

GEF Council Meeting
June 5 – 7, 2012
Washington, D.C.

Report of the Chairperson of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel

Introduction

- 1) The STAP Chair is pleased to provide an update on STAP's progress in implementing its work program, STAP's screening of GEF projects, along with specific highlights and a number of recommendations it wishes to bring to the Council's attention. The report covers the period since STAP's last report to the Council in November 2011 until the present.
- 2) The report highlights the following:
 - STAP's project cycle activities and Observations of the June 2012 Work Programme
 - Collaboration with the GEF Evaluation Office
 - Panel Member Recruitment
 - Climate Change: Scientific Assessment for the GEF

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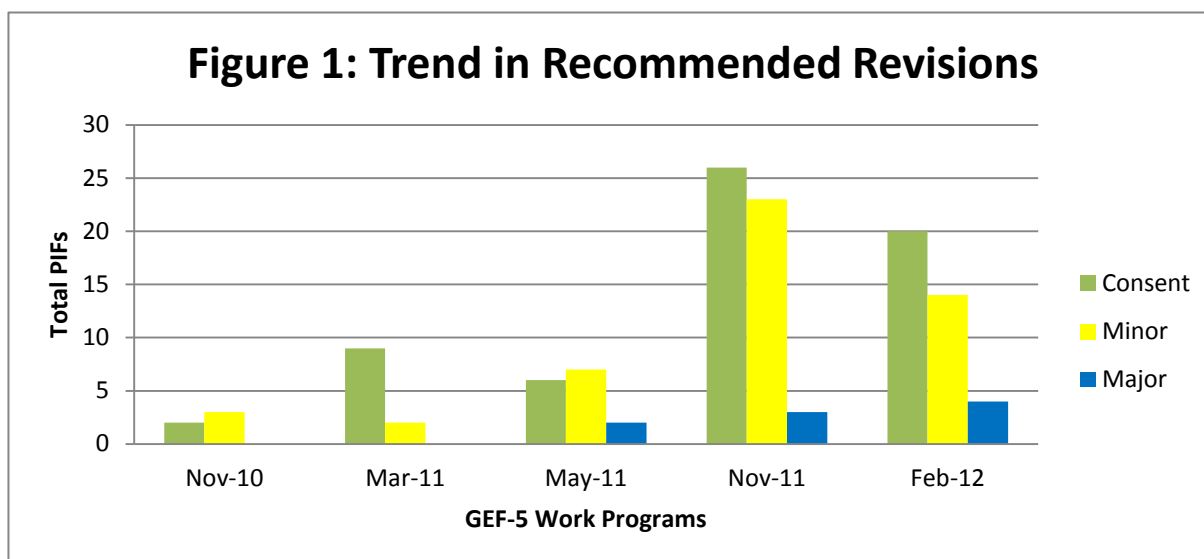
- 3) This year marks an important milestone for environmental governance. The international community is marking 20 years of efforts to address a series of inter-connected global environmental challenges, among which the Global Environment Facility is a significant achievement. While there have been a number of successes over this time period in tackling these challenges, overwhelming trends in climate, biodiversity, resource consumption, and land use change data suggest that we are far from achieving the vision set out by the global community 20 years ago.
- 4) Humanity has significantly transgressed three major planetary thresholds (and perhaps others in areas where data is insufficient) – specifically with regard to the global nitrogen cycle, carbon cycle, and biodiversity loss (Rockstrom et al, 2009)¹. The largest impact is in biodiversity, as all biophysical changes affect living systems. Biodiversity is a living library for sustainability, as each species has evolved a unique set of solutions for ecological realities. A significant amount of the world's biodiversity is found in the oceans, with much of this unknown to science. Any of these species can be critically important for future advances in medicine, agriculture, or commercial and industrial applications – and many already have. The single greatest challenge of our species is to secure the sustainability of Earth's living systems, while at the same time increasing food supply for an additional two billion people and ensuring a reasonable quality of life for all.

- 5) As the Council is aware, STAP's primary operational responsibility is to provide independent scientific and technical quality assurance in the project cycle – and STAP intervenes in this regard at project concept or “PIF” stage. STAP continues to monitor trends in PIFs reviewed – please see Figure 1 below.
- 6) STAP is requested to review the scientific and/or technical rationale of the project and its contribution to global environmental benefits. At this stage in the project cycle, **STAP continues to be of the opinion that most PIFs only weakly convey these attributes** – which are typically

¹ We will refer more specifically to climate trends later in this report. Trends in the global nitrogen cycle were discussed in the Nov. 2011 report to Council.

more clearly articulated at project endorsement stage. STAP continues to work with Agencies regarding requests for upstream (pre-PIF) advice, as well as in providing advice in the design and implementation of projects on a selective basis.

