

# 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: January 23, 2012

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:** 4756

**PROJECT DURATION :** 4

**COUNTRIES :** Benin

**PROJECT TITLE:** Disposal of POPs and Obsolete Pesticides and Strengthening Life-cycle Management of Pesticides

**GEF AGENCIES:** FAO

**OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS:** Ministries of Agriculture, Environment and Public Health

**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

The project focuses, inter alia, on interventions related to safe disposal of pesticide POPs and other obsolete pesticides, and remediation of contaminated soils, on strengthening management of empty pesticide containers, promotion of alternatives to POPs pesticides, and supportive institutional and regulatory frameworