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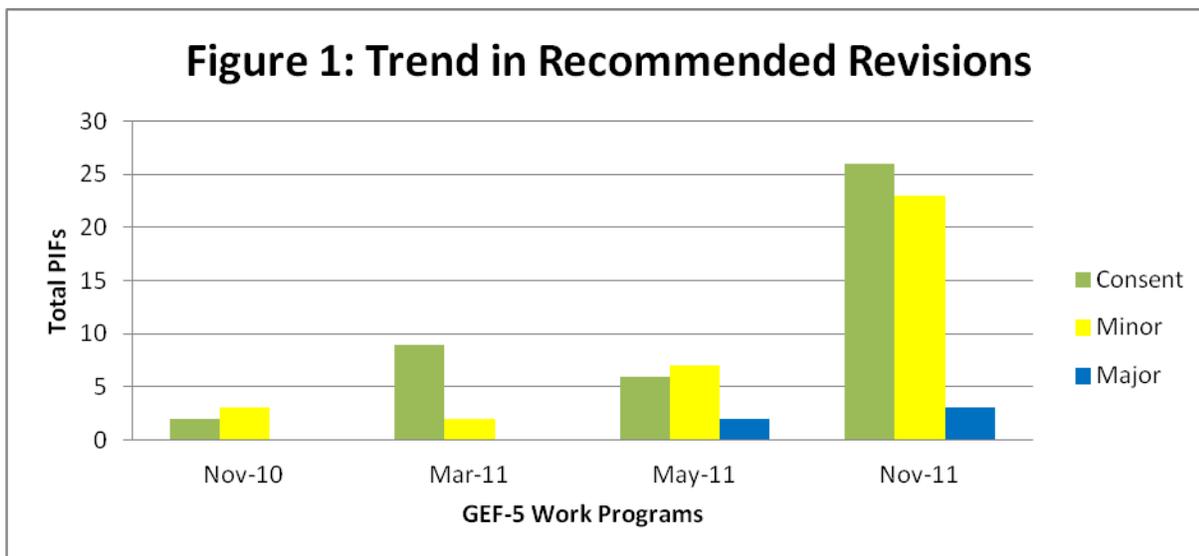
GEF Council Meeting
November 8–10, 2011
Washington, D.C.

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

(Prepared by STAP)

STAP's project cycle activities and Observations of the November 2011 Work Programme

- 5) STAP wishes to emphasize the importance of independent scientific and technical quality assurance at appropriate junctures in the project cycle, and is actively monitoring how projects are handled in this regard under the two streams of the programmatic approach. 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. STAP continues to monitor trends in PIFs reviewed where revisions have been recommended (see Figure 1 below).



- 6) The review of Project Information Forms (PIFs) is the key entry 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 are typically more clearly articulated at project endorsement stage. STAP continues to work with Agencies regarding requests for upstream (pre-PIF) advice, as well as in providing advice in the design and implementation of projects on a selective basis.
- 7) STAP commends Agencies & the GEF Secretariat on a very ambitious and potentially transformative work program, with a strong uptick in the submission of Multifocal Area projects and programmes. The Chemicals projects submitted in particular marked a clear move towards projects for which measurable environmental impact through the destruction, disposal or prevention of release of POPs and other hazardous chemicals.
- 8) The STAP recognises that the Operational Guidelines for incremental Cost analysis (C.31.12 Operational Guidelines for Incremental Cost) do not call for quantitative baselines at the PIF stage. Instead a general narrative on incremental reasoning and fit, and GEB generation is requested at this point in the project cycle. However, the Panel recognizes that some Focal Area Task Teams may have the tools to undertake some quantification of baselines at PIF stage, and this should be encouraged.
- 9) For example, most Climate Change Mitigation projects in the work program provided baselines and projected emissions, which is commendable. Concomitantly, baselines and methodologies for LULUCF initiatives were typically unsatisfactory. Baselines could be further strengthened in the rest of the focal area projects to reflect more explicitly the main threats that undermine the sustainability of global environmental benefits, and the proposed interventions that aim to address the root causes of environmental degradation. Agencies also are highly encouraged to provide data, define methodologies and reference data sources (if applicable) that will be used to estimate baselines and track the delivery of global environmental benefits.

