

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: 7 February 2008

Screener: Guadalupe Duron

Panel member validation by: Paul Ferraro

I. PIF Information

GEFSEC PROJECT ID: 2766

GEF AGENCY PROJECT ID: 36437

COUNTRY: People's Republic of China (PRC)

PROJECT TITLE: Integrated Ecosystem and Water Resources Management in the Baiyangdian Basin

GEF AGENCY: Asian Development Bank

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS: Baoding Municipal Government, Hebei Province, People's Republic of China

GEF FOCAL AREAS: Biodiversity

GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAMS: BD-SP1; BD-SP3; BD-P5

Full size project GEF Trust Fund

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

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

III. Further guidance from STAP

2. The proposal is much improved over previous version, however, several issues remain. The proposal specifies the global benefits as biodiversity conservation, mainly protecting migratory species and their habitat in the Baiyangdian Basin. However, the proposal does not state how these global benefits will be measured and tracked. The proposal could also be strengthened by specifying how piloting sustainable livelihood activities (ecotourism, biodiversity markets) will contribute to the integrated management of the Baiyangdian Basin, and more precisely to the protection of migratory species and their habit in the Basin. Moreover, the matrix in part D indicates an output of "communities adjacent to or within PNRs organized to participate in biodiversity conservation," but the proposal is not clear on how such participation would be induced unless the list of "alternative livelihoods" projects is meant to represent local conservation participation. Also, the proposal could specify the activities and risks related to biodiversity markets and ecotourism for sustainable financing of biodiversity. Additionally, the proposal does not include the risk of droughts to the Basin, as well as the ecological impact of continued diversion the Basin's water resources to supply Beijing with water.

<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: (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.