

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 10, 2016
Screener: Guadalupe Duron
Panel member validation by: Annette Cowie
Consultant(s):

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

FULL SIZE PROJECT	GEF TRUST FUND
GEF PROJECT ID:	9434
PROJECT DURATION:	4
COUNTRIES:	Timor Leste
PROJECT TITLE:	Securing the Long-term Conservation of Timor Leste Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services through the Establishment of a functioning National Protected Area Network and the Improvement of Natural Resource Management in Priority Catchment Corridor
GEF AGENCIES:	CI
OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS:	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Environment (MCIE), and CI Timor-Leste
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 welcomes the proposal "Securing the long-term conservation of Timor-Leste's biodiversity and ecosystem services through the establishment of a functioning National Protected Area Network and the improvement of natural resource management in priority catchment corridor". There is a pressing need in Timor Leste to establish a protected area network, address knowledge gaps on biodiversity, forest cover, hydrological aspects, and other environmental management needs that will improve livelihood strategies. The problems and barriers in meeting this objective are well-presented in the PIF. STAP appreciates the level of detail provided in the document, including the various maps.

STAP is pleased, therefore, that this project will address many of the recommendations of the National Ecological Gap Assessment (NEGA) that seeks to improve biodiversity conservation and watershed management in high value conservation areas, and critical areas to community livelihoods. Coordination across stakeholders, including Ministries, will be an important aspect of this project. STAP welcomes Conservation International's initiative to strengthen coordination across the relevant Ministries to encourage mainstreaming of biodiversity, and sustainable land-forest management.

STAP is satisfied with the scientific and technical quality of the proposal and encourages the proponent to develop the project with same rigor.

To further strengthen the project design, STAP recommends addressing the following points:

1. Define further the Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) approach, and detail how the project proposes to adapt it to a terrestrial setting. It would be useful to provide examples of successful results, and challenges of this approach, and how the project intends to learn from them.

2. STAP welcomes the focus on socio-economic benefits, and encourages Conservation International to define indicators during the project design that can monitor their achievement. Additionally, STAP suggests identifying indicators for improved watershed management that seeks to reduce land degradation.

3. As the project developers consider sustainable financial mechanisms for protected area management and watershed management, learning from Costa Rica's experience on payment for environmental services may be useful. The following paper may be useful in this regard: Porras, I. et al "Learning from 20 years of Payment for Ecosystem Services in Costa Rica" (2013). <http://pubs.iied.org/16514IIED.html>

Please also refer to the following publication prepared by STAP: <http://www.stapgef.org/payments-for-environmental-services-and-the-global-environment-facility/>

4. Detail land tenure policies or customary laws (e.g. tara bandu) that are relevant to community natural resource management in Timor Leste. Understanding and embedding the values and cultural norms will be important to the project's sustainability. The following paper may be useful in providing background information on customary laws in Timor Leste: Miyazawa, N. "Customary Law and community based natural resource management in post-conflict Timor Leste"(2013): http://www.environmentalpeacebuilding.org/assets/Documents/LibraryItem_000_Doc_167.pdf

5. The project may want to consider the use of remote sensing methods and data to inform monitoring and management of protected areas and forests. Institutional capacity may be needed, as well as other long investments. However, it may be of great value in the medium to long-term for Timor Leste to use remote sensing to implement forest monitoring using remote sensing. Conservation International may want to explore this opportunity further with the Ministries involved in the project. The following two papers highlight the increased use and applicability of remote sensing, in combination with social science, in developing countries to monitor for forest cover and inform management strategies: 1) Romijn, E. et al. "Assessing change in national forest monitoring capacities of 99 tropical Countries". *Forest Ecology and Management* 352 (2015) 109-123. 2) Fisher, R. "Tropical forest monitoring, combining satellite and social data, to inform management and livelihood implications: Case studies from Indonesian West Timor". *International Journal of Applied Earth Observation and Geoinformation*, Volume 16, June 2012, Pages 77-84.

6. For component 2, the project developers may be interested in this paper: Chandra, A. et al. "How might adaptation to climate change by smallholder farming communities contribute to climate change mitigation outcomes? A case study from Timor-Leste, Southeast Asia". *Sustainability Science*. May 2016, Volume 11, Issue 3, pp 477-492.

<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	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: (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. 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.
3. Major issues	STAP proposes significant improvements or has concerns on the grounds of specified major

to be considered during project design	<p>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>
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