

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: 10 February 2010

Screener: David Cunningham

Panel member validation by: Brian Huntley

I. PIF Information

Full size project

GEF Trust Fund

GEF PROJECT ID: 4150

PROJECT DURATION: 60 months

COUNTRY: Sri Lanka

PROJECT TITLE: Mainstreaming agrobiodiversity conservation and use in Sri Lankan agro-ecosystems for livelihoods and adaptation to climate change

GEF AGENCY: UNEP

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS: The Ministry of Environment and natural Resources, Sri Lanka; The Department of Agriculture, Sri Lanka, The Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research, Rome, Italy, Bioversity international, Rome, Italy

GEF FOCAL AREA: Biodiversity

GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAMS: BD-SP4; BD-SP5

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:
Minor revision required

III. Further guidance from STAP

2. This project addresses the important need for testing the use of traditional knowledge on and approaches to the conservation of agro-biodiversity. As such, a minor revision is called for to ensure that the proposed three demonstration sites will be designed to allow for quantitative evaluation of the biodiversity benefits achieved from the project investment.
3. Given the limited budget and timescales for project execution, the Panel also recommends that the wide diversity of objectives included in the present project description be narrowed to a more realistic focus.
4. The project may examine certification and labelling as an incentive for and benefit from sustainable use of agro-biodiversity. STAP's advisory document on certification will be provided for consideration in preparing the full proposal if relevant. UNEP is also referred to STAP's publication on mainstreaming biodiversity conservation through production landscapes¹.

¹ http://stapgef.unep.org/docs/Activities/WKS/folder.2005-12-28.2989643680/BD_Mainstream/Mainstreaming%20Biodiversity-GEF%20working%20paper.pdf

<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.	<p>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:</p> <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 <p>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.</p>
3. Major revision required	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>