- 10) The STAP also recognises that in some areas, there are no current mainstream tools or methodologies for quantification of baselines and increments (e.g. for emissions of POPs, projected rates of releases of chemical types from stockpiles, etc.). In these cases, however, STAP would encourage agencies to bring better inferred quantification estimates to the fore in the PIF, with an eye to firming up estimates in the course of project preparation ahead of CEO endorsement.
- 11) The Panel wishes to caution against the observed trend in “blue print” approaches to PIF preparation in some areas, where virtually identical intervention design in the same focal area was applied across a number of projects in diverse country contexts. There was also insufficient recognition of ongoing or precursor project work in a given project country, from which useful outputs and lessons learned might flow to strengthen the new PIF and follow-on project. STAP noted that there were many missed opportunities for knowledge sharing across projects addressing similar issues within the same domain. Improved knowledge sharing between projects and Agencies and improved understanding of past results can reduce duplication of effort and waste, and improve outcomes. More dynamic use of the GEF project database, AMR and evaluation findings, as well as the Agency's own consultations during PIF development, may assist to rectify this.
- 12) A total of 21 MFAs were submitted to STAP for review after CEO clearance. While this resulted in a significant increase in the work load of STAP this is a trend which should be encouraged. Among these were a number of outstanding projects, as well as others that will require substantial revision to be scientifically valid. In some instances, the projects contained within programmes were only loosely connected with each other, compromising the ability to capture synergies and trade-offs -- a key expected benefit of the programme or multi-focal approach. There was also a tendency in the programmatic documents to be overly ambitious with goals, although STAP recognizes the potential for transformative action in these initiatives.
- 13) Many of the Chemicals projects submitted for STAP review showed a marked transition to transformative activities. In many instances, however, baselines were not always clear; and almost without exception the technological aspects of the projects (e.g. destruction/disposal) were discussed in isolation from the broader chemicals management activities and overall framework within which a selected technology should operate. So for example, PIFs almost universally did not indicate any intent to develop methodologies for technology selection, strategies for identifying, gathering, securing and transporting chemicals to destruction facilities, or safe handling of residues. Climate risk consideration is typically absent in these projects. Movement and storage of chemicals across a country with marked seasonality can be impacted by increases in the strength and frequency of climate-related extreme events. In addition, there was also a universal lack of recognition of other similar projects or initiatives, past or ongoing, from which the intended intervention described in any given PIF might draw experience.
- 14) Overall, STAP recognizes improvements made in acknowledging climate change risks in a substantial number of single- and multifocal area projects and programs in the current Work Program. However, it is relatively seldom that specific actions improving climate resilience are proposed or indicated. Analysis of climate risks remains often superficial, even in the presence of available data. These observations are in agreement with the STAP's report to this Council outlining potential steps to improve climate resilience of GEF projects.

Collaboration with GEF Evaluation Office

- 15) STAP and the Evaluation Office have numerous areas of common interest, and the Panel welcomes increased engagement with the GEF Evaluation Office in a variety of areas of relevance to both. STAP has contributed to the ongoing South China Seas evaluation through participation of the International Waters Panel Member. More importantly, STAP is currently collaborating closely on a major quality at entry study which is just getting underway, aimed at assessing the readiness of projects to monitor impact at final project endorsement stage. STAP welcomed the detailed comments and input received on its Experimental Project Design paper presented to Council at this meeting (GEF/ C.41/Inf.15). The Panel looks forward to future engagement with the Evaluation Office, particularly in the preparations and eventual implementation of OPS5.

Panel Member Recruitment

- 16) STAP Panel Members for International Waters (Meryl Williams) and Climate Change Mitigation (N.H. [Ravi] Ravindranath) will be stepping down from their positions in December of this year, after two 2 year terms of service to the GEF. At the same time, the GEF Council agreed at its last meeting to expand the Panel to include an expert on Climate Change Adaptation. The STAP Secretariat is currently leading a process to recruit experts for all three of these positions. Finally, STAP wishes to congratulate the recent appointment of Dr. N. Sanginga, Panel Member for Land Degradation, to head the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture in Nigeria. Dr. Michael Stocking, Special Advisor to the Chair, will oversee Panel responsibilities on the land degradation portfolio until a permanent replacement is identified.

Issues considered at the STAP Meeting in October 2011

- 17) Report of the STAP meeting held on October 13-14 2011 in Washington, DC will be available for the next Council meeting. The meeting had the following three objectives: (i) Identify current or upcoming science challenges in the GEF Program that may be addressed in future STAP activities; (ii) Assist GEF Focal Area Task Forces in developing rigorous learning objectives, and (iii) Advance implementation of current STAP Work Program priorities. STAP updated GEF partnership on the implementation of its work program and secured feedback on ongoing and future proposed activities. Progress was made on all three objectives leading to formulation of new and revision of the existing STAP products in the work program, detailed discussion about the conceptual framework of GEF's learning objectives and formulation of draft learning objectives for each GEF focal area.

STAP ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTS

Climate Resilience Workshop and Report

- 18) The latest scientific evidence demonstrates that climate change projections and impacts exceed IPCC 2007 predictions. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, the STAP organized a Cross-Focal Area Workshop: "Review of tools and methods to increase climate resilience of GEF projects and programs" in June 2011. This workshop sought to examine the conclusions of an initial stocktaking review of existing tools and methods to integrate climate resilience and/or account for climate risks into project design. It also addressed the a decision of the 39th GEF Council decision related to the Evaluation of the Strategic Priority for Adaptation ([GEF/ME/C.39/4](#)) – specifically requesting the development and implementation of climate risk and vulnerability screening tools.
- 19) The workshop was designed as a consultation and scoping exercise with the participation of a consultant team advising STAP, representatives from GEF Secretariat focal area teams, the GEF Evaluation Office, GEF agencies, and a limited number of invited experts from bilateral institutions and academia. STAP is submitting to the 41st GEF Council a Report "Review of Tools to Assess the Impact of Climate Change Project Results and Sustainability" (GEF/ C.41/Inf.13).
- 20) In its recommendations, the report proposes a number of specific operational steps and features that a potential GEF climate risk and vulnerability screening tool could follow. These recommendations are based on the analysis and STAP's own judgment and assessment of existing practices/approaches among GEF agencies and other organizations. Some key points were that:-
- **Impacts are severe and need to be addressed in GEF projects, as per the relevant Council decision**
 - **There was no full consensus on next steps (e.g. should a risk assessment tool be applied to project submissions?)**

