



Global Environment Facility

GEF/C.23/Inf.15
May 6, 2004

GEF Council
May 19-21, 2004

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY PANEL (STAP)
OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

MARCH 2-5, 2004, WASHINGTON, D.C.

(Prepared by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel)

**Minutes of the Fourth Meeting of the Scientific
and Technical Advisory Panel III to the Global
Environment Facility (GEF)
2-5 March 2004, in Washington, DC**

STAP Secretariat

1. The fourth meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel III (STAP) to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) was held 2-5 March 2004, in UNEP's offices at 1707 H Street, NW, Washington DC. The main business was to discuss the draft STAP report on interlinkages between the GEF focal areas. The meeting was preceded by and concluded with closed meetings of the Panel. In addition, working group meetings were held with the GEF Secretariat, UNEP, UNDP and the World Bank (the Implementing Agencies); and a brainstorming session on knowledge management was held on the last afternoon. The outcomes from the closed Panel and working group meetings are recorded in these minutes.

Interlinkages

2. The meeting was formally opened by Julia Carabias, the Chair of STAP, who welcomed representatives of the GEF Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies (IAs) to the fourth meeting of STAP III. She explained that the principal business would be to produce a second draft of the Interlinkages report by the end of the meeting, working in conjunction with the GEF Secretariat and the IAs; this would emphasise the opportunities for exploiting interlinkages, the obstacles to doing so, and conclude with recommendations.
3. Habiba Gitay, the STAP Vice Chair, made a presentation introducing the first draft of the STAP report, "Opportunities for global gain: exploiting the interlinkages between the focal areas of the GEF."
4. Ken King, Deputy CEO and Chief Operating Officer, GEF, drew attention to the possible need to refocus focal areas towards thinking about, for example, landscapes, which might have implications for the organisation of the GEF's business: he also said it would be important to distinguish between strong and weak interlinkages. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Assistant Executive Director and Director DGEF, UNEP, speaking on behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP, welcomed the STAP interlinkage initiative. He stated that it will complement the UNEP's Science Initiative, which includes an interlinkage component. He informed the participants that the UNEP's Global Environment Outlook IV which will be released in 2007 will focus on

interlinkage. The outline of the UNEP's Science Initiative was distributed to the participants. Frank Pinto, Executive Coordinator, UNDP, welcomed STAP's interest in interlinkages and said there needed to be a clear distinction between: whether STAP's advice was a multi focal area project tool or for inter-sectoral policy responses; whether the advice was for project design, or about monitoring and evaluation; and whether the outcome would be a "screening tool"/check list, or something more prescriptive. Bob Watson, Chief Scientist, and Director of the Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development Network, World Bank, made a number of points: the advice needed to be made more operational ("how to do it?" as well as "why?"), with the implications of the major interlinkages drawn out for their operational implications; the evolution of the GEF (section 2) should include missed opportunities, as well as successes; it would be very important to get the advice "right", rather than to meet a deadline; the interventions should also include adaptation and POPs; at present the draft was too terrestrial and climate centric; the advice needed to be made relevant to the GEF, and to complement UNEP's work on interlinkages; and he supported the inclusion of recommendations.

5. There followed a 2 ½ hour wide-ranging discussion (not recorded) which concluded with those present dividing into a number of working groups on: how the GEF operates, and how it has evolved to consider interlinkages in project design (section 2 of the draft report); and to consider the development of a "screening framework"/design tool inter alia for protected areas (terrestrial, marine and coastal), ecosystem management (adaptation to climate, restoration and rehabilitation of arid and semi-arid regions, forested ecosystems, inland wetlands), renewable energy (biofuels, small hydro), energy efficiency (both production and consumption), transportation, international waters (water body, and demonstration projects), and persistent organic pollutants (POPs) (stock pile disposal and vector control).
6. Working groups met throughout Tuesday afternoon (2 March) and all-day Wednesday (3 March). A second draft of the report interlinkages was distributed, and discussed on Friday (5 March) with the GEF Secretariat and IAs; this included a revised section on a design tool for addressing interlinkages. There was general

agreement that STAP's work was highly relevant and could be very useful, but it was recognised that a great deal of work remained to be done.

7. At the conclusion of this discussion the Panel decided that STAP's advice would be presented at the November GEF Council (previously May), and consequently the High Level Meeting, with the heads of the GEF Secretariat, IAs and Executive Secretaries of the Conventions, scheduled for 27 April in New York, should be deferred. The Panel also decided on the next steps and timetable (circulated separately) which includes a STAP Members' small writing group meeting (14-16 April in Washington). [Note: it was subsequently decided that to maintain the momentum the High Level Meeting would go ahead as planned on 27 April, and that there would be an all-STAP writing group meeting on interlinkages, 16-18 May in Washington, DC.]
8. Habiba Gitay (STAP Vice-chair) said that at its next meeting in October STAP should consider an outreach and communications strategy for its work on interlinkages.

Reports

9. Ken King (GEF) gave an overview of the GEF's operations, mentioning in particular, knowledge management (on which there was a separate STAP/GEF brainstorming session), the GEF's strategic priorities, the private sector review, the arrangements for the third Overall Performance Study (OPS3), the local benefits study (a presentation on this was made at the meeting) and POPs.
10. Ahmed Djoghlaif (UNEP) reported that Rules of Procedure had been developed for STAP, which the Chair, Vice-chair and two other Panel members (Anjali Shanker and Brian Huntley) had discussed with the Executive Director. He would welcome advice from STAP Members about experts who might form part of a technical advisory panel on biosafety which UNEP was establishing.

11. Frank Pinto (UNDP) invited STAP members, who were able to do so, to participate in UNDP field visits: Members said they would be happy to be involved but stressed the importance of adequate notice. He also welcomed STAP's forthcoming advice on non-combustion technologies for POPs, and suggested that it would be useful if STAP were to be more involved with IW Learn.
12. Bob Watson (World Bank) made a presentation on a forthcoming PDF B project proposal for an "International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development" which was supported by all three IAs. He invited informal comments from STAP members by Friday 13 March. (The proposal was circulated to STAP Members on 8 March and comments submitted.) If the project were treated as targeted research then it would be submitted to the STAP Research Committee for a formal review in due course.
13. Julia Carabias (STAP Chair) outlined the deliverables which STAP planned to deliver by June 2004. These were:
 - new guidance on reducing the long-term costs of low greenhouse gas-emitting technologies (OP 7)
 - non-combustion technologies for the destruction and decontamination of POPs
 - bioindicators, biomarkers and analytical methods for POPs in developing countries
 - best practices in the restoration and rehabilitation of drylands
 - an environmental risk assessment of *Bt* maize in Kenya
 - strategic priorities in groundwater management
 - targeted research in natural protected areas

Focal area working group meetings

14. There were brief reports back from the focal area working group meetings.

Climate change:

- the OP7 brainstorming report would be shortened, with the executive summary and more punchy recommendations brought up front: a revised draft would be circulated for comment.
- STAP stood by its earlier conclusions on OTEC, but would prepare a note supporting a new assessment provided the bulk of the support came from those countries (Japan and the US) pushing the technology.
- the terms of reference for biofuels (liquids) workshop would be decided in the light of a forthcoming World Bank study: the workshop would be held in conjunction with the October STAP meeting.

Land degradation:

- a first draft of the best practices in the restoration and rehabilitation of drylands would be produced by a small writing group meeting on 22-23 April, in Washington DC.
- a revised concept note on the “Assessment of technologies and socioeconomic factors influencing land management and food production in drylands” would be circulated by 31 March.

POPs:

- a draft report on the non-combustion workshop was circulated and discussed: STAP’s advice would be submitted to the May GEF Council.
- a draft report on the bioindicators and biomarkers workshop was discussed, again with advice to the May Council..
- a paper on POPs capacity building in developing countries, by Xu Xiao-bai, was discussed, and will be useful for future IA capacity building project proposals.

Biodiversity:

- a foreword to an environmental risk assessment of *Bt* maize in Kenya would be circulated shortly (Anne Kapuscinski and Peter Schei). A second volume, on *Bt* cotton in Brazil, was in preparation. And it was proposed to hold a STAP workshop on transgenic fish during 2005.

