

Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, administered by UNEP, advises the Global Environment Facility
(Version 5)

STAP Scientific and Technical screening of the Project Identification Form (PIF)

Date of screening: @@@@ @@, @@@@ Screener: Thomas Hammond

Panel member validation by: Thomas Lovejoy
Consultant(s): Brian Huntley

I. PIF Information *(Copied from the PIF)*

FULL SIZE PROJECT GEF TRUST FUND

GEF PROJECT ID: 4589

PROJECT DURATION : 5

COUNTRIES : Angola

PROJECT TITLE: Expansion and Strengthening of Angola's Protected Area system

GEF AGENCIES: UNDP

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS: Ministry of Environment (MINAMB)

GEF FOCAL AREA: Biodiversity

II. STAP Advisory Response *(see table below for explanation)*

Based on this PIF screening, STAP's advisory response to the GEF Secretariat and GEF Agency(ies): **Consent**

III. Further guidance from STAP

STAP welcomes this project and is fully supportive of the approach proposed. Building and improving the protected area estate in Angola, which is starting from a particularly low level, represents a unique opportunity to greatly improve conservation of the natural heritage of in this highly diverse country and in so doing deliver significant global benefits. Numerous opportunities exist in Angola for significant gains in biodiversity conservation and multiple benefits, and this project represents an important step in that process.

Comments and Observations

There are a number of areas that STAP wishes to highlight that the project developers may wish to consider during the design and implementation stages of this project. The Panel understands that this undertaking represents a critical initial step towards completing a comprehensive national protected area system as well as building the national capacity necessary to effectively manage these protected areas. As the concept paper accurately points out there will be numerous challenges, particularly related to long term sustainability of the PA system and ensuring interaction with local communities in ways that may help to ensure long-term biodiversity conservation while having neutral or positive impacts to the socio-economic well being of these communities.

The nature of these challenges, and the diverse strategies available to address them, are well known throughout the region " and are reflected in similar undertakings in neighbouring countries that draw in some cases draw on over 30 years of experience in integrating biodiversity conservation goals into broader landscape management and community development paradigms. STAP wishes to emphasize that the project developers take every opportunity to draw lessons from this experience, and effectively integrate into the knowledge base which exists in this domain in the region.

The concept notes the numerous trans-frontier biodiversity conservation initiatives underway in neighbouring countries. In addition, STAP notes that in the current GEF Work Program there are similar initiatives under consideration in Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Botswana " and the latter two of these are being proposed by the same agency proposing this initiative. STAP believes that there is a unique opportunity for lessons and knowledge sharing with these and similar initiatives throughout the region that is being missed " and Angola is uniquely positioned to take full advantage of this diverse knowledge base.

One area of particular interest for STAP is the relationship between global benefits related to biodiversity and local socio-economic benefits in protected area initiatives. At present, STAP is reviewing the evidence base empirically documenting changes in community welfare (positive, negative, or neutral) in the context of protected area initiatives around the world. STAP believes that this UNDP-led GEF-funded initiative in Angola represents a unique opportunity

to contribute to our understanding of the relationship between community welfare and protected area management. This opportunity is particularly relevant in areas where new protected area establishment is proposed within this project. STAP would welcome the opportunity to assist the project developers in conceptualizing an appropriate methodology to collect empirically valid data on changes to biodiversity values and community welfare over the life of the project and beyond. The results of this exercise would help to confirm the validity of METT scores, as well as to assist PA and system managers in assessing the success of activities which engage local communities.

Note concerning resilience to climate change:

A draft STAP climate risk screening tool was applied to this review. While current models suggest that Angola will likely face significant impact from climate change over the coming decades, STAP agrees with the project proponents that climate risks are relatively low in this initiative – particularly if system planners take the likely effects of future climate change into biogeographic considerations in new PA establishment.

<i>STAP advisory response</i>	<i>Brief explanation of advisory response and action proposed</i>
1. Consent	STAP acknowledges that on scientific/technical grounds the concept has merit. However, STAP may state its views on the concept emphasising any issues that could be improved and the proponent is invited to approach STAP for advice at any time during the development of the project brief prior to submission for CEO endorsement.
2. Minor revision required.	STAP has identified specific scientific/technical suggestions or opportunities that should be discussed with the proponent as early as possible during development of the project brief. One or more options that remain open to STAP include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Opening a dialogue between STAP and the proponent to clarify issues (ii) Setting a review point during early stage project development and agreeing terms of reference for an independent expert to be appointed to conduct this review The proponent should provide a report of the action agreed and taken, at the time of submission of the full project brief for CEO endorsement.
3. Major revision required	STAP proposes significant improvements or has concerns on the grounds of specified major scientific/technical omissions in the concept. If STAP provides this advisory response, a full explanation would also be provided. Normally, a STAP approved review will be mandatory prior to submission of the project brief for CEO endorsement. The proponent should provide a report of the action agreed and taken, at the time of submission of the full project brief for CEO endorsement.