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**STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE STAP TO THE
LDCF/SCCF COUNCIL**

1. Since the publication of the Fourth Assessment Report of the IPCC, recent scientific results increasingly indicate that the projected changes to climate, and attendant adverse impacts, are likely to be more severe and immediate than those predicted in 2007. Manifestation of impacts to human communities, ecosystems, and socio-economic development sectors are expected by as early as the next decade by impacting crop yields and through water stress.
2. Climate change will have considerable impact on land use and food production systems due to factors such as changes in temperature, changes in spatial and temporal rainfall variability, uneven access to appropriate irrigation, frequency and intensity of extreme events, soil organic matter transformations and erosion, change in pest profiles, loss of agricultural lands due to land degradation, desertification and coastal inundation. Impacts will be acute in climate sensitive regions; particularly in tropical regions with seasonal rain-fed agriculture. One can expect follow-on impacts for livelihoods, health, along with access to water and natural resources. Homes and infrastructure also come under increased threat with the reduced predictability of seasonal weather patterns and increased frequency and intensity of severe weather events such as floods, cyclones and hurricanes. Increases in pest and disease outbreaks might be expected; and for arid and semi-arid regions, exacerbated rates of land degradation are likely with increased evaporation rates and more extreme drought cycles.
3. According to the IPCC, approximately 20–30% percent of plant and animal species will be at increased risk of extinction if the global average temperature increases more than 1.5–2.5°C. FAO cites that by altering the conditions of agriculture, forestry, fisheries production and rural livelihoods, climate variability and long-term changes will likely have serious impacts on the four dimensions of food security which are: *food availability*, *food access*, *food supply stability* and *food utilization*. More significantly, for many lower latitude developing countries, especially in seasonally dry and tropical regions, even small local temperature increases of 1-2°C are expected to negatively impact crop productivity. Smallholder and subsistence farmers, pastoralists and fisherfolk will be disproportionately affected by climate impacts; studies have shown that much of the impact on poverty is expected to be concentrated in Africa and South Asia, thereby compounding existing poverty and hindering poverty eradication measures.
4. There is a link between climate change adaptation and poverty eradication, and substantial technical and financial investment will be required to achieve food and water security, halt land degradation, conserve biodiversity, reduce socio-economic vulnerability, and enhance resilience and adaptive capacity to projected climate risks under the various programs housed by the GEF.
5. The operation of the LDCE/SCCF, and adaptation efforts in other areas, is therefore evermore critical in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable and poorest countries and communities. This is achieved through the support and implementation of initiatives with the ultimate development objective of achieving adaptation benefits across various vulnerable sectors namely: Water Resources Management; Agriculture/land management; Infrastructure development; fragile ecosystems; Integrated Coastal Zone Management; Health, and Disaster-Risk Management. However consistent application of state-of-the-art science throughout the stages of the project

cycle, and in portfolio management, is critical to the success of the LDCF/SCCF in meeting its ultimate development objective. It is imperative that as scientific understanding of climate change impacts progresses, this knowledge is incorporated into all aspects of the LDCF/SCCF agenda.

6. Having received official guidance from the LDCF/SCCF Council in May 2011, STAP takes very seriously the formalization of its role in the adaptation programme of the GEF and the operations of the LDCF and SCCF. The Panel is eager to take up its role in ensuring that LDCF and SCCF-funded projects and programmes reflect the latest scientific thinking on adaptation. To this end, the recruitment of the Adaptation Panel member is currently underway, and we expect to have the new Panel Member onboard by early next year.
7. An Adaptation Panel member will give the STAP the advisory capacity to, *inter alia*,:- (i) Review the scientific rationale and technical validity of all LDCF/SCCF full size projects in the context of climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation; (ii) Provide strategic advice on LDCF/SCCF strategies and policies as required; (iii) Advise on project or program development on a selective basis at the invitation of Agencies; (iv) Help design and implement approaches to test the Adaptation Learning Objectives; and work with the Secretariat and Agencies to undertake analysis of at least one of these per year; (v) Assist in developing impact and vulnerability profiles for global environmental benefits that can be applied across all three trust funds; and vi) Assist in further refining and increasing the precision of the Adaptation Monitoring and Assessment Tool.
8. The STAP Secretariat has begun collaborating with the GEF Secretariat Adaptation Team to begin exploring other possible needs beyond the aforementioned primary operational responsibilities. Already, focal points in both Secretariats have begun discussions on refining learning objectives. Attendant to this, the STAP sees a clear role for incorporating the use of experimental design into selected LDCF/SCCF projects, to create evidence of what interventions work best in the key sectors noted above, thereby validating, and even catalyzing, investment in adaptation.¹
9. The STAP will continue to report to the Council on progress of its integration into adaptation work. Thank you.

¹ The STAP provided an information paper to the November 2011 GEF Council entitled “Experimental Project Design in the Global Environment Facility: Designing Projects to Create Evidence and Catalyze Investments to Secure Global Environmental Benefits” (GEF/C.41/Inf.18), which speaks directly to the benefits of such an approach; and so the timing is appropriate to utilize such tools. Whilst the LDCF/SCCF portfolio seeks to generate *adaptation* benefits rather than *global environmental* benefits, the use of experimental design holds the same potential to create the evidence needed to guide and catalyze adaptation investment.