

**STAP/GEF side event – Delivering Global Environment Benefits for Sustainable Development**  
**GEF Assembly**  
**Cancun, Mexico**  
**May 27, 2014 – 5:45 pm**

The session will focus on the multiple and critical links between global environmental benefits and sustainable development. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) acknowledges a catalytic role in generating multiple benefits through integrated approaches between the focal areas, and across its adaptation funds – the Least Developed Country Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF). In its upcoming sixth phase, the GEF will encourage further interlinkages through multiple focal area projects, including sustainable forest management. Stand-alone programs, pilot integrated approaches, also will offer systemic planning addressing the complex and multiple interactions between humans and the environment, as a means of sustaining resilience of ecosystems while improving livelihoods. Embracing integration is a step towards innovation in the GEF as it builds on its catalytic roles – to generate multiple benefits across environmental components, and between the environment and sustainable development.

The session is designed to highlight these vital linkages between global environmental benefits and sustainable development, providing examples from the recent work by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the GEF (STAP). The objective is to demonstrate the scientific evidence for the benefits of investing in integrated approaches, and why the GEF’s investments in this area will enhance further its catalytic role on environmentally sustainable development. A second objective is to encourage innovation through the design and delivery of systemic integration, building on the priority issues identified by STAP in its report to the GEF Assembly “Delivering Global Environmental Benefits for Sustainable Development”.

Two themes are covered that exemplify STAP’s vision for innovation and integration between the global environment and sustainable development:

- (1) Design of policies, programs and projects to encourage testing of innovative ideas, their demonstration and deployment for further adoption and scaling-up
- (2) Delivery of learning and knowledge management by the GEF partnership

Rosina Bierbaum, the STAP Chair, will Chair the side event together with the Panel members. The discussion will be introduced by Naoko Iishi, GEF CEO.

The names of the STAP members are as follows: Sandra Diaz (Biodiversity), Ralph Sims (Climate Change Mitigation), Anand Patwardhan (Climate Change Adaptation), Jakob Granit (International Waters), Annette Cowie (Land Degradation), and Henk Bouwman (Chemicals and Waste). The Panel will be joined by Michael Stocking, the STAP Chair’s Adviser.