



Global Environment Facility

GEF/C.13/Inf.11
April 5, 1999

GEF Council
May 5-7, 1999

REPORT OF THE STAP BRAINSTORMING
ON INTEGRATING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
INTO GEF WORK
BRAZIL
OCTOBER 26-27, 1998

(Prepared by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel)

**Report of The
STAP Brainstorming
On Integrating Science and Technology
into GEF Work**

**Brazil
October 26-27, 1998**

*Prepared by
The Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP)
Of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)*

STAP Secretariat

United Nations Environment Programme

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Preface

It is a pleasure to present The Report of *the STAP Brainstorming on Integrating Science and Technology into GEF Work*. The Brainstorming Session was held at the Headquarters of the Brazilian Academy of Science at Rio de Janeiro in Brazil on October 26-27, 1998. It was convened in collaboration with Brazilian Academy of Sciences and the National Research Foundation of Brazil.

The meeting was attended by scientists affiliated to scientific and research institutions in Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay as well as scientists from the Ministries of Science and Technology and of Environment of Brazil.

The brainstorming session sought to establish a dialogue with scientists in South America as well as to explore modalities for integrating the scientific and technical community in GEF work. The recommendations contained in the Report were also considered at the *STAP Expert Group Workshop on Integrating Science and Technology into GEF Operations* held in Chennai, India on January 5-7, 1999.

The workshop report was prepared by the STAP Secretariat.

Prof. Madhav Gadgil
STAP Chairman

October, 1998

Background

The New Delhi Statement of the First GEF Assembly approved by the First GEF Participant Assembly calls *on the GEF to build strong relationships and networks with the global scientific community, especially with national scientists and scientific institutions in recipient countries.*

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) to the GEF, which acts as a conduit between GEF and wider scientific and technical community, at its First Meeting for GEF II convened in New York in September, 1998, identified “Mobilization of the Wider Scientific and Technical Community in GEF Work” as one of its major priorities for FY99-2000¹. This will take the form of a number of activities including *inter alia* the convening of national, regional and/or sub-regional meetings with the scientific and technical community in developing countries; expert group workshops with a view to contributing to STAP strategic advice to the GEF; strengthening relationship with existing scientific and technical networks and making recommendation to the GEF on how to further integrate science into GEF operations through targeted research and/or regular GEF projects.

The overall objectives of STAP’s efforts in mobilizing the wider scientific and technical community in GEF work are as follows:

- (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 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 targeted research and monitoring components in the projects.

The first in a series of activities aimed at mobilizing the wider scientific and technical community in GEF was convened in Rio de Janeiro from October 26-27, 1998. It took the form of brainstorming session was convened in collaboration with the Brazilian Academy of Sciences and the National Research Foundation of Brazil on the theme, “*Integrating Science and Technology into GEF Work*”.

Objectives

The objectives of the workshop are:

- (i) To establish a dialogue with scientists and technologists with the view of obtaining their views on the most appropriate mechanisms to involve them in the different phases of the GEF project cycle;
- (ii) To review the scientific and technical issues underpinning the GEF focal areas of biodiversity, international waters and climate change, the GEF response to these issues, and the role of scientists and technologists in strengthening the scientific and technical aspects of GEF responses;

¹ Priority Issues which STAP Should Address in GEF II

- (iii) To identify modalities for interaction between the GEF and scientific and technical institutions at the national and regional level as a means of integrating science into GEF operations.

Participants

The meeting was attended by scientists affiliated to scientific and research institutions in Brazil, Chile, Argentina and Uruguay as well as the Ministries of Science and Technology and of Environment of Brazil and STAP (Annex II).

Presentations

The meeting was opened and co-chaired by the Chairman of STAP, Prof. Madhav Gadgil. He presented a general overview of the range of activities supported by the GEF as well as the central role STAP plays in orchestrating the science and technology input into GEF operations.

Dr. E.M. Kreiger, President of the Brazilian Academy of Science commended STAP for the initiative in co-hosting the workshop with the Academy and reaffirmed the Academy's commitment to working with STAP and the GEF in enhancing the integration of science and technology in GEF work.

Presentations were also made by Dr. Angela Wagener on scientific and technical issues in the international waters portfolio; Dr. Bráulio de Souza Dias on biodiversity and Prof. Mauricio T. Tolmasquim on climate change with a focus on IGBP Global Change programme and its relationship with other regional and international network, Prof. Milton L.L. Formoso on tropical soils and Dr. Luiz Antonio Barreto de Castro on the progress made to date on the Ministry of Science and Technology of Brazil on developing a data base on scientists in Brazil.

Main Conclusions/Recommendations

After much discussion on the issues raised by the presenters the meeting made a number of recommendations. These were divided into four main categories namely; general recommendations; those which are specific to STAP and the GEF, those which have implications for regional scientific and technical institutions and those specifically aimed at the GEF operational focal point (OFP).

