

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: November 08, 2017
Screener: Sunday Leonard
Panel member validation by: Ricardo Orlando Barra Rios
Consultant(s):

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

FULL-SIZED PROJECT	GEF TRUST FUND
GEF PROJECT ID:	9565
PROJECT DURATION:	7
COUNTRIES:	Guyana
PROJECT TITLE:	Strengthening the Enabling Framework for Biodiversity Mainstreaming and Mercury Reduction in Small and Medium-scale Gold Mining Operations
GEF AGENCIES:	UNDP
OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS:	Environmental Education Agency, Ministry of Natural Resources, Guyana Geology and Mining Commissions
GEF FOCAL AREA:	Multi Focal Area

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

1. This multifocal project (biodiversity and chemicals & waste focal areas) seeks to strengthen the regulatory framework and institutional capacity for the management of small-scale gold mining and promote greater adoption of environmentally-friendly mining techniques in Guyana to protect globally significant biodiversity, reduce mercury contamination, enhance local livelihoods and human health.
2. Guyana has one of the most extensive forest covers globally but in recent times, has been faced with increased deforestation and degradation, mainly due to mining activities. Gold mining, especially at the small-scale level, has been identified as the leading cause of mining-related forest-linked biodiversity loss. The recent surge in the global gold price has further increased this pressure.
3. Identified barriers to making gold mining sustainable in Guyana include the lack of effective planning, policy and regulatory framework, inadequate institutional capacity and inter-institutional coordination, poor understanding of best practices and technologies especially by small-scale miners, and lack of awareness and understanding of impacts among the mining communities.
4. The project proponents have identified several activities aimed at overcoming these barriers. This includes strengthening of policies and regulatory framework, enhancing institutional capacity, demonstration of best practices, and awareness raising initiatives. A knowledge management component is also proposed to ensure dissemination of lessons from the project.
5. Overall, this proposal is well prepared, and the identified solutions seem appropriate for achieving the project objectives if thoroughly implemented as described.

6. The GEF has recently supported a UN Environment-led global program entitled "Global Opportunities for Long-term Development of ASGM Sector (GEF-GOLD)" (see: <https://www.thegef.org/project/global-opportunities-long-term-development-asgm-sector-gef-gold>). This project aims to reduce the use of mercury in the ASGM sector, and Guyana is one of the participating countries. The project proponents are, therefore, encouraged to seek to link up with the actors of the GEF-GOLD project to ensure synergy in implementation and maximize global environmental benefits.

<i>STAP advisory response</i>	<i>Brief explanation of advisory response and action proposed</i>
1. Concur	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.
2. Minor issues to be considered during project design	<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.</p> <p>(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>
3. Major issues to be considered during project design	<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>