

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: February 24, 2014

Screener: Douglas Taylor

Panel member validation by: Jakob Granit
Consultant(s):

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

FULL SIZE PROJECT GEF TRUST FUND

GEF PROJECT ID: 5400

PROJECT DURATION : 4

COUNTRIES : Global

PROJECT TITLE: Targeted Research for Improving Understanding of the Global Nitrogen Cycle towards the Establishment of an International Nutrient Management System INMS

GEF AGENCIES: UNEP

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS: International Nitrogen Initiative
INI

GEF FOCAL AREA: International Waters

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

1. A Targeted Research Committee was assembled by STAP in June 2013, which considered earlier drafts of this proposal. The Committee provided guidance to the proponents for further development of the concept in this PIF.
2. We note that the comments provided by STAP's Targeted Research Committee have been addressed adequately in this PIF and accordingly STAP supports the proposed project for further project preparation and provides the following advice.
3. During project preparation there should be a continued focus on "change agents" amongst the different stakeholders concerned about the information and tools to be provided in the INMS. Such a distinction and future work on providing real value add in terms of tools will be critical beyond the relevant policy aspects that are in the domain of "countries".
4. Considering the very large numbers of participating organisations in the proposed project a project component 5 should be carefully designed that address project implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Project implementation and M&E will be an important component of this project to ensure clear guidance to partners and to synthesize the learning from the different components and actors involved. The formation of the Scientific and Policy Advisory Group (SPAG) is welcomed. The planned participation of a range of concerned stakeholders in the SPAG should ensure that the results of the projects are useful to different "change agents". STAP further advises that a strong ICT strategy is developed as part of this component. This goes beyond a project website linked to IW Learn and could include clear strategies on online communication tools amongst the partners (visualization, voice, video and written texts) and joint data repositories using "cloud" technology.
5. The future global institutional ownership of the INMS should be discussed during project preparation and resolved during project implementation.

STAP advisory response	Brief explanation of advisory response and action proposed
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<p>1. Consent</p>	<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>
<p>2. Minor revision required.</p>	<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.
<p>3. Major revision required</p>	<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.