all regions, covering all focal areas and short listed candidates through two meetings held on August 29 and October 3. A concluding meeting was called in late October to finalize the Committee's recommendation to the Executive Director of UNEP, and to prepare the recommended draft Council Decision on the appointment of the new Panel
4. In order to maintain scientific and technical advisory services to the GEF, the Executive Director of UNEP proposed, with the agreement of the CEO of the GEF, that some existing members of STAP would be retained on a short term contract until the end of October, covering climate change, biodiversity and land degradation focal areas, which required priority support.
5. In later sections of this Summary report, the principal activities of the reduced Panel are briefly presented.

New Project Cycle and STAP advisory work

6. Within the new GEF Project Cycle, STAP's role has been re-defined and includes the provision of tools to the GEF Secretariat and to develop review criteria to build into selective reviews, as well as engaging much earlier in the Project Cycle. The principal activity in this area has been the development on an experimental basis of Project Identification Form (PIF) screening tools and their application to all PIFs submitted to the GEF under the November 2007 Work Program.
7. STAP actively applied the screening template developed to the concepts submitted by GEF agencies, resulting in well over 50 project concepts receiving STAP screening. This consisted of primary screening by STAP Secretariat staff and peer review by STAP panel members. Where possible, the screening results and STAP recommendations were forwarded to the GEF Secretariat within the five day window allocated for STAP screening. Screening reports were also copied to the submitting GEF Agency to provide feedback and to note follow-up issues to be addressed by the STAP working with the agencies.
8. A review of the lessons learnt from PIF screening was also developed by STAP and was shared with all agencies in order to assist them to improve the design of future project concepts.

9. In addition to PIF screening, STAP also developed two strategic documents, one to identify the role of STAP and its service standards to be included in the revised GEF Operational Manual, the second to provide targeted advice and guidance on the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Framework Strategy for GEF-4, to enable the GEF to encourage well targeted project applications and to better inform the GEF Secretariat in their task to encourage well targeted projects through provision of guidance to applicants. The provision of this guidance document to the GEF has better defined the scope of further operational guidance documents to be provided by STAP that are desirable for enhancing implementation of GEF-4 focal area strategies.
10. In addition to specific targeted products, the STAP members have maintained a general advisory service to the GEF, responding to many separate requests for advice and support, including to the UNCBD SBSTTA 12 meeting held in Paris. There were two events held back to back. 1) The first Joint meeting of the Chairs of the scientific advisory bodies to the biodiversity-related Conventions, and 2) the 12th meeting of the SBSTTA to the CBD. The STAP Secretary and the STAP Chairperson attended these meetings to explore how to fulfil STAP cooperation with scientific and technical bodies of the conventions and other scientific bodies.
11. Additional support was provided to the GEF Fourth International Waters Conference, Cape Town, South Africa (August 2007), and to the First Expert Meeting of the KM Land Medium Sized Project: Ensuring Impacts from Sustainable Land Management – Development of a Global Indicator System, concentrating on Evaluation of Land Degradation Indicators and Development of a Learning Network, held in Selfoss, Iceland (August 2007).

Expert group work

12. STAP responded to the GEF Secretariat's request to provide advice on the potential response of GEF to enquiries from the UNFCCC regarding Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), by forming a small expert group to consider the matter and report back to the Secretariat. The expert group, led by a Panel member was convened in October and discussed CCS opportunities and challenges in developing countries, and ways to increase capacity to learn more about CCS.