



# Global Environment Facility

GEF/C.33/13/Rev.1

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GEF Council  
April 22-25, 2008

Agenda Item 21

## PROPOSAL OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNEP ON THE RECONSTITUTION OF STAP

### **Recommended Council Decision**

The Council, having reviewed the *Proposal of the Executive Director of UNEP on the Reconstitution of STAP* (document GEF/C.33/13/Rev.1), approves the composition of STAP proposed by the Executive Director of UNEP on the basis of the recommendations put forward by the Search Committee for the Reconstitution of STAP.

The Council supports the recommendation that Thomas Lovejoy be appointed as the Chair of STAP for a term of two years with the possibility of renewal for a further two years.

The Council welcomes the new members of STAP and expresses its sincere appreciation to the outgoing members, especially the Chairperson of STAP, Yolanda Kakabadse, for her outstanding contribution to the work of the GEF.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. In accordance with the Terms of Reference of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, approved by the GEF Council in June 2007, the Executive Director of UNEP, in consultation with UNDP, the World Bank, and the GEF Secretariat, and upon approval of the GEF Council shall appoint five members of STAP and shall also appoint a Chairperson. The term of office of the present Chairperson expires at the end of FY08 (June 2008), and accordingly a new Chairperson will take up their office at the beginning of FY09 (July 2008).
2. At the same time as the appointment of a new Chairperson, the Executive Director of UNEP proposes that the membership of the Panel is also adjusted to accommodate the needs of the GEF, following selection of a new Chairperson. This intention was stated in the Executive Director's letter to the Council when seeking a decision by mail in December 2007, which led to the presently constituted Panel.
3. Accordingly in January 2008 the Executive Director of UNEP extended the mandate of the Search Committee for the Reconstitution of STAP, comprising representatives of UNEP, UNDP, the World Bank and the GEF Secretariat, requesting the Committee to invite nominations for the position of Chairperson of STAP and also for other positions that may be necessary to complete the Panel.
4. Two meetings of the Search Committee were held in March 2008, completing its work, and its recommendations are set out below.
5. The recommended Chairperson is Thomas Lovejoy (USA), replacing Yolanda Kakabadse (Ecuador), while the existing Panel member for Climate Change – Adaptation, Anthony Nyong (Nigeria), will also leave the Panel. Re-appointed members are Meryl Williams (International Waters, Australia), N.H. Ravindranath (Climate Change, India), Michael Stocking (Land Degradation, UK) and Paul Ferraro (Biodiversity, USA). A new member will be Bo Wahlström (POPS and Ozone, Sweden).
6. The Executive Director of UNEP has noted his concerns that the regional and gender balance of this reconstituted panel only meets minimum UN standards. However, he has been assured by the Search Committee that all efforts were expended in searching for candidates, and that the current composition addresses key selection criteria, including: high level scientific and influential qualifications of the Chair, availability of candidates to provide 50% of their time to STAP, expertise to cover all 6 focal areas of the GEF, and maintaining a minimum of continuity of panel members for a smoother and more effective operation of the Panel. The Executive Director of UNEP notes that future reconstitutions of the STAP panel will continue to adhere to all selection criteria, but with a view to improving gender and regional balance.

## **BACKGROUND**

7. “The Instrument of the Establishment of the restructured Global Environment Facility (GEF)” states 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”. The Instrument also states that “Council shall approve and periodically review the mandate, composition and role of STAP”.

8. “The Terms of Reference of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP)”, approved by the GEF Council in June 2007, states that “The Executive Director of UNEP, in consultation with UNDP, the World Bank, the Executing Agencies and the GEF Secretariat, and upon approval of the GEF Council shall appoint five members of STAP and shall also appoint a Chairperson.” The term of office of the present Chairperson expires at the end of FY08 (June 2008), and accordingly a new Chairperson will take up their office at the beginning of FY09 (July 2008).

9. The present note on the appointment of the Chair and adjustment to the Membership of the Panel is being submitted according to the STAP Terms of Reference and provides details of the criteria and the selection process used.

