

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: December 20, 2013

Screener: Guadalupe Duron

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

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

FULL SIZE PROJECT LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FUND

GEF PROJECT ID: 5456

PROJECT DURATION : 4

COUNTRIES : Bangladesh

PROJECT TITLE: Ecosystem-based Approaches to Adaptation (EbA) in the Drought-prone Barind Tract and Haor "Wetland" Area

GEF AGENCIES: UNEP

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS: Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MOEF)

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):
Consent

III. Further guidance from STAP

STAP welcomes UNEP's initiative on "Ecosystem-based approaches to Adaptation (EbA) in the drought-prone Barind Tract and Haor "wetland" area". The project objective is defined clearly, and relates consistently to the problem and threats to the communities, which are exacerbated by climate variability and climate change. It also is evident the proposal is based on NAPA priorities, and climate change scenarios relevant to Bangladesh. STAP is pleased with the various references to published and unpublished documents supporting the project overview, the baseline narrative, and components. Additionally, the adaptation benefits and the additional cost reasoning are spelled-out. Table A.1. is useful in presenting the adaptation benefits/additional cost reasoning for each component. STAP welcomes the project developers' plan to collect gender disaggregated data for the indicators in the monitoring framework. Men and women are affected differently by climate impacts, and applying a gender lens will assist in developing and monitoring interventions so their adaptive capacity needs are addressed.

Below, STAP provides recommendations on how to strengthen the proposal during its development.

1. It would be helpful to characterize the current vulnerability of the target communities / systems by adding data that characterizes local livelihoods: social and economic data, as well as other livelihood resources (provisioning ecosystem services) that are sensitive to climate impacts and important for communities' coping strategies.
2. STAP welcomes a focus on research and knowledge management that strengthens EbA design (component 3). Learning further about the interventions' cost-effectiveness is important. However, STAP also encourages the project developers to consider contributing to the evidence base of the project's effectiveness by identifying indicators that measure ecosystem health, and indicators that measure the provisioning ecosystem services delivered to the communities that strengthen their coping strategies to address climate risks. Contributing to this learning will strengthen knowledge on the complex interrelations between climate impacts and livelihoods, and assist in developing appropriate adaptation strategies. Further information on how to measure the project's effective can be found in the "The GEF's Operational Guidelines on Ecosystem Based Approaches to Adaptation", which the project developers relied upon to develop the proposal.

3. While ecosystem-based adaptation approaches are a useful for enhancing ecosystem resilience and thereby reducing the impacts of climate change, the effectiveness of these approaches in the context of the range of climate change scenarios expected may be explored. In particular, a greater emphasis on the interaction between risks associated with changes in socio-economic characteristics and changes in climate may help during project development.

<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: (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.</p>
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: (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.</p>