

Mainstreaming Earth Observation data for improved design and monitoring of GEF programs and projects

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GEF Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP)



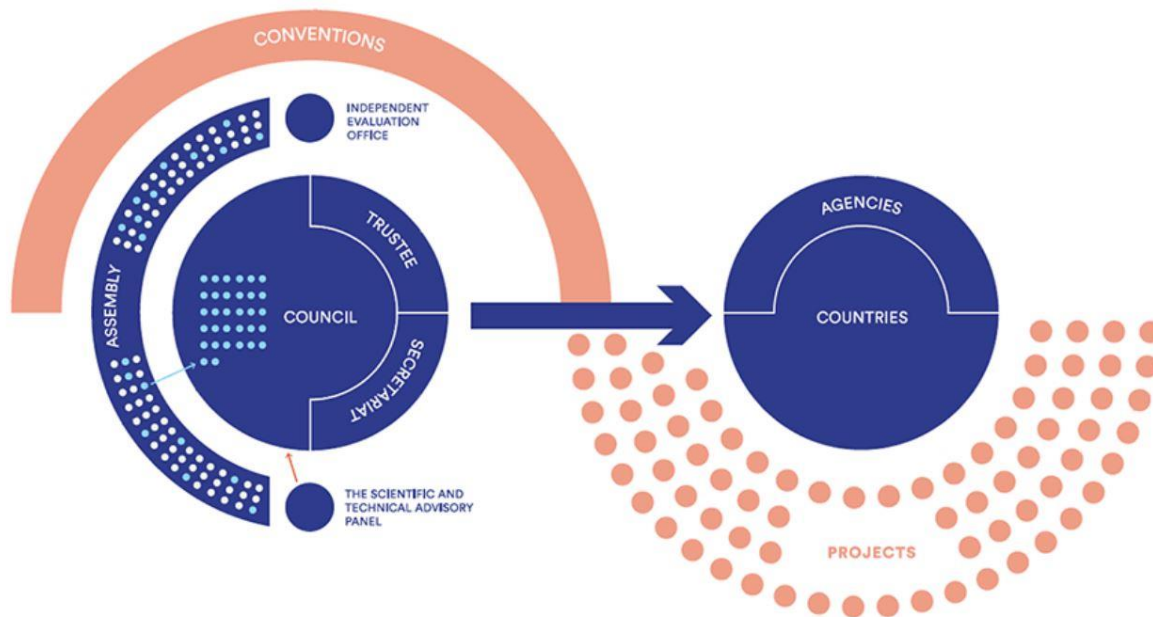
Outline

- The Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP)
 - **What** we are proposing
 - **Why** we think it is important
 - **How** we plan to accomplish
 - **Who** will do it
 - **When** it will be done
-



Lake Sakakawea from Landsat satellite. By voran.

Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP)



- The Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) provides independent advice on projects, programs, and GEF policies.
 - Assist in the development of GEF strategies
 - Identify research priorities, and help in implementation
 - Scope emerging global environmental issues
 - Upstream review of project design
 - Advise on cross-cutting thematic areas

Objective (**what?**)

- Support the GEF in taking advantage of increasing availability of Earth Observation and other spatial data when designing, implementing, monitoring and reporting on GEF projects and programs.
- Caveats
 - Not relevant for all projects
 - Not a substitute for qualitative information gathering, stakeholder consultations, etc.
 - Not talking about evaluation – but collaboration with the GEF IEO is critical



Examples of applications for satellite remote sensing data relevant to the GEF

- assessment of forest and above ground carbon stocks,
- land productivity and vegetation trend analysis,
- land use/land cover change,
- soil organic carbon estimations,
- land degradation trends,
- agricultural monitoring,
- monitoring of water-related ecosystems
- mapping urban growth
- monitoring air quality
- monitoring marine ecosystem health and inshore water quality



