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Agenda Item 6

REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY PANEL (STAP) TO THE GEF COUNCIL

(Prepared by STAP)

Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, administered by UNEP, advises the Global Environment Facility

Report of the Chairperson of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) to the GEF Council

GEF/C.40/Inf.13

Introduction

1) Through its report to the GEF Council, the STAP Chair provides an update on STAP's achievements, its progress on implementing the work program, and highlights a number of recommendations it wishes to raise to the Council's attention. The report covers the period since STAP's last address to the Council in November 2010 until the present. The Report comprises:

   - Recommendations to the Council
   - STAP's project cycle activities
   - STAP's Work Program for FY12
   - Liaison with Conventions
   - Collaboration with the GEF Evaluation Office
   - Outcomes of the STAP Meeting in March 2011 and progress achieved against decisions of the October 2010 STAP Meeting

2) The Council also is referred to the following STAP advisory documents presented at the May 2011 Council meeting – and outlined in the sections below.

   - Hypoxia and Nutrient Reduction in the Coastal Zone
   - Selection of Persistent Organic Pollutant Disposal Technology for GEF Projects
   - Manual for Calculating GHG Benefits of GEF Transportation Projects[1]
   - Defining Marine Debris as a Global Environmental Priority

3) **Recommendations to the GEF Council**

The GEF has been at the forefront of many recent successes to slow, or reverse, negative environmental trends, and support positive trends. The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, supported by the GEF, is arguably the world's most successful multilateral environmental agreement. The extent of protected landscapes and seascapes has doubled over the past 20 years from 9 to 18 million square kilometres, and the GEF can rightly claim much of the credit for creating the conditions necessary for much of this change – particularly in developing countries.

STAP notes that most environmental trends are increasingly exponential and complex in nature, often with unpredictable interactions as a consequence. These trends may undermine current achievements, and exacerbate ongoing environmental challenges along with inequities with respect to human well being and prosperity. STAP further suggests that the Council consider how we shift GEF programs from supporting incremental achievements to truly transformational change.

As the GEF Partnership celebrates 20 years and the world prepares for the Rio +20 event next year, STAP encourages the GEF Council to reflect on achievements over the past two decades. More importantly, STAP would like to draw the Council's attention to the vision of Agenda 21 and

[1] http://hqweb.unep.org/stap/Publications/AdvisoryProductsofSTAP/ManualforCalculatingGHGBenefits/tabid/52256/Default.aspx

the significant work which remains to support the transition to environmental sustainability, along with shared prosperity and well being. As we begin to look forward, a number of issues[2] for possible consideration are suggested as follows:

- Ensuring food safety and food security for 9 billion
- Addressing the impending collapse of marine ecological systems
- Transforming the global economy to a green economy
- Reconnecting science and policy
- Addressing urban sustainability and resilience

4) **Hypoxia and Nutrient Reduction in the Coastal Zone**

Large and increasing environmental pressure is placed on coastal ecosystems from multiple resource use, rapid economic development, population growth, land and sea-based pollution and climate change. Ultimately, these pressures are leading to an increase of nutrients and other pollutants from the land and atmosphere into coastal zones. A major symptom of these environmental pressures is the exponential rise in the number of coastal areas suffering from low oxygen, or hypoxia. In each of the last five decades, the number of known hypoxic coastal and estuarine areas has doubled. More than 500 areas are now ecologically critically threatened by hypoxia, many of increasing annual duration and severity. The majority of the world's large marine ecosystems supported by the GEF are subject to one or more hypoxic areas. Recognizing the increasing threats from hypoxia, the GEF Secretariat and Agencies requested STAP to review the current knowledge of coastal hypoxia, its causes and lessons learned from GEF and other investments in prevention and remediation, and develop recommendations on how to prevent and remediate the growing problem.

Although the GEF International Waters is the lead focal area addressing hypoxia, hypoxia also can impact the delivery of global environmental benefits in biodiversity, climate change, and sustainable land management. For example, hypoxia can impact the sustainability of marine protected areas – a GEF biodiversity objective. Equally, hypoxia changes coastal carbon sequestration, and leads to increased emissions; thereby, influencing the GEF climate change objective to conserve and enhance carbon stocks through sustainable management of land use, land-use change. Hypoxia also affects the objectives of the land degradation portfolio, or alternatively land management interventions can play a remediation role.

