



Global Environment Facility

Summary of Document GEF/C.31/4

Proposal of the Executive Director of UNEP on Enhancing the Impact of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel

Recommended Council Decision

The Council reviewed the *Proposal of the Executive Director of UNEP on Enhancing the Impact of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel* (document GEF/C.31/4) and approves the revised Terms of Reference for the STAP presented in the annex to the document. In particular, the Council agrees that:

- (a) STAP should develop and maintain a broader global network of scientific and technical expertise;
- (b) STAP should provide more effective strategic advice at both the programmatic and project level;
- (c) 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; and
- (d) the STAP Secretariat should be strengthened, within the approved budget, to deliver more effective operational advice and support to the Panel.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in consultation with the Members of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), proposes changes to the structure and functioning of the STAP. These changes respond to the findings of recent evaluations, decisions by the GEF Council and discussions held within the STAP.

2. The proposed revised Terms of Reference for the STAP (Annex 1) reflect these changes, which are aimed at increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the operations of the STAP and the delivery of scientific and technical advice to the GEF.

3. Key issues considered include the need to make the STAP's advice more strategic, timely and effective, together with necessary changes to enable Panel members and the STAP Secretariat to support these re-defined expectations.
4. In considering a response to the new challenges in GEF-4 and looking ahead to GEF-5, UNEP took into account STAP's track record of advice – including the effective advice provided on sustainable transport, liquid biofuels, and land degradation.
5. UNEP proposes that the STAP, on behalf of the GEF, develops and maintains a broader network of global scientific and technical expertise, using the most appropriate mechanisms, including but not limited to memoranda of understanding with scientific institutions in the public and private sectors.
6. Building upon previously agreed and implemented changes, and to improve the level of strategic advice provided to the GEF Council, UNEP proposes that the number of Members appointed to the Panel be reduced from 15 to 6 members, including the Chair, and that each Member be contracted for a longer period. UNEP would use the consequent cost savings to enable the Panel to engage with networks of scientific institutions as indicated above. Due to the additional operational duties implied by the proposed changes it is proposed that the STAP Secretariat be strengthened by adding one professional post.
7. With regard to the new GEF Project Cycle, UNEP recommends that the STAP focuses on: (i) the provision of advice on the scientific rationale for new Strategic Programs; (ii) the review of the scientific rationale of existing Strategic Programs; (iii) the provision of tools for screening project concepts for scientific and technical soundness and oversight of the screening process, and (iv) the provision of advice on project development on a selective basis.
8. UNEP will work with the STAP to set targets and deliverables and identify indicators that will enable the Panel to measure improvements in its performance