- **STAP has developed a draft checklist to assess climate risks at PIF stage re: GEBs**
 - **Many PIFs have recognized climate risks (e.g. through National Communications) but few provide systematic assessments or proposed resilience measures**
- 21) Given that participants at the workshop were not able to reach a consensus on the necessity of introducing a climate risk screening and vulnerability tool for GEF projects, STAP is advising the GEF Council to consider the recommendations of the STAP report when deciding further on the necessity of a climate risk and vulnerability screening tool for GEF projects and programs, and as necessary their operational modality and structure. STAP stands ready to work with the GEF Secretariat in the development of a climate risk and vulnerability screening tool should this assistance be sought.
 - 22) STAP has developed a prototype climate risk screening procedure as an integral part of its PIF screening process, and tested this during the current work program review. STAP will refine this approach and begin monitoring climate risk-related information contained in PIFs, along with tracking of responses to its recommendations at the CEO endorsement stage. STAP will report back to the GEF Council on this issue on a regular basis.

Planet Under Pressure: Policy Brief and Conference Participation

- 23) The STAP, led by the Biodiversity Panel Member, has been involved in the preparation of the Biodiversity and Ecosystems Policy Brief, prepared by the Planet Under Pressure (PuP) process as a key input to the Rio+20 Conference in 2012. This brief was prepared with the collaboration of DIVERSITAS, Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP) and the International Council for Science (ICSU), and is now available online (<http://www.icsu.org/rio20/policy-briefs/BiodiversityLowRes.pdf>) along with related policy briefs on key sectors (<http://www.icsu.org/rio20/policy-briefs>). ICSU will be distributing these briefs to key scientific institutes and centres of excellence ahead of the Rio+20 conference.
- 24) In addition, at the PuP Conference itself (March 26-29, 2012, London), the STAP will be co-organizing two sessions during the conference: (i) [“Tragedies and hopes of the global commons: Biodiversity, climate and the oceans as global benefits”](#) in collaboration with DIVERSITAS and GEF Sec; and (ii) [“Staying away from the edge: avoiding biophysical, ecological and social tipping points”](#) in collaboration with DIVERSITAS. The STAP Biodiversity Panel Member also sits on the overall scientific steering committee for the conference.

Emerging Chemicals Management

- 25) Recognising the main goal of the GEF chemicals program *to promote the sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the global environment*, this report seeks to identify, evaluate and prioritise Emerging Chemicals Management Issues (ECMIs) in relation to the likely chemical management needs of Developing Countries and CEITs, such that additional resources and support from GEF within its mandate will anticipate, prevent, reduce and/or minimize adverse impacts on human health and the environment.
- 26) Twenty-two² ECMIs were identified and described using a variety of criteria such as Releases, Pollution, Effects, Transboundary issues, Management options and Intervention needs. Prioritisation was done by surveying members from Developing countries and Countries with Economies in Transition (CEIT) of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC). Useful responses were received from 135 respondents, and results were ranked on aggregate and per region.

² PAHs, Arsenic, Bisphenol A, Alkylphenols, Phthalates, Tributyltin, Heavy metals, Nanoparticles and nanomaterials, Lead in paints, Inorganic fertilizer, Cadmium in fertilizer, Pharmaceuticals and personal care products, Illicit drugs, Food additives, Endocrine disruption, Mixture effects, E-waste, Marine debris, Ammunition, conflict and the legacies of war, Mine waste and drainage, Sewage sludge, and Open burning.