Coastal hypoxia results from nutrient overloading of the waters generated originally by increased nutrient inputs, compounded by coastal water circulation and biochemical conditions Thus, the compelling scientific and technical evidence is that the GEF, and its investment partners, should urgently escalate their support to nutrient reduction. Among its recommendations, STAP encourages that all GEF large marine ecosystem projects examine the current knowledge on coastal hypoxia in that context, and establish monitoring, prevention, and remediation programs if these are not already in place. STAP's advice is detailed further in its advisory document "Hypoxia and Nutrient Reduction in the Coastal Zone". The full report will be put forward to the GEF Council at their next meeting in November 2011. A summary report, along with recommendations for the GEF on prevention and remediation of coastal hypoxia, is provided in information document GEF/C.40/Inf.15.

5) **POPs Disposal Technology**

Parties to the Stockholm Convention are obligated to carry out environmentally sound elimination of stockpiles persistent organic pollutants and waste products through destruction, or irreversible

[2] Foresight Process – UNEP, Office of the Chief Scientist (draft results, May 2011)

transformation. Stockpiles disposal is a priority component of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) of the Convention Parties. In 2003/4, STAP produced an advisory guidance document for the GEF that reviewed currently available non-combustion technologies for POPs disposal. The GEF, as the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention, is increasingly funding projects on POPs disposal.

The new STAP advisory document is based on the Basel Convention technical guidelines on POPs management. This includes disposal requirements and applicable combustion and non-combustion technologies; reviews and technology data sheets; and other technology reviews maintained by the Basel Convention and other organizations. The STAP advisory document aims to address general requirements and considerations applicable for selection of POPs disposal technologies and to place disposal of POPs stockpiles and waste within a broader context of sound chemicals and waste management.

The document advocates a systemic approach to destruction and irreversible transformation of POPs waste in an environmentally sound manner, and argues that in any POPs disposal project the availability of technology is not a limiting factor, although the practical ability to assemble and deploy specific technologies in developing countries, and countries with economies in transition may be. A summary is provided in the Council document GEF/C.40/Inf.16, and a full report will be available during the November 2011 Council meeting.

The advisory document includes five major considerations to define the choice and implementation of POPs disposal technology:

- Make certain any technology chosen meets performance requirements
- Ensure similar disposal standards exist in all countries
- Make sure that the systems employed leading up to destruction are carefully vetted
- Provide safeguards to assure environmentally sound management throughout
- Integrate economic viability with technical feasibility

6) **Manual for Calculating GHG Benefits of GEF Transportation Projects**

STAP is presenting the final printed and electronic editions of the Manual for Calculating GHG Benefits of GEF Transportation Projects. A summary of this document was presented at the last Council Meeting as Information Document GEF/C.39/Inf.16. The Manual was revised by a professional editor and designer and updated with new transportation models. It is also available on STAP's website to download[3].

7) **Resilience and Climate Adaptation**

In the GEF, the primary benefit of incorporating climate change resilience considerations in projects is to avoid climate risks and ensure the sustainability of Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) from GEF investments. There is increasingly convincing evidence of climate change risks to Global Environmental Benefits potentially impacting the realization of GEF Focal Area Objectives. STAP previously made a number of recommendations in this regard (please refer to information document GEF/C.39/inf.18) based on assessments of recent scientific literature and a consultation workshop. In effect, it is proposed that climate change risk assessment and resilience measures should be mainstreamed throughout GEF-5 and in the project cycle. Similar recommendations also were made in recent reports from the Evaluation Office.

STAP has also recommended a role for an independent scientific review of the LDCF/SCCF portfolio – along with the development of an investigative agenda to address key gaps in the existing knowledge base on adaptation. Cognizant of these recommendations, a proposal has been put forth to the LDCF/SCCF Council to consider expanding the current STAP Advisory Panel

[3] http://hqweb.unep.org/stap/Publications/AdvisoryProductsofSTAP/ManualforCalculatingGHGBenefits/tabid/52256/Default.aspx

to include a member on Adaptation (please refer to GEF/LDCF.SCCF.10/5). In coordination with other STAP Members, it is proposed that the member for Adaptation should:

- Review the scientific rationale and technical validity of all LDCF/SCCF full size projects in the context of climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation
- Provide strategic advice on LDCF/SCCF strategies and policies as required
- Advise on project or program development on a selective basis at the invitation of Agencies
- Help design and implement approaches to test the Adaptation Learning Objectives – and in conjunction with the Secretariat and Agencies, undertake analysis of at least one of these per year
- Assist in developing impact and vulnerability profiles for global environmental benefits that can be applied across all three trust funds
- Assist in further refining and increasing the precision of the Adaptation Monitoring and Assessment Tool

8) **Marine Debris in Coastal and Open Ocean Environments**

Recent studies indicate that marine debris concentrations are becoming increasingly prominent both in coastal areas and the open ocean. The largest known open ocean example is located in the North Pacific Convergence Zone, covering an estimated area of 270,000 km^2 and perhaps much larger. These areas are characterized by an exceptionally high concentration of pelagic (floating) plastics and other types of debris. Evidence is growing that similar 'garbage patches' exist in the other four major oceanic gyres, including Northern and Southern Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South Pacific. Although large pieces of plastic garbage are most obvious, small-size (micro- and nano-) plastics in subsurface layers seem to represent a major component of marine debris, and could be an important vector for the transport of persistent organic pollutants and possibly invasive species. Other important sources of debris include abandoned fishing nets, ship-born litter and other wastes.

Emerging evidence on the geographical distribution and scale of marine debris and its multiple impacts on human health, marine biodiversity, transport of persistent organic pollutants, endocrine disrupting and other chemicals, as well as impacts on marine transportation and tourism, particularly those of island and coastal states, suggests that marine debris merits greater attention. Effectively addressing this problem likely requires a coordinated response at global, regional and national levels.

STAP has submitted an Information Paper (GEF/C.40/Inf.14) on the subject, outlining additional areas of research and suggesting consideration of this issue in future GEF programming. A partnership approach to marine debris prevention with a country/regional focus based on a life cycle approach is outlined. Some actions could be mainstreamed into existing GEF projects, particularly those supporting the Regional Seas programs and conventions. Moreover, opportunities exist to work in transformative partnerships with the business community that may be facilitated within the GEF's renewed Private Sector Strategy.

9) **Targeted Research**

Approved by the GEF Council in 1997, the targeted research modality is defined as a "Goal oriented research that supports the GEF operational strategy by providing information knowledge and tools that improve the quality and effectiveness of the development and implementation of GEF projects and programs" [4]. While significant scientific knowledge gaps that constrain specific conservation action may exist within the GEF program priorities, targeted research has been relatively underused by the GEF Agencies. STAP is aware of 39 targeted research projects that

[4] http://www.unep.org/stap/AdviceandPublications/TargetedResearch/tabid/2918/Default.aspx

have been implemented since the pilot phase of the GEF[5] (2 of which are ongoing) although research-oriented components have been included in many GEF projects.

STAP has examined the reasons for the paucity of targeted research projects (most recently in 2007/08) including the perception that the review process for targeted research adds a burden to the GEF Agencies. STAP is of the view that the principle of targeted research represents an important element, which supports learning and continual improvement in GEF programming. STAP proposes that this modality be evaluated and revisited in order to redefine its role in GEF-5 and beyond, and ensure that targeted research is demand driven, efficient, delivers useful results, and is operationally attractive for GEF Agencies and countries to use. To this end, STAP held preliminary discussions with GEF Agencies at its March 2011 meeting.

Based on these discussions and additional analysis and consultation, it is clear that the GEF Targeted Research modality requires thorough revision. STAP will undertake a review of past experience in the use of targeted research. More importantly, STAP will also undertake a review to define ways to strengthen the use of targeted research and improve learning within the GEF, in collaboration with GEF Agencies, the GEF Secretariat, and outside experts including organizations conducting implementation research. Based on these reviews and consultations, STAP will develop an approach paper aimed at revising the terms of reference for targeted research. GEF Council input will be warmly welcomed in the process, and a report will be prepared for the next Council Meeting.

