

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: 3974 **PROJECT DURATION:**18months

GEF AGENCY PROJECT ID:

COUNTRY: Tunisia

PROJECT TITLE: Improved Management of Greater Tunis Treated Wastewater Discharge in the Mediterranean Sea.

GEF AGENCY: World Bank

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNER(S):

Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable (MEDD); Office National de l'Assainissement (ONAS); Direction Générale de l'Environnement et de la Qualité de la Vie (MEDD/DGEQV); Agence Nationale de Protection de l'Environnement (ANPE); Ministère de l'Agriculture et des Ressources Hydrauliques (MARH); Ministère du Domaine de l'Etat et des Affaires Foncières

GEF FOCAL AREA: International Waters

GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAM: IW-SP2

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(ies):
Minor revision required

III. Further guidance from STAP

2. The PIF anticipates positive externalities for biodiversity conservation in the Bay of Tunis. STAP asks that the full project document address any broader environmental impacts, including on biodiversity, in the Mediterranean, and any safeguards that may be necessary based on existing work in this area¹. However, the PIF is not explicit on the specific biodiversity to be protected/advantages in the Bay of Tunis. This GEF grant is an investment grant for wastewater, transferring it to a basin so that it can later be discharged 7km out to sea. Current inshore discharge areas will presumably be eventually spared.
3. STAP recommends that the project establishes ecological and biodiversity baselines at the areas of current inshore discharge and of eventual offshore discharge. These two areas should also then be subject to routine monitoring programs to determine the effectiveness of the actions taken. If not already in operation, an overall water quality monitoring program should be established for the Bay of Tunis with a view to tracking the success of the water treatment efforts.

¹ For example, the outputs of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), http://www.unepmap.org/index.php?module=library&mode=pub&action=results&stype=3&s_category=&s_descriptors=Submarine%20outfall; and Environmental Design and Monitoring of Large Submarine Outfalls: An Integrated Approach for Coastal Protection, <http://www.springerlink.com/content/p7344860r3m112p0/>.

<i>STAP advisory response</i>	<i>Brief explanation of advisory response and action proposed</i>
1. Consent	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. Minor revision required.	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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. Major revision required	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.