- 27) The current draft report will be peer-reviewed and circulated to the GEF Chemicals Task Force for comment in the near future. Nevertheless, some discussion on preliminary findings can be provided here, with the caveat that data analysis is still ongoing, and conclusions and recommendations formulated.
- 28) The interactive and complex nature of the 22 ECMI under consideration indicates that addressing these emerging problems will be complex. Many of the ranked ECMI are interlinked (eg. an intervention to combat open burning to retrieve metal from electrical wire and other related scrap, may also reduce PAHs, heavy metals, endocrine disruptors and mixture effects). Addressing higher intervention priority ECMI can also reduce the impacts of other high-ranked aggregate priorities.
- 29) What is emerging is that with a more detailed assessment of the highest ranked ECMI at a global and regional level, there are signs that there is scope for the development of ECMI-specific frameworks to help streamline intervention planning, and ultimately aid in the appropriate allocation of funding. Meetings will be held with the GEF Chemicals Team to discuss the preliminary findings of this paper, and to engineer a closer collaboration to develop such intervention frameworks, by incorporating ECMI priorities, current state of scientific knowledge, and appropriate interventions into the evolution of a Chemicals portfolio seeking to generate significant and measurable GEBs across a meaningful number of chemicals categories.
- 30) Within the context of the ECMI challenges and priorities identified, some specific points thus far were made or proposed:
- In Developing Countries and CEIT, heavy metals were the top priority on aggregate, followed by mixture effects, PAHs, endocrine disruption, open burning, and illicit drugs. The lowest ranked aggregate-ranked ECMI were alkylphenols, nanoparticles and nanomaterials, ammunition and conflict, TBT, and BPA.
 - In terms of aggregate Intervention priority in Developing Countries and CEIT, open burning, heavy metals, mixture effects, e-waste, mine waste, and illicit drugs were highest ranked.
 - Consideration should be given to heavy metal pollutants as a target for concerted international intervention. This issue probably represents the largest unaddressed chemical threat currently experienced in Developing Countries and CEIT.
 - The lack of data from Developing Countries and CEIT hampers determination of a more informed prioritization. Serious and immediate attention could be given to implementing or strengthening regional and continental research programs. Based on identified priorities, country specific and regional research capacity must be enhanced to tackle identified priority ECMI.
 - An ECMI observatory mechanism could (similar to the European Risk Observatory) be investigated that will assist in the timely translation of new scientific knowledge and new ECMI (such as ECMI on the horizon) into how they might affect Developing Countries and CEIT.
 - An ECMI survey could be conducted every five years to track impact of interventions and to determine changes in priorities, with a greater effort to collect regional specific information.
 - A more detailed assessment of the highest ranked ECMI (heavy metals, PAHs, mixture effects, endocrine disruption, open burning, illicit drugs, E-waste, PPCPs, arsenic, sewage sludge, inorganic fertilizer, and marine debris) could be conducted on a global and regional basis to better investigate the conditions, intervention options, interactions with other ECMI, global environmental and health benefits, and management options. This will serve as ECMI-specific frameworks for detailed intervention planning. Input that is more specific should be sought from role players other than scientists, such as policy makers, Industry representatives, civil society, and NGOs.

Experimental Project Design in the Global Environment Facility

- 31) STAP is submitting for GEF Council an Advisory Document “Experimental Project Design in the Global Environment Facility - Designing projects to create evidence and catalyze investments to secure global environmental benefits”. This advisory document describes an important way in which the GEF can leverage project investments to generate evidence concerning the success of key strategies and under what conditions these strategies are successful.
- 32) Experimental project designs imply that entire projects, or components of projects, are designed with the intention of better understanding the causal relationships between project actions and desired outcomes. Unlike other advisory documents by the STAP, this advisory document does not describe what we know about what works. Rather, it describes how the GEF can contribute to improving the global knowledge base on the success of key strategies employed in GEF projects. This advisory document is intended to induce curiosity and lateral thinking about the applicability of such designs in the GEF portfolio, and to help GEF stakeholders identify projects that may be amenable to experimental design.

The Advisory Document has the following key messages and implications for the GEF:

1. The way in which GEF projects are currently designed makes drawing inferences about impacts difficult. In contrast, experimental project designs can make drawing inferences about project impacts easier and more credible.
2. Although experimental project designs can require more up-front effort in project design and are not always successful, downstream evaluation costs may be reduced.
3. Experimental project designs are consistent with the GEF’s mandate to increase global environmental benefits, and more importantly with its Results-based Management Framework and ongoing efforts to improve knowledge management.

Examples of potential experimental approaches and how these may be incorporated into project design are provided in the Advisory Document.

Targeted Research in the GEF Program: Review Policy Development

- 33) At its meeting in March, 2011, the STAP agreed to undertake an analysis of the 1997 GEF Targeted Research Policy, with a view to modernizing this policy and improving the delivery of results from this modality in the GEF.
- 34) In particular, STAP decided to:
 - Review the past use of the targeted research modality, assess what worked, as well as look further into why targeted research was not more successful;
 - Consider how research can most effectively serve the GEF Program; and
 - Examine the experience of research funding organizations, particularly their strategic goals, research and programs, and policy interventions as a means to consider the appropriate role of research (science) in the GEF.
- 35) STAP is currently analyzing completed Targeted Research projects. The results of this exercise will feed into a separate analysis of research methods and funding initiatives (national and international) to assess their applicability for strengthening science in GEF projects and programs, as well as generate knowledge on the GEF’s impact on the global environment. This analysis may lead to a revised targeted research policy.
- 36) STAP looks forward to working closely with GEF Agencies, particularly those which have implemented targeted research projects in the past (mainly UNEP, UNDP, and the World Bank), as well as the Evaluation Office in this effort. The STAP hopes to share the results of this study at its next meeting in the spring 2012.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Hypoxia and Nutrient Reduction in the Coastal Zone

