

The nexus between SPS systems and climate change

Lessons from STDF's work

IPPC Webinar on Climate Change & Phytosanitary Issues

Peter Donelan

2 October 2025



What is the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)?

Global partnership that helps developing countries improve their food safety, animal and plant health capacity to facilitate safe trade, benefitting people in exporting and importing countries .



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



WORLD BANK GROUP



World Health
Organization

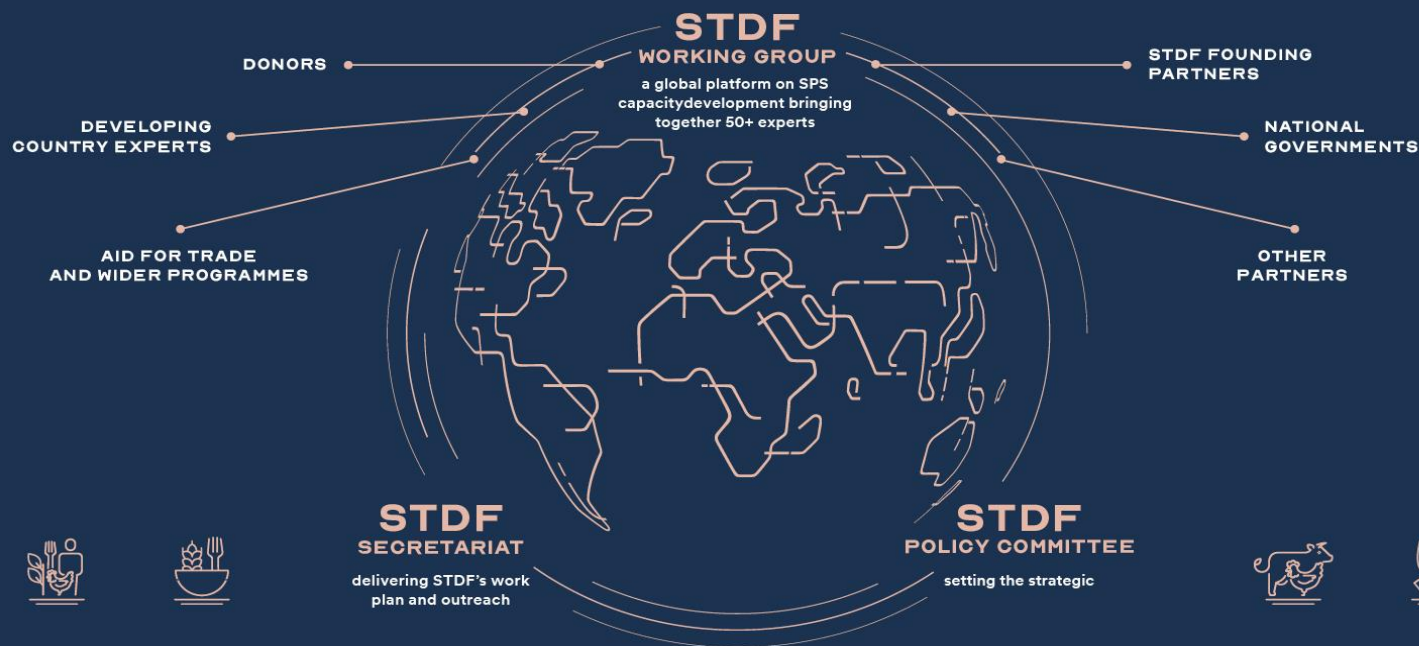


World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE



WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION

STDF's Global Partnership



Strong alignment to the WTO SPS Agreement



Allows governments to provide the level of health protection they deem appropriate, while seeking to ensure that SPS measures are not misused for protectionist purposes and do not result in unnecessary barriers to trade.



Recognizes that meeting science-based SPS measures may result in some trade transaction costs, but these costs should be no higher than necessary.



Encourages governments to use the international standards, guidelines and recommendations developed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission on food safety, the WOAHP on animal health, and the IPPC on plant health.

What does STDF do?



STDF Knowledge Work: Climate Change and Environment in SPS Capacity Development



- **STDF Briefing Note**, *Strengthening SPS systems to mitigate and adapt to climate change* (2023)
- **STDF COP28 Event**, *Trade House, Trading safely: Why stronger SPS systems matter for climate change resilience?* (2023)
- **STDF Webinar series** during Climate Change Week (2022)
- **STDF Briefing Note**, *Promoting safe trade, protecting the environment* (2018)
- **Joint publication** (2013) and seminar (2012) on Invasive Alien Species (IAS) with IPPC and WOAH
- **Joint publication with the World Bank**, *Climate Change and Trade: The Link to Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards* (2011)

Read more on STDF's website - [Environment & Climate Change](#)

STDF briefing note on Climate Change:



- CC is a strong driver of environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and shifting disease dynamics.
- Developing Countries and LDCs disproportionately impacted.
- Improved SPS capacity and international standards can build resilience to the impacts of climate change.

STDF briefing note on Climate Change: Findings



- Include SPS developing country issues more in international policy considerations surrounding climate change.
- Intensify risk assessment activities.
- Strengthen monitoring and surveillance.
- Deepen trade facilitation reforms (modernize border operations, risk-based inspections, e-cert, etc.).
- Promote cooperation across countries, sectors.

Environment Impact of STDF Projects

COSAVE Regional Phytosanitary project STDF/PG/502



Strengthened regional capacities in pest risk analysis, inspection, and helped beneficiary countries maintain their phytosanitary status.

Regional Biopesticide project STDF/PG/694



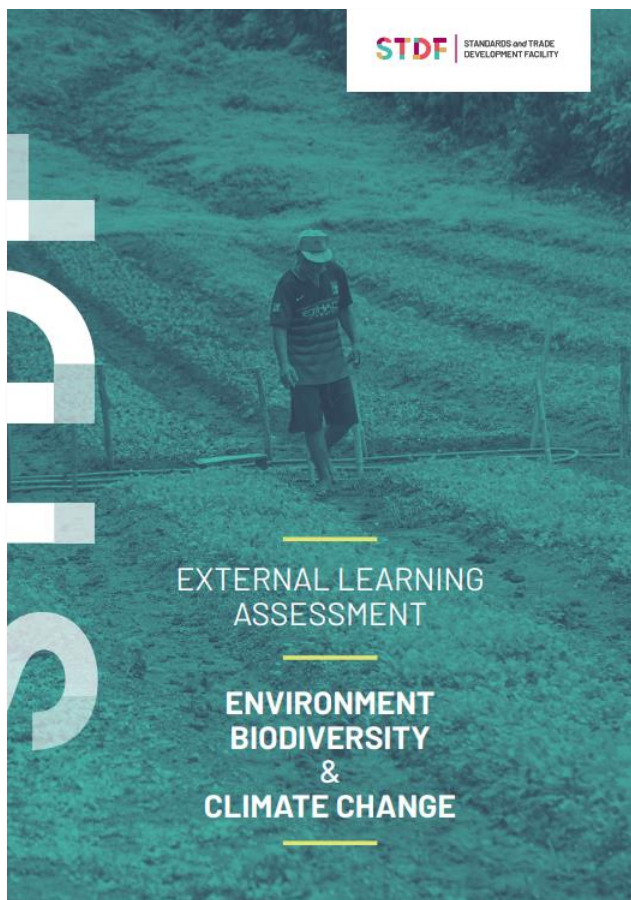
Evidence that use of biopesticides at end of growing cycle reduces pesticide MRLs and supports nature-positive solutions, and stronger collaboration (agriculture, trade, environment).

Implementation of ISPM 15 project STDF/PG/460



Cameroon and Kenya phased out the use of methyl bromide thanks to use of heat treatment to control pests on wood packaging materials (ISPM15).

External Assessment on Environment, Biodiversity and Climate Change (2024)



Accessible [here](#)



Purpose

Assess and learn how (and to what extent) the environment, biodiversity and climate change have been integrated across STDF work.

Draw key findings, conclusions and recommendations to improve mainstreaming of the environment, biodiversity and climate change into STDF work in the future

Conclusions

- 67% of projects and 40% of PPGs included aspects linked to environment, biodiversity and climate change.
- STDF as a pioneer in this area with global outreach and knowledge work.
- Selected projects influencing increased attention and synergies to environment, biodiversity and climate change.
- STDF piloted innovative approaches to safe trade to be tested and scaled by others.

External Assessment on Environment

“ The STDF is a small, credible neutral, partnership with respected convening power around SPS. STDF knowledge work and small grants unlock opportunities to scale innovation in safe trade ”
- Key Informant Interview

Recommendations

- ✓ Use STDF convening power and status in SPS and safe trade community to further mainstream environment, biodiversity and climate change.
- ✓ More explicit focus in STDF projects.
- ✓ Improve monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) of the results of STDF's work
- ✓ Give more visibility to the results of STDF's (and partners) working in this area..
- ✓ Establish a Practitioner Group on environment, biodiversity and climate change.

The way forward: STDF Environment Action Plan (work in progress)



Purpose

A simple and practical tool to help the STDF mainstream environment, biodiversity and climate change (in line with the recommendations of the external assessment) across the three STDF workstreams, including within STDF-funded projects



Timeline

2025-2030 will accompany the new STDF Strategy and the updated MEL framework and Communication Plan.



Audience

- STDF Secretariat and partnership members
- STDF Project implementing organizations

With thanks to STDF donors and partners



Ministry for Foreign
Affairs of Finland



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Engage more with STDF

Leverage STDF Resources: Knowledge products, videos and more

Attend STDF events and webinars

Sign up for the STDF e-news

Share your stories on safe trade solutions via STDF's network

www.standardsfacility.org

STDFSecretariat@wto.org

Peter.Donelan@wto.org

