

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: Brian Huntley
Consultant(s): Margarita Dyubanova

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

FULL SIZE PROJECT GEF TRUST FUND

GEF PROJECT ID: 5159

PROJECT DURATION : 5

COUNTRIES : Myanmar

PROJECT TITLE: Strengthening Sustainability of Protected Area Management

GEF AGENCIES: UNDP

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS: Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry (MOECAF), Wildlife Conservation Society

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 wishes to commend this comprehensive, well-written proposal that implements a goal to strengthen the terrestrial system of national protected areas for biodiversity conservation through enhanced representation, management effectiveness, monitoring, enforcement and financing in Myanmar. The proposal openly identifies the threats to effective protected area management at national and local levels and proposes effective solutions to strengthen the system that consider major stakeholders and their capacities. The baseline description is very clear, including the gap analysis. This is an excellent project proposal overall with high potential impact if all stated threats are taken into consideration as described.

STAP welcomes the emphasis on strengthening the enabling environment and capacity development. The strengthening of policies that integrate the valuation of ecosystem services into national level land-use and economic planning is especially relevant. It would be most useful to elaborate further the approaches to be used in this key element of mainstreaming during project development. The fluid political developments in Myanmar offer unique opportunities to introduce new approaches into law as the country reviews its legislative framework.

The proposal to pro-actively develop PES initiatives in the watershed of the M'Hka river linking the ecosystem services provided by the Hkakaborazi NP with hydropower developments downstream is a potential model for PA/PES interventions the offer wide replication.

The attention given to capacity development at several levels – through academic and research institutions, through the Forestry Department Training Centres, and through the application of the SMART incident monitoring and reporting system at ranger level is strongly endorsed.

The proposed close collaboration with INGOs is also highly relevant for a country such as Myanmar, where isolation has slowed professional growth and experience in conservation science and its application in a country of very high biodiversity value.

The proposed gap analysis for further PA expansion beyond this project is also welcomed, given the very rapid socio-economic and infrastructural development and resultant pressures on biodiversity anticipated in the next decade. The window of opportunity for the establishment of new PAs is narrowing, and science based PA expansion proposals are urgently needed.

| <i>STAP advisory response</i> | <i>Brief explanation of advisory response and action proposed</i> |
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| 1. Consent | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> |
| 2. Minor revision required. | <p>STAP has identified specific scientific or technical challenges, omissions or opportunities that should be addressed by the project proponents during project development.</p> <p>Follow up: One or more options are open to STAP and the GEF Agency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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. (ii) In its request for CEO endorsement, the Agency will report on actions taken in response to STAP concerns. |