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REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY PANEL II (STAP II)

[Prepared by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP)]

Report to the First Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel II (STAP II)

New York, September 14 – 17, 1998

STAP Secretariat
United Nations Environment Programme

Introduction

1. In accordance with the programme of work, the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel II (STAP II) held its first meeting in New York from September 14-17, 1998. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Madhav Gadgil, Chairman of STAP.

2. The first meeting of STAP took the form of a strategic planning session, with the view of identifying the priority areas which STAP should address during GEFII. To facilitate this process, strategic planning sessions were convened with the scientific and technical bodies of environmental conventions, particularly those for which the GEF serves as the financial mechanism as well as the GEF Task Forces on Climate Change, International Waters and Biodiversity. A strategic planning session was also convened on the cross-cutting theme of land degradation as it relates to the other focal areas.

Agenda Item 1: Adoption of the Draft Provisional Agenda and Organization of Work.

A. Agenda and Organization of Work

3. The meeting adopted the draft provisional agenda and organization of work contained in documents UNEP/GEF/STAP II/1/2/Add.1 and UNEP/GEF/STAP II/1/2/Add.3.

B. Participation

4. The STAP members attending the meeting were Prof. Madhav Gadgil, Dr. Christine Padoch, Dr. Peter Bridgewater, Prof. Jose Sarukhan, Dr. Paola Rossi Pisa, Dr. Michel Colombier, Dr. Zhan Dadi, Dr. Stephen Karekezi, Prof. Shuzo Nishioka, Prof. Eric Odada, Prof. Angela Wagener and Dr. Dennis Anderson.

5. Dr. Kalapati Ramakrishna, Dr. Martin Upperbrink and Dr. Horst Korn of the CBB and its Subsidiary Body; Mr. Masanori Kobayashi and Dr. Ricardo Sanchez of the CCD and its subsidiary body; Dr. Suely Carvalho, Co-Chair of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel, Montreal Protocol; Dr. Jim Armstrong, CITES and Lic. Pablo Canevari (CMS) also attended the meeting.

6. The representatives from the GEF Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies who attended the meeting were Dr. Kenneth King, Assistant CEO; Dr. Allen Miller; Dr. Mario Ramos; Dr. Alfred Duda; Dr. Andrea Merla; Dr. Walter Lusigi, Dr. Dilip Ahuja; Mr. Frank Ritner; Mr. Hutton Archer; Dr. Jarle Harstad; Dr. Kanta Kumari; Mr. Herbert Acquay; (GEF Secretariat); Ms. Emma Torres; Dr. Eduardo Fuentes; Ms. Inger Anderson and Dr. Andrew. Hudson (UNDP); Dr. Charles Feinstein; Dr. Kathy McKinnon; Dr. Tony Garvey; Ms. Tina Kimes (World Bank); Ahmed Djoghlaf (UNEP); Dr. Mark Griffith and Ms. Anne-Marie Verbeken (STAP Secretariat).

Agency Item 2: Organizational Session of STAP

7. To facilitate the consideration of this agenda item by the Panel, the meeting had before it UNEP/GEF/STAP II/1/3 prepared by the STAP Secretariat in collaboration with the STAP Chair. Building upon the notion of STAP operating as a co-operative network, primary responsibility was allocated to the members of the Panel. These are summarized and appended in Annex 1. The allocation of responsibility will be reviewed from time to time as may be necessary.

Agency Item 3: Strategic Planning Session with Environmental Conventions

8. The strategic planning session with the Scientific bodies of Environmental Conventions was convened to continue the process of building synergy and complementarity between STAP work programme and the Scientific Bodies of Environmental Conventions, particularly those for which the GEF serves as the financial mechanism. More specifically the session reviewed the following:

    - *The Environmental Conventions with a view of identifying the main scientific and technical issues which will be addressed by the various scientific bodies over the next 2-3 years;*
    - *Inter-linkages between focal areas;*
    - *The priority issues which STAP could address in collaboration with the scientific bodies of Environmental Conventions, within the GEF context;*
    - *Effective ways of strengthening co-operation between STAP and the Subsidiary Bodies including assisting with the mobilization of the wider scientific and technical community in GEF work.*

9. The main issues which were identified by the subsidiary bodies of the conventions, which will be addressed over the next 2-3 years, are summarized as follows:

    - Sustainable use of terrestrial biological diversity in drylands, arid, semi-arid grassland and Savannah ecosystems;
    - Taxonomy with a particular focus on the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) and the use of Taxonomic information to support the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
    - Invasive/Alien Species;
    - Biodiversity Impact Assessment;
    - Biodiversity Practices and Technologies;
    - Indicators: In the case of the CDB emphasis will be placed on indicators of diversity and agro-biodiversity, whereas in the case of CCD, benchmarks and indicators will be the focus;
    - Tourism and biodiversity.

