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STAP SUMMARY REPORT

(Prepared by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel)

1. This report summarizes the activities undertaken by STAP since November 2007. Please note that the Chairperson's report to the Council will add further to this Summary Report, following the April 9-12 2008 STAP meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya.

2. Following the approval of the nominations of the Selection Committee by the Council at its November 2007 meeting, panel members were formally appointed in January 2008. In order to guarantee continuation in STAP's work, temporary contracts were issued for members who had been leading some of the most relevant thematic areas since July 2007.

3. Since November 2007, the Panel has continued its work in reviewing PIFs, advising the GEF Secretariat of suggested amendments to improve proposals from a science perspective, and in a small number of cases liaising directly with project proponents on revisions. At the start of the period under report, STAP attempted to review every PIF submitted, including those that were not subsequently endorsed by the CEO. After consultation with the GEF Secretariat, the PIF review process was amended to include only those PIFs that receive approval from the CEO. In order to complete the reviews within an acceptable time-frame, this meant a turn-around target time for STAP reviews of only 5 days. In addition, within the period under report, STAP has been revising the amount and nature of feedback arising from its reviews. This process continues. The workload and turn-around time are still, however, concerns for STAP. Even so, STAP successfully completed screening of the 49 Full Size Project PIFs submitted to the GEF under the April 2008 Work Program. Responses from GEF Agencies have been variable. A minority has provided feedback, including an acknowledgment that STAP screening is adding value, but others would be expected to respond when STAP follows up with GEF Agencies, its suggested improvements to projects which were made at an early stage in design.

4. Networking: the reduction in size (from 15 members to 6) created an obligation for the Panel to communicate more effectively with science and technology networks in different parts of the world. Strategic alliances have been built with expert bodies including UNEP-WCMC and IUCN / SSC. Other alliances for specific focal areas are under discussion, ensuring that there is adequate representation from experts and institutions at the forefront of science in their field, especially from developing countries.

5. The Panel meeting in Nairobi hosted by UNEP was occasioned by the wish of UNEP to support more effectively the work of STAP and to provide a solid science base for the work of the GEF. During this meeting, the Panel and representatives from partner Agencies and the GEF Secretariat evaluated progress made on its work program, refocus if necessary tasks to be completed until the end of June, as well as to generate a discussion with the GEF Secretariat and partners on the key science and technology drivers for the development of a vision for GEF5.

6. The Panel members made contact with thematic leaders at GEF Secretariat and the Agencies in order to ascertain current thinking on strategic priorities. Discussions

centered on an internal evaluation of progress in GEF-4 on strategic issues related to science and technology. Since STAP members had been an integral part of the development of the focal area strategies for GEF-4, STAP is uniquely placed to assess how far the visions for the current phase have been met. The evaluation discussions also provided a factual baseline both to review likely achievements by the completion of GEF-4 and to commence a process of distilling strategic scientific priorities for GEF-5.

7. In addition to specific targeted products, STAP members have maintained a general advisory service to the GEF, responding to many separate requests for advice and support, and in the following sections of this report examples of STAP's advice are presented.

8. Sustainable Forest Management: During the period under review, STAP published its guidance paper on the implementation of the new Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Framework Strategy for GEF-4. The SFM strategy is innovative and challenging, requiring careful attention to scientific and technical issues. Activities in land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) are one of the most effective means of off-setting emissions and increasing the removals of green-house gases (GHG). Two Strategic Programs for SFM in GEF-4 especially require scientific input (SP3: Management of LULUCF as a Means to protect Carbon Stocks; SP7: SFM in Production Landscapes). These represent a substantial departure from standard forestry programs, and focus on topics that are themselves crosscutting and innovative. STAP recommends that the GEF's contribution to land use change and forest conservation should be recognizably different from that of other agencies, focusing on global environmental benefits, the contributions of forest conservation to ecosystem and landscape functions and the synergies between forests, the fixing of carbon, the control of land degradation and the conservation of biodiversity. The SFM strategy does, however, require support in establishing credible indicators and developing tracking tools (for example, for carbon) – see below under 'targeted research'.

