



# Global Environment Facility

GEF/C.31/Inf.6  
May 17, 2007

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GEF Council Meeting  
June 12-15, 2007

## NOTE ON THE NEW STAP ROSTER AND UPDATE ON THE REVISED PROCEDURE FOR THE SELECTION OF STAP ROSTER REVIEWERS

**(Prepared by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel)**



## Note on the New STAP Roster and Update on the Revised Procedure for the Selection of STAP Roster Reviewers

May 2007

### Introduction

1. At its October 2003 meeting, the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) agreed to review the STAP Roster expertise, and establish a new Roster after each replenishment of the GEF. This would help ensure the Roster expertise is up-to-date, and aligned with the project review needs of the current GEF phase.
2. The following note describes the process STAP undertook to establish a new Roster, and describes broadly the Roster composition.
3. The note also briefly reports on the implementation of the revised procedures for the selection of STAP Roster reviewers, a decision welcomed by the GEF Council in June 2006, which also requested STAP to report back to the Council on its implementation.

### Roster

4. In 2006, the GEF trust fund was replenished by its donor countries. STAP set out subsequently to establish a new Roster based on two aspects:
  - a) a review by the STAP Secretariat, which identified the expertise needs in GEF-4 according to the strategic objectives outlined in the replenishment document “Revised Programming Document for GEF-4 (GEF/R.4/33); and,
  - b) the selection criteria for Roster experts ([www.unep.org/stapgef](http://www.unep.org/stapgef)).
5. An announcement for specific Roster expertise was placed in several list-serves, key organization websites, and distributed amongst the GEF and STAP partners. This approach responded to STAP’s agreement, at its April 2006 meeting, to a call for an expression of interest for reconstituting the Roster. This would enable STAP to broaden its search for qualified experts beyond its own networks, and those of its partners.
6. After assessing the qualifications of nearly 400 experts, STAP established a new Roster in April 2007. The Roster lists 347 names:
  - Biodiversity -104 names
  - Climate Change - 83
  - International Waters - 83
  - Land Degradation - 41
  - Persistent organic pollutants (POPs)- 36

7. They include experts re-appointed from the previous Roster, STAP's nominations, GEF Agencies' nominations, and candidates who responded to the announcement. Thirty-eight percent of Roster experts are nationals from developing countries.
8. In establishing a new Roster, STAP also addressed a number of expertise gaps, including the following:
  - Biodiversity - forest ecosystems, invasive species, marine biodiversity, payment for ecosystem services.
  - Climate Change – sustainable transport, adaptation (adaptation and SIDS, climate change and coastal zone management, vulnerability and adaptation), energy efficiency (technologies).
  - International Waters – integrated water resource management, coral reefs, SIDS, transboundary water management, waters, large marine ecosystems, coastal zone management.
  - Land Degradation –sustainable land management, desertification, agroforestry, land rehabilitation, land use change.
  - POPs - PCBs management, disease vector control / integrated vector management, POPs pesticides / integrated pest management, Best available technologies (BAT)/ Best environmental practices (BEP).
9. Apart from reconstituting the Roster every four years, STAP continually updates the expertise to ensure the evolving GEF Agencies' project needs are addressed.

### **Revised procedures for the STAP Roster Review**

10. In response to a GEF Council request for STAP to strengthen the independence and transparency of the STAP Roster and the experts' reviews of projects, STAP tabled a proposal in June 2006 whereby STAP would select at least three Roster reviewers for each project concept (GEF/C.28/Inf.5). At its meeting in June 2006, the GEF Council welcomed this change in the Roster procedures, and asked STAP to report on its implementation (Joint Summary of the Chairs, June 2006).
11. Since June 2006, STAP was asked to identify reviewers for six full-sized projects proposed for the June 2007 work program (refer to Table 1).<sup>1</sup> For all six projects, the Agency took-up STAP's recommendation on its preferred choice of reviewer. However, for one of these projects, STAP recommended two reviewers for "Adaptation to Climate Change through Effective Water Governance in Ecuador", earmarked under the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF). Two reviewers were recommended due to the cross-cutting nature of the project, but the Agency opted to use one reviewer. At its February 2007 meeting, STAP further noted that it would likely continue to recommend two reviewers for adaptation projects due to their complexity, and cross-cutting themes. Specific terms of reference for

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<sup>1</sup> The pipeline scheduled for November 2006 was cancelled by the GEF CEO and Chairperson; therefore, STAP did not identify reviewers at the concept stage.

reviews of SCCF projects were also recently drawn-up by STAP (refer to [www.unep.org/stapgef](http://www.unep.org/stapgef)).

**Table 1 – STAP Selection of Project Reviewers for Work Program June 2007**

| Project Title  | Agency               | Country      | *STAP's response time | Outcome  |
|--|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Climate Change</b>  |                      |              |                       |  |
| Urban Transport Development Strategy Partnership and Demonstration Program   | World Bank           | China        | 6 days                | STAP identified 3 reviewers, and proposed using 1 reviewer. Agency used STAP's 1st choice of reviewer. |
| Sustainable Public Transport and Sport: A 2010 Opportunity   | UNDP                 | South Africa | 6 days                | Ditto.   |
| Adaptation to Climate Change through effective water governance -- SCCF  | UNDP                 | Ecuador      | 8 days                | STAP identified 6 reviewers, and proposed using 2 reviewers. Agency used 1 reviewer.                   |
| <b>International Waters</b>  |                      |              |                       |  |
| Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem   | UNEP<br>UNIDO<br>FAO | Regional     | 7 days                | STAP identified 3 reviewers, and proposed using 1 reviewer. Agency used STAP's 1st choice of reviewer. |
| <b>Land Degradation</b>  |                      |              |                       |  |
| Strategic Investment Program for SLM in Sub-Saharan Africa   | World Bank           | Regional     | 4 days                | Ditto.   |
| <b>POPs</b>  |                      |              |                       |  |
| Demonstration of Sustainable Alternatives to DDT and Strengthening of National Vector Control Capabilities in MENA | UNEP                 | Regional     | 20 days               | Ditto.   |

\* The number of days is calculated from the date the request was received to the date STAP replied. It includes working days only.

## Conclusion

12. STAP will continue to be responsible for the present version of the Roster - its expertise and reconstitution – as well as the Roster reviews, their quality and independence, until further reform of STAP and the project cycle are agreed by the GEF Council.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> A UNEP proposal on STAP's revised terms of reference and a GEF Secretariat proposal on the project cycle will be submitted to the GEF Council in June 2007. The proposals include reforms on STAP's role in the project cycle.