10. In Terms of inter-linkages between the various focal areas, a number of areas where the conventions could work cooperatively with STAP were identified. These are summarised as:

    - Carbon Sequestration;
    - Inter-linkages between land degradation and the other GEF focal areas;
    - Technology assessment and transfer;
    - Coastal habitat degradation/climate change linkage.

11. In addition, in order to facilitate and strengthen collaboration between STAP and the scientific and technical bodies of environmental conventions, particularly those for which the GEF serves as the financial mechanism a number of actions were endorsed. These may be grouped under two broad headings, (a) information exchange and (b) co-operation.

12. With respect to the former, the need was recognized, for greater and more effective exchange of information between STAP and the subsidiary bodies of the Conventions. To address this issue, it was agreed that in the first instance, information flows between the Secretariats of the Convention and the STAP Secretariat should be improved, commencing immediately. The respective Secretariats would in turn distribute information to members of the scientific and technical bodies.

13. A number of specific initiatives which could strengthen co-operation between STAP and the scientific and technical bodies of environmental conventions were identified. These include, but are not limited to, joint workshops and brainstorming sessions between STAP and the Subsidiary Bodies. Sustainable use of biodiversity with an emphasis on trade and indicators were identified as two possible themes which could be addressed jointly by STAP and the subsidiary bodies of environmental conventions. Specific areas of co-operation include:

    - Joint workshops and brainstorming sessions;
    - Mobilization of the wider scientific and technical community in GEF work;
    - Joint publications between STAP and the scientific and technical bodies of environmental conventions;
    - The convening of "Focus on Science" sessions in conjunction with the SUBSTA and/or COP meetings. These sessions will be very focused, addressing the scientific and technical dimensions of a particular issue or set of issues;
    - Cross-fertilization of rosters of experts.

Agenda Item 5 Strategic Planning Sessions with the GEF Task Forces

14. Strategic planning sessions were convened with the GEF Task Forces on Climate Change, Biodiversity, and International Waters. In addition, a special strategic planning session was convened on Land Degradation as it relates to the other GEF focal area. The technical staff of the GEF Secretariat, of the Implementing Agencies and the scientific and technical bodies of the Conventions participated in the strategic planning sessions.

15. In order to place the deliberations in the strategic planning sessions with the task forces within is proper context, a presentation was made by the Assistant CEO of the GEF on the Corporate Business Plan. The presentation focused on principles used in the GEF Corporate Planning process, the status and development of GEF Operational Programmes, programme management and quality management.

16. The substantive work of the strategic planning sessions focuses on the review of the GEF Operational Programme with the objective of reviewing progress, identifying strengths and weaknesses of the OPs and identifying new directions and opportunities arising out of an analysis of the project portfolio in the various focal areas. In addition, substantive discussion also focused on the proposed OPs on transport sector and CO_2 sequestration in the climate change focal area, incorporation of emerging technologies in GEF projects in the international waters focal area; and the cross-cutting issue of inter-linkages between land degradation and other GEF focal areas.

17. All those who participated in the strategic sessions expressed the usefulness of the interaction between STAP and the technical staff of the GEF Secretariat, Implementing Agencies and the scientific and technical bodies of environmental conventions. The meeting agreed that the practice of STAP interfacing with the technical staff of the GEF Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies be a standard feature of the STAP's annual strategic planning session.

Agenda Item 6: Report of the Strategic Planning Session and the Priority Areas which STAP could Address in GEF Phase II

18. The team leaders of the various task forces strategic planning sessions presented reports on their deliberations. The results of the strategic planning sessions are to be incorporated into the document prepared by the STAP Secretariat "*Priority Areas which STAP Could Address in GEF Phase II*". This document was requested by the GEF Council at its eleventh meeting in March 1998.

