**Session/Working Group Title: 11.1 Science in support of regional cooperation**

**Moderator/Chair: Jakob Granit**

**Rapporteur: Douglas Taylor**

**Keynote Speakers: Raymond Mngodo (LVBC), Cletus Springer (OAS)**

**Discussant: None assigned**

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| ***Objectives of the Science-Policy Working Groups (see programme):**** To discuss how IW scientific advice can support regional cooperation meeting IW objectives;
* To consider whether there are generalizable and regionally transferable lessons (or gaps) from GEF supported work by IW water body supporting benefit generation and cooperation at the regional level.

***Expected Outputs (see programme):*** * Recommendations on strategies for IW science to address gaps in support of regional cooperation meeting IW objectives;
* Recommendations on capacity building likely to enhance the cross-disciplinary technical and political capacity of scientific advice in fulfilling the needs of regional intergovernmental commissions or other regional collaboration bodies.
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| Three key messages/findings*(to be provided right after the session)* | Observation: that the 1995 IW goal built also into the current GEF strategy (2010-2014), provides a sound foundation for transboundary collective action and is an agreement between North/South to address the management of common pool resources.* Scientific evidence as developed through GEF financed projects addressing transboundary stocks and flows is catalytic in generating compelling evidence and thereby providing incentives for collective action by riparian states.
* Non-project GEF catalytic interventions in the political/economic sphere including environmental diplomacy can create regional cooperative opportunities, such interventions could be explored by the GEF for the GEF 6 period.
	+ From the technical domain to the political/economic domain
* The GEF should be re-positioned to address the realities of ongoing regionalization processes running in parallel to global in preparation for the 6th replenishment period.
	+ Leveraging regional economic institutions is key to ensure sustainability beyond the catalytic GEF intervention
	+ The TDA/SAP process could be augmented to widen the evidence base underpinning policy impact and post-project up-scaling of GEF results, upstream activities addressing the political economy of cooperation could be included.
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| Written summary on the contents *(around 500 words max)* | The session, chaired by Jakob Granit, opened with a reflection on key barriers and options for policy support for regional cooperation raised in the five thematic sessions in Day 1. Raymond Mngodo (Lake Victoria Basin Commission) and Cletus Springer (Organization of American States) respectively identified how support for successful regional cooperation was achieved. The findings of the session were that:Transboundary collaboration was initiated by local demand to solve transboundary problems and confidence building on solutions was incremental, building on existing capacity and institutions. Science to policy processes in some successful projects included translation and transboundary exchange of project findings before distillation into policy. Participants (20+) contributed evidence for the role of science in enabling collective action and highlighted GEF’s role over long timescales in building confidence and platforms to cement regional cooperation.GEF’s tools and its facilitation are highly valued and proposals were made for enhancing GEF’s regional outreach and capacity regarding delivery of social and economic policy relevant science. The 1995 GEF IW goal (promotion of collective management), carried forward into the current GEF strategy, provides a sound foundation for transboundary collective action, and continues to be one of very few agreements between North/South that address common pool resources such as the oceans, aquifers and transboundary freshwater systems. This enables not only project-based science to be valued but policy-relevant science that transcends national and regional boundaries. The working group proposed a role for GEF at non-project level to assist in confidence building and environmental diplomacy across proposed intervention areas (including coasts, landscapes, watersheds) also acting as an agent of change and drawing on GEF’s existing expert contacts to deliver relevant support.While the TDA/SAP tools are considered to be effective, some adjustments were proposed, including investing GEF-funded effort to understand processes, conflicts and understandings to achieve an effective enabling framework upstream of TDA formulation and if necessary to support the costs to bridge the period between TDA completion and SAP implementation. As part of the TDA process project implementers could also estimate the costs of non-cooperation. |
| Existing science/projects that fill gaps *(including those identified in the IW:Science Synthesis Report) (optional)* |  |
| Three key recommendations for (targeted) research to be considered/prioritized by GEF-STAP *(optional)* | * Undertake analytical work on how GEF could strengthen its support for political and economic sciences likely to promote regional cooperation to feed into the GEF 6 strategic discussions.
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| Next steps: how can the result of the discussions this week be brought to a wider audience and the science-policy interface be further strengthened? | Analytical work on the process of regionalization and the role of GEF in such processes is proposed. |