- 7) STAP also wishes to bring to Council's attention the large change in requests for STAP screens at PIF stage between FY 11 and FY 12 (please see Figure 2 below) which represents a six fold increase over one year. The part time nature of the Panel, as well as the limited resources with which the Panel has available to it, is not favourable to managing these very large shifts in workload. In future, STAP may request additional resources to make up the current shortfall in STAP's budget. **In the absence of additional resources, STAP wishes to make clear that the Panel will take decisions to decrease the work it undertakes on behalf of Council relative to increasing demands.**



Note: at the time of submission of this report screens for the June 2012 Work Program had not yet been completed

Figure 2: Project Screens - FY11 & FY12

FY 2011

Nov 2010	5
March 2011	10
May 2011	15

Total 30

FY 2012

Nov 2011	53
Feb 2012	38
June 2012	98

Total 189

- 8) STAP and the Evaluation Office have numerous areas of common interest, particularly with regard to knowledge management in the GEF program and measuring the impact (in the context of global environmental benefits) of GEF interventions. The Panel welcomes increased and ongoing engagement with the GEF Evaluation Office in these areas. STAP recently collaborated with the Evaluation Office on a major quality at entry study, designed to assess the readiness of projects to monitor impact at final project endorsement stage – the results of which will be forthcoming in the near future. The Panel looks forward to future engagement with the Evaluation Office, particularly in the preparations and eventual implementation of a review of the work of STAP as part of OPS5.

Panel Member Recruitment

- 9) Recalling that the STAP Panel members for International Waters, Climate Change Mitigation and Land Degradation stepped down in 2011, as well as the fact that the GEF Council agreed to expand the Panel to include an expert on Climate Change Adaptation, the STAP Secretariat spent considerable effort in working on behalf of the Panel Selection Committee (including representatives from UNEP, UNDP, World Bank, GEF Secretariat and the STAP Chair) to recruit experts for all three of these positions. The selected Panel replacements are as follows: Annette Cowie (Australia) has been presented to the Council as the new Land Degradation Panel member, and Anand Patwardhan (India) for Climate Change Adaptation. The Panel Selection Committee has identified Mr. Jacob Granit of Sweden to fill the position, and the GEF CEO circulated his nomination for Council approval on May 2, 2012. The recruitment for the next Climate Change Mitigation Panel Member is still underway and will close by the time Council convenes. The Panel Search Committee hopes to bring a proposed decision on this recruitment process to Council in the near future.

STAP ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTS

- 10) A detailed record of achievement against the STAP Work Program FY12 is provided in Annex 1 below, along with a summary record of progress achieved against actions arising from the October 2011 STAP Meeting (Washington, DC) in Annex 2.
- 11) The STAP Panel and Secretariat continued to support the GEF during FY12 in not only carrying out screening of PIFs for FSPs and programmes with appropriate follow-up ahead of the CEO endorsement stage, but also:
- a) Working in a complementary manner with other relevant scientific and technical bodies that advise Conventions, resulting in improved guidance to the GEF.
 - b) Producing advisory products to systematize STAP's advice provided through the Project Cycle for ongoing use by Agencies and other stakeholders, and to respond to needs of the GEF partnership negotiated through focal area Task Forces;
 - c) Carrying out outreach with GEF partners, particularly through participation in and execution of workshops, side events and symposia to improve the science supporting the areas of the work of the GEF portfolio, and/or to otherwise improve project quality; and
 - d) Corporate activities, such as STAP's reporting responsibilities to Council and GEF partners.

a) Work with Conventions

- 12) STAP continued to develop its work with Secretariats and subsidiary bodies of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements that are supported by the GEF, as outlined below. This work included consultation on STAP's Work Program priorities, which is reflected in STAP's Work Program.