(i) General

- The meeting identified a number of opportunities which exist in the GEF project cycle for the involvement of the scientific and technical community. These are summarised as:
 - Priority setting through the National Strategic Action Plans (NSAPs) and the Conventions;
 - Standard setting primarily through STAP/GEF;
 - Project formulation through the National GEF Operational Focal Points (OFP);
 - Project selection and approval through the OFP and the Implementing Agencies;
 - Project implementation;
 - Project reviews.

- The need for outreach information specifically aimed at the science and technical community was identified as a major issue which should be addressed as an integral part of STAP's mobilization efforts. This concern arose, because it was generally felt, that GEF documents are usually produced in such a way which is not easily understandable by the wider scientific and technical community. It was also suggested that the availability of such information should be supported by consultations with this community to further explain the implications of GEF operations.

(ii) STAP and GEF

In the case of STAP and the GEF the meeting recommended that:

- Consideration should be given to the inclusion in each GEF project document specific reference regarding how the wider scientific and technical community have been involved in the project preparation process. It was felt that this could be effectively integrated into the Annex on Stakeholder Participation Plan;
- GEF should improve standards for proposals submitted to the GEF for funding;
- The use of the roster for the review of proposals submitted to the GEF should be increased. It was felt that more than one roster expert be used for project review, especially complex projects;
- The use of the roster experts from developing countries for the review of GEF proposal should be improved. It was felt that a 50:50 ratio of developed and developing country roster experts should be adequate;
- The capacity of STAP Roster of Experts from developing countries to analyse and evaluate GEF projects should be enhanced. It was recommended that in the first instance information on the GEF, its operations and guidelines for GEF project reviews should be circulated to the STAP Roster of Experts, particularly those in developing countries;
- GEF should provide more support to scientific and technical initiatives as a means of enhancing GEF operations;
- STAP could develop an international database or network of regional databases of world scientists in areas of interest for GEF operations;
- STAP could establish contacts with international (global and regional) scientific and technical organisations and programmes, including the respective national committees, to receive advice on scientific and technical matters for establishing new guidelines and standards; develop indicators for project performance; minimum standards for GEF projects to facilitate attainment of the effectiveness of the different kinds of policy and management measures provided by the various projects;
- STAP should closely follow and contribute to the scientific and technical understanding of issues being addressed by the scientific and technical bodies of the Conventions for which the GEF serve as the financial mechanism;

- STAP should explore ways and means of increasing the use of electronic communication as a means of reaching the wider scientific and technical community. In this regard, consideration could be given to electronic magazines and newsletters and electronic conferences.

Possible Roles for Regional and Sub-regional Scientific and Technical Organizations

- Co-ordination in collaboration with STAP of outreach to help the wider scientific and technical community understand the opportunities offered by the GEF;
- Assist STAP in organizing consultations and workshops to further clarify GEF issues;
- Assist Latin American countries in preparing and implementing regional projects for consideration by the GEF.

National Operational Focal Points

- Establish mechanisms to ensure that the best available scientific and technical information is incorporated in all proposals submitted to the GEF for funding. To facilitate this the OFP should promote the participation of local scientific and technical institutions in project preparation, implementation and evaluation.

To achieve this the meeting recommended the establishment of a national multidisciplinary science and technology advisory group to assist the national OFP. The meeting also suggested the GEF should provide resources to facilitate interaction between the NFP and the scientific and technical community.

In the case of Brazil, the National Academy of Science was invited to continue to take the lead in mobilizing the scientific and technical community, in GEF work. It was further suggested that consultations be initiated with the relevant Government ministries to see how the recommendations resulting from the meeting can be operationalized.

**Integrating Science and Technology into GEF Work,
October 26-27 October, 1998, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**

Agenda

- 9.00 – 9.30 a.m. Statement by STAP Chair
Statement by Representative: Brazilian Academy of Sciences
- 10.00 a.m. Overview and Structure of the Workshop – Dr. Angela Wagener
- 10.15 a.m. Scientific Issues Underpinning the GEF Focal Areas – Panel
- International Waters - Dr. Angela Wagener
 - Biodiversity - Dr. Braulio de Souza Dias
- Discussion
- 1.00 p.m. Lunch
- 2.30 p.m. The GEF Response
- Overview of GEF Operational Programmes and the Assumptions underpinning them;
 - Targeted Research
 - Agro-biodiversity
 - Land Degradation as it Relates to the other GEF Focal Areas
 - Climate Change - Prof. Mauricio Tolmasquim
- Discussion
- 5.30 p.m. Summary of Day 1
- 5.45 p.m. Closure
- DAY 2**
- 9.00 a.m. “Integration of Science and Technology into GEF Work” – The role of the Wider Scientific and Technical Community
- 2.00 p.m. Closure of the Meeting

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