## **PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS OF THE PANEL**

10. At its June 2007 meeting the Council approved the Proposal of the Executive Director of UNEP on Enhancing the Impact of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (GEF/C.31/4) and requested that UNEP should take steps to reconstitute STAP as described in the revised Terms of Reference and should propose new membership to the Council for approval by mail.

11. In July 2007, the Search Committee for the Reconstitution of STAP was convened by UNEP, which recommended 6 candidates for appointment selected from a total of 67 nominations from a number of GEF-related bodies. Approval for the composition of the Panel proposed by the Executive Director of UNEP was received from the Council through a decision by mail, which was completed in January 2008.

12. In making appointments to a much smaller Panel, in December 2007 the Executive Director also paid careful attention to gender and regional balance, and while the individuals were selected primarily on merit, they were subject to performance evaluation that demanded equity and balance with regard to the gender and regional balance of expertise that they source and direct in order to deliver their responsibilities to the GEF. In order to complete the approved reforms, Yolanda Kakabadse was re-appointed Chairperson of STAP for a final term expiring in June 2008.

13. In January 2008, the Executive Director of UNEP extended the Search Committee’s term of office until the end of April 2008 to enable it to work on the selection of a new Chairperson to take office from 1st July 2008, and to consider concurrently candidates for the other positions within the Panel, in order to propose a complete Panel to the Council at its April 2008 meeting.

14. The Search Committee circulated a Profile of the Chairperson to all GEF Agencies, Chairpersons of the Scientific and Technical Subsidiary Bodies of the Conventions for which the GEF serves as the financial mechanism, the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU), the Third World Academy of Science (TWAS), and the STAP Chairperson. The Profile used also referred to the following principles which were respected by the Committee.

- (a) Recognized leadership in specific relevant fields in the GEF focal areas of Biological Diversity, Climate Change, International Waters, Ozone Depletion, Persistent Organic Pollutants, and Land Degradation and with an ability to bridge scientific, technological, economic, social and policy issues;
- (b) Geographical and gender balance;
- (c) Experience in the management of science and with knowledge of issues in the implementation of complex international initiatives;
- (d) An understanding of the organizational and operational setting of the Implementing and Executing Agencies, particularly in the context of program and project development and implementation; and
- (e) Knowledge about the scientific processes required for the implementation of relevant conventions in developing countries and familiarity with relevant international assessments.

15. Two meetings of the STAP Search Committee were held, on March 11th and 14th, 2008, to consider the list of 15 nominations received for the post of Chairperson of STAP and additional nominations for ordinary Panel members, to enable adjustment of the membership of the Panel to cover all GEF Focal Areas adequately. The Committee recommended that the Chairperson should not be appointed to a specific Focal Area position but should primarily be responsible for coordinating and leading the Panel.

#### **COMPOSITION OF THE STAP**

16. The Search Committee completed its work on March 19th and made the following recommendations for the Panel membership with effect from July 1st, 2008, to ensure that a balanced Panel in terms of expert coverage of Focal Areas was achieved and consistent with its recommendation of the preferred candidate for the post of Chairperson.

17. For the Chairperson position, the Committee recommended that Thomas Lovejoy (USA) be appointed for an initial term of two years. Thomas Lovejoy is currently President of the Heinz Center and was previously the World Bank's Chief Biodiversity Advisor and Lead Specialist for Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean and Senior Advisor to the President of the United Nations Foundation. Further biographical details of all the members proposed are provided in the Annex.

18. For the remaining five positions, the Committee recommended the following members.

International Waters, Meryl Williams, Australia  
Land Degradation, Michael Stocking, United Kingdom;  
Climate Change, N.H. Ravindranath, India;  
Biodiversity, Paul Ferraro, USA;  
POPS/Ozone, Bo Wahlström, Sweden

19. The appointment of Dr. Anthony Nyong will be terminated in June 2008 as his initial appointment was considered as a short term measure in order to develop specific standards and guidelines for climate proofing the GEF portfolio. The Committee, in making its recommendations, was aware that the resulting proposed composition of the Panel exhibits imbalance in gender and also regional representivity, which it further proposed should be addressed at the next annual review of membership in early 2009. However, in compensation, the Committee felt that the Panel now contains an effective mix of four newer members of proven effectiveness, together with two longer serving members who provide continuity regarding the involvement of STAP in the development of the GEF-4 strategies and programs and the expectations of STAP to provide advice on their implementation.

