



Global Environment Facility

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UNEP INFORMATION NOTE ON THE RECONSTITUTION OF STAP

INTRODUCTION

1. *The Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility (GEF)* states that “UNEP shall establish, in consultation with UNDP and the World Bank and on the basis of guidelines and criteria established by the Council, the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) as an advisory body to the Facility”. The *Instrument* also states that “Council shall . . . approve and periodically review . . . the mandate, composition and role of STAP”.

2. *The Terms of Reference of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP): Mandate, Composition and Role* approved by the GEF Council in October 1995 states that “The Executive Director of UNEP, in consultation with UNDP, the World Bank and the GEF Secretariat, shall appoint the members of STAP and shall also designate a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson”. The tenure of the current STAP will expire at the end of FY98 (June 1998), and as a consequence the new STAP’s term of office will commence at the beginning of FY99 (July 1998). To assist with the process of reconstituting STAP and in accordance with the guidelines approved by Council for the composition and appointment of STAP, the Executive Director of UNEP has appointed a Search Committee.

PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA FOR RECONSTITUTION OF STAP

3. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to the Executive Director of UNEP in *The Instrument for the Establishment of the Restructured Global Environment Facility* and in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer/Chairman of the GEF and other Heads of Implementing Agencies, the Executive Director highlighted in a letter of May 14, 1997 the procedure and criteria guiding the reconstitution of STAP. She stipulated that the reconstitution of STAP will be guided by the need to learn from the lessons of the last reconstitution, and will ensure a minimum of continuity based on an objective evaluation of the performance of the current STAP Members. The Executive Director also stressed the importance of an equitable geographical representation and gender balance of the new STAP and of paying due regard to the principle of geographical rotation. To this end the Executive Director suggested to the Heads of Agency, in agreement with the CEO, the establishment of a Search Committee with the participation of the GEF Secretariat and the other Implementing Agencies with a view to finalising its recommendations well in advance of the April Council Meeting.

4. The CEO and Chairman of the GEF and the Heads of the other Implementing Agencies have subsequently nominated individuals to serve on the Search Committee on their behalf. The Search Committee, therefore, consists of representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, the GEF Secretariat and chaired by UNEP.

CONCLUSION OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

5. The first meeting of the Search Committee was held in Washington, D.C. on September 19, 1997. The following decisions were taken by the committee:

- (a) *A time-table for the conclusion of the work of the Committee.* It was agreed that the second meeting of the Committee will be convened in November 1997 immediately after the November Council Meeting and a third and final meeting will be convened in January/February 1998 with the view to finalizing recommendations to be made to the Executive Director of UNEP on the reconstitution of STAP. Council will be informed about progress on the reconstitution of STAP intersessionally.
- (b) It was also agreed, in accordance with the mandate entrusted to the Executive Director of UNEP, in consultation with the CEO/Chairman of the GEF and the other Implementing Agencies, that at the April 1998 meeting of the Council the names of the reconstituted STAP will be submitted for consideration by the Council. The announcement of the new composition of STAP will be made at the GEF Assembly to be held in New Delhi in April 1998.
- (c) In accordance with the guidelines contained in the "*Terms of Reference of the STAP: Mandate, Composition and Role,*" the Committee outlined a number of principles which should guide the work of the Search Committee in recommending the composition of STAP:
 - (i) Recognized leadership in applied science or technology in the GEF focal areas of Biological Diversity, Climate Change, International Waters, and Ozone Depletion, as well as Land Degradation as it relates to the four focal areas and with an ability to address the economic, social and policy dimensions of science or technology.
 - (ii) Geographical and gender balance;
 - (iii) Experience in the management of science and with knowledge of issues in the implementation of complex international initiatives;
 - (iv) An understanding of the organizational and operational setting of the Implementing Agencies, particularly in the context of programme and project development and implementation;
 - (v) Extent to which experts are involved with networks of their scientific and technical peers, including, knowledge about the scientific processes required for the implementation of relevant

conventions in developing countries and familiarity with relevant international assessments; and

(vi) Minimum continuity in the membership of STAP.

6. In order to facilitate an effective transfer of responsibility from the current STAP to the reconstituted STAP, the twelfth meeting of STAP to be convened in June 1998 will take the form of a joint meeting.