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 07, 2013 Screener: Thomas Hammond

Panel member validation by: Annette Cowie; Ralph E. Sims
Consultant(s): Margarita Dyubanova

I. PIF Information *(Copied from the PIF)*
FULL SIZE PROJECT GEF TRUST FUND
GEF PROJECT ID: 5083
PROJECT DURATION : 5
COUNTRIES : Kenya
PROJECT TITLE: Development of SFM and Support to REDD for Dryland Forests
GEF AGENCIES: FAO
OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS: Kenya Forest Service
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): **Consent**

III. Further guidance from STAP

STAP welcomes the proposal on "Developments of SFM and Support to REDD+ for Dryland Forests" developed by FAO with the goal to develop participatory sustainable forest management systems in dryland forests for biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and sustainable livelihoods benefits. The proposal describes necessary elements to produce successful outcomes and deliver global environmental benefits, including baseline description and general methodology outline.

The proposal makes a reference to national and international priorities and promises to deliver biodiversity, climate change mitigation and sustainable forest management benefits. The strong participatory role of national research institutions in the project meets STAP's expectations and is warmly welcomed.

To deliver the aforementioned benefits, STAP wishes to highlight the following important scientific and technical considerations:

1. Carbon stock assessment methodologies are critical elements of sustainable forest management and climate change mitigation projects. The technical approaches for carbon sequestration and avoidance should be based on widely tested methodologies and thus offer good opportunity for scaling-up elsewhere. FAO may also wish to consider the application of the Carbon Benefits Project simple or detailed assessment tools for the estimation of carbon stock change in biomass and soil. Further information about the Carbon Benefits Project is available at http://carbonbenefitsproject-compa.colostate.edu/

Calculations of global environmental benefits in the form of avoided and sequestered CO2e emissions are mentioned to be available in a separate Excel sheet submitted with the PIF. However, the document is not available for download in Project Management Information System (PMIS).

2. Imperative inclusion of pilot project is mentioned in the proposal. During the development of the project document, consideration might be given to introducing some elements of experimental or quasi-experimental design such as that proposed by the STAP Advisory Report "Experimental Project Designs in the Global Environment Facility". This would assist in the generation of empirical evidence on project outcomes, and inform future investments in this area.

3. STAP welcomes the inclusion of output 2.1.5 "Review and update of the Kenya policy for sustainable charcoal production". STAP suggests that it would be valuable to assess the barriers to sustainable charcoal production, and specifically to assess the availability of skills and facilities for improved charcoal production. If these are found to be inadequate, STAP suggests that the proponent consider addressing these needs.

4. Finally, STAP wishes to request more information on regarding the tradeoffs re: the selection of natural regeneration techniques (coppicing and self set-seeding) as opposed to directed regeneration relying on nursery stock.

STAP advisory response	*Brief explanation of advisory response and action proposed*
1. Consent	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. 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.
2. Minor revision required.	STAP has identified specific scientific or technical challenges, omissions or opportunities that should be addressed by the project proponents during project development. 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.
3. Major revision required	STAP has identified significant scientific or technical challenges or omissions in the PIF and recommends significant improvements to project design. 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.