## **CONCLUSION**

20. In accordance with the guidelines for STAP Reconstitution, the Executive Director of UNEP, after consultation with the CEO/Chairperson of the GEF, the President of the World Bank and Administrator of the UNDP, endorsed the recommendations made by the Search Committee, given that the composition arrived at was a consequence of the interplay of several factors leading into the radical reform of the Panel during 2007. The formation of a small Panel is intended to enable each member to have a greater proportion of their time to advise the GEF and to take responsibility for a focal area. More importantly this places an obligation on the members to source and to direct the expert advice provided by a wider range of additional specialist expertise, drawn from scientific networks.

## **ANNEX BIOGRAPHIES**

### **THOMAS LOVEJOY - CHAIRPERSON**

Thomas E. Lovejoy has been President of The Heinz Center since May 2002. Before coming to The Heinz Center, he was the World Bank's Chief Biodiversity Advisor and Lead Specialist for Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean and Senior Advisor to the President of the United Nations Foundation. Dr. Lovejoy has been Assistant Secretary and Counselor to the Secretary at the Smithsonian Institution, Science Advisor to the Secretary of the Interior, U.S., and Executive Vice President of the World Wildlife Fund–U.S. He conceived the idea for the Minimum Critical Size of Ecosystems project (a joint project between the Smithsonian and Brazil's INPA), originated the concept of debt-for-nature swaps, and is the founder of the public television series Nature. In 2001 he was awarded the prestigious Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement. Dr. Lovejoy served on science and environmental councils or committees under the Reagan, Bush, and Clinton administrations. He received his B. S. and Ph.D. (biology) degrees from Yale University.

Dr Lovejoy is the author of over 240 papers and 8 books and is an authority on biodiversity and sustainable forest management and on climate change and its impacts on living systems. He is particularly well-known for his extensively published work on Amazonian ecology, and he currently advises more than 100 international, governmental and non-governmental organizations and is the recipient of many awards and honors.

### **MICHAEL STOCKING**

Michael Anthony Stocking is the Professor of Natural Resource Development and until 2006 was Dean (Head) of the School of Development Studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich, United Kingdom. He has been involved in tropical agricultural development, land resources, conservation of biodiversity and soil conservation since 1969. His experience is in the sustainable use of natural resources through the appropriate development of conservation practices adapted to local socioeconomic and farming conditions. With field experience in sub-Saharan Africa, South America, and South and South-east Asia, his work involves soils investigations, land management, agricultural biodiversity and the relationship between land degradation and vegetation productivity.

Professor Stocking has been a consultant adviser to many agencies including FAO, UNDP, UNEP, The World Bank, ADB, IUCN, WWF-UK, DFID, DANIDA, SIDA and NORAD. As a member of advisory and management boards to DFID, the United Nations University and the CGIAR, he is involved closely with international development aid and the promotion of research within developing countries. He chairs the Scientific Advisory Committees to CIAT-TSBF, as well as the GEF-UNEP project on below-ground biodiversity. He has been the author and senior consultant for a number of large GEF projects, including the FAO-UNEP Land Degradation Assessment for Drylands (2004-10) and the World Bank International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (2005-7).



Professor Stocking is author of over 130 scientific papers, book chapters and reports, including seven books on various aspects of environment and development. His book entitled Handbook for the Field Assessment of Land Degradation is published in English (Earthscan, London) and Spanish (Mundi Prensa, Madrid) and in Arabic. His two most recent books are Agricultural Biodiversity of Smallholder Farms of East Africa (2004, UNU Press) and Renewable Natural Resources Management for Mountain Communities (2005, ICIMOD). His 2003 review paper in Science on the prospects for tropical soils and food security for the next 50 years is widely cited.

## **MERYL J. WILLIAMS**

Dr Meryl Williams has, over 30 years, established a leading reputation in the GEF focus area of International Waters. In addition, she has strong grounding in Biological Diversity, specifically marine biodiversity and agrobiodiversity. For the past 20 years, she has also held eminent research management and leadership responsibilities in fisheries, aquaculture, natural resource management, conservation and development assistance at global, regional, national and state level. As Director General, Dr Williams led, managed and grew the research and development program of the WorldFish Center for 10 years (1994-2004), with operations in Asia, Pacific, Africa, the Caribbean, global information services and productive partnerships with over 300 research and non-research institutions. She also held senior responsibilities on behalf of all 15 Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Centers and in the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research System.