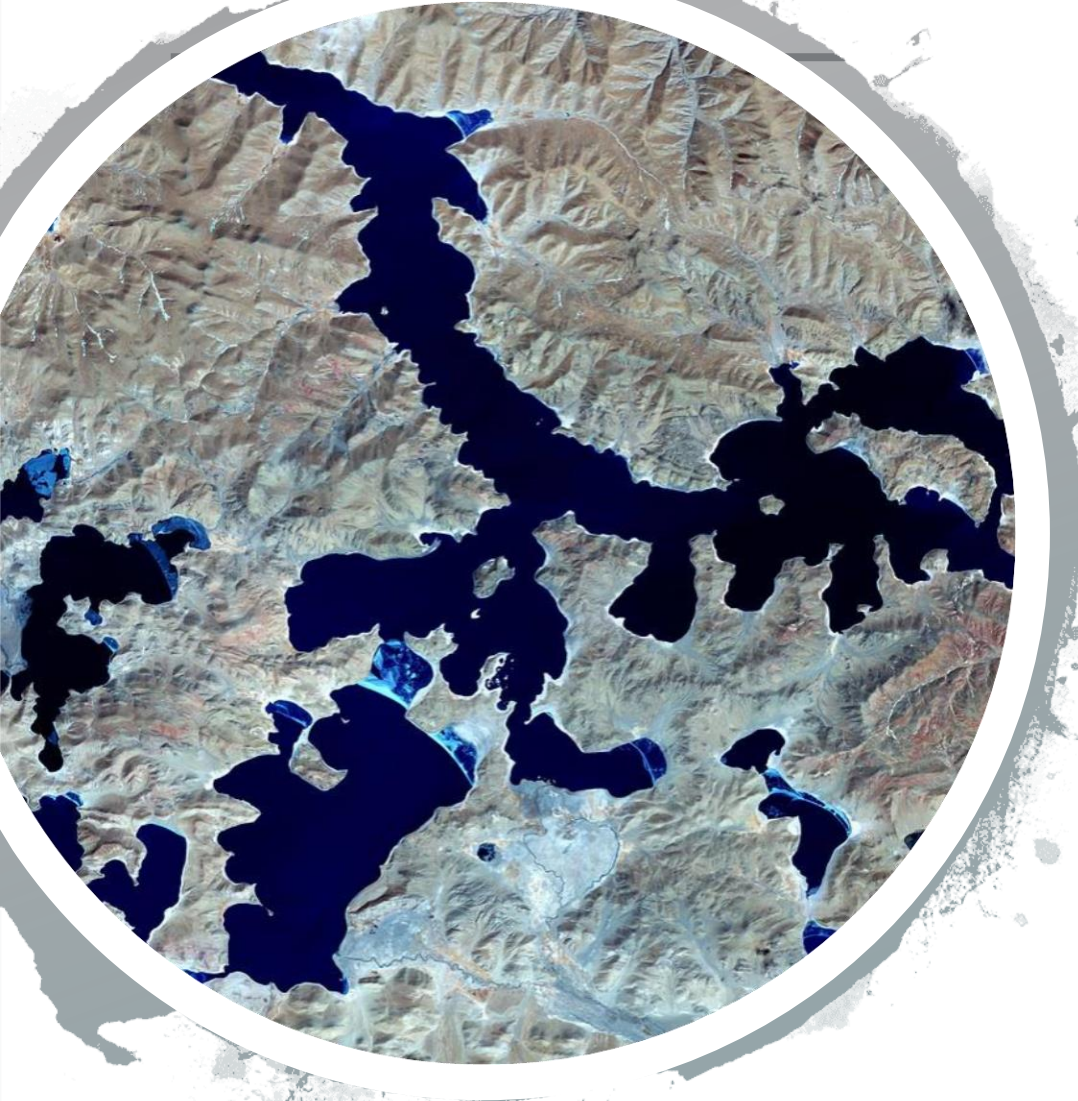
Why - Background and Rationale

- All GEF projects happen on Earth. Data are highly relevant (previous slide)
- Increasingly greater availability and accessibility of Earth Observation data.
- Improve project and program design with better baseline information (biophysical data and other related, ongoing programs).
- Track implementation progress and results, to facilitate adaptive management and learning, and for credible reporting to the external stakeholders.
- Overall greater transparency.
- More effective way to communicate results.



Aerial Photo of Agriculture in Africa jan (adobe stock photos)

What are the main barriers?



- Steep learning curve. Rocket science!
- Proliferation of information, platforms, datasets, etc. can be overwhelming.
- GEF Partnership = 18 Agencies
- No GEF requirement.... except Part II 1b of the GEF-7 PIF/PFD – map and geo-referenced information.



What can STAP do to help (**How?**)

Learn what is already happening (engage GEF Agencies and other experts) and what is possible. Continue to learn and reach out and share ideas.

Draft guidance with input from GEF Sec, the IEO and Agencies and Experts.

- Short primer – including GEF specific case studies spanning various focal areas, IPs and stages of project/program design, implementation and monitoring.
- Additional guidance on map/geo-referenced data (Part II 1b). Engage with GEF Portal.
- Sign post datasets and platforms, as appropriate.
- Recommendations for moving forward (GEF-8).



ESA, Copernicus Sentinel data (2018), Northeast Kenya, 10/2018.

Who and When and Next Steps

- Finalizing short term contract in next few weeks
- 6 – 8 months to complete guidance
- Counting on GEF and Agencies for input, feedback and case studies along the way.
- Present at Council but hopefully this is a just first step.