

Second Meeting of the GEF Earth Fund Board (March 18, 2010)

#### **Agenda Item 4**

### **Screening of Earth Fund Platform Proposals by the GEF Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP)**

After consultation with the STAP, the Secretariat has proposed that Earth Fund Platform Proposals be provided to STAP in advance of their issuance for Board review, and that any comments from STAP be duly considered during Board review.

The following is a description of the relevant procedure. The language in italics below is proposed for adoption at the Earth Fund Board meeting of March 18, 2010. Upon adoption, this language will be incorporated as an amendment to the Earth Fund Board Procedures document, which will be promptly circulated to the GEF Council for approval.

*“STAP will screen every Earth Fund Platform proposal (hereinafter "Proposal") following its formal submission by any authorized Agency to the GEF Secretariat, with the intention of advising the Agency concerned and the GEF Secretariat of STAP's concerns or its suggested improvements. Screening is to be completed by STAP within ten days of its receipt of a Proposal, comprising up to five days for the STAP Secretariat's primary screening and an additional five days for peer review by STAP members or their designated expert representatives.*

*STAP's advice will concentrate upon those elements of a Platform Proposal with (i) a major component of science and technical innovation, (ii) an experimental design or approach, and (iii) significant implementation and methodological barriers. Following STAP screening, the GEF Secretariat will include STAP's recommendations with its submission of the Platform Proposal to the Earth Fund Board, and the Board will be asked to consider such recommendations and any responses provided to them as part of its review of the Proposal".*

#### **About the STAP:**

STAP provides strategic scientific and technical advice to the GEF on its strategy and programs. STAP has six members who are internationally recognized experts in the GEF's key areas of work: biodiversity, biosafety, climate change, coastal and fresh water management, sustainable land management, persistent organic pollutants, and integrated ecosystem management.

STAP also maintains a roster of experts who advise on individual projects. Its work is supported by a secretariat based at the UNEP North American office in Washington, DC.

Further information about STAP can be found at the STAP website ([www.stapgef.unep.org](http://www.stapgef.unep.org)). STAP's objectives are:

- To identify and provide strategic advice on scientific and technical priorities, the scientific and technical coherence of GEF operational programs and strategies, and on emerging issues and gaps relevant to the implementation of operational programs.
- To provide scientific and technical advice aimed at strengthening the scientific and technical quality and underpinnings of GEF projects.
- To enhance and improve the collaboration with other scientific and technical bodies, communities and private sector in areas of relevance to the GEF priorities.
- To advise on capacity building efforts in science and technology relevant for development and implementation of GEF projects.
- To advise on targeted research relevant to GEF strategic priorities.
- To advise on monitoring and evaluation indicators for focal areas and cross-cutting issues.