From 2004 Dr Williams has been involved with the governance of the Australian Center for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) as Chair of the Board of Management and President of the Policy Advisory Council. The ACIAR is an Australian aid funding agency for agricultural research that operates a successful leveraged partnership model. Dr Williams has held many other leadership and advisory positions with international bodies, including DIVERSITAS, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, FAO, PEMSEA (which grew out of an earlier research program of the WorldFish Center) and the Census of Marine Life. Dr Williams is familiar with the key inter-governmental processes and the prep-coms and scientific advisory mechanisms of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the IPCC, FAO councils, and many regional fisheries management organizations and actions towards international marine environment conservation

Dr Williams has authored 50 scientific publications covering agriculture and marine science, including fisheries, aquaculture, and coastal and marine ecosystem management; she promoted the development of information systems such as FishBase and ReefBase – both now path-breaking global databases and has written comprehensively and in depth on sustainable aquatic resources, their management and uses, including in markets and food security.

## **PAUL J. FERRARO**

Paul Ferraro is Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Georgia State University, and World Wildlife Fund Senior Science Fellow, 2006-present. Dr. Ferraro's research focuses on the design and evaluation of cost-effective

environmental policies and institutions with an emphasis on biodiversity protection, and also the use of experiments to study human behaviour and decision-making. He is interested in communicating to both economists and conservation practitioners and is working on applying experimental and quasi-experimental program evaluation methods to conservation interventions.

Dr Ferraro received his PhD in economics from Cornell University. He also holds a BA in biology and history, and an MS in economics, from Duke University. He was a collaborating author on the 2005 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, and his research appears in journals such as Conservation Biology, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Land Economics, PLoS Biology, Science and Trends in Ecology & Evolution.

### **N.H. RAVINDRANATH**

N.H. Ravindranath is Chairman, Centre for Sustainable Technologies, and an Associate Faculty member, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. Since 1996 Professor Ravindranath has been a Lead and Convening Lead Author for eight chapters or publications of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), most recently in the IPCC-4 as Lead Author for the Climate Change Synthesis Report and for the the Forestry chapter of the Mitigation volume. He is a Member of the Panel of Experts for UNFCCC, and was selected to review the Greenhouse Gas Inventory of Annex-I countries (Industrialized Countries) as well as for reviewing the Kyoto Protocol System. He also developed Guidelines for preparing GHG Inventory in the Forest Sector for UNFCCC, and participated in the UNFCCC review of Greenhouse gas Inventory submitted by Annex-I countries to the UNFCCC, during 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Holding a PhD, MSc and BSc degrees, Professor Ravindranath leads research in two main areas: climate change and forests and on sustainable biomass production for bioenergy and has published extensively in both areas of work.

### **BO WAHLSTRÖM**

Bo A. Wahlström is former Senior International Advisor to the Swedish Chemicals Inspectorate, Sundbyberg, Sweden, and has a part-time assignment to the Inspectorate. Dr. Wahlström has been with the Inspectorate since its establishment in January 1986 and has held various management positions in chemicals risk assessment and management. During 1998-2004 he was Senior Scientific Officer in the Chemicals Branch of the UNEP DTIE office and in that position responsible for the development of the elements of the POPs Review Committee during the negotiations for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent organic Pollutants as well as the effectiveness evaluation of the convention. He was extensively involved as the Swedish Head of delegation in the development of the OECD Existing Chemicals Programme as well as other parts of the OECD Chemicals Programme, for which he also served as chair 1996-1998. He is a Member of the Swedish Society of Toxicology since 1977 and served in its Board 1987-93, and as its president during 1990-91.

Dr Wahlström holds PhD, MSc and BSc degrees from the University of Göteborg, Sweden. He is associate professor at the university and has led research in physiology and toxicology and was a member of the Environmental Research Council at the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency 1989-97 and its Vice-President 1991- 97.