- a) STAP continued to provide technical advice to the UNCCD on the refinement of the set of the provisionally accepted impact indicators, which are being developed to measure progress on the strategic objectives 1, 2, and 3 of UNCCD's 10 year strategic plan and framework;
- b) The CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD Secretariats and scientific bodies collaborated with STAP on the recent and ongoing recruitment for new STAP Panel Members.
- c) STAP organized and hosted two side events at the 16th meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 16 - 30 April to 5 May 2012, Montreal, Canada) addressing marine spatial planning and marine debris respectively. This engagement will also extend to the CBD Conference of the Parties (CoP 11, 8-19 October, 2012, Hyderabad, India). In addition STAP is assisting the CBD Secretariat in the production of two technical papers on marine debris and marine spatial planning.

b) Advisory documents and papers

Hypoxia and Nutrient Reduction in the Coastal Zone

- 13) STAP led two expert consultations to review the latest scientific literature and opinion on hypoxia. The result of these efforts is STAP's publication on "Hypoxia and Nutrient Reduction in the Coastal Zone – Advice for Prevention, Remediation, and Research. The advisory document focuses on causes of hypoxia; identifies the lessons learned from GEF investments and from other cases, and; provides recommendations to the GEF on how to prevent and remediate the growing hypoxia problem. The publication was distributed to the GEF Council in November 2011.

Experimental Design in the GEF Program

- 14) STAP developed an advisory document "Experimental Project Designs in the Global Environment Facility", which was submitted to the GEF Council at its meeting in November 2011. Subsequently, the document was distributed to the scientific community at the Planet Under Pressure Conference in March 2012 in London, England. This paper is currently being published by STAP. In brief, the document describes an important way in which the GEF can leverage its project investments to generate more credible evidence about what works, and under what conditions. Unlike other advisory documents by the GEF-STAP, this paper is not specific to one focal area. Rather, it describes how the GEF can contribute to improving the empirical knowledge base regarding the impacts of GEF investments across focal areas. The advisory document is intended to de-mystify the notion of experimental design and applicability within the GEF portfolio, and to help GEF stakeholders identify projects that may be amenable to experimental design.

Persistent Organic Pollutant Disposal Technologies

- 15) The STAP developed an advisory document entitled "Selection of Persistent Organic Pollutant Disposal Technology for the Global Environment Facility", which provides practical advice to GEF recipient countries and the GEF Agencies on the selection of environmentally sound technologies for persistent organic pollutants (POPs) disposal; thereby addressing a methodological gap which has persisted in the GEF Chemicals Program. This delivery of this document was timely given the increasing number of GEF proposals addressing the priority actions identified by the National Implementation Plans, including the disposal and management of POPs stockpiles and waste.

Climate Change: Scientific Assessment for the GEF

- 16) As Council Members are well aware, climate change science is a complex and dynamic field. The global policy and donor community requires periodic assessments of ongoing climate monitoring and analysis, along with the results of the latest research, to support decision-making processes

on financing, technology transfer and capacity building to address climate change mitigation and adaptation. In response, the IPCC was set up to generate scientific assessments periodically (once in 6 years) to the UNFCCC. The next IPCC 5th Assessment is expected to be completed by the end of 2014.

- 17) The six year gap between assessments is considered too long by many experts, and may have a negative impact on the timeliness of appropriate policy responses. In order to inform future development of GEF climate mitigation and adaptation strategies towards GEF-6 replenishment, STAP has undertaken a survey of recent climate science, scanning a large number of recent scientific and technological reviews and reports. A draft technical report has been prepared and will be circulated for review by the climate change task force. The draft assessment concludes with possible recommendations for consideration by the GEF partnership, responding to the UNFCCC COP-16 Cancun agreements to deep cuts in global GHG emissions with a view to limiting global average temperature rise below 2°C. This draft STAP report will also inform STAP's position on the issue during the upcoming Rio+20 Conference. The full report and summary is expected to be available in September 2012 with the aim of presenting it formally to Council at its meeting in November.

Emerging Chemicals Management Issues (ECMI) in Developing Countries and Countries with Economies in Transition: Guidance for the Global Environment Facility

- 18) This study has been developed to identify and evaluate 22 ECMIs in relation to the likely chemical management needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, with an eye to positioning adequate resources and support from GEF within its mandate to anticipate, prevent, reduce and/or minimize chemical-related adverse impacts on human health and the environment. The 22 ECMIs reviewed in this report include the current SAICM nominated concerns. Feedback to refine the report's recommendations to the GEF was received via peer review as well as a SAICM Open-Ended Working Group (see the following section on Workshop, Symposia and Outreach – paragraph 22 – for details).

GHG accounting methodology for GEF energy-efficiency projects

- 20) Responding to the request from GEF partnership on further improving GHG accounting standards in GEF climate mitigation projects, STAP organized a workshop Developing GHG emission reduction methodology for GEF energy efficiency projects hosted by the GEF Secretariat on February 14th 2012. The workshop was well attended with about 40 participants from the GEF Secretariat, the World Bank, UNEP, UNDP, UNIDO and other partner organizations. A revised framework for EE methodology was presented and discussed at the meeting. STAP is expecting to present final GHG accounting methodology for energy-efficiency projects at the GEF Council in November 2012.

c) Workshops, Symposia, Outreach

Carbon Benefits Project

- 21) The STAP and UNEP held a one-day workshop on the Carbon Benefits Project (CBP) in October 2011. The CBP is a UNEP-GEF project that STAP followed closely through its participation in the Steering Committee. At the meeting, STAP recounted the importance the GEF attributes to carbon benefits as a result of their contribution to multiple global environmental benefits. Furthermore, STAP acknowledged its interest to understand further the comprehensive set of measuring and modelling tools, as well as its willingness to provide informal feedback to the CBP partners on how to strengthen the tool. The meeting objectives and expected outcomes were defined as follows:

Objectives

- I. The CBP members to present the project outputs to STAP, highlighting the modeling-measuring components and indicators.
- II. The STAP to provide informal feedback on the modules and indicators.

Expected Outcomes

- III. The STAP has a good understanding of the CBP modelling and measuring tools, and are able to make informed decisions about their use in GEF projects and programs.
- IV. The CBP will receive constructive feedback from STAP on how the tools could be improved, and better serve the GEF's needs.

STAP and the CBP partners considered a number of next steps, including refining the tool so it includes biodiversity and water. Prior to responding to this recommendation and others, the GEF Secretariat requested STAP to lead an independent review of the CBP so the tools can be tested and validated by the scientific community. STAP will lead this review in September 2012 in Kenya.

Side Event: Emerging Chemicals Management Issues

- 22) On the occasion of the SAICM Open-Ended Working Group Meeting, Belgrade, November, 2011, the STAP Chemicals Panel member, in a joint side-event with the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC), presented preliminary results of the just-completed assessment entitled "Emerging Chemicals Management Issues (ECMI) in Developing Countries and Countries with Economies in Transition: Guidance for the Global Environment Facility". The joint STAP-SETAC side event aimed to highlight results and interim interpretation of the ECMI work through a number of keynote presentations and interactive discussion with the audience. The discussion sought to enhance and inform the dialogue on new and emerging policy issues in preparation for ICCM3 and other fora, including UNCSD Rio+20, as well as ultimately helping in refining recommendations of the report to the GEF. The presenters, hailing from various regions, were able to give near global coverage, in elaborating on their respective regional perspectives and priorities (though an Eastern European presenter was not on hand to provide a first-hand account for this particular region).

International Climate Change Adaptation Conference 2012

- 23) The STAP participated in the 2012 International Climate Change Conference (29- 31 May, Tucson, Arizona, USA) organized as a partnership between the University of Arizona, and UNEP's Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA). The STAP's newest member, Adaptation Panel Member, Dr. Anand Prabhakar Patwardhan, also sits on the PROVIA Interim Scientific Steering Committee, thus providing STAP with a direct link to the adaptation scientific community.

Global Conference on Land-Ocean Connections (GLOC)

- 24) STAP participated and organized two side events at the Global Conference on Land-Ocean Connections (GLOC), a two-day gathering of scientists, experts, policy makers and NGOs who made recommendations for the Third Intergovernmental Review (IGR-3) on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land Based Activities (GPA) held on 23-25 January 2012, Manila, Philippines. STAP co-organized and facilitated together with the GEF Secretariat a side event "**Addressing nutrient reduction and hypoxia through the GEF**" that launched STAP's Advisory Document "Hypoxia and Nutrient Reduction in the Coastal Zone: Advice for Prevention, Remediation and Research". The event addressed one of the IGR-3 priority issues: nutrient management in the context of "green economy".

Marine Spatial Planning

- 25) A second side event "**Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and Management using the Ecosystem Approach: From Principles to Practice**" was co-organized by STAP in partnership with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Environment Programme

(UNEP) and the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), and was well attended. Marine spatial planning (MSP) is a multi-stakeholder participatory planning process which analyzes and allocates the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic, and social objectives - that typically are specified through a political process. MSP is becoming a central tool to make the often abstract and complex concept of integrated and ecosystem-based management in marine environments operational. MSP has so far largely been applied for marine space under national jurisdiction, but has scope to also address emerging policy and planning issues in areas beyond national jurisdiction. As noted in Section 12c above, STAP is organizing a side event on MSP as well as Marine Debris at the 16th meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 16). STAP's advisory documents on these subjects will be submitted to SBSTTA for its consideration (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/7 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/18).

World Ocean Summit

- 26) STAP attended the **World Ocean Summit** organized by The Economist (22-24 February, 2012, Singapore) that brought together over 200 global leaders, including scientists, businesses, and representatives from governments, NGOs, and other key stakeholders. STAP's publications on hypoxia and marine debris were distributed at the meeting and STAP was called upon to provide inputs to discussion on plastic debris. There was a breadth of information revealed at the meeting that will be used by STAP's work in planning for future work in the IW focal area. The Global Partnership for Oceans was also announced at the meeting by the World Bank President (<http://www.globalpartnershipforoceans.org/>) and STAP is currently exploring opportunities to provide technical support to this emerging global ocean initiative should the GEF become directly involved. Several of the STAP's current areas of work remain highly relevant as was demonstrated by the Oceans Summit discussions: expansion of hypoxic areas, the utility of marine spatial planning in integrated management of the marine environment, integrated approaches to solving plastic pollution problems in coastal areas and the high seas.
- 27) STAP was among panellists at the side event **"A Global Call to End Plastic Pollution"** co-organized by The Natural Resources Defense Council, Plastic Pollution Coalition, and Aspen Catto Fellows at Third Intersessional meeting of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development on March 27th 2012 in New York, US. Side event recommendations are being developed as an input to the Zero Draft Document for Rio+20 conference. The value of STAP's paper and the proposed in this paper solutions-based framework approach to reduce plastic pollution in the ocean was highly regarded by all participants.

Planet Under Pressure: Policy Brief and Conference Outcomes

- 28) The STAP, led by the Biodiversity Panel Member, and with participation of the GEF Secretariat, has been involved in the preparation of the Biodiversity and Ecosystems Policy Brief, prepared by the Planet Under Pressure (PuP) process as a key input to the Rio+20 Conference in 2012. This brief was prepared with the collaboration of DIVERSITAS, Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP) and the International Council for Science (ICSU), and is now available online (<http://www.icsu.org/rio20/policy-briefs/BiodiversityLowRes.pdf>) along with related policy briefs on key sectors (<http://www.icsu.org/rio20/policy-briefs>). ICSU will be distributing these briefs to key scientific institutes and centres of excellence ahead of the Rio+20 conference.
- 29) In addition, at the PuP Conference itself (March 26-29, 2012, London), the STAP co-organized two sessions during the conference: (i) ["Tragedies and hopes of the global commons: Biodiversity, climate and the oceans as global benefits"](#) in collaboration with DIVERSITAS and GEF Sec; and (ii) ["Staying away from the edge: avoiding biophysical, ecological and social tipping points"](#) in collaboration with DIVERSITAS. The STAP Biodiversity Panel Member participated directly in the overall scientific organizing committee for the conference, and was also a plenary speaker during the Conference.

d) Corporate Activities

Targeted Research

- 31) STAP undertook a review of the Targeted Research Modality and its use since its inception in 1997, accompanied by an assessment and recommendations for improving the use of and role of targeted research in the GEF. STAP discussed the preliminary findings with GEF partners at the STAP meeting in March 2012. Based on responses, STAP is in the process of revising the draft report which will be circulated to the GEF Secretariat and GEF partners in the coming months, and presented to the GEF Council in November 2012. An interesting preliminary finding of the report is the significant degree to which bilateral and multilateral aid agencies rely on the results of applied research (either internal or external) and other scientific findings in guiding their work programs and setting policy directions.

GEF 20th Anniversary: Exhibit at the 98th and 99th Annual Meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

- 32) As part of 20th anniversary celebrations, STAP together with the GEF Secretariat hosted an exhibit at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) held on February 16-20 2012 in Vancouver, Canada. The STAP Chair was also a speaker in one of the parallel sessions at this meeting.

Expanded Constituency Meetings

- 33) On behalf of STAP, the STAP Secretariat participated in the GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop (ECW) for Southern Africa and Central American countries, held 1-3 November, 2011, Cape Town South Africa, and for Central America, 6-8 March 2012 in San Jose, Costa Rica, respectively. The purpose of these ECWs is to strengthen the participants' knowledge on GEF key policies, the Evaluation Office's work, as well as support countries' skills in developing a project information form or PIF. For the second meeting, the STAP Secretariat was asked to illustrate how STAP reviews (screens) a PIF. The STAP presentation covered STAP's review of the project framework, definition of scientific baselines, global environmental benefits and ways to measure and monitor their outcomes, climate risks, and socioeconomic benefits.

