

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 07, 2016
Screener: Thomas Hammond
Panel member validation by: Ralph E. Sims
Consultant(s):

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

FULL SIZE PROJECT	GEF TRUST FUND
GEF PROJECT ID:	9279
PROJECT DURATION:	6
COUNTRIES:	Turkmenistan
PROJECT TITLE:	Sustainable Cities: Integrated Green Urban Development in Ashgabat and Awaza
GEF AGENCIES:	UNDP
OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS:	Ministry of Nature Protection
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):
Minor issues to be considered during project design

III. Further guidance from STAP

1. This project considers the deployment of solar-powered LEDs and cycle lanes and public transit corridors plus the use of hybrid buses and increasing green spaces in two case study cities that are rapidly developing. An energy efficient design of building for a model tourist hotel is planned in Awaza where vehicle fleets are to become more fuel efficient. The findings are to be published so other cities can follow. The three components together make good logical sense.
Recognizing the importance of urban design is key for sustainable city designs. Incentivizing residents to accept a low-carbon lifestyle is more challenging. This project looks at both with emphasis on transport and lighting.
2. Car ownership is increasing but the demonstration and use of electric vehicles, or indeed electric buses charged by renewable electricity was not considered in the proposal.
3. Waste management is considered, but the link with anaerobic digestion, landfill gas or waste-to-energy conversion has not been made. These are all well-proven technologies in many cities around the world.
4. The model hotel design is a good concept but, to give it international credibility it should be linked to gaining a LEED building rating <http://www.usgbc.org/LEED/> or to the Living Building Challenge <http://living-future.org/lbc/certification>.
5. Most of the indicators to be used (Section 4) are measurable so therefore acceptable – although without water meters, it is not clear how water savings can be assessed.
6. No information is provided to back-up the assessments of 249 kt CO₂ avoided and 2.5 Mt indirect. What assumptions were made? What is the emissions factor for local grid electricity supply? This is a major gap in the proposal that should be filled at the CEO endorsement stage.
7. The project proponents should liaise with the other sustainable city projects progressing under the GEF Cities IAP and use similar methodology and indicators as they evolve:
<https://www.thegef.org/gef/node/10826>

8. It would be useful and recommended to link the proposal to the INDC for Turkmenistan: http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions/INDC/Published%20Documents/Turkmenistan/1/INDC_Turkmenistan.pdf

<i>STAP advisory response</i>	<i>Brief explanation of advisory response and action proposed</i>
1. Concur	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.
2. Minor issues to be considered during project design	<p>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:</p> <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, and possibly agreeing to terms of reference for an independent expert to be appointed to conduct this review.</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>
3. Major issues to be considered during project design	<p>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:</p> <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>