

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 15, 2016
Screener: Thomas Hammond
Panel member validation by: Brian Child
Consultant(s):

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

FULL SIZE PROJECT	GEF TRUST FUND
GEF PROJECT ID:	9231
PROJECT DURATION:	4
COUNTRIES:	Pakistan
PROJECT TITLE:	Pakistan Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program
GEF AGENCIES:	UNDP
OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS:	Ministry of Climate Change, Snow Leopard Foundation
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):
Minor issues to be considered during project design

III. Further guidance from STAP

STAP welcomes this initiative addressing the conservation needs of an iconic and critically endangered species, Snow Leopard (*panthera unica*), across its range in Northern Pakistan, while concomitantly addressing critical land management and socio-economic issues in the same region. It is an ambitious undertaking in a challenging region both from a socio-economic and bio-physical perspective.

The Panel wishes to take this opportunity to highlight a number of considerations for future development of the project. For instance, the imperative for developing sustainable financing schemes over the life of the project is noted on a number of occasions in the PIF, and is closely associated with long term project success. However, this seemingly important project component has not been developed in this document. Given the obvious importance of this component to project success and sustainability, it is insufficient at PIF stage to effectively leave sustainable financing as an inherent assumption that will emerge successfully during project implementation. STAP urges that particular care is taken to fully develop this component of the project during the development phase.

Another inherent assumption in this document is the notion that improvements to SLM and SFM and associated practices will largely lead to reduction in pressure on Snow Leopard habitat. Little evidence of past success in this regard has been provided. This is surprising, given the level of effort from past and ongoing initiatives noted in the baseline analysis.

The likely future impacts of climate change in Northern Pakistan have been outlined in the document and included in the results table, however it is peculiar that climate change has not been considered in the project risk table. The impacts of climate change will almost certainly ensure that current bio-physical and socio-economic conditions which exist on the ground will not exist within 20 years. The PIF correctly notes that Snow Leopard habitat is expected to contract by 30% by mid-century (highlighted in IPCC AR5 WGII). Probability is high that temperatures will increase by 3i,°C in the northern reaches of Pakistan over a similar time period. Great care will need to be taken in the project planning phase to address this dynamic,

particularly in PA identification and development, establishment of corridors, and including in the identification and use of appropriate SLM and SFM practices which build resilience to climate change.

The project Knowledge Management strategy should include how data will be managed post project and where these data will reside. STAP urges that data access also be made available beyond the circle of project stakeholders. Finally, project proponents should consider including the IUCN Species Survival Commission "Big Cat Specialist Group" among project stakeholders.

<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. (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>