March 2012 STAP Meeting – Planet Under Pressure Conference

- 34) The Spring 2012 STAP Meeting was held on the margins of the Planet Under Pressure Conference, 29-30 March, 2012. The agenda focused almost exclusively on receiving and assessing inputs on the work programme for FY13. In addition, two presentations were made by the GEF Evaluation Office to provide updates on the recent Quality at Entry review supported by STAP and preparations for OPS5. The meeting opened with a high-level segment, which included a key note address by UNEP Executive Director, Mr. Achim Steiner, followed by a facilitated Panel discussion on leveraging the Planet Under Pressure outcomes to inform the GEF Programme. The High-Level Panel consisted of Mr. Steiner, members of the STAP Panel (led by the STAP Chair as Panel facilitator), Georgina Mace (Chair of the Scientific Committee of DIVERSITAS), Joseph Alcamo (Chief Scientist, UNEP) and Sir Robert Watson (Chief Scientific Advisor Defra, UK, and former Chair of STAP).
- 35) A report covering the high level segment can be found at http://www.iisd.ca/ymb/gef/stap/2012/brief/stap2012_brief.html, while the advice on STAP workprogramme is reflected in the FY13 budget and narrative which is coming before this June 2012 Council meeting.

Resilience Workshop

- 36) As a contribution in response to the GEF Council decision from the 39th GEF Council Agenda Item 9: Evaluation of the Strategic Priority on Adaptation ([GEF/ME/C.39/4](#)), the STAP sought to assist the GEF Secretariat in elaborating the best modality to account for climate risks, climate resilience and adaptation in project development, through the development and implementation of climate resilience screening tools. Specifically, the STAP executed an interagency workshop on June 27, 2011, to review the conclusions of a STAP-commissioned review of existing tools and methods to integrate climate resilience/account for climate risks into project design; to assess the applicability and “fit for purpose” of existing tools; and to lay out a road map to implementing steps to satisfy Council requirements.
- 37) The STAP formally submitted a report to the 41st Meeting of the Council “Review of Tools to Assess the Impact of Climate Change Project Results and Sustainability” ([GEF.C.41.Inf.16](#)). In its recommendations, the report proposes a number of specific operational steps and features that a potential GEF climate risk and vulnerability screening tool could follow. These recommendations are based on the analysis and STAP's own judgment and assessment of existing practices/approaches among GEF agencies and other organizations. The report also reiterated that STAP remains at the disposition of the GEF Secretariat in the development of a climate risk and vulnerability screening tool should this assistance be sought. The STAP developed for its own use a prototype Climate Resilience Screen for use during its PIFs reviews. The STAP felt that this would help to further track how resilience was being incorporated into project design, and might provide some assistance to those interested in climate-proofing their projects. The STAP has been carrying out trial use of its screen since the PIF review of the November 2011 work programme. As of early 2012, the GEF Secretariat formed a small core team to address development of a corporate tool to help GEF Secretariat Focal Area Teams think about Climate Risks specific to their various portfolios and project types. The STAP has shared its own screening tool and other source references with the GEF Secretariat, which is driving this effort to develop a means of embedding resilience in the project cycle from development through implementation. Once a framework for assessing climate risk in the GEF portfolio is agreed, STAP will adopt this as part of their screening process.

