

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: October 08, 2012

Screener: Thomas Hammond

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

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

FULL SIZE PROJECT **GEF TRUST FUND**

GEF PROJECT ID: 5034

PROJECT DURATION : 5

COUNTRIES : Tanzania

PROJECT TITLE: Enhancing the Forest Nature Reserves Network for Biodiversity Conservation in Tanzania

GEF AGENCIES: UNDP

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS: Tanzania Forest Services, Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism

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 to expand, financially secure and strengthen the management of Tanzania's Forest Nature Reserve (FNR) network in response to existing threats to biodiversity. The project builds on a strong foundation of scientific knowledge on the high levels of species and genetic diversity and endemism of the forests and montane grasslands of Tanzania, and on the experience gained and lessons learned from previous GEF investments in the region. The goals are clearly stated and the strategies for achieving these goals are sound from the scientific and technical perspectives. Expected outcomes and outputs are clearly stated.

The project relates directly to GEF strategic objectives and Aichi targets, and is consistent with national priorities. It is realistic in its objectives and focus.

STAP especially welcomes the inclusion in this PIF of references to recent and appropriate scientific research, and to the inclusion of a map indicating the distribution of the project sites. The concise presentation of relevant information on the biodiversity values and ecosystem services and importance of the selected FNRs is adequate to support the investment requested.

The outline of threats to biodiversity - deforestation; forest degradation and hunting - is clear and informed. The long-term vision of effectively managed FNRs that protect a significant proportion of the forest and montane biodiversity is consistent with GEF and national strategies. The barriers identified are clearly described as are the solutions to these barriers. The solutions are appropriate, cost effective and realistic within the resources available. STAP welcomes the emphasis given to capacity development at individual and institutional structured of various levels, and to the strong linkages with scientific collaborators. The use of the FNRs as sites for research and monitoring is especially relevant.

The innovation relating to responding to the 'alternative tourism' vacant niche is commended, as this offers local communities the opportunities to create employment within a science-based bird and plant focused specialized area of the strongly growing tourism market in Tanzania.

Risks are fully and objectively assessed. The importance of carefully negotiated benefit sharing arrangements with local communities in a rapidly growing population; the well reasoned assessment of the climate change impacts; plus the innovation relating to financial sustainability - are all pertinent.

In all respects, this is an excellent PIF.

[Note: Brian Huntley was the principle screener on this PIF]

<i>STAP advisory response</i>	<i>Brief explanation of advisory response and action proposed</i>
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.