- a workshop on mainstreaming biodiversity would be held in Cape Town in September 2004.
- Julia Carabias and Cristian Samper were preparing a paper on Targeted Research in Protected Areas.

International waters:

- a STAP/UNESCO workshop on strategic options and priorities in groundwater resources would be held in Paris in April.
- an inventory of case studies on upstream/downstream linkages would be prepared, after further consultation with the IAs.
- a framework for a GEF targeted research strategy will be discussed at the October 2004 STAP meeting.
- a targeted research proposal on monitoring coastal pollution, including POPs, by Alexei Maximov, would be sent to UNEP for consideration.

14. It was agreed that in future there would be merit in ensuring greater participation of STAP members in focal area working groups outside of their particular responsibilities.

Targeted research

16. Cristian Samper (STAP Member) reported that in the working group on biodiversity it had become apparent that a number of project proposals contained elements of targeted research, but had not been labeled as such. Some of these might have more properly been subject to a formal review by the Research Committee, chaired by the STAP chair.

17. It was agreed that:

- i. the STAP Secretariat and the GEF Secretariat would establish a procedure to ensure that in future Panel Members were alerted to such projects at an early stage; and
- ii. the agenda for the next meeting of STAP in October should include Targeted Research, for a discussion on both procedures and philosophy.

Budget

18. A paper, "FY04 Financial Highlights" prepared by Sandeep Bhambra, Financial Management Officer, DGEF/UNEP was noted. And a paper by the STAP Secretariat on STAP's FY04 forecast budget expenditure (to end June 2004), showing that about \$200,000 remained unallocated, was also noted. [Note: additional commitments agreed after the STAP meeting reduced this amount to about \$175,000.]

Presentations

19. During Friday (5 March) lunchtime three presentations were made:
 - i. an update on the GEF's monitoring and evaluation by Jarle Harstad (GEF M&E Unit);
 - ii. on the "Local Benefits Study" by David Todd and Lee Risby (GEF M&E Unit), who invited STAP Members to consider participating in field work; and
 - iii. on Knowledge Management in UNDP's Small Grants Programme by Carmen Tavera (UNDP).

Date of the next meeting

20. This will be 6-8 October in Washington DC, in conjunction with a STAP workshop on biofuels.

Knowledge Management

21. The STAP meeting was followed by a STAP/GEF Secretariat brainstorming session on knowledge management.

Those attending (throughout or in part)

STAP Members

Julia Carabias, Chair

Habiba Gitay, Vice Chair

Dennis Anderson

Peter Hennicke

Brian Huntley

Saleem Huq

Anne Kapuscinski

Alexei Maximov

Leonard Nurse

Cristian Samper

Anjali Shanker

Shinsuke Tanabe

Tim Williams

Xu Xiao-bai

(Apologies for absence were received from Peter Schei, who was unable to attend because of illness.)

GEF Secretariat

Len Good, CEO and Chairman, GEF

Ken King, Deputy CEO, GEF

Ramesh Ramankutty, Executive Coordinator

Boni Biagini

Gonzalo Castro

Al Duda

Laurent Granier

Sara Grasland
Jarle Harstad
Kanta Kumari
Andrea Kutter
Walter Lusigi
Andrea Merla
Claudio Volante
Christine Woerlen

UNEP

Ahmed Djoghlaif, Assistant Executive Director, UNEP/GEF
Sandeep Bhambra
Kristin McLaughlin
Neil Pratt
Anna Tengberg

UNDP

Frank Pinto, GEF Executive Coordinator
Bo Lim, Senior Technical Adviser and Leader, Capacity Development and Adaptation
Cluster, UNDP/GEF
Miaryam Niamir-Fuller, Senior Technical Adviser and Leader, Land Degradation
Cluster, UNDP/GEF
Carmen Tavera, Deputy Global Manager, GEF Small Grants Programme, UNDP/GEF

World Bank

Bob Watson, Chief Scientist and Director of the Environmentally and Socially
Sustainable Development Network
Marea Hatziolos
Kathy McKinnon

STAP Secretariat

Christopher Whaley, STAP Secretary

Anne-Marie Verbeken, Programme Officer

Guadalupe Durón, Assistant Programme Officer

Nusaiba Jackson, Administrative Assistant

Clayton Adams, Administrative Assistant