10) **STAP Work Program – FY2012**

At its March 2011 meeting held at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in Vienna, Austria, STAP in conjunction with Agencies defined the global environment priorities it will focus during 2011-2012 (Refer to the STAP work program FY12 GEF/C.40/Inf.12). As in past years, the STAP work program reflects a few ongoing activities initiated in the previous year, new activities identified in consultation with the GEF Secretariat and Agencies, as well as items proposed by the Panel Members themselves. This scenario illustrates the continuous balance STAP strives to achieve by proactively identifying key priorities on the global environment for the GEF, as well as reacting to the fluctuating global environmental changes the GEF seeks to address.

Given increasing demand and cognizant of resource limitations, STAP is considering a shift to a four year strategy, with semi-annual progress updates and revisions as necessary. At present, resources limitations allow approximately one major study per focal area to be undertaken in any given fiscal year. Often, STAP receives multiple requests per focal area from Agencies, Conventions, and the GEF Secretariat. A more comprehensive analysis and priority setting of research needs in line with the GEF replenishment cycle may be more effective – rather than attempting to manage multiple demands from the GEF Network on an annual basis.

A number of highlights to the STAP work program over the next year to eighteen months are as follows:

a) Undertake a scoping study on valuing land-based ecosystem services within the Land Degradation portfolio – to provide a rationale for SLM approaches and technologies, and help strengthen the portfolio's rationale of delivering multiple global environmental benefits.

b) Exploratory work related to urban areas and on marine debris, to determine possible benefits to global environmental benefits.

c) Review of the impacts, both positive and negative, of protected areas in GEF-recipient countries on human welfare in neighbouring communities, and circumstances affecting these impacts

d) Developing methodologies for measuring the GHG impact of GEF energy efficiency and renewable energy project**s**

[5] This figure excludes projects not labeled as targeted research, but which included a specific research component.

e) Assist in the design and implementation of selected impact evaluations conducted by the Evaluation Office

The activities are detailed further in Annex 1.

11) Furthermore, engaging with the international scientific and policy communities will continue to form an important part of STAP's work. This includes participating in the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), assisting in the organization of the Planet Under Pressure Conference, and organizing and supporting relevant scientific events in collaboration with the GEF Secretariat in the Rio +20 process.

12) **Project Cycle**

STAP wishes to emphasize the importance of independent scientific and technical quality assurance at appropriate junctures in the project cycle, and will consider in particular how projects are handled in this regard under the two streams of the programmatic approach project cycle. STAP continues collecting data and information about the scientific and technical quality of submitted individual projects and programmatic approaches and reports its results to every GEF Council meeting.

The following Work Programs have been approved from November 2010 until May 2011 (C.39 Work Program, and the C.40 Work Program). In addition, no Targeted Research committees have been formed during the reporting period. STAP continues to monitor trends in PIFs reviewed where revisions have been recommended. (see Figures 1 and 2 below).

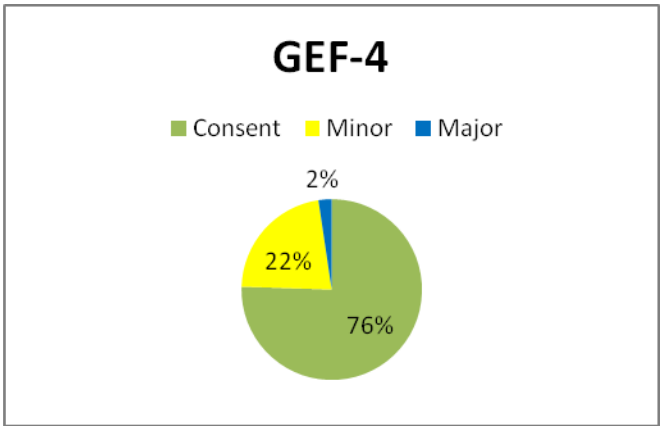


Figure 1: Distribution of STAP Reviews during GEF 4

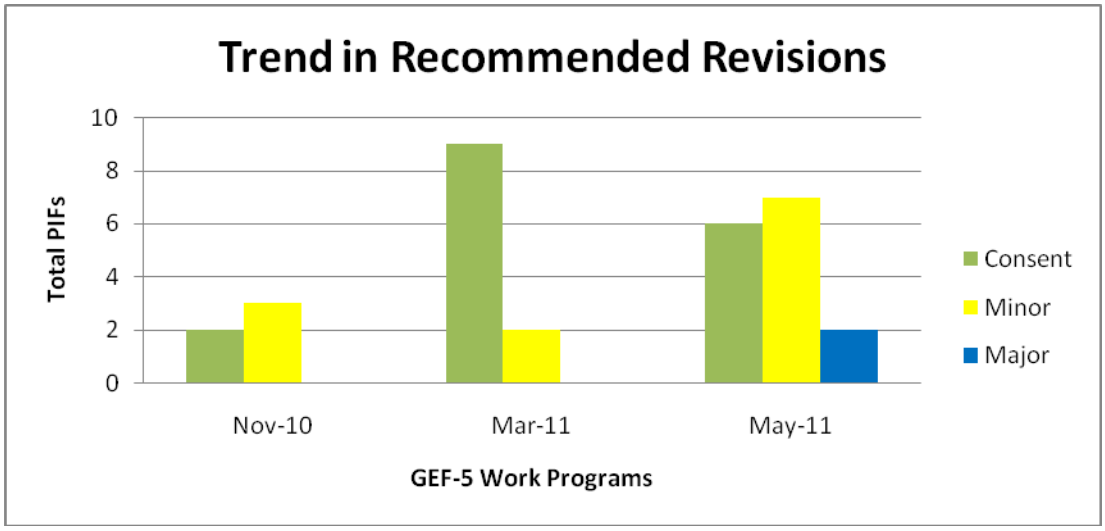
Major – 8

Minor – 75

Consent – 256

Total – 339

Figure 2: Distribution of STAP Reviews in GEF 5 to date



13) The review of project concept papers is the only point at which STAP formally intervenes in the GEF project cycle. Primarily, STAP is requested to review the scientific and/or technical rationale of the project and its contribution to global environmental benefits. STAP continues to be of the opinion that most PIFs only weakly convey these attributes – which is perhaps more a reflection of the project cycle and STAP's intervention therein rather than the ultimate quality of project's from a scientific perspective. Advice from STAP may assist in improving PIFs that have been recommended for revision. STAP welcomes the opportunity to work with implementing agencies in this regard to the extent possible, as well as in providing advice in the design and implementation of projects. Deficiencies in PIFs often include weak quantitative assessment of global environmental increments to be supported by the GEF, as well as insufficient descriptions of baselines.

14) During the most recent work program, STAP reviewed the first program framework document (PFD) submitted by a qualified agency – the Great Green Wall Initiative (World Bank), a comprehensive multi-focal area, multi-trust fund and regional initiative in the African Sahel. STAP reviewed this proposal and provided extensive recommendations. Similar to point 13 above, it was difficult for STAP to conduct a comprehensive review of this initiative due primarily to the limited detail contained in the submission.

    As development of the Great Green Wall Initiative advances, STAP would welcome the opportunity to act in an advisory capacity as necessary. In addition, the Panel strongly recommends that knowledge management, data collection, and learning systems become central to project design and implementation.

15) **Liaison with GEF-related Conventions**

    Since the last GEF Council meeting, STAP collaborated with the GEF Conventions in several ways. Rio Convention Secretariats are participating at bi-annual STAP meetings and provide feedback on a range of strategic and operational issues aimed at improved delivery of STAP's mandate. STAP was involved in a number of Convention-specific activities during the reporting period, as highlighted below.

    a. With UNCCD, 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. STAP peer reviewed drafts of the technical review in November 2010, and delivered its advice at a UNCCD technical working group meeting in December 2010.

b. In the next few months, STAP will plan and decide how it can contribute to the Tenth Conference of the Parties, to be held in October 2011 in Gyeongnam, Korea. Thus far, STAP proposed participating in a GEF side event at the Ecosystem Pavilion, and presenting a preliminary piece on valuing land based ecosystem services as a means to improving management of climate change adaptation in semi-arid and arid countries in the Sahel. STAP also hopes to participate in UNCCD's Scientific Conference scheduled for 2012.

c. STAP organized a side event on marine debris at the 5th International Marine Debris Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii, March 2011. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) attended the STAP side event, as so did a number of other participants. In the near future, STAP plans to work with the CBD on marine debris (Refer to the STAP work program FY12). Furthermore, STAP proposes to work on marine spatial planning to support the CBD's decision X/29. For this activity, STAP envisions developing an advisory document for the GEF, and the CBD SBSTTA. STAP also continues to strengthen its cooperation with the CBD SBSTTA. In November 2011, the STAP Chair will attend the SBSTTA-15 meeting, and discuss joint efforts in connection with the Rio 2012 meeting and beyond.

d. STAP is working on POPs disposal technologies with the Secretariats of the Stockholm and Basel Conventions, soliciting feedback on advisory products and discussing future work on POPs disposal. Additionally, STAP is considering advising UNIDO on updating the National Implementation Plans.

e. STAP attended the COP-5 of the Stockholm Convention and made a presentation at the side event on scientific advances addressing chemical hazards and global environment change co-organized with the Stockholm Convention Secretariat, the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) and the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC).

f. STAP has attended a workshop on identifying the research needs in the global assessment of Pops, ten years after the signing of the Stockholm Convention. This workshop looked at new POPs, and also at improving the effectiveness evaluation under Article 16 of the Convention.

16) **Collaboration with the GEF Evaluation Office**

STAP continues to collaborate with the GEF Evaluation Office, specifically with respect to scientific advice as required on individual evaluations (e.g. South China Seas Program evaluation). STAP looks forward to strengthening this effort over GEF 5, including providing scientific advice to assist in the design and implementation of the growing number of impact evaluations being formulated during this period. In addition, STAP and the EO will seek to collaborate on a review of Targeted Research (see point 10 above) and STAP will provide scientific advice as required in the formulation and implementation of OPS 5.

17) **Panel Member Recruitment**

Over the coming months, STAP will be recruiting for 2 new Panel Members whose second terms[6] come to an end in December 2011 – specifically the Panel Members for International Waters and Climate Change. STAP will consult with the GEF Secretariat, Agencies, Conventions, and other institutions in identifying the best possible candidates.

Note on the STAP Meeting March, 2011, and progress achieved against decisions recorded at the STAP Meeting October, 2010

18) The Meeting of STAP held in Vienna in March 2011 attracted participants from GEF agencies – in particular our host UNIDO, UNEP, UNEP, the World Bank, the UNCCD Secretariat, the UNFCCC Secretariat, the CBD Secretariat, the GEF Secretariat and the GEF Evaluation Office. These meetings provide an opportunity for the GEF partners to exchange views with Panel Members, test policies, suggest new areas for the STAP work plan, as well as to review the results achieved

[6] Panel Member terms are 2 years, renewable once.

including draft products. Many of the results of this meeting have previously been noted under items 4 to 15 above.

19) The focus of the October 2010 meeting of STAP was on new GEF-5 policies with significant scientific and technical implications. These included papers that were then being drafted on the project cycle including targeted research; monitoring and evaluation policy; results based management work plan; knowledge management; Criteria for Utilization of Focal Area Set Asides; and enhancing relations between the GEF and Conventions.

20) Annex 2 summarizes the present status of actions recorded against decisions of the October 2010 STAP Meeting. Progress in addressing actions is generally satisfactory. In future, however, more emphasis will be placed on conducting broader ”big picture” critical analyses within STAP’s advisory work in the context of the GEF, along with undertaking associated strategies for communications and outreach.

ANNEX 1. STAP Work Program FY11 record of achievement

Corporate work

ACT. Nr.	*Output / Product*	*Status*
C#1	Analysis of GEF portfolio in each GEF Work Program for GEF Council	Ongoing task
C#3	STAP expert network access established and populated accessible through the STAP website	Internal listings generated by Panel Members and external network organizations used as resource for selection of experts. Accessibility under review; continuing task
C#4	Advice on how to strengthen social and gender components of GEF projects and programs	Cancelled. Insufficient expertise on STAP
C#5	Provision of advice on experimental and quasi-experimental project designs	Paper to be completed in May 2011, and an accompanying presentation to be made to the GEF Agencies and GEF Secretariat in May 2011.

Cross-Cutting work

ACT. Nr.	*Output / Product*	*Status*
XC#4	Scientific guidance to GEF Project 3449 Carbon Benefits Project (CBP): Modeling, Measurement and Monitoring (UNEP/World Bank MSP)	STAP continues to provide advice through the Steering Committee. The Committee met in September 2010, and agreed the project is current with all its deliverables. Several follow-up actions were identified at the meeting, including testing the carbon benefits project as a tool to gain the required landscape carbon information for a specific set of existing GEF projects so as to understand the needs of potential users. STAP may invite the project managers to a one day meeting to discuss potential gaps, and follow-on activities on multiple global environmental benefits that STAP could contribute towards in 2012.
XC#5	Scientific guidance to GEF Project 3224 Establishing Sustainable Liquid Biofuels Production Worldwide (A Targeted Research Project)	The project has produced a draft biofuel screening tool, which was shared with STAP – as a member of the Steering Committee.
XC#7	Integrating Mitigation/Adaptation Synergies and Promoting Climate Resilience in GEF Land Degradation, Biodiversity, SFM/REDD+ and CC/LULUCF and International Waters Focal Area Projects and Programs	Report "Scientific rationale for reducing climate change risks and enhancing resilience in GEF focal areas for sustained delivery of GEBs" submitted as Information Paper for the GEF Council (GEF/C.39/Inf.18). Comments and recommendations provided to the GEF EO on SPA evaluation (GEF/ME/C.39/4). The first phase of climate resilience tool commissioned with expected delivery date in August 2011; ongoing task
XC#8	Advisory paper on endocrine disruptors Review of policies, innovative interventions, technologies and constraints for reducing releases of endocrine disrupters to aquatic environments.	TOR has been drafted. The work has been put on hold to be better integrated in the ongoing work on emerging chemicals management issues (ECMIs) also considering endocrine disruptors. ECMI work is expected to be completed in the fall 2011 and activity could start before Dec 2011.
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	A workshop was held September 2010. STAP plans to hold a one day meeting with project managers from the Carbon and Benefits Project to identify potential gaps on measuring multiple global environmental benefits that STAP could help address.

Biodiversity

ACT. Nr.	*Output / Product*	*Status*
BD#6	**A case study methodology** for application in GEF-5 for implementation of LO1; **Technical advice** on the application of the case study methodology; and Analysis of the results of case studies	Case study design was completed and a mission successfully undertaken in November 2010 – with a report finalized in Feb. 2011. An important result was the GEF Sec decision to develop precise learning objectives in all focal areas in conjunction with STAP.
BD#7	**A review of the literature** that synthesizes global experience with the following question: "What are the human well-being costs and benefits of protected areas, how are these distributed, and how do they vary with governance, resource tenure arrangements, and site characteristics?"	An initial scoping workshop on protected areas has been held in November 2010. TORs have been developed and the study will be carried out in FY 12.

ACT. Nr.	*Output / Product*	*Status*
BD#8	**Ongoing learning about popular approaches**, including those indentified under LO3, supported through advice on experimental and quasi-experimental project designs (as described under C#5).	BD#7 above will follow this methodology. In addition, Generic guidelines are in preparation to support Agencies in incorporating experimental design or quasi experimental design into GEF projects (FY 12).

Climate Change

ACT. Nr.	*Output / Product*	*Status*
CC#5	1. Methodology for measuring GHG impact of transport projects funded by GEF 2. White Paper on low carbon sustainable transport	The methodology will be published as a user-friendly manual. The sustainable transport was completed and a summary of this work distributed to the GEF Council in November 2010 (GEF/C.39/Inf.16). The final print publication has now been completed, and will be distributed via a variety of media including web-based and on a CD.

International Waters

ACT. Nr.	*Output / Product*	*Status*
IW#2	STAP report on Hypoxia	This work is in the final stages of completion. A summary of outcomes and recommendations will be presented to Council in May 2011. The hypoxia report will subsequently be published as a formal STAP advisory document by September 2011.
IW#5	Review of Areas beyond national jurisdiction	STAP participated in deliberations to develop GEF priorities for protecting marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction at the meeting organized by GEF and FAO in November 2010. STAP will contribute to this effort through upcoming work on marine spatial planning together with the CBD Secretariat.
IW#6	Advisory paper on restoring healthy oceans	Terms of reference are in development. Work is expected to get underway in FY12
IW#7	Advice as member of IW Impact Study Technical Advisory Group Membership	STAP continues to participate as a member of the Technical Advisory Group for this Impact Evaluation led by the Evaluation Office.

Persistent Organic Pollutants

ACT. Nr.	*Output*	*Status*
POPS #4	Advice on POPs monitoring and measurements	This work was re-scheduled to start in June 2011. TORs have been completed and work is now underway – and has been revised as such in the STAP FY12 work program (POPs#4).

Land Degradation

ACT. Nr.	*Output / Product*	*Status*
LD#5	Advice on Learning Objective #2	Redefined – Refer to STAP work program FY12
LD#6	Advice on indicators to inform GEF investments in the land degradation focal area.	Redefined – Refer to the STAP work program FY12

ANNEX 2. Summary record of progress achieved against actions arising from the STAP October 2010 STAP Meeting

Recommendations (references refer to the Minutes[7] of the October 2010 meeting):	*Progress achieved and proposed next action*
Agenda item 4. STAP Progress Report (i) STAP will monitor trends in the recommended PIF revisions and report regularly to the Council. STAP also had the opportunity to review the first program framework document from a qualified agency in the recent work program review under the new program cycle – the Great Green Wall Initiative (World Bank).	Ongoing task to be reported at each GEF Council meeting. The evidence is being accumulated but at the moment is insufficient to analyze trends from scientific and technical points of view
Agenda item 5. The Panel's new advisory products (i) STAP and the GEF Secretariat recommended not enforcing STAP advisory products as mandatory. Instead, they proposed that STAP's tools could be considered as one option, among others, for developing or strengthening projects. (ii) For knowledge management purposes, the GEF Secretariat recommended tracking how STAP's advice is used. Regarding long term management of STAP advisory documents, STAP proposed that Agencies with the appropriate expertise could "house" STAP's technical advisory products to update as knowledge evolves. (ii) STAP agreed to prepare an information paper to Council on climate resilience in the GEF portfolio.	(i) STAP produces advisory documents and other materials to be typically submitted as Information Papers for GEF Council; (ii) Ongoing task; (iii) Completed. This has led to the formal proposal to expand the STAP through the addition of a Panel Member on Adaptation (LDCF/SCCF).
Agenda item 6. GEF – 5 policies (i) STAP agreed to increase its interaction with Conventions, within budget limitations. The Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies to the Conventions will be invited to STAP biannual meetings and other relevant STAP technical meetings. Likewise, STAP recommended remaining open to participating at technical meetings hosted by the GEF Conventions. (ii) On knowledge management - STAP was invited to join the KM working group established by the GEF Secretariat. STAP's advice on the GEF corporate approach to knowledge management was channeled into the final document presented to Council (May 2011). (iii) A request was received to review and revise the policy on Targeted Research. STAP prepared a draft revision of the policy, however more in-depth study is required on the use of the modality and options for the future. This work will be undertaken during FY 12. (iv) The EO and STAP agreed to hold a session at the next STAP meeting, or a half – day workshop to discuss at length their differences on randomized controls and experimental design. The EO requested STAP's assistance in evaluating specific impacts of the focal area strategies in GEF-5, use of portfolio tracking tools, application of ecosystem approaches in GEF projects, and the evidence of the impacts of GEF 2 to 4. These questions are to be considered in the Fifth Overall Performance Study for GEF (OPS-5).	(i) Ongoing task; specific activities are mentioned regularly in STAP's Progress Reports. STAP is exploring opportunities for strengthening interactions with subsidiary bodies of Conventions using different modalities and will report on progress to GEF Council. (ii) STAP actively participating in KM working group. (iii) STAP is currently revising Targeted Research modality and will also engage with the GEF EO on the role of science in the GEF as a part of OPS5. (iv) Joint session with GEF EO held in Vienna. Planning for joint work on impact evaluations, participation in advisory panel in OPS5, joint work on targeted research, .
Agenda item 7. Science foresight and emerging issues	

[7] see: http://hqweb.unep.org/stap/Portals/61/Meetings/March%202011/STAP%20minutes%20Oct%202010%20%28public%29.pdf

(i) STAP Chair agreed to participate in the Foresight Process, and budget this work. STAP (Henk Bouwman) also agreed to be on the expert panel, providing relevant STAP work on emerging chemicals issues. STAP also agreed to help interpret the results for the GEF. (ii) STAP agreed to contribute to the "Planet under Pressure" initiative to be held in March 2012.	(i.) STAP participated actively in the UNEP Foresight Process – designed to identify emerging issues. Final list in revision. (ii) Proposals for side events were submitted – responses TBD.