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**Organization: Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel - Global Environment Facility (UNEP)  
STAP/GEF**

**ID: 2982**

**Title of the side-event: Mainstreaming Biodiversity in the GEF**

**Time: Tuesday, 15 October from 13:15-14:45**

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**Speakers:**

**Braulio de Souza Dias**, Executive Secretary of the CBD

- Vision for biodiversity mainstreaming within the context of the CBD

**Tom Hammond**, Secretary - Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (GEF)

- Rationale, Overview, and Observations – A Decade of Mainstreaming

**Nik Sekhran**, Principle Technical Adviser and Head, UNDP Ecosystems and Biodiversity

- UNDP and Biodiversity Mainstreaming – Outcomes and Realities

**Mark Zimsky**, Senior Biodiversity Specialist (GEF)

- Biodiversity Mainstreaming in the GEF – and thoughts on mainstreaming in GEF 6

**Amy Fraenkel**, Principle Officer - Mainstreaming, Partnerships and Outreach (CBD)

- concluding remarks on implementing Strategic Goal A of the Aichi Targets

**Summary:**

This side event reported on the outcomes of a recent STAP/GEF expert meeting which reviewed a decade of experience in mainstreaming in the GEF program - and considered how best to promote mainstreaming practice in future. The Global Environment Facility has been instrumental in promoting mainstreaming activities in hundreds of initiatives around the world, from payment for ecosystem service schemes to changes in national policies. The session will provided an overview of the results of this effort along with the recent expert meeting, and the future of mainstreaming initiatives under the GEF 6 biodiversity strategy. The event was opened by the Executive Secretary who stressed that the key entry point for mainstreaming is in shifting national development policies in ways that are biodiversity friendly, and which recognize explicit and inherent values. Many countries are struggling



**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**

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with this challenge, and he sees the CBD as a key facilitator in this area going forward. In the presentations, it was also stressed that effective entry points can be both local and national (and are often iterative in nature). Good governance and baseline data represent important prerequisites for success, along with clearly understanding and articulating trade offs often associated with mainstreaming initiatives. While the GEF strategy to support mainstreaming is being adjusted to support engagement further upstream, it was noted that the opportunity of the post 2015 SDGs represents a key mainstreaming opportunity - particularly with regard to needed shifts in public policy and future public investments.

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