

# 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: May 06, 2015

Screener: Veronique Morin

Panel member validation by: Anand Patwardhan  
Consultant(s):

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

**FULL SIZE PROJECT**    **SPECIAL CLIMATE CHANGE FUND**

**GEF PROJECT ID:** 9107

**PROJECT DURATION :** 5

**COUNTRIES :** Sri Lanka

**PROJECT TITLE:** Resilient and Integrated Urban Development for Greater Colombo

**GEF AGENCIES:** ADB

**OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS:** Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment, Ministry of Urban Development, Water Supply and Drainage, Greater Colombo Municipal Council and other local authorities

**GEF FOCAL AREA:** Climate Change

### 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):  
**Concur**

### III. Further guidance from STAP

STAP welcomes the Asian Development Bank's proposal "Resilient and Integrated Urban Development for Greater Colombo" in Sri Lanka. The project is ambitious in its scope and aims to enhance climate resilience of the urban metropolis of Colombo, with particular emphasis on water resources management. The project contains five main components, which include: (1) establishing an urban resilience framework that will assess the climate risks for the region, develop inter-agency coordination mechanisms, and develop a sector level investment plan to identify priorities and performance targets; (2) strengthen the management of natural ecosystems through assessment and prioritization of ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) options, and establish an inter-agency coordination mechanism for coastal zones, mangroves, wetlands, and associated watersheds; (3) investments in demonstration projects for improved water management consisting of infrastructure development, EbA projects, and strengthening of environmental and climate impact monitoring for Greater Colombo; (4) development of financial mechanisms to mobilize and create finance opportunities; and (5) improve knowledge management and partnership development for sustainable cities for other cities in Sri Lanka and within the south Asian region.

The problem statement is very well articulated and adaptation benefits are clearly identified. STAP appreciates the integrated approach to risk reduction, which proposes a portfolio of infrastructural, institutional and EbA interventions. STAP would recommend particular attention to long-term resilience and to establishing the linkages between urban development planning and climate resilience.

STAP recommends that the following points be addressed during the development of the proposal to further strengthen the scientific and technical underpinnings:

- One of the root causes identified in the problem description states that over 50% of the population lives in under-serviced settlements that lack basic services, which is resulting in increased sewage-borne pathogens and organic loads released into waterways. There is no mention, however, whether such "under-serviced" settlements are informal settlements with residents lacking security of tenure. This can have significant implications on willingness to invest from both public and private sectors. Thus, it is important the issue of tenure insecurity be addressed in the full proposal. It is also important to recognize that a variety of economic (job opportunities) and social factors (community linkages) drive the decisions to locate in informal settlements "and often outweigh the real environmental and climate risks. Long-term resilience cannot be built without addressing these underlying factors " which may not be recognized as "climate adaptation", but are nonetheless essential for vulnerability reduction.

- Another of the root problems identified in the problem description states that the wastewater problem is further compounded by industrial and agricultural activities. It would benefit the project to elaborate on how the private sector will be engaged to address some of these root causes and enhance climate resiliency.
- STAP would appreciate fuller details on which climate change projections will be used in the proposed project, including the time frame(s) of interest and why particular model(s) were chosen. It would be helpful to know who will choose the models and how the projections will be communicated to the stakeholders.
- The full project proposal should provide additional information on how community needs and preferences will be determined and taken into account in the selection/prioritization of ecosystem-based adaptation projects.
- Given the project focus on water and waste management, and the potential for new public health risks to be introduced due to projected climate changes in temperature and surface hydrology (projected increases in vector densities), the Ministry of Health could be an important stakeholder to ensure the activities also promote population health.
- As UNDP is currently undertaking an "Urban risk assessment" project of Colombo, with a focus on earthquake hazards, it is recommended that they be consulted for existing baseline information and data, as well as projections in urban growth that may be useful to the project. Similarly, the UNDP's ongoing "National risk assessment" project in Sri Lanka may provide useful background information.
- Taking into consideration the point above, and the World Bank's on-going "Metro Colombo Urban Development Project" to reduce flooding, it would be valuable for the full project proposal to include information on how the project will coordinate with existing initiatives.
- The LDCF/SCCF's guidelines on "Ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation" may be helpful in developing further project component 2. Refer to: <http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/Operational%20Guidelines%20on%20Ecosystem-Based%20Approaches%20to%20Adaptation.pdf>

Finally, STAP notes the increasing attention to urban resilience and the possible connections to the GEF's IAP on sustainable cities. This project thus presents some interesting learning possibilities and STAP would recommend that consideration of these aspects during project development and implementation. STAP will be happy to engage further with the ADB in this regard.

<i>STAP advisory response</i>	<i>Brief explanation of advisory response and action proposed</i>
<b>1. Concur</b>	In cases where STAP is satisfied with the scientific and technical quality of the proposal, a simple "Concur" response will be provided; the STAP may flag specific issues that should be pursued rigorously as the proposal is developed into a full project document. At any time during the development of the project, the proponent is invited to approach STAP to consult on the design prior to submission for CEO endorsement.
<b>2. Minor issues to be considered during project design</b>	STAP has identified specific scientific /technical suggestions or opportunities that should be discussed with the project proponent as early as possible during development of the project brief. The proponent may wish to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Open a dialogue with STAP regarding the technical and/or scientific issues raised.</li> <li>(ii) Set a review point at an early stage during project development, and possibly agreeing to terms of reference for an independent expert to be appointed to conduct this review.</li> </ul> <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>
<b>3. Major issues to be considered during</b>	STAP proposes significant improvements or has concerns on the grounds of specified major scientific/technical methodological issues, barriers, or omissions in the project concept. If STAP provides this advisory response, a full explanation would also be provided. The proponent is strongly encouraged to:

<b>project design</b>	<p>(i) Open a dialogue with STAP regarding the technical and/or scientific issues raised; (ii) Set a review point at an early stage during project development including an independent expert as required.</p> <p>The GEF Secretariat may, based on this screening outcome, delay the proposal and refer the proposal back to the proponents with STAP's concerns.</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>
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