

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:	9571
PROJECT DURATION:	5
COUNTRIES:	Regional (Belarus, Georgia, Ukraine)
PROJECT TITLE:	Promoting Accelerated Uptake of Environmental Technologies and Promotion of Best Practices for Improved Water, Chemicals, and Waste Management in the Black Sea Basin
GEF AGENCIES:	EBRD
OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS:	Various ministries responsible for environmental protection to be determined in accordance with EBRD procurement policies
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 (International Waters and Chemicals & Waste) seeks to improve the management of harmful chemicals and waste (including POPs) and support investments for tackling land- and water-based pollution in coastal hotspots in the Black Sea drainage basin. The project is specifically targeted at Belarus, Georgia, and Ukraine.
2. The region is significantly handicapped concerning chemical management, and it is inundated with the communist era's legacy of widespread environmental pollution. It has some of the most water-stressed countries in the world. The water sector is impeded by issues such as inadequate regulatory and incentive frameworks (low tariffs and insufficient collection of payments for water services), low awareness across a wide range of stakeholders, and a lack of financial resources to extend or maintain the infrastructure.
3. Among others, legacy POPs, as well as the poor management of plastics and e-waste, are examples of the chemical management challenges faced in the three countries.
4. The barriers to achieving an effective chemical and water management in the region include the lack of capacity and awareness, insufficient finance, weak institutions, as well as inadequate policies and regulatory frameworks. This project aims to overcome these barriers and bring a positive environmental transition through a combination of investment, technical assistance, institution reform, and policy dialogue.
5. Several baseline activities/investments have been identified upon which this project will be built. These include, for example, the Danube River Basin Regional Project Phase 1 and 2, the Black Sea Ecosystem Recovery Project Phase 1 and 2, the Control of Eutrophication Substances and Related Measures for

Rehabilitating the Black Sea Ecosystem: Phase 1 and Tranche 2, Hazardous and the Investment Fund for Nutrient Reduction.

6. Overall, this is a well-prepared proposal with adequate scientific backings and citations for the identified problems and the well thought-out solutions. Furthermore, the planned components of the project and the associated activities appears sufficient to overcome the identified barriers, if well implemented.

7. This project seems to be one that could generate significant lessons that would be useful for other GEF investments and future activities in the two focal areas. However, the current project description does not contain a monitoring and reporting or knowledge management component. STAP, therefore, advise that a knowledge management component that entails how the project will be monitored, and how the knowledge from the project will be disseminated to other countries within the region as well as made available to inform other GEF investments should be included.

<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>