- 37) STAP led two expert consultations to review the latest scientific literature and opinion on hypoxia. The result of these efforts is STAP's recent publication on "Hypoxia and Nutrient Reduction in the Coastal Zone – Advice for Prevention, Remediation, and Research. The advisory document focuses on causes of hypoxia; identifies the lessons learned from GEF investments and from other cases, and; provides recommendations to the GEF on how to prevent and remediate the growing hypoxia problem. Copies of the report will be available at the GEF Council Meeting in November 2011.
- 38) STAP report, inter alia, shows that hypoxia remediation in coastal waters is a multi-focal area challenge for the GEF. The GEF and its development partners should consider increasing their investment in nutrient reduction projects and establish principles for supporting priority ecosystems in which to test management responses to permanent and seasonal hypoxia. Furthermore, the STAP Advisory Document lists a number of specific additional recommendations: (i) Develop a Hypoxia Toolkit that integrates hypoxia-related factors into the project screening process; (ii) Update TDA/SAP guidance materials ; (iii) Establish evidence-based monitoring, prevention and remediation programs in existing LMEs; (iv) Address knowledge gaps through targeted research projects. Reduction of nutrient pollution from local sources can significantly improve the environmental status of coastal areas and reduce the incidence, intensity, size and duration of hypoxia. STAP is considering further steps in helping GEF partners to address the root causes of hypoxia and a more challenging issue of the increasing fluxes of nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) to the coastal ocean. STAP Advisory Document was launched at the [6th GEF Biannual International Waters Conference](#) held on October 17-20th 2001 in Dubrovnik, Croatia, STAP also organized a side event at this meeting focused on the global nutrient cycling. Copies of the STAP Advisory Document are available for November 2011 GEF Council Meeting.

POPs Disposal Technology for the GEF

- 39) The STAP has completed the development of the Advisory paper "Selection of Persistent Organic Pollutant Disposal Technology for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Projects". A summary of this document was presented at the last Council Meeting (GEF/C.40/Inf.16). The Manual was updated with further rounds of comments from experts and agencies, and was revised by a professional editor and designer. It is also available on STAP's website to download at: <http://www.unep.org/stap/>.
- 40) This report builds on the original 2004 STAP study on the selection of POPs disposal technologies for GEF-financed projects, utilizing experience gained during GEF-4, and seeks to lay out guidance on the attributes that technologies should demonstrate when GEF funding is involved. Specifically, it aims to provide a consistent overall framework for the application of GEF funding in this area, without attempting to duplicate or supersede technology evaluations provided by the Basel Convention, Stockholm Convention, or other groups. It is targeted primarily for recipient countries, implementing agencies and the GEF Secretariat; providing updates and other considerations related to developments in technology availability, cost-effectiveness, commercial maturity and issues associated with their application in the context of GEF financing in developing countries and CEITs.
- 41) Critically, it also places disposal of POPs stockpiles and waste within the broader context of the POPs management process and sound chemicals management, such that the STAP concludes that destruction cannot be addressed in isolation, but instead, the application of POPs disposal technology should be viewed as one part of an overall POPs management process or system. This system includes steps taken in advance of the actual disposal or destruction to identify, capture, secure, and prepare POPs stockpiles and wastes for disposal, as well as post-destruction steps to manage emissions, by-products and residuals. The STAP concludes that, taking into account the unique circumstances of countries covered in any given project, GEF financing may consider:

- Direct funding of disposal costs based on an all inclusive competitive price offered by a service provider with qualified disposal capability;
- Contribution to new disposal facility development costs; or
- Supporting technology transfer through acquisition and demonstration.

Marine Debris: Defining a Global Environmental Challenge

- 42) The STAP organized a side event [“Seeking Global and Regional Solutions to Marine Debris Problem”](#) at the [5th International Marine Debris Conference](#) on 23 March 2011, Honolulu, HI that brought together several multilateral organizations (UNEP, FAO, IMO), business community (American Chemistry Council and Europe Plastics), representatives of major Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, NGOs and academia. The meeting made an important contribution to the formulation of the Global Honolulu Strategy aimed at the prevention and management of marine debris problem and resulted in STAP’s submission to the 40th GEF Council (GEF/C.40/Inf.14 : [Marine Debris: Defining a Global Environmental Challenge](#)). Revised and updated, this report is being published as an information paper in time for the 41st GEF Council in November 2011 and is also available online at the STAP website at: <http://www.unep.org/stap/>.
- 43) The STAP Advisory Document advocates the use of a regional approach oriented towards the needs and perspectives of the consumers and users of items that can become marine debris, and also towards those of the nations and regions that suffer from its effects. Solutions should be identified through cooperation and dialogue between industry, government and consumer, and should consider the five R’s (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Redesign and Recover) in a regionally coherent context. The report also introduced a new framework that requires a series of key stages in order to achieve a reduction in the quantity of waste material being produced and includes five steps: problem identification, stakeholder dialogue with supply chain entities, facilitation, identification of knowledge gaps, development of institutional mechanisms and strategic planning.
- 44) The STAP is encouraging GEF partners to *mainstream* interventions addressing marine debris into existing and planned GEF projects and programs. Recognising the limited resources available in the GEF, and the global scale of the plastic debris problem in the marine environment, STAP is advising the GEF Council and GEF partners to consider the marine debris problem in future programming as well as to focus support in GEF-5 on two types of activities:
- i. A project or program testing the life-cycle approach to marine debris prevention, reduction, and management in one of the areas covered by the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans; and
 - ii. GEF promotion, facilitation and establishing of a global public-private partnership, a key focus of which would be to reduce the environmental impacts associated with single-use plastics packaging. As such, there would be a focus on combining the efforts of the plastics production, packaging and retailer associations, civil society organizations, and multilateral institutions.
- 45) A detailed record of achievement against the STAP Work Program is provided in Annex 1 below, along with a summary record of progress achieved against actions arising from the March 2011 STAP Meeting (Vienna) in Annex 2.