19. The main conclusions which emerged from the strategic sessions which have implications for STAP work are summarized as follows:

(a) Climate Change

- An issue that concerns all OPs in the climate change focal area is the need for more refined methodological approaches and indicators that can assist in tracking performance and impact of the OPs;

- In the case of OP5 "*Removal of Barriers to Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation*" it was concluded that in the future, a wider range of energy conservation technologies should be addressed within the context of the OP. In addition, the OP needs to reduce its technology orientation and focus on more general, indirect measures such as services to provide information advice, consultation, financial assistance, and risk management;

    - At a more strategic level, the analysis of the incremental cost consideration for energy efficiency improvement was identified as an important issue which needs further consideration. Given the conflicting opinions on this issue, it was felt that if resolved it could lead to a strategic improvement and/or revision of OP5. It is recommended that a targeted research project be initiated to address this issue;

- Though OP 6 "*Promoting the Adoption of Renewable Energy by Removing Barriers and Reducing Implementation Costs*" has included wind-powered generation for grid connected application, a large element in the current portfolio is PVs for solar home systems in rural areas – the off –grid markets. The general consensus is that this programme is slowing down because of the costs, time and difficulties of preparing new projects and the lack of interest in the private sector (including manufacturers of PVs) in these programmes. The lack of private sector interest is attributed to the difficulties associated with developing rural markets and the perception that GEF procedures are inflexible and time consuming;

    - Involvement of the private sector will almost certainly require development of the grid connected markets for PVs (and other forms of renewable energy), which are becoming well established, particularly, in OECD countries;

    - The creation of incentives is a major policy development trend which is likely to become increasingly important in competitive power markets. More in depth analysis of the adoptation of such incentives in the context of privatization and deregulation in the electricity industry was recognised;

    - For the development of rural markets, STAP encouraged the GEF to develop the idea of concessions in their current plans;

- The major issue identified with respect to OP7 is that this component of the portfolio has stalled. An analysis of the four technologies: PVs for grid-connected applications; solar thermal for power generation, biomass for power generation and fuel cells for vehicles and distributed generation, is provided.

  PVs: grid connected applications for decentralized generation have been well tested in the OECD countries, the technologies are well down the cost curves, and there is considerable potential for demonstration and some cost-efficient applications in the developing countries. GEF should now be considering programs which include both grid and off-grid applications. The new Renewable Energy Partnership also seems ideally suited for the development of the grid markets.

  Solar-thermal: despite considerable potential, programs have stalled world-wide, and there is much uncertainty about costs. Also, the GEF cannot carry the responsibility for developing technology alone, but only in conjunction with programs in the IEA countries.

  For PVs and Solar thermal: the markets in the 'south' is potentially very large, so the technology is potentially important, but a strategy for its further development, in conjunction with the programs of the 'north' still needs to be worked out.

  Fuel Cells: These too are still in the early stages of development and are high up the cost curves. This is a big area of R&D in the 'north' and GEF's role is going to be very limited for some years – pending the outcome of the projects in Europe, US and Japan. The market for fuel cells, in the next few years is also likely to be greatest in the north.

- Continued input by STAP is required on the proposed OPs on the Transport Sector and CO_2 Sequestration. With respect to the former, inclusion of options for accelerated dissemination of commercial and near commercial climate transport technologies and planning options (e.g. promotion of pedestrian and bicycle lanes and facilitating modal shifts from personal transport to mass transit as well as institutional building and strategic transport/land-use planning) was stressed. It was recommended that the current draft "*Elements of a GEF Operational Programme on Transport*" should also include freight vehicles and inter-city transport in the initial foci proposed for the OP.

- A general observation made with respect to the climate OPs is the marginalization of the social dimensions given in favour of a heavy focus on technological options.

In terms of responding to the issues raised, a number of specific initiative were identified by STAP to be undertaken during FY 99 and FY 2000. These are summarised as follows:

- Advice on the refinement of methodological approaches and indicators that can assist in tracking performance and impact of the OPs. This issue will be given priority by STAP and will be addressed in close collaboration with the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit of the GEF Secretariat.

- Convening of an Expert Group workshop/brainstorming focusing on the improvement of measurement and assessment of the impact of indirect measures for removal of market barriers for energy conservation, including baseline identification, boundary definition, etc.

- Undertake a series of initiatives aimed at addressing on grid and off-grid applications in the energy sector with a focus on the main technologies which are central to GEF OPs.

- Continued input into the preparation of the OPs on the Transport Sector and CO_2 Sequestration.

(b) Biodiversity

- Sustainable use and its global benefits, particularly in relation to what additional benefits to biodiversity enhancement protection such as sustainable use schemes may represent. The matter of the local versus the global interest remains to be clarified since this is necessary to go beyond the mere qualification into more conceptual grounds.

