



GEF

Global Environment Facility

GEF/C.18/12

November 5, 2001

GEF Council
December 5-7, 2001
Agenda Item 5

**PROGRESS REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF UNEP ON THE RECONSTITUTION OF STAP**

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having reviewed the *Progress Report of the Executive Director of UNEP on the Reconstitution of STAP* (GEF/C.18/12), expresses its appreciation to UNEP for the efforts that it has made in establishing a Search Committee to recommend candidates to become members of STAP during its third term and for the progress achieved to date. The Council looks forward to receiving UNEP's recommendations as to the composition of STAP III for review and approval at the Council meeting in May 2002. In this regard, the Council agrees that the number of STAP members should be increased from twelve to fifteen to accommodate the new emerging areas being addressed by the GEF.

1. “*The Instrument for 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”.

2. “*The Terms of Reference of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP): Mandate, Composition and Role*” approved by the GEF Council in October 1995 states that “The Executive Director of UNEP, in consultation with UNDP, the World Bank and the GEF Secretariat, shall appoint the members of STAP and shall also designate a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson”. The tenure of the current STAP will expire at the end of FY02 (June 2001) and as a consequence the new STAP’s term of office will commence at the beginning of FY03 (July 2002) for a period of four years.

3. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to the Executive Director of UNEP in “*The Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructure Global Environment Facility*” and in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer/Chairman of the GEF and other Heads of Implementing Agencies and the Executive Director established the Search Committee for the Reconstitution of STAP III in November 2000. In establishing the Search Committee, the Executive Director emphasized the reconstitution process be guided by need to learn from the lessons of the last constitution, and ensure a minimum of continuity based on an objective evaluation of the performance of an equitable geographical representation, gender balance of the new STAP and the principle of geographical rotation was highlighted.

4. In accordance with past practice, the Search Committee comprises the representatives of the GEF Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies. The 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) and the Third World Academy of Science (TWAS) are also closely involved in the work of the mandate of the Search Committee.

5. In accordance with the guidelines contained in the “*Terms of Reference of the STAP: Mandate, Composition and Role,*” a number of principles guided the work of the Search Committee.

- (a) Recognized leadership in applied science or technology in the GEF focal areas of Biological Diversity, Climate Change, International Waters, and Ozone Depletion, as well as Land Degradation as it relates to the four focal areas and with an ability to address the economic, social and policy dimensions of science or technology;
- (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 Agencies, particularly in the context of Programme and project development and implementation;
- (e) Extent to which experts are involved with networks of their scientific and technical peers, including knowledge about the scientific processes required for the implementation of relevant conventions in developing countries and familiarity with relevant international assessments; and
- (f) Continuity in the membership of STAP.

6. To-date, three meetings of the Search Committee have been convened. The organisation session of the Search Committee held on 19 March, 2001, in New York was attended by the Executive Director of UNEP. He stressed the importance attached to the consultative process between all GEF partners regarding the reconstitution of STAP.

7. On the procedure and timetable for the presentation of nominees, it was agreed that the GEF Secretariat and Implementing Agencies, through their officially designated representatives on the Search Committee would submit nominations to be considered by the Search Committee. The Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies of the Convention for which the GEF serves as the financial mechanism, namely, the Chair of SBSTA of UNFCCC; the Chair of SBSTTA of CBD; the Chair of the Committee of Science and Technology of UNFCCC, the Chair of the Intergovernmental Committee on the Cartagena Biosafety Protocol and the Chair of the INC of the POP Convention, as well as the representatives of the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) were also invited to nominations.

8. The meeting also agreed, after consultation with the Executive Director of UNEP and the CEO/Chairman of the GEF on the need to recommend the increase of the number of STAP members from twelve to fifteen to accommodate the new emerging areas being addressed by the GEF, namely, persistent organic pollutants, land degradation and biosafety. It was also agreed that the Executive Director would include this proposal in his progress report on the reconstitution of STAP for GEF III to the 18th Session of the GEF Council to be held in December 2001.

9. On the issue of rotation of STAP members, the Committee noted the technical difficulties associated with the implementation of such a proposal, and agreed to give the issue further consideration at subsequent meetings of the Committee.

10. The Committee also agreed to ensure continuity between the STAP III and past STAPs (including the current STAP). In this regard, the meeting recommended that a joint meeting between the incoming and outgoing STAP be held in June 2002 followed by the GEF familiarization seminar for the new members with the participation of the GEF Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies.

11. The Second Meeting of the Search Committee was convened on 26 June, 2001 via teleconference. The meeting focused primarily on a preliminary review of the seventy-two nominations received and agreed that further nominations would be received until 15 August, 2001.
12. The Committee agreed that, in addition to the criteria for the selection process outlined in the *“Terms of Reference of STAP, Mandate, Composition and Role”* approved by the GEF Council in October 1995, considerations should be given in the first instance to persons nominated by more than one agency; and to those with expertise in more than one focal area given the importance of the interface between the various focal areas. In addition, it was emphasized that in new STAP members should have sufficient scientific stature to be credible in international scientific fora.
13. On the basis of the criteria for selection, the Committee agreed that, of the list of potential candidates, a priority list of twenty should be prepared for further consideration at the next meeting of the Search Committee. All the other candidates would be contained in a reserve list.
14. The Third Meeting of the Search Committee was held on 17 September, 2001 in Paris, France with the participation of the chairs of the subsidiary bodies of the GEF related conventions. The meeting focused primarily on determining a short list of potential candidates for STAP III. The representatives from the Subsidiary Bodies of the Conventions and the scientific community who attended the meeting highlighted a number of priorities which the Committee should take into consideration in the selection process. They emphasized the need to have good representation from developing countries and ensuring that the criterion of excellence is maintained while at the same time being cognizant of the need for experts that have practical experience in the areas being addressed by the GEF
15. The Committee agreed on a short list for further consideration.. In analyzing the nominations, the Committee was guided by the criteria for the selection process outlined in the *“Terms of Reference of STAP, Mandate, Composition and Role”* approved by the GEF Council in 1995. In addition, an analysis was done of the countries which have been represented in previous STAPs.
16. A final meeting of the search committee will be held in early 2002. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to him by the Instrument, the Executive Director, in consultation with the CEO and the others Heads of Agencies will submit the recommended composition of STAP III for review and approval by the GEF Council at its May 2002 meeting.