

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: May 03, 2017
Screener: Virginia Gorsevski
Panel member validation by: Brian Child
Consultant(s):

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

FULL-SIZED PROJECT	GEF TRUST FUND
GEF PROJECT ID:	9437
PROJECT DURATION:	5
COUNTRIES:	Nepal
PROJECT TITLE:	Integrated Landscape Management to Secure Nepal's Protected Areas and Critical Corridors
GEF AGENCIES:	WWF-US
OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS:	Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation
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

STAP commends WWF in developing a solid project focused on landscape management in Nepal's Terai Arc (TAL). If successful, this project will result in significant global environmental benefits including the conservation of important ecosystems that provide multiple services including habitat for key megafauna such as Asian elephants, tigers and rhinos. The expenditure of \$1.6m on national coordination might normally be criticized as out of balance with field implementation; however, the timing of this project is well justified and is complemented by empirical understanding, mapping, planning and implementing of effective management in key buffer/corridor zones.

The proposed project is consistent with the problem that has been identified in that it combines national coordination, with buffer zone and community conservation and management of wildlife conflicts and poaching to promote corridors in the TAL. It builds on long experience in community-based buffer zone/corridor management, does not over-stretch itself, and recognizes the need to strengthen governance and technical resource management by communities. In addition, the proposed project builds on a solid baseline, focuses on three or four field sites, and works to improve the enabling environments and specifically addresses threats such as infrastructure (especially roads).

The innovation of the TAL project lies in its use of an integrated approach that combines community-based conservation of forests and landscapes with national to regional planning and coordination. It is an excellent pilot model of community conservation at scale that can be used in two additional sites in Nepal and in many sites elsewhere globally.

Finally, the proposed project manages the risks of encouraging new and participatory ways of implementing landscape management and learns from and builds on previous experience in buffer zone management and community conservation in Nepal.

Having said this, STAP notes that careful thought needs to be given regarding how to develop governance and management capacity in over 700 communities in the buffer zones. Regarding governance, consideration should be given to promoting participatory governance rather than representation forms of governance, and to promoting equitable distribution of information, decision-making and benefit sharing among all members of communities, including women and marginal groups. In terms of resource management, consideration should be given to Namibian-style village scouts and community based "management orientated monitoring systems (MOMS)".

<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>