ANNEX 1. STAP Work Program FY12 record of achievement

ACT. Nr.	Output / Product	Status
Corporate Activities		
C#1	Scientific/technical analysis of GEF portfolio in each GEF Work Program for GEF Council	Ongoing activity
C#3	Outreach and communication	<p>STAP took part at the Expanded Constituency Workshop (ECW) of the GEF in Belize, February 2011, and will participate in upcoming ECWs in South Africa and East Africa.</p> <p>STAP participated at the 6th GEF Biannual IW conference and organized one side event and Hypoxia Advisory Document launch.</p> <p>In collaboration with the CBD Secretariat, STAP proposed two advisory products (on marine debris impacts on biodiversity and on marine spatial planning). These will be discussed at upcoming CBD-SBSTTA meetings.</p> <p>A policy advisory brief on biodiversity and ecosystems has been prepared for the upcoming Rio+20 process and Planet Under Pressure Conference.</p> <p>STAP website is regularly updated</p> <p>Three new STAP's publications are available for GEF Council in Nov 2011 as well designed brochures</p> <p>STAP members contributed to a number of meetings at the science-policy interface: UNEP's organized Global Chemicals Outlook and Science Foresight Exercise, and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services</p>
C#5	Provision of advice on science and technology to impact evaluations conducted by GEF EO	STAP experts are collaborating on the implementation of this study. Final results are expected in April 2012.
C#6	Targeted Research modality revised and approved by the GEF Council	TOR for two complementary studies is drafted. Assessment of existing GEF TR projects is underway. Completion of the review is expected in April 2012, followed by preparation of a new or revised policy. Expected presentation to Council – Nov. 2012.
C#7	Planet Under Pressure Conference: Specific actions/decisions regarding improving role of science in GEF and the science of measuring/tracking GEBs	<p>The STAP has been involved in the preparation of the Biodiversity and Ecosystems Policy Brief, prepared by the Planet Under Pressure (PuP) process as a key input to the Rio+20 Conference in 2012.</p> <p>In addition, at the PuP Conference itself (March 26-29, 2012, London), the STAP will be co-organizing two sessions during the conference: (i) "Tragedies and hopes of the global commons: Biodiversity, climate and the oceans as global benefits" in collaboration with DIVERSITAS and GEF Sec; and (ii) "Staying away from the edge: avoiding biophysical, ecological and social tipping points" in collaboration with DIVERSITAS. The STAP Biodiversity Panel Member is also on the overall scientific steering committee for the conference.</p>
Cross Cutting Activities		
XC#4	Scientific guidance to GEF Project 3449 Carbon Benefits Project (CBP): Modeling, Measurement and Monitoring (UNEP/World Bank MSP)	UNEP and STAP held a one day meeting in October 2011 with the Carbon Benefits Project team. At the meeting, STAP provided an informal peer review of the suite of tools developed by Component A and Component B to measure above and below carbon. STAP also provided

ACT. Nr.	Output / Product	Status
		recommendations on how to strengthen the biodiversity, social, and economic indicators in Component B. As next steps, STAP may suggest suitable databases on biodiversity and socioeconomic indicators to complement the current indicators in Component B. STAP also may develop a screening tool for ex-ante evaluation of multiple global environmental and social benefits.
XC#7	Promoting Climate Resilience in GEF Land Degradation, Biodiversity, SFM/REDD+ and CC/LULUCF, International Waters, and Chemicals Focal Area Projects and Programs for sustained flow of GEBs	STAP conducted work cross-focal area workshop and its report presented for GEF November 2011 Council
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	Refer to XC#4
XC#11	Scientific advice to GEF and CBD SBSTTA on marine debris	TOR drafted and consultancy will be commissioned in the next couple
XC#12	Scientific advice to GEF on impacts of urbanization on the delivery of GEBs	An initial overview of the subject area as it relates to GEF programming has been undertaken. Results are being validated. TORs are in preparation.
XC#13	STAP-CBD Technical Report (Advisory Document) on marine spatial planning	TOR is drafted and currently discussed with GEF partners. Consultancy will be commissioned in the next couple months
Biodiversity		
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.	Pending. GEF Secretariat staff will approach STAP with requests to participate in these exercises as necessary.
BD#7	A review of the literature that synthesizes global experience with the following question: "What has been the impact of protected areas in GEF-recipient countries on human welfare in neighboring communities, and under what circumstances has the impact been positive?"	A contract has been finalized with Bangor University in the UK to undertake this review. Final results are expected in July 2012.
BD#9	IPBES – Participation in planning group and plenary meetings; Participation in refining the terms of reference of individual assessments, contribution to specific assessments.	STAP continues to monitor and actively participate in this important initiative. STAP recently participated in the first IPBES CoP in Nairobi, Kenya.
Climate Change		
CC#6	Methodology for measuring the GHG impact of energy efficiency and renewable energy GEF projects	TOR is drafted and contract terms are currently discussed
CC#7	Technical Report on climate change mitigation science	TOR is drafted; experts identified; work will be commissioned in the next month
International Waters		
IW#6	Review paper on restoring healthy oceans. An overview and summary of recent work on assessing the role of restored/healthy oceans as a net carbon sink, including consideration of mangrove replanting, reducing hypoxic zones and geo-engineering options such as iron fertilization of the oceans with special reference to co-benefits	Pending review

