

# 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: March 05, 2013

Screeners: Guadalupe Duron

Panel member validation by: Annette Cowie  
Consultant(s):

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

**FULL SIZE PROJECT**    **GEF TRUST FUND**

**GEF PROJECT ID:** 5229

**PROJECT DURATION :** 4

**COUNTRIES :** Lebanon

**PROJECT TITLE:** Sustainable Land Management in the Qaroun Watershed

**GEF AGENCIES:** UNDP

**OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS:** Lebanese Ministry of the Environment; Ministry of Agriculture

**GEF FOCAL AREA:** Land Degradation

### 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

STAP welcomes UNDP's proposal on "Sustainable Land Management in the Qaroun Watershed". The project objective relates well to the problem statement, and is supported by the two proposed components. STAP also is pleased to see a number of references to support, and detail further the information provided in the proposal.

STAP believes the proposal could be strengthened in the following ways during the proposal development.

1. In the project framework, STAP recommends detailing the outcomes and outputs further by defining appropriate indicators. For example, what percentage of integrated landscape management practices were adopted by the local communities could be an outcome indicator for component 2.
2. STAP recommends strengthening the interventions by using a landscape services approach based on the spatial attributes of ecosystem services. The approach could potentially strengthen the design of the components in a way that better accounts for complementarities and trade-offs resulting from ecosystem processes. In particular, the spatial attributes of ecosystem services (where the services are generated and who benefits) could be useful in strengthening the interventions, and outcomes on integrated natural resource management. This framework may be useful given the competing land uses in the Qaroun watershed. For further information on a landscape service approach, the project developers may wish to consult the following resource – Syrbe, R. et al. "Spatial indicators for the assessment of ecosystem services: providing, benefiting and connecting areas and landscape metrics". *Ecological indicators* 21 (2012) 80-88.
3. STAP recommends imbedding climate change adaptation/resilience strategies throughout the components. Given the range in precipitation in the targeted region combined with the intensive pressure on natural resources (soil and water), it would be appropriate to tailor the interventions to support adaptive capacities to climate change. In this regard, STAP also recommends adding climate change projection data in the problem statement. One source for this information could be the climate change profiles in the UNDP website - <http://www.geog.ox.ac.uk/research/climate/projects/undp-cp/>
4. The argument for catchment scale action is well made. Nonetheless, the proposal seems to suggest that four separate planning groups will be formed. If this is the case, STAP recommends for the proposal to define a clear mechanism whereby the four groups work together, including measures that ensure their compatibility and collaboration. Addressing this aspect is important since land use planning needs to be undertaken across the whole catchment.

5. There seems to be insufficient attention to generating alternative livelihoods as opposed to reliance on enforcement where fuelwood harvest and livestock numbers are to be reduced. STAP suggests for UNDP to consider further this aspect that could be indicative of the trade-offs between global environmental benefits and local benefits. It also encourages UNDP to consider further (or define more explicitly) income generating options during the proposal development.

6. The proposal indicates that US\$230 million will be invested in "...addressing water pollution through the improvement, or installation of waste water treatment plants and reducing effluent discharges from private enterprises" during the project period (section B.1). This effort appears peripheral to the project and its efforts to reduce unsustainable agricultural practices, and its pollution of water, through integrated natural resource management at the landscape level.

7. Throughout the proposal, it would be useful if the project developers defined more clearly the practical actions to be implemented. Currently, it is hard to detect what these actions will be.

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