

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: @@@@ @@, @@@@

Screener: Christine Wellington-Moore

Panel member validation by: Hindrik Bouwman
Consultant(s):

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

FULL SIZE PROJECT **GEF TRUST FUND**

GEF PROJECT ID: 4737

PROJECT DURATION : 4

COUNTRIES : Armenia

PROJECT TITLE: Elimination of Obsolete Pesticide Stockpiles and Addressing POPs Contaminated Sites within a Sound Chemicals Management Framework

GEF AGENCIES: UNDP

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS: Ministry of Nature Protection

GEF FOCAL AREA: POPs

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

This proposal is to ameliorate the poorly maintained chemical storage sites around Armenia, and the contamination around these and former storage sites, through capture and containment of obsolete pesticide stockpiles and wastes, elimination of these stockpiles and wastes where possible, and institutional and regulatory capacity strengthening for sound chemicals management and contaminated sites. Historical organochloride pesticides (OCPs) figure prominently in the stockpile profiles (DDT and HCH in particular, though HCB and Heptachlor have been detected as well in biota). One stockpile site in particular, Nubarashen, a hillside positioned site, near the Erebuni State Reserve, is noted as being a major environmental risk, with a past history of slippage and a related, exacerbated contamination event.

The PIF is quite comprehensive in the steps proposed, noting the Basel guidance and STAP advisory materials on POPs disposal as some of the guidance available to inform the project. The barrier and risk analysis is also well done, including considerations of climate-related risk to sites and contamination, lending confidence that this will be kept in mind when future storage sites are selected. Consideration is given to resources, and prioritising what should first be destroyed (higher concentration/contaminated materials), and what might be securely stockpiled until resources can be found to deal with these. This should help maximise global environmental benefits for the level of resources provided. Gender dimensions will be assisted by the involvement of a local NGO currently active and knowledgeable of the communities surrounding the stockpile sites and contaminated areas, so that appropriate engagement and awareness raising can be carried out, building on their knowledge of differentiated exposure and vulnerability by men, women and children of the community.

The Panel commends the developers of this project for a comprehensive approach, utilising NGOs and other knowledgeable national partners to enhance effectiveness of the interventions.

<i>STAP advisory response</i>	<i>Brief explanation of advisory response and action proposed</i>
1. Consent	STAP acknowledges that on scientific/technical grounds the concept has merit. However, STAP may state its views on the concept emphasising any issues that could be improved and the proponent is invited to approach STAP for advice at any time during the development of the project brief prior to submission for CEO endorsement.
2. Minor revision required.	STAP has identified specific scientific/technical suggestions or opportunities that should be discussed with the proponent as early as possible during development of the project brief. One or more options that remain open to STAP include: (i) Opening a dialogue between STAP and the proponent to clarify issues

	<p>(ii) Setting a review point during early stage project development and agreeing 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 revision required	<p>STAP proposes significant improvements or has concerns on the grounds of specified major scientific/technical omissions in the concept. If STAP provides this advisory response, a full explanation would also be provided. Normally, a STAP approved review will be mandatory prior to submission of the project brief for CEO endorsement.</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>