9. STAP member Paul Ferraro attended the Second Meeting of the CBD Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas. The Conference of the Parties established the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas to support and review the implementation of the program of work and report to the Conference of the Parties. Given that the GEF is a key supporter of the program of work on protected areas and that protected area investments make up a substantial proportion of the GEF's biodiversity focal area portfolio, STAP's participation in this meeting was critical for maintaining and extending its scientific network related to protected area management. It was also vital to ensure that STAP's scientific advice on protected areas anticipates future policy directions likely to be taken by the CDB and its Parties, and to understand stakeholder views on the way in which the GEF family has been and could be supporting global efforts to protect biodiversity and support human livelihoods through protected areas. Participation in this meeting is leading to joint work with UNEP-WCMC's network of scientists to help the GEF Secretariat and the Council better understand the scientific basis for the existing protected area portfolio and to guide the GEF in the development of

indicators through which the GEF can better assess its environmental performance. Participation in the meeting also permitted STAP's involvement in IUCN's (and partners') work on measuring management effectiveness and measuring the social impacts of protected area management.

10. At the end of the Working Group meeting, STAP participated in a CBD-sponsored workshop on current national and regional-level efforts to develop indicators, which will help ensure that STAP's advice takes into account the reality of field capacity and budgets.

11. High level Expert Meeting on "Climate Change, Biofuels and Food Security": STAP members attended an FAO expert meeting event during March 5-7 2008 which was called to develop a strategy for discussing food security issue in the context of climate change. Climate change is likely to impact food production and security at the global level, with particular adverse implications for the developing countries. There is a lack of recognition of food security issues in the international climate change negotiations and discussions. Climate change mitigation activities such as bioenergy or biofuels feedstock production could adversely impact food security and biodiversity.

12. There are several areas where STAP's work on climate change can usefully be modified. For example, STAP can play a critical role by incorporating food security concerns in climate change mitigation projects such as bioenergy/biofuels, land degradation, adaptation and LULUCF. STAP can develop guidelines for promoting synergy between adaptation and mitigation projects, particularly enhancing the co-benefit of promoting food security. Additionally, STAP can explore Targeted Research on "Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation and Food Security Concerns". These topics were discussed in the April meeting in Nairobi.

13. Targeted Research: STAP believes that targeted research (TR) is needed to underpin new developments in GEF's portfolio of Work Programs and Focal Area strategies. During the period under review, STAP has been involved in two areas of TR in the land degradation focal area. First, in recognition of the need for the GEF to have a cost-effective and widely-applicable methodology to be used by all projects to measure the impact of project s to changing carbon stocks, STAP has been working with other agencies to advise on suitable approaches that include both modeling of above- and below-ground carbon stocks in relation to land use changes and field verification techniques such as infra-red spectroscopy and direct measurement. It is hoped that suitable tracking tools for changes in carbon will be accessible to all projects, and that the impact of GEF investments can be more readily quantified in terms of reduced GHG emissions and increased carbon fixed in the landscape. Secondly, STAP has been actively engaged with other agencies in developing Output and Impact indicators for the land degradation portfolio and for projects on sustainable land management. As part of the Expert Advisory Group to an inter-agency TR project led by UNDP and UNU, STAP is assisting in reviewing the types of indicators appropriate for the GEF and determining

suitable sources of scientific information in order to quantify the impact of projects in the land degradation focal area.

14. Reviews of Programmatic approaches: STAP can contribute after the initial formulation takes place by helping to guide the development to ensure that the approach has a scientific rationale (or at the very least doesn't contradict known scientific evidence) and encouraging them to have a higher-level purpose that cannot be achieved in their absence.

15. Working with the Evaluation Office: Considerable co-working with the Evaluation Office was achieved in the scientific screening of papers submitted by authors for presentation at the International Workshop on evaluating climate change and development. Ongoing work on experimental and quasi-experimental impact evaluations remains an area for close collaboration. Exploratory work towards a GEF knowledgebase, including the user needs of STAP and the Evaluation Office have been discussed and are expected to be further developed with the GEF Secretariat following their implementation of the new Project Management Information System.

16. Carbon Capture and Storage expert meeting: As reported to Council in November, in response to a request emanating from 11th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) STAP is assisting the GEF to re-examine its possible role in relation to Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS). Ideas discussed include developing a small programmatic effort to enable appropriate specialists in relevant developing countries to inform themselves about CCS.