

# 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: 28 May 2009

Screener: Douglas Taylor, STAP Secretary

Panel member validation by: Meryl Williams

### I. PIF Information

**Full size project**      **GEF Trust Fund**

GEF PROJECT ID: 3978      PROJECT DURATION: 48 months

GEF AGENCY PROJECT ID:

COUNTRY(IES): all countries in the Arab Region

PROJECT TITLE: Regional Coordination on Natural Resources Management and Capacity Building (TA)

GEF AGENCY(IES): World Bank

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNER(S): Arab water council (AWC), Arab water academy (AWA), and relevant agencies of AWC member countries

GEF FOCAL AREA (S): Multi-focal areas

GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAM(S): IW-SP3-Freshwater Basins, LD-SP1-Agriculture, BD-SP8-ABS-Capacity Building, and CC-SP6-LULUCF

NAME OF PARENT PROGRAM/UMBRELLA PROJECT (if applicable): **MEDITERRANEAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

### II. STAP Advisory Response (see table below for explanation)

1. Based on this PIF screening, STAP's advisory response to the GEF Secretariat and GEF Agency:  
**Consent**

### III. Further guidance from STAP

2. STAP welcomes this project as it promises to build the technical and assistance capacity of an important regional initiative, the Arab Water Council, which appears to provide a good foundation for the work within the overall framework for the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Program.
3. With respect to the food and agricultural production impacts from climate change, STAP recommends that the project also make contact with the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA). As well as having deep knowledge of the agriculture of the region, ICARDA has extensive knowledge of supplemental irrigation and water harvesting for agriculture and horticulture in dry, rainfed areas. A useful new reference on the topic is: Wani, S.P., J. Rockstrom and T. Oweis (Eds) 2009. Rainfed agriculture: unlocking the potential. Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture and CABI. 310pp.

| <i>STAP advisory response</i>      | <i>Brief explanation of advisory response and action proposed</i>  |
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| 1. <b>Consent</b>                  | STAP acknowledges that on scientific/technical grounds the concept has merit. However, STAP may state its views on the concept emphasising any issues that could be improved and the proponent is invited to approach STAP for advice at any time during the development of the project brief prior to submission for CEO endorsement.   |
| 2. <b>Minor revision required.</b> | STAP has identified specific scientific/technical suggestions or opportunities that should be discussed with the proponent as early as possible during development of the project brief. One or more options that remain open to STAP include:<br>(i) Opening a dialogue between STAP and the proponent to clarify issues<br>(ii) Setting a review point during early stage project development and agreeing terms of reference for an independent expert to be appointed to conduct this review<br>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. |
| 3. <b>Major revision required</b>  | STAP proposes significant improvements or has concerns on the grounds of specified major scientific/technical omissions in the concept. If STAP provides this advisory response, a full explanation would also be provided. Normally, a STAP approved review will be mandatory prior to submission of the project brief for CEO endorsement.<br>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.   |