ANNEX 1. STAP Work Program FY12 record of achievement

ACT. Nr.	Output / Product	Status
Corporate Activities		
C#1	Scientific/technical analysis of GEF portfolio in each GEF Work Program for GEF Council	Ongoing activity
C#3	Outreach and communication	<p>STAP took part at the Expanded Constituency Workshop (ECW) of the GEF in Belize, February 2011, and will participate in upcoming ECWs in South Africa and East Africa.</p> <p>STAP participated at the STAP participated and organized two side events at the Global Conference on Land-Ocean Connections (GLOC), Planet Under Pressure Conference (see below), World Oceans Summit, AAAS meetings, National Academies symposium, 16th meeting of CBD SBSTTA, and a submission has been made to Rio +20.</p> <p>STAP website is regularly updated to inform about new products and developments in the STAP. STAP is also updating its website.</p> <p>Development and design of STAP's publications was streamlined in STAP's operations and improved.</p>
C#5	Provision of advice on science and technology to impact evaluations conducted by GEF EO	STAP experts are collaborating on the implementation of this study. Final results are expected in June 2012.
C#6	Targeted Research modality revised and approved by the GEF Council	TOR for two complementary studies is drafted. Assessment of existing GEF TR projects is underway. Completion of the review is expected in June 2012, followed by preparation of a new or revised policy. Expected presentation to Council – Nov. 2012.
C#7	Planet Under Pressure Conference: Specific actions/decisions regarding improving role of science in GEF and the science of measuring/tracking GEBs	<p>The STAP has been involved in the preparation of the Biodiversity and Ecosystems Policy Brief, prepared by the Planet Under Pressure (PuP) process as a key input to the Rio+20 Conference in 2012.</p> <p>In addition, at the PuP Conference (March 26-29, 2012, London), the STAP co-organized two sessions during the conference: (i) "Tragedies and hopes of the global commons: Biodiversity, climate and the oceans as global benefits" in collaboration with DIVERSITAS and GEF Sec; and (ii) "Staying away from the edge: avoiding biophysical, ecological and social tipping points" in collaboration with DIVERSITAS. Work is completed.</p>
Cross Cutting/ Multi-focal Area Activities		
XC#4	Scientific guidance to GEF Project 3449 Carbon Benefits Project (CBP): Modeling, Measurement and Monitoring (UNEP/World Bank MSP)	UNEP and STAP held a one day meeting in October 2011 with the Carbon Benefits Project team. At the meeting, STAP provided an informal peer review of the suite of tools developed by Component A and Component B to measure above and below carbon. STAP also provided recommendations on how to strengthen the biodiversity, social, and economic indicators in Component B. As next steps, STAP may suggest suitable databases on biodiversity and socioeconomic to indicators to complement the current indicators in Component B. STAP also may develop a screening tool for ex-ante evaluation of multiple global environmental and

ACT. Nr.	Output / Product	Status
		social benefits. A follow up meeting will be held in September 2012 to peer review the final methodology.
XC#6	Science-based document on emerging chemicals in developing countries and policy advice for GEF-5 and beyond	This report has been completed and published for June 2012 Council. Note that there was preliminary sharing of findings and gathering of comments via side event at the SAICM Open-Ended Working Group Meeting, Belgrade, November, 2011, as well as a peer review by independent scientists.
XC#7	Promoting Climate Resilience in GEF Land Degradation, Biodiversity, SFM/REDD+ and CC/LULUCF, International Waters, and Chemicals Focal Area Projects and Programs for sustained flow of GEBs	Current activity competed, but additional work in future likely. STAP conducted a cross-focal area workshop and its report was presented for GEF November 2011 Council. The STAP also crafted a draft Resilience screen which they have been employing for PIF review since November 2011 work programme. In addition, since the start of 2012, the STAP Secretariat has been assisting and exchanging information with the GEF Secretariat to support the creation of a Resilience tool for use by the team there to highlight climate vulnerability ahead of CEO clearance of PIFs.
XC#9	Cross focal area advice on Sustainable Forest Management, REDD-plus, and LULUCF as a means to protect carbon stocks and reduce GHG emissions	Refer to XC#4
XC#11	Scientific advice to GEF and CBD SBSTTA on marine debris	Consultancy was commissioned and draft report prepared for CBD SBSTTA-16 available as UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/6 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/15. Final report will be revised and published in 2012 and presented for GEF Council in November 2012.
XC#12	Scientific advice to GEF on impacts of urbanization on the delivery of GEBs	This effort is being led by the Chemicals Panel Member, however a Programme Officer for Chemicals was only hired in September 2011. Thus to date there has been preliminary identification of the scope of work, issues to be covered, outreach to potential partners in the work, and identification of other critical partnerships to be made ahead of developing TORs for this work. An introductory white paper will likely be the first step ahead of delving into the details of urbanisation for each Focal Area of the GEF..
XC#13	STAP-CBD Technical Report (Advisory Document) on marine spatial planning	Consultancy was commissioned and draft report prepared for CBD SBSTTA-16 available as UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/7 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/18. Final report will be revised and published in 2012 and presented for GEF Council in November 2012.
Biodiversity		
BD#6	A case study methodology for application in GEF-5 for implementation of Learning Objectives in the BD Focal Area Strategy; Technical advice on the application of the case study methodology; and Analysis of the results of case studies.	Ongoing support as required. GEF Secretariat staff will approach STAP with requests to participate in these exercises as necessary.
BD#7	A review of the literature that synthesizes global experience with the following question: "What has been the impact of protected areas in GEF-recipient countries on human welfare in neighbouring communities, and under what circumstances has the impact been positive?"	A contract has been finalized with Bangor University in the UK to undertake this review. The study team is currently in the process of collecting and assessing the viability of available data. A draft report for peer review is expected in June, with final results to be tabled in a workshop

