

STAP Expert Workshop

The Political Economy of Regionalism and International Waters

Lead persons

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Where: The OAS General Secretariat Building (GSB), 1889 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006, USA (corner of 19th and F Streets)

When: 11-12th June 2013

Objective:

This Expert Workshop is designed to allow for a discussion 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.

A draft GEF STAP Information paper will be circulated in advance of the workshop.

Rationale:

The long-term strategic goal of the International Waters (IW) focal area in the GEF is *the promotion of collective management for transboundary water systems and subsequent implementation contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services*. Most activities of this focal area's projects and programs are concerned with the delivery of regional public environmental goods and services.

Emerging and existing Regional Organizations/Communities such as the European Union (EU), Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), East African Community (EAC), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Organization of American States (OAS), Central American Integration System (SICA), Pacific Island Forum, Caribbean Community, the Central Asian Union and their neighborhoods are increasingly influencing the context within which GEF programs and projects are developed and implemented. These evolving regional economic governance frameworks have shown to be a vehicle to strengthen cooperation on transboundary water bodies by providing an umbrella for larger regional integration and sharing of benefits "beyond the basin".

Regional political and economic organizations are increasingly providing alternative and binding frameworks for cooperation, trade and exchange. Depending on the maturity and progress of these regional integration mechanisms, GEF interventions will benefit from stronger coordination and striving to develop either informal or formal cooperation with these emerging regional structures. While GEF projects are based on an integrated, water-body and ecosystem approach it will be important to understand the political economy of regional economic frameworks considering overlapping jurisdictions.

The current baseline situation established through GEF International Waters focal area practice is that transboundary cooperation is first facilitated through the application of GEF tools such as the a Transboundary Diagnostic Assessment (TDA) followed by an agreed Strategic Action Programs (SAP) amongst the riparian countries¹. In this context the impact of GEF interventions has been shown to be strongly influenced by scale, availability of expertise and its connection to governance² in general and multi-country governance in particular.

¹ <http://iwlearn.net/publications/courses>

² E.g., <http://www.thegef.org/gef/Impact%20Evaluation%3A%20South%20China%20Sea%20and%20Adjacent%20Areas>

Scope of the workshop:

The workshop on the political economy of regionalism and international waters is held at the opportune moment when priorities and operational modalities for the next GEF-6 Replenishment Cycle are discussed. The planned STAP Information Paper will contribute to the outcomes of this process.

Process in which this workshop sits:

1. Draft STAP report *The Political Economy of Regionalism – Impacts on the GEF and International Waters*– May 2013;
2. Workshop (June 2013) and finalize STAP report with recommendations to the GEF Council and for the GEF Replenishment by the end of July 2013;
3. Publish the Report with findings and recommendations by September 2013; optional: shortened version presented in a peer-reviewed international journal end of 2013.

Targeted Participants:

- Representatives from large GEF recipient countries
- GEF Secretariat and GEF EO
- Representatives from regional development organizations
- Members of the GEF International Waters Task Force or their delegates
- Managers of GEF IW projects and programs
- STAP and academic experts
- Representatives from relevant non-governmental organizations

Format of Expert Consultation:

The STAP Workshop will be designed to maximize discussion and develop GEF-specific key messages as an input to the information paper. Participants will be provided a draft Information report in advance of the meeting. The final STAP Information report including workshop recommendations will be disseminated widely through GEF Council, IW Task Force, professional networks and listservs, and other outreach means.

Agenda

Tuesday, June 11

09:00 – 09:15	Opening OAS Secretariat (TBC) <i>Gustavo B. da Fonseca</i> , Head, Natural Resources, Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)
09:15 – 09:30	Rationale and expectations for the workshop (<i>Jakob Granit</i> , STAP)
09:30 – 09:45	GEF IW Strategy for the 6 th replenishment period (<i>Ivan Zavadsky</i> , International Waters Focal Area Coordinator, GEF Secretariat)
09:45 – 10:00	Introduction of participants
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee break
Session 1	
10:30 – 11:30	Introducing the draft paper on the political economy of regionalism and international waters (<i>Fredrik Söderbaum</i> , STAP Consultant)
11:30 – 12:00	Q&A
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch
Session 2	
13:00 – 15:00	Presentations from regional institutions on regionalisation processes and the GEF (10 min presentation and 5 min Q&A)
13:00 – 13:15	<i>Phera Ramoeli</i> (Senior Program Officer at Southern African Development Community Secretariat, Botswana) <i>Experience from SADC and the transboundary river basin commissions</i>
13:15-13:30	<i>Hamukuaya Hashali</i> (Executive Secretary at the Benguela Current Commission, Namibia) <i>Science to Governance in the BCLME: Two decades of institutional and capacity building for integrated transboundary LME management</i>
13:30-13:45	<i>Canisius Kabungo Kanangire</i> (Executive Secretary of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission, Rwanda) <i>The role of LVBC in the EAC developmental and integration agenda</i>
13:45-14:00	<i>Peter Kanyi Maina</i> (Senior Economist/M&E, NBI/NELSAP, Rwanda) <i>The role of NELSAP in regional integration</i>

14.00-14.15	<i>Tuğba Evrim Madem</i> (ORSAM- Water Research Programme, Turkey) <i>Turkey and the implementation of the EU aquis in the context of transboundary river basins</i>
14.15-14.30	<i>Martha Jarosewich-Holder</i> (The World Bank - Central Asia Energy Water Development Program, USA) <i>Lessons from cooperation in the Baltic Sea region, the GEF, HELCOM and the EU</i>
14.30-14.45	<i>Cletus Springer</i> (Director, Department of Sustainable Development, OAS, USA) <i>Lessons from the Regionalization of Water Programs in the Americas</i>
14.45-15.00	<i>Robin Mahon</i> (Director of the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies, University of the West Indies, Barbados) <i>The importance of regional cooperation and governance arrangements for Small Island Developing States</i>
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee break
Session 3	
15.30 – 16.00	Lessons learned from GEF IW projects and programs: How specific IW projects supported by the GEF contributed to improve regional collaboration beyond meeting GEF IW specific objectives (Douglas Taylor)
16.00 – 16.30	South China Sea GEF project - Impact Evaluation (Aaron Zazueta, Chief Evaluation Officer GEF)
16.30 – 17.00	Q&A and close of the day

Wednesday, June 12

09:00 – 09:15 Expectations for the Day 2 (*Jakob Granit*, STAP)

Session 4

09:15 – 11.00 Working groups on report's key messages

11:00 – 11:30 **Coffee break**

11.30 – 12.30 Report back

12.30 – 13.00 **Closure of the meeting and next steps** (*Jakob Granit*, STAP; Workshop team; GEF Secretariat and host)