

# 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: 20 May 2009

Screener: David Cunningham

Panel member validation by: Meryl Williams

### I. PIF Information

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

**GEF PROJECT ID:** 3970      **PROJECT DURATION:** 36 months

**GEF AGENCY PROJECT ID:**

**COUNTRY:** Syria

**PROJECT TITLE:** Coastal Rivers and Orontes River Basins Water Resources Management Project

**GEF AGENCY:** World Bank

**OTHER EXECUTING PARTNER(S):** ACSAD, JICA

**GEF FOCAL AREA:** International Waters

**GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAM:** IW-SP3-Freshwater Basins

**NAME OF PARENT PROGRAM/UMBRELLA PROJECT:** 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 has no comment on the physical science aspects of this PIF but emphasizes that the marginal (and currently negative water balance) of Syria places its agriculture, industry and urban water use in an increasingly precarious situation, compounded by the pollution entering the Mediterranean. Using both groundwater and surface waters in an integrated way when warming and increasing water uses are compromising both sources requires the knowledge this project aims to generate and its active use in water integrated management regimes. Social and political science insights will be increasingly called on to provide mechanisms and options for improving development of and respect for sustainable water management regimes. The weakness in national capacity in integrated water resources management must be addressed specifically not just at the individual level but also at the institutional and policy level. The looming water crisis may help provide an enabling environment.

<i>STAP advisory response</i>	<i>Brief explanation of advisory response and action proposed</i>
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: (i) Opening a dialogue between STAP and the proponent to clarify issues (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 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. 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.