- Development of programmatic and project level indicators

- The exploration of "unorthodox" means for increasing incentives for conservative management of ecosystems, such as the development of "green markets" based upon other things in the legalized trade of Biodiversity components, for which new knowledge should either be generated or synthesized (from molecular markers to label organisms bred in captivity to new legal and trade frameworks to support and encourage such activities)

- The need for a greater appreciation of the availability and capacity of use of taxonomic information for biodiversity conservation purposes.

In terms of response, a number of key areas were identified, for action during FY98.

- The preparation of a background paper on sustainable use, conservation and benefit sharing including consideration of green markets to be followed by an Expert Group Workshop

- Convening of a brainstorming on the importance of taxonomic information for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

(c) International Waters

- At present there is a limited GEF focus on ground water resources. In particular, projects do not have as a focus the dry basins of the sub-saharan Africa. The scientific assessment of ground water would increase understanding of the nature of acquifers, recharge mechanisms, water quality and technology for sustainable exploitation and management. It would also help the GEF, in the context of International Waters OPs, to establish the critical relationships between acquifers in international basins and wetlands, biodiversity, land degradation and water quality.

- The need exist for an assessment of the state of knowledge in understanding the behavior of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and to consider strategies for establishing criteria or guidelines for management of POPs especially in tropical environments.

- This is an urgent need in the international waters focal area to create greater awareness on how changes in hydrological regimes can be used in sustainable management of water resources and for drought management, particularly in the arid regions of the world. Targeted research could be used to increase understanding in this area, particularly in arid and semi-arid ecosystems.

- The need to develop a "culture of science, information and technology" within the GEF (not only with respect to the International Waters focal area) in order to enhance the usefulness of science and technology for effective intervention to improve environmental quality was

recognized. As a consequence, the GEF OPs need to be continually reviewed, revised and updated to incorporate the best that science and technology have to offer in a continuously evolving area.

- Specific groups of emerging technologies which were particularly identified as prime targets for incorporation into GEF projects were (a) remote sensing technologies and techniques; (b) bioindicators especially for tropical regions; (c) technologies aimed at the removal and control of nutrients from agriculture practices and low cost removal from municipal point services; and (d) emerging technologies in pollution prevention.

In terms of STAP responding to these issues the following activities will be programmed for FY 99 and 2000:

- Convening of a STAP Expert Group Workshop on ground water resource with particular emphasis on dryland basins.

- Convening of a brainstorming session on persistent organic pollutants.

(d) **Land Degradation Interface**:

This issue was considered in the context of the operational programmes on biodiversity, climate change and international waters. The main conclusions as it relates to these focal areas are summarized below:

- Generally, it was recommended that projects concerning land degradation as it relates to the GEF focal areas be treated as experimental, demonstration and/or pilot initiatives

- In the focal area of biodiversity it is recommended that global benefits of biodiversity in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid land areas be further examined, with an emphasis on the uniqueness of the biodiversity and its importance in enhancing the integrity of these ecosystems.

- In the climate change focal areas it is recommended that global benefits of carbon sequestration in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid land areas should be explored, taking into account its multiple impacts of reducing the emissions of green house gases, rehabilitating the ecosystem of the degraded land areas and alleviating poverty.

- Within the context of the Operational Programme 6 (Renewable energy), more attention needs to be paid to projects which promote renewable energies as a replacement for fuel woods and charcoal. In this respect, the projects which promote the wider use of the traditional technology and practices at the local and communal levels would be more useful.

- In OP9 “Integrated Land and Water Multiple Focal Area” the issue of water quality was identify as critical in arid and semi-ecosystems and management strategies for addressing land degradation in this context.

20. In terms of follow-up, convening a STAP Expert Group Workshop on land-degradation inter-linkages was considered necessary. It was however, agreed that any STAP initiative in this area, should complement the initiative initiated by the GEF Secretariat in collaboration with the CCD Secretariat.

Agenda Item 7: Finalization of the Annual Review of the STAP Roster of Expert. July 1997 – June 1998.

21. To facilitate the consideration of this agenda item by the Panel, the meeting had before it a document, UNEP/STAP11/1/7 entitled "*Annual Review of the STAP Roster of Experts*" prepared by the STAP Secretariat with inputs from Panel members. The consensus which emerged from the meeting after the review of UNEP/STAP22/1/7 was that the document is well prepared and relevant. The STAP Secretariat was mandated to finalise the document in collaboration with the STAP Chair, taking into consideration the comments made by the Panel.