ACT. Nr.	Output / Product	Status
	including restoring fish and shellfish stocks	
IW#7	Advice as member of IW Impact Study Technical Advisory Group Membership Scientific support to GEF-EO for IW Impact Study	This work is now completed.
IW#8	Global Nitrogen Cycle: an improved understanding of the causes, impacts, and strategies to address global nitrogen cycle disruption is needed – to assist GEF Partners in providing more targeted and efficient support to countries to reverse ongoing trends.	TOR is drafted; the work will be discussed with the Task Force
IW#10 (+BD)	Fisheries Certification	TOR is drafted; work is to be commissioned in the next couple months
Land Degradation		
LD#5	Advice on indicators to inform GEF investments in the land degradation focal area.	Throughout the last year, STAP worked closely with the UNCCD to refine UNCCD's set of impact indicators. The output of this exercise is a white paper discussing the findings of UNCCD's scientific community (including STAP) on the set of impact indicators and the conceptual framework. The white paper will form the basis of discussion on impact indicators at the UNCCD Conference of the Parties, October 2011. In July 2011, STAP also was asked to participate at a UNCCD workshop in Mexico City, Mexico, to work with a number of countries to pilot the impact indicators, and develop reporting mechanisms. The results of this workshop also were discussed at UNCCD's Conference of the Parties, October 2011.
LD#6	Advice on portfolio monitoring (Linked to: The GEF Policy on "Results-Based Management and Knowledge Management Work Plan for GEF-5")	At the STAP meeting in October 2011, STAP began to assist the GEF Secretariat to strengthen the learning objectives of the land degradation focal area. During the next year, STAP will continue working closely with the GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies to help strengthen the land degradation portfolio monitoring, and its harmonization with the corporate results based management and knowledge management.
LD#7	Advice on organic matter and its role in carbon sequestration	On hold until the appointment of a new STAP member on land degradation.
LD#8	A scoping study on valuing land-based ecosystem services	The terms of reference are being drafted for this study on valuing land-based ecosystem services.
Chemicals Management		
POPS#4³	Advisory Document on POPs monitoring and measurements	This has a delivery timeline of June 2013, and with the September 1, 2011 arrival of a STAP Secretariat Chemicals Focal point, work has begun to see how best to collate the material already in hand into the advisory document.

ANNEX 2. Summary record of progress achieved against actions arising from the STAP March 2011 STAP Meeting

Recommendations (references refer to the Minutes⁴ of the March 2011 meeting):	Progress achieved and proposed next action
<p>Agenda item 5: Update from GEF Secretariat</p> <p>(i) GEF Secretariat will work with the STAP to assure that sufficient time is provided in advance to screen program framework documents. STAP will continue working upstream with the Agencies and the GEF Secretariat in providing specific scientific/technology inputs when preparing the program framework documents.</p>	<p>Continuing task. In several instances STAP has been contacted either by the GEF Secretariat or GEF agency to provide upstream to PIF screening advice</p>
<p>Agenda item 7a: STAP Focal Area Work: Chemicals and POPs</p> <p>(i) STAP to distribute to the task force its draft paper “Selection of Persistent Organic Pollutant Disposal Technology for GEF Projects”, and discuss it at the next task force meeting</p> <p>Agenda item 7b: STAP Focal Area Work: Climate Change</p> <p>i. When developing methodologies and tools (climate resilience, energy efficiency and etc.), STAP should include guidelines for establishing baselines and measuring impacts of capacity building activities.</p> <p>ii. STAP should carefully explore the scope of its co-operation with the GEF Evaluation Office on OPS6 by including, <i>inter alia</i>, impact assessment of technology transfer and energy efficiency projects, the role of science in GEF projects.</p> <p>iii. STAP to inform GEF Council in May about the results of the UNEP global assessment of short-term climate forces and provide specific recommendations for GEF response (in collaboration with UNEP Chief Scientist).</p> <p>iv. In co-operation with GEF partners, STAP will strengthen co-operation with the scientific and technical bodies of the UNFCCC by informing them about the science and technology-related evidence of GEF projects (continuing task).</p> <p>Agenda item 7c. STAP Focal Area Work: International Waters</p> <p>i. STAP to explore a possibility to provide advice on biodiversity mainstreaming in the fisheries sector.</p> <p>Agenda item 7d. STAP Focal Area Work: Biodiversity</p> <p>i. The EO recommended that STAP considers the EO's study on “The Role of Local Benefits in the Global Environmental Programs” as well as the “Evaluation of GEF Support to Biosafety” when STAP undertakes its study on “human well-being impacts of protected areas”.</p> <p>ii. The CBD recommended that STAP uses the Strategic Plan as the over-arching framework for the STAP biodiversity work program.</p>	<p>7a (i) Completed</p> <p>7b(i) TOR for EE methodology includes these elements</p> <p>7b(ii) STAP has raised these issues with the Evaluation Office, and will participate actively in the design of this review.</p> <p>7b (iii) STAP provided GEF Council with the UNEP's report and specific recommendations were included in STAP's Chair address to the Council – completed</p> <p>7b (iv) Continuing task</p> <p>7c (i) TOR for fisheries certification is drafted, experts identified, work to be commissioned in the next couple months</p> <p>7d (i) These comments have been taken into consideration in the design of the research protocol, along with additional comments more recently provided by the Evaluation Office</p> <p>7d (ii) CBD Secretariat delivered presentation at the STAP's meeting in October 2011 about Strategic Plan and further co-operation was discussed. STAP Chair will take part at the meeting of CBD SBSTTA Bureau.</p>