ACT. Nr.	Output / Product	Status
		in September 2012. The results will be presented to Council in November 2012.
BD#9	IPBES – Participation in planning group and plenary meetings; Participation in refining the terms of reference of individual assessments, contribution to specific assessments.	STAP continues to monitor and actively participate in this important initiative. As the final decision on modalities and substance have now been taken, STAP expects to provide assistance on future assessments, as well as to convey the interests of the GEF community with regard to the types of assessments that should be undertaken.
Climate Change		
CC#6	Methodology for measuring the GHG impact of energy efficiency and renewable energy GEF projects	Consultancy in progress, and a workshop to discuss interim results was organized in February 2012; work will be completed by July 2012, and the results will be presented to the next GEF Council session in Nov 2012
CC#7	Technical Report on climate change mitigation science	Draft technical report is prepared and is under revision. The draft report will be circulated for review and comment by the climate change task force. The final report will be submitted to Council in November of 2012 to assist in the formulation of GEF 6 strategies.
International Waters		
IW#6	Review paper on restoring healthy oceans. An overview and summary of recent work on assessing the role of restored/healthy oceans as a net carbon sink, including consideration of mangrove replanting, reducing hypoxic zones and geo-engineering options such as iron fertilization of the oceans with special reference to co-benefits including restoring fish and shellfish stocks	Discontinued
IW#7	Advice as member of IW Impact Study Technical Advisory Group Membership Scientific support to GEF-EO for IW Impact Study – South China Seas	This work is completed.
IW#8	Global Nitrogen Cycle: an improved understanding of the causes, impacts, and strategies to address global nitrogen cycle disruption is needed – to assist GEF Partners in providing more targeted and efficient support to countries to reverse ongoing trends.	TOR is drafted; STAP participation at the GLOC conference and discussion with partners; pending revision in STAP WP for FY13 – suggested for deletion
IW#10 (+BD)	Fisheries Certification	TOR is drafted; pending review by incoming IW Panel Member in collaboration with the BD Panel Member for inclusion in STAP WP FY13
Land Degradation		
LD#5	Advice on indicators to inform GEF investments in the land degradation focal area.	Throughout the last year, STAP worked closely with the UNCCD to refine UNCCD's set of impact indicators. The output of this exercise is a white paper discussing the findings of UNCCD's scientific community (including STAP) on the set of impact indicators and the conceptual framework. The white paper will form the basis of discussion on impact indicators at the UNCCD Conference of the Parties, October 2011. In July 2011, STAP also was asked to participate at a UNCCD workshop in Mexico City, Mexico, to work with a number of countries to pilot the impact indicators, and develop reporting mechanisms. The results of this workshop also were discussed at UNCCD's Conference of the Parties, October 2011.
LD#6	Advice on portfolio monitoring (Linked to: The	At the STAP meeting in October 2011, STAP

ACT. Nr.	Output / Product	Status
	GEF Policy on "Results-Based Management and Knowledge Management Work Plan for GEF-5")	began to assist the GEF Secretariat to strengthen the learning objectives of the land degradation focal area. During the next year, STAP will continue working closely with the GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies to help strengthen the land degradation portfolio monitoring, and its harmonization with the corporate results based management and knowledge management.
LD#7	Advice on organic matter and its role in carbon sequestration	On hold until the appointment of a new STAP member on land degradation.
LD#8	A scoping study on valuing land-based ecosystem services	The terms of reference are being drafted for this study on valuing land-based ecosystem services. On hold pending the arrival of the new Panel Member for Land Degradation.
Chemicals Management		
POPs#1	Practice guide on combustion and emerging non-combustion technologies for POPs in developing countries (consists of two parts).	This advisory document was published and presented at the November 2011 Council.
POPs#4²	Advisory Document on POPs monitoring and measurements	This has a delivery timeline of June 2013, and with the September 1, 2011 arrival of a STAP Secretariat Chemicals Focal point, work has begun to see how best to collate the material already in hand into the advisory document.