22. During the consideration of this agenda item a number of issues concerning the use and management of the roster were raised. The major issues which will require follow-up by the STAP Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies are summarized as follows:

    (a) *Gaps in expertise with Regional Bias*: The observation was made that a number of gaps exist in Roster with respect to specific types of expertise relevant to some regional and/or specific disciplines. Specific areas which were mentioned included expertise in drylands; the social sciences; RETs, energy efficiency; sustainable forestry, and sustainable use of biodiversity and agro-biodiversity specialists.

    (b) *Trend in the selection of roster Experts from Developed versus Developing countries*: The issue of the repeat use of Roster Experts by Implementing Agencies received a lot of attention by the Panel. Generally, it was felt that an attempt should be made to draw from a wider pool of experts in the review of projects. Some STAP members felt that complex projects should be subjected to at least two reviews by STAP Roster Experts. In addition, consideration was given to the use of an automated system to assist Task Managers in the Implementing Agencies with the initial selection of reviewers. The STAP Secretariat was requested to explore this further.

    (c) *Time allocated to the Roster Experts for Project Review*: One observation which was drawn from the Annual Review is the tight time frame within which Roster experts are requested to review projects. The Panel is of the view that adequate time should be given to the Roster Experts to review projects. In addition, it was felt that consideration should also be given to the level of compensation made available STAP Roster of Expert.

    (d) *Knowledge of the STAP Roster experts on GEF Operations*: This was recognized as a constraining factor which has impacted on aspects of the technical reviews by STAP Roster experts. It was accepted that it is STAP's function to keep the STAP Roster of Experts fully informed on GEF activities and operations. The STAP Secretariat was requested to develop and implement a programme aimed at orientating the STAP Roster Experts on GEF Operations and Programmes. Such a programme should seek to maximise the use of electronic communications as well as other means. In this regard, it was agreed that a STAP home page should be initiated and consideration given to inaugurating STAP electronic magazines and newsletters.

    (e) *Further integration of the Roster of Experts into GEF Operations*: Generally it was felt that a greater effort should be made to integrate STAP Roster Experts into GEF Operations being fully cognizant of the conflict of interest provisions in the GEF Operational Guidelines for the Use and Management of the Roster of Experts. Specific reference were made to a number of ideas which could serve as a starting point for discussion within the wider GEF family. These included:

(i) Involvement in Project Development Workshops as a means of promoting the GEF in the various regions of the world. The convenors of these workshops could explore a role for Experts in the STAP Roster.

(ii) Specialized consultancies to further facilitate GEF operations.

(iii) Experts could be drawn from STAP Roster to participate in GEF sponsored workshops and brainstorming sessions and selective reviews.

(iv) The GEF could explore the extent to which the STAP Roster of Experts could provide the basis for technical support to countries undertaking enabling activities.

(v) STAP Roster Experts could be used as a basis for the mobilization of the scientific and technical community in GEF work at the national and sub-regional levels.

Agenda Item 8: Follow-up to the First GEF Assembly

23. Three major themes which have their origin in the *New Delhi Statement* were considered under this agenda item.

a) **<u>Mobilization of the wider scientific community</u>**.

To facilitate the consideration of this agenda item by the Panel, the meeting had before it UNEP/GEF/STAPII/1/8 Add 1 prepared by the STAP Secretariat entitled "*Towards Mobilization of the Under Scientific and Technical Community in GEF work*."

The meeting reiterated the conclusions of STAP1 that the critical requirement in the mobilization of the wider scientific and technical community at the national and sub-regional levels would be finding an adequate entry. Furthermore, any strategy for mobilizing the wider scientific and technical community should consider the following:

(i) *A portfolio approach to the mobilization of the wider scientific and technical community. This would enable the GEF to build on existing institutions with competence in specific areas (i.e. biodiversity, international waters etc.). As an example, in the case of international waters the Regional Seas Programme could be used as a starting point in mobilizing science and technology in that focal area.*

(ii) Strengthening the GEF Operational Focal Points by interfacing them with the local technical and scientific community. This could be achieved through the establishment of local committees with representation from the local scientific and technical community. In this regard, resources would have to be invested by GEF in strengthening GEF Operational Focal Points. A critical part of that process should be interfacing the GEF Operational Focal Points with the scientific community at the national level, which in most cases are either Universities or local Scientific and Technical Associations.

(iii) The establishment of a network with the scientific and technical organs of the GEF related conventions.