⁴ see: <http://www.unep.org/stap/Portals/61/Meetings/March%202011/STAP%20Meeting%20Report%20March%202011%20-%20Final.pdf>

<p>iii. The CBD recommended that STAP convene a meeting of the SBST(T)A chairs to define joint agendas between the three conventions.</p> <p>iv. UNEP requested an IPBES session at the next STAP meeting in October 2011.</p> <p>Agenda item 7e. STAP Focal Area Work: Land Degradation</p> <p>i. The STAP Secretariat will carefully assess the results of this discussion in reviewing the Panel's work program on land degradation</p>	<p>7d (iv) STAP's participation in the IPBES CoP took place immediately before the STAP meeting. This will be addressed at the upcoming STAP meeting in March 2012.</p> <p>7e (i) STAP developed a work program on land degradation for FY12 in consultation with the GEF Agencies and the GEF Secretariat.</p>
<p>Agenda item 8. Links with Convention Science Bodies</p> <p>i. Ensure STAP role in IPBES planning process, and encourage CBD participation in STAP meetings and/or work program advisory papers.</p>	<p>8 (i) The CBD Secretariat made a presentation on science priorities at the recent STAP meeting.</p>
<p>Agenda item 9. Evaluation Office and STAP</p> <p>i. STAP to continue dialogue with the GEF EO to define specific areas where STAP can assist in impact evaluations, along with methods for undertaking these evaluations.</p>	<p>9 (i) Please see paragraph #C5 in Annex 1 above</p>
<p>Agenda item 10. Targeted Research</p> <p>i. STAP will conduct a barrier analysis of targeted research in the GEF, and revise its approach paper based on the comments received at the meeting. The paper will then be used as a basis for further discussion at a brainstorming session organized by STAP.</p> <p>ii. The brainstorming meeting will include external experts, GEF Agencies, the GEF Secretariat, and the EO. The meeting will aim to discuss the outcomes of the targeted research analysis, and identify ways to reshape targeted research in the GEF.</p>	<p>Currently, STAP is analyzing completed targeted research projects, specifying the results/outcomes of targeted research projects, including their potential impact on environmental management. The result of this analysis will feed into an in-depth look of research initiatives (national and international) and their scientific methods to assess their applicability to strengthen science in the GEF, and strengthen the GEF's impact on the global environment.</p> <p>STAP will present the preliminary research results at its next meeting in 2012.</p>
<p>Agenda item 11. Preparations for Council – Adaptation Panel Member</p> <p>i. Finalize budget proposal for Adaptation Panel Member, along with budget narrative and submit to LDCF/SCCF Secretariat.</p>	<p>11 (i) Task completed. Selection process is under way</p>
<p>Agenda item 12. Upcoming Science Conferences</p> <p>i. After receiving the decision from the Planet Under Pressure Conference Organizing Committee, in consultation with the GEF partnership, STAP will design and manage 2 specific sessions at the Conference.</p>	<p>12 The STAP has been involved in the preparation of the Biodiversity and Ecosystems Policy Brief, prepared by the Planet Under Pressure (PuP) process as a key input to the Rio+20 Conference in 2012.</p> <p>In addition, at the PuP Conference itself (March 26-29, 2012, London), the STAP will be co-organizing two sessions during the conference: (i) "Tragedies and hopes of the global commons: Biodiversity, climate and the oceans as global benefits" in collaboration with DIVERSITAS and GEF Sec; and (ii) "Staying away from the edge: avoiding biophysical, ecological and social tipping points" in collaboration with DIVERSITAS. The STAP Biodiversity Panel Member is also on the overall scientific steering committee for the conference.</p>

