

# 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 09, 2017  
Screener: Guadalupe Duron  
Panel member validation by: Michael Anthony Stocking  
Consultant(s):

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

<b>FULL-SIZED PROJECT</b>	<b>GEF TRUST FUND</b>
<b>GEF PROJECT ID:</b>	9443
<b>PROJECT DURATION:</b>	4
<b>COUNTRIES:</b>	Global (Chile, India, Namibia, Ukraine, South Africa)
<b>PROJECT TITLE:</b>	Strengthening Capacity for International Cooperation in the Ecosystem-based Management of the Antarctic Large Marine Ecosystem
<b>GEF AGENCIES:</b>	UNDP
<b>OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS:</b>	Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)
<b>GEF FOCAL AREA:</b>	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):  
**Concur**

### III. Further guidance from STAP

STAP welcomes UNDP's project "Strengthening capacity for international cooperation in the ecosystem-based management of the Antarctic Large Marine Ecosystem". STAP believes this is an important project to advance scientific understanding of marine ecosystems in the Southern Ocean, and the effects climate change is having on these organisms. The cross-sectoral cooperation, ecosystem-based management, and conservation approaches proposed by the project are all aspects important to address the challenges faced in the Southern Ocean, namely climate change, over-fishing and pollution. It is welcome that the project will work with legal and collaborative frameworks to improve management and conservation of marine ecosystems through the Antarctic Treaty System and its Convention for the Conservation of the Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR). STAP looks forward to the learning the project will generate through data management and monitoring systems on climate change related impacts on ecosystem functions, fisheries assessments, and marine biodiversity conservation. STAP encourages UNDP to develop the project with the same rigor and technical promise as displayed in the PIF.

To further strengthen the project during its design, STAP recommends addressing these points:

1. STAP is pleased the project will establish baseline measurements of ecosystem structure and function. This activity should contribute to our understanding of ecosystem functioning in the high seas, a knowledge gap of the high seas. STAP recommends, therefore, that UNDP also focus on component #4 on generating this learning, including learning on climate change related impacts on ecosystem functions in the Southern Ocean.
2. STAP encourages UNDP to detail the marine spatial planning, ecosystem-based, adaptive management approach the project will apply. In doing so, STAP urges UNDP to consider key elements on systematic conservation planning for the high seas detailed in the following paper: Ban, N. et al. (2013). Systematic

Conservation Planning: A Better Recipe for Managing the High Seas for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use. doi: 10.1111/conl.12010. [Printed copy: (2014) in Conservation Letters 7(1): 41-54]. The authors of this paper argue that "a paradigm shift to a more systematic approach will be needed to safeguard high seas biodiversity from mounting threats." Further, they recommend: "that a two-pronged approach is most promising: the development of an improved global legal regime that incorporates systematic planning as well as the expansion of existing and new regional agreements and mandates." STAP concurs with this advice.

3. Increased stakeholder involvement in fisheries, private sector, and civil society is also a welcome strategy to improve collective understanding and management of the Southern Ocean. STAP recommends that the project detail how it will engage with, and deal with, multiple stakeholders' competing interests. A stakeholder engagement plan would be useful, as would a review of the literature on ways in which different stakeholders perceive their interests. An "advocacy coalition framework" approach has, for example, been suggested to understand the political context of multiple stakeholders in marine fisheries [see Weible, CM (2006) An Advocacy Coalition Framework Approach to Stakeholder Analysis: Understanding the Political Context of California Marine Protected Area Policy. Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory 17: 95-117]

4. STAP recommends detailing the assumptions, or hypotheses, needed to achieve the project's objective. For example, the project assumes that strengthening the collaboration of key multi-stakeholders will: enhance ecosystem management of the Southern Ocean; strengthen efforts to monitor and manage sustainable fisheries; and develop marine spatial planning strategies that are sustainable and inclusive of climate change. Flexible collaborative arrangements across scales, across sectors, and across partners, have worked to make the application of the CCAMLR effective. However, the project should consider whether the same adaptive governance arrangements will be sufficient to address the magnitude of change that social-ecological systems are experiencing in the Southern Ocean due to climate change. UNDP may want to draw from the following paper that highlights the Southern Ocean's governance system, and explores the challenges that this may face in light of intense global change: Schultz, L. et al. (2014) "Adaptive governance, ecosystem management, and natural capital". [www.pnas.org/cgi/doi/10.1073/pnas.1406493112](http://www.pnas.org/cgi/doi/10.1073/pnas.1406493112)

5. STAP also recommends that Component 4 (on knowledge management) be elaborated and more innovative to include learning, and especially how learning will be accomplished from project experiences. Capturing learning throughout the project implementation will enable knowledge and information to be captured, and adaptive management to take place, during the project implementation. This learning includes detailing how the project will further the understanding, or address knowledge gaps, of the concepts underpinning the approach(es) that are used. This activity can be part of component 4. Some good advice on organisational learning is available at: <http://www.knowledge-management-tools.net/organizational-learning.html>

6. The project should be of interest to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), given the objective to improve conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity. Collaboration with the CBD is encouraged for this reason, and also because of the CBD's strength in convening cooperation, including on the high seas. The CBD also has an important role in providing scientific and technical advice in describing ecologically or biologically significant areas.

7. STAP recommends explaining more fully why Ukraine is one of the collaborating countries for a project focussed on the Southern Oceans. From FAO statistics, STAP notes that the Ukraine has a relatively modest high seas fishing presence, compared to the other four countries involved in the project. Describing the role of the Ukraine in the project, or component(s), would be useful.

8. A minor point: the PIF uses "CCAMLR" and "CAML". STAP proposes that the proponents be consistent in their use of acronyms.

<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>	<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>
<b>3. Major issues to be considered during project design</b>	<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>