(iv) An organization with the necessary institutional capacity will have to undertake the task of mobilization of the wider scientific community in collaboration with STAP. The

most logical organization to perform such a function will be UNEP in collaboration with STAP.

(v) Resources would have to be allocated by the GEF specifically to undertake this task at the national level.

In this regard, it was suggested that a small unit could be established within to facilitate STAP efforts at mobilizing the wider scientific and technical community in GEF work.

In addition, much concern was expressed about the mobilization of the wider scientific and technical community for what purpose, given the perceived difficulty in the community of sourcing GEF funding. In this regard, it was suggested that the GEF would need to be more flexible in its approach.

The meeting also identified a number of ways in which the mobilization of the wider scientific and technical community could benefit the GEF: These were summarized as

(a) Contribute to the strategic advice which STAP presents on GEF operations and programmes;
(b) Contribute to the development of methods of assessing the efficacy of ongoing GEF programmes;
(c) Assist in building capacity in and enabling the developing countries to design and implement programmes/projects that would further GEF objectives;
(d) Strengthen the scientific underpinning of GEF projects mainly through the inclusion of research and monitoring components in the projects.

The meeting outlined a number of elements which could be taken into consideration mobilizing the wider scientific and technical community in GEF work. These are summarized as follows:

- *Strengthening relations with existing science and technology networks.* In this regard specific reference was made to include networks in the social sciences such as ethno-botanic science networks etc.

- *STAP Expert Group Workshops* as a means of involving the wider scientific and technical community in providing inputs for strategic in GEF operations

- *Liaison with national, regional and international Science Congresses and Meetings:* To commence this process the meeting agreed to convene a one day session with the Brazilian scientists and technologists in collaboration with the Brazilian Academy of Science in October, 1998. Participants will also be invited from Chile, Argentina and Uruguay. The meeting also agreed to a workshop on "Science and Technology: Implications for GEF Operations and Programmes" to be convened in collaboration with COSTED of ICSU in Chennai (Madras) India, from January 5-6, 1999. To ensure cost-efficiency the meeting will convene back to back with the Indian Science Congress. It was also agreed that STAP should explore the feasibility of convening focused regional and/or sub-regional sessions on mobilization.

- *Incorporation of Science and Technology in GEF Projects*. The view was expressed that GEF projects in the same focal areas should be used as a vehicle for the mobilization of the wider scientific and technical community in GEF work. Specific reference was made to agro-biodiversity projects; renewable energy technologies and targeted research initiatives. In this regard specific reference was made to the World Bank proposal for renewable energy partnership.

With respect to targeted research, it was agreed that targeted research should be used as an integral part of the mobilization process. However, the efforts in this regard should be used to strengthening GEF operations and programmes. It was also suggested that in order for the mobilization process to be given substantive support, the Implementing Agencies should be required to indicate in the Stakeholder Participation Plan the specific efforts made to involve the wider scientific and technical community in GEF work

- *Strengthening of electronic communication*: This could take the form of a number of activities including the development of a STAP Home Page; electronic magazines and newsletters and electronic conferences.

- *Further Integration of the STAP Roster of Experts into GEF work:* It was agreed that a concerted effort should be made by the GEF to utilize more of the STAP Roster of Experts in other areas of GEF work, without a compromising them as far as the conflict of interest provisions governing the roster is concerned. Specific areas which were specifically referred to included specialized assignments such as the development of programme and project indicators for the CAP; involvement in STAP Expert Group Workshops and brainstormings; involvement in STAP Selective Reviews; technical support for enabling activities financed by the CAP.

- *Linking the various scientific processes that underpin environmental conventions* particularly strengthen collaboration with their scientific and technical bodies.

The meeting recognized the need for specific information which could be used as the basis for the STAP mobilization efforts. The STAP secretariat was mandated to work with the GEF Secretariat in developing the information required by the panel. In addition, it was agreed that STAP mobilization efforts will take place within and complement the GEF overall outreach and communication strategy.

b) **Measuring GEF Impacts: Choice of Indicators**

The context of STAP efforts in this area was a presentation by the GEF Monitoring and evaluation Unit on the rationale for indicators in GEF work and the overall approach to the development of indicators by the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Unit. After much substantive discussion it was agreed that STAP's main role will be in the provision of technical advice on the work being undertaken in this area. It was also agreed that STAP will continue to liaise with the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Unit on this issue. Drs. D. Anderson and Nishioka were assigned to lead STAP's efforts on this issue.

c) **Strengthening the linkage between land degradation and the GEF focal areas**.

