

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: March 01, 2013

Screener: Thomas Hammond

Panel member validation by: Brian Huntley
Consultant(s): Margarita Dyubanova

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

FULL SIZE PROJECT GEF TRUST FUND

GEF PROJECT ID: 4849

PROJECT DURATION : 5

COUNTRIES : Colombia

PROJECT TITLE: Sustainable Management and Conservation of Biodiversity in the Magdalena River Basin

GEF AGENCIES: IADB

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS: The Nature Conservancy - Colombia (TNC); Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS); Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM); Alexander von Humboldt Research Institute of Biological Resources (IAvH); Corporaci3n Aut3noma Regional del R3o Grande de la Magdalena (CORMAGDALENA); and Autoridad Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca (AUNAP)

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 excellent proposal. The PIF makes a well-argued, well-referenced and strong case for the GEF's incremental support for this nationally prioritized suite of interventions in its three components.

STAP appreciates the detailed but specific description of the baseline situation and current baseline project investments by the Government of Colombia and partners to address the threats to the extremely rich biodiversity of the Magdalena River Basin.

The three Components are well articulated and their links to the expected outcomes of the Project Framework are clear and logical. STAP supports the adequate but modest investment in Monitoring and Evaluation (Component 3) to ensure long-term monitoring to measure effectiveness of investments.

Clear criteria are provided for each intervention proposed, and the context for each of these is succinctly presented. The proposed use of advanced modeling techniques, pilot studies and institutionalized training programmes is especially appreciated.

Given the strong national support for this project, the excellent project design, and the presence of strong national technical capacity, the project has every expectation of success.

<i>STAP advisory response</i>	<i>Brief explanation of advisory response and action proposed</i>
1. Consent	STAP acknowledges that on scientific or technical grounds the concept has merit. However, STAP may state its views on the concept emphasizing any issues where the project could be improved. Follow up: The GEF Agency is invited to approach STAP for advice during the development of the project prior to submission of the final document for CEO endorsement.
2. Minor revision required.	STAP has identified specific scientific or technical challenges, omissions or opportunities that should be addressed by the project proponents during project development. Follow up: One or more options are open to STAP and the GEF Agency: (i) GEF Agency should discuss the issues with STAP to clarify them and possible solutions.

	(ii) In its request for CEO endorsement, the GEF Agency will report on actions taken in response to STAP's recommended actions.
3. Major revision required	<p>STAP has identified significant scientific or technical challenges or omissions in the PIF and recommends significant improvements to project design.</p> <p>Follow-up:</p> <p>(i) The Agency should request that the project undergo a STAP review prior to CEO endorsement, at a point in time when the particular scientific or technical issue is sufficiently developed to be reviewed, or as agreed between the Agency and STAP.</p> <p>(ii) In its request for CEO endorsement, the Agency will report on actions taken in response to STAP concerns.</p>