

IWC7 Roundtable

October 30th, 14.30h to 16.15h.

The Political Economy of Regionalism and International Waters

Session Coordinator: Jakob Granit, GEF Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel

Objectives

The Roundtable will connect the debate about the role of GEF and its projects within a regional political economy. The political economy of regions determines the behavior of individuals, markets and the public authority and is of importance for all GEF operations. The findings of the June 2013 GEF/STAP workshop held in Washington DC, hosted by the Organization of American States: 'The Political Economy of Regionalism and International Waters' will be presented and discussed. That workshop considered a draft Issues/Research Paper and representatives of regional organizations agreed that GEF should consider regional processes more systematically regarding project design baseline assessment, regional capacity building and principles for strengthening dialogue at regional level.

Outputs

◆ Presentations of research paper **on the political economy of regionalism – the relevance for transboundary waters and the Global Environment Facility** followed by short presentations from invited speakers to consider the common opportunities within different regions for GEF's International Waters investments and roundtable dialogues on implications for GEF projects.

Outcomes

◆ This expert roundtable will allow for a discussion and future dialogues on the extent and the manner in which regionalization processes influence GEF interventions and how GEF interventions can be better positioned in these processes for mutual benefit.

Program:

14.30 – 14.45 Jakob Granit, introduction to the Roundtable and overview of the STAP Research Paper "The Political Economy of Regionalism: The Relevance for Transboundary Waters and the Global Environment Facility "

14.45 – 15.15 Panel introduction to the research paper topics (10 minutes each):

- Robin Mahon, University of the West Indies: Perspectives from a regional GEF project on regional ocean governance in the Caribbean
- Anya Thomas, CARICOM; Perspectives from a regional economic organization - a single space for economic and environmental transaction in the Caribbean
- Max Campos, Organization of American States: Perspectives from a multipurpose regional organization on the environment and overarching goals related to peace justice and security

15.15 – 15.45 Discussion in roundtables on two key questions:

- What does regionalism mean for your current project? Is it an important issue to consider to make your current project activities sustainable?
- What does regionalism mean for future GEF project design? Please list 3 issues you believe could be part of future guidance documents from the GEF in project design.

15.45 – 16-15 Feedback from group discussion and summing up by panel