The meeting was informed by the GEF Secretariat representative of the ongoing discussions between the GEF Secretariat and the CCD Secretariat on the follow-up of the decision of the First GEF Assembly. In this regard, specific reference was made to the joint proposed study by the GEF and CCD Secretariats on "Linkages Between Land Degradation, Particularly Desertification and Deforestation, and the GEF Focal Areas; Climate Change, Biodiversity International Waters and Ozone Layer Depletion." It was also indicated that STAP is expected to play a role in this process. Finally, it was agreed that any STAP initiative on this issue should be integrated with the GEF initiative. As a consequence, the proposed STAP Workshop on Land Degradation Linkages will be integrated into the GEF and CCD Secretariats' initiative. The STAP Secretariat was mandated to work with the GEF Secretariat in finding the most appropriate modality to ensure that STAP work complement the efforts being undertaken by the GEF Secretariat.

Agenda Item 9: STAP's Initiative on Taxonomy

24. Dr. Peter Bridgewater gave an overview of the workshop convened by Diversitas Environment Australia and STAP on "Shortening the Distance Between Discovery and Delivery: The Role of Taxonomy in Furthering the Objectives of the Convention".

25. Based upon the workshop conclusions and discussions with the GEF Task Force on Biodiversity, STAP recommends that the GEF focus should not be so much on supporting taxonomy as a discipline, but on organizing and using taxonomic information to promote the CBD objectives.

26. In addition, it was agreed that STAP convenes a brainstorming in the "Use of Taxonomic Information in Achieving the Convention Objectives." The workshop will be convened in collaboration with SBSTA immediately before the 4th meeting of the SBSTA in May 1999.

Agenda Item 10: Review of STAP's Work Programme for FY '99

27. To facilitate the consideration of this agenda item by the panel, the meeting had before it UNEP/GEF/STAP II/1/10 prepared by the STAP Secretariat.

28. After substantive discussion, the panel finalized its work programme for FY '99. The work programme is contained in Annex II.

Agenda Item 11: Any Other Business

29. The meeting considered two substantive issues under this agenda item: (a) STAP Issue Workshop on Climate Change Impact, Assessment and (b) A STAP initiative on Land Degradation Inter-Linkages at the COP of the CCD to be convened in Dakar, Senegal from November 30 to December 10, 1998.

30. With respect to the former, the Panel endorsed the outline for the issue workshop prepared by the STAP Secretariat and mandated the STAP Secretariat to process and make the necessary arrangements for the convening of the workshop. Dr. Nishioka, was selected to make the presentation at the workshop and attend the SBSTA meeting.

31. In the case of the latter the STAP Secretariat was mandated to continue to work with both the GEF and CCD Secretariat in finalizing a possible STAP workshop on Land Degradation Inter Linkages to be convened during the COP2 of CCD. Dr. Paola Rossi Pisa was selected as the STAP panel representative at the COP2 of CCD.

Adoption of the Report

32. The Meeting considered the draft report and entrusted the STAP Secretariat to incorporate the comments made.

Closing of the Meeting

33. The Meeting was closed at 5.00 p.m. on September 17, 1998.

Annex I

Allocation of Responsibility – STAP II

Activities	Area of Responsibility	STAP Member
1. Strategic Advice	• Energy/Climate Change/Adaptation	Dr. Stephen Karekezi, Dr. Dennis Anderson, Dr. Zhou Dadi, Prof. Shuzo Nishioka and Dr. Michel Colombier
	• International Waters	Prof. Eric Odada, Dr. Angela Wagener
	• Biodiversity	Prof. J. Sarukhan, Dr. P. Bridgewater, Dr. C. Padoch, and Prof. M. Gadgil
	• Land Degradation as It Relates to the Other Focal Areas	Dr. P. Pisa, Dr. A. Wagener and Dr. S. Karekezi
2. Cross-Cutting Issues	• Biodiversity and climate change	Prof. Jose Sarukhan
	• Biodiversity and international waters	Dr. Peter Bridgewater
	• Biodiversity and land degradation	Prof. Paola Rossi Pisa
	• Climate change and international waters	Prof. Eric Odada
	• Climate change and land degradation	Dr. Stephen Karekezi
	• International waters and land degradation	Dr. Angela Wagener
	• Human dimension	Dr. Christine Padoch, Prof. Shuzo Nishioka
3. Interaction with Scientific and Technical Bodies of Convention	• SBSTA – Climate Change • SBSTA – Biodiversity • Scientific and Technical Committee - CCD	Dr. Zhou Dadi (Dr. S. Karekezi) Dr. P. Bridgewater (Prof. J. Sarukhan) Dr. Paola Rossi Pisa (Dr. Dennis Anderson)
4. Monitoring and Evaluation	• Scientific indicators and impact assessment	Dr. Dennis Anderson, Prof. Shuzo Nishioka
5. Selective Review	• Selective review – climate change	Dr. Michel Colombier
	• Selective review – biodiversity	Dr. Christine Padoch
6. Targeted Research	• Targeted research – climate change	Dr. Michel Colombier
	• Targeted research – biodiversity	Dr. Angela Wagener
	• Targeted research – international waters	Dr. Angela Wagener
7. Roster of Experts	•	Dr. Michel Colombier, Dr. Zhou Dadi
8. Mobilization of the Wider Scientific Community	•	Prof. S. Nishioka, Prof. Jose Sarukhan

Annex II

STAP Work Programme
FY99

ACTIVITY	**DATE**	OUTPUT	TASK LEADER RESPONSIBLE
STAP MEETINGS/BRAINSTORMING SESSION First Meeting of STAP – New York Second Meeting of STAP - Nairobi Third Meeting of STAP – Mexico City	 September 14-17, 1998 February 10-11, 1999 June 23-25, 1999	 Report Report Report	 Chairman/STAP Secretariat
UPDATING OF ROSTER OF EXPERTS AND MAINTENANCE OF DATABASE • Technical inputs (updating of database to accommodate new requirements) • Editing and Printing • Distribution • Management of the Roster of Experts including quality control	 Ongoing	 Consolidate Roster of Experts (Version I and II)	 STAP Secretariat and Panel
SELECTIVE REVIEWS 5-7 Selective Reviews including ongoing Reviews • Lake Victoria • Photovoltaic Market Transformation Initiative • Rajasthan Solar Thermal Energy Project • Management/Black Sea • Biosafety • Sustainable Use of Biodiversity– Sri Lanka/Ghana	 Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing	 Progress Reports to GEF Council on Selective Reviews	 C. Padoch E. Odada Z. Dadi S. Karekezi S. Nishioka J. Sarukhan P. Bridgewater A. Wagener
STRATEGY ADVICE • Contribution to GEF Operational Programmes (a) Transport (b) Carbon Sequestration • Technology Transfer across focal areas • Review of GEF Operational Programmes (a) Review of GEF projects (b) Cluster Review of Medium Size Projects (c) Strategic papers: • Operational Strategic Issues identified by GEF Council, the GEF Secretariat and Implementing Agencies • Input into the Global International Waters Assessment • Sustainable Use/Conservation/Benefit Sharing	 Ongoing	 4-5 Reviews and Technical Papers	 STAP Panel
WORKSHOPS/ROUNDTABLES/Brainstormings • Biodiversity - Taxonomy (one day meeting) • Workshop on Interlinkages • Mobilization of Wider Scientific Community - Follow-up to NAS Initiative • Brainstorming on Groundwater • Brainstorming on POPs Brainstorming Session: Promotion of Taxonomy Information – SBSTTA/STAP • Brainstorming – Solar Thermal Technologies • Brainstorming on Carbon Sequestration	 September 10-11, 1998 October 26, 1998 April 1999 January 5-6, 1999 February 9, 1999 June 21, 1999 May 1999 June 22, 1999 February 8, 1999	 Report Strategy for Mobilization of the Wider Scientific and Technical Community	 P. Bridgewater A. Wagener S. Nishioka M. Colombier E. Odada A. Wagener J. Sarukhan D. Anderson S. Nishioka
MONITORING AND EVALUATION # Input into the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation exercise	ongoing	Reviews and technical papers	D. Anderson S. Nishioka

MEETING TO BE ATTENDED BY STAP CHAIR/ MEMBERS -			
# 2 GEF Council Meeting (Chairman and Vice-Chair) # 2 NGO Consultations	Washington, D.C. October 1998 and May 1999		M. Gadgil C. Padoch
Climate Change			
SBSTTA - Climate Change	Argentina, November 1998	Report	S. Nishioka
COP 4	May 1998	Report	
Biodiversity			
SBSTTA - Biodiversity			J. Sarukhan P. Bridgewater M.Gadgil
Land Degradation CCD COP2/CCD	Dakar, December 1998	Expert Panels	P. Pisa