

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: October 01, 2013

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: 5410

PROJECT DURATION :

COUNTRIES : Venezuela

PROJECT TITLE: Sustainable Forest Lands Management and Conservation under an Eco-social Approach

GEF AGENCIES: FAO

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS:

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 FAO's proposal on "Sustainable Forest Lands Management and Conservation under an Eco-social Approach" in Venezuela. The proposal is innovative by involving local stakeholders and communities in participatory monitoring of the forest cover. Although this activity will be designed during the development of the proposal, the commitment to strengthen communities' participation in assessing and monitoring forest cover is evident throughout the proposal – mainly in component 1 and 2. Additionally, the proposal is structured well. The project objective is defined clearly, and it is relevant to global environmental benefits. The components also support the project objective, and their sub-activities are defined thoroughly in the project framework. Other sections of the proposal also are described thoroughly, and supported with available data (e.g. global environmental problems, including the baseline annual forest carbon emissions for Venezuela). STAP also welcomes the comprehensive description of the forest ecosystem and the barriers impeding sustainable forest management.

To further strengthen the proposal, STAP recommends addressing the following suggestions during the development of the proposal.

1. While there is frequent mention of sustainable forest management, the proposal is not clear what this means in practice and how it will be facilitated. STAP recommends for FAO to detail this aspect further in the proposal.
2. Furthermore, STAP recommends detailing to what extent fuelwood harvesting is a driver of deforestation and forest degradation. STAP believes this may be an important factor to consider, as well as thinking about alternative fuelwood sources. Additionally, it would be useful to detail further how the indicator on quantity of fuelwood will be assessed.
3. STAP appreciates the comprehensive description of the incremental reasoning and the global environmental benefits. This includes providing initial values for carbon sequestration from sustainable forest management and sustainable land management activities. Similarly, STAP welcomes the various references made to defining more precisely the baselines for the global environmental benefits (forest biodiversity and carbon sequestration) during the development of the proposal. In this regard, STAP encourages FAO to specify the indicators that will be used to estimate and monitor each global environmental benefit, as well as the methodologies used.
4. In component 2, STAP suggests for the project developers to rely on the following STAP advisory document for the development of a certified sustainable forest management scheme. The document presents the evidence base on environmental and socioeconomic impacts of sustainable certification of forest products (among others), and defines implications for the GEF – such as defining the proposal so that it is explicitly designed to evaluate the

environmental impacts of the attempt to certify sustainable forest products. The document is titled "Environmental Certification and the Global Environment Facility, A STAP Advisory Document. September 2010. www.stapgef.org

5. It is unlikely that the root to shoot ratio is higher in tropical forests than in drier forest types. It would be preferable to use the same reference for each forest type, especially where one forest type will replace the other. For example, STAP suggests using "Mokany" for all forest types.

6. STAP recommends paying close attention to the units when referring to forest carbon stocks and avoided emissions. For instance, STAP believes the figures are tC rather than CO₂ in some instances. Furthermore, the restoration (which are actually in tC not CO₂e) must relate to sequestration over the long term. Therefore, STAP recommends defining the time-frame of the calculations and providing a figure over the life of the project.

7. A minor comment – please use the English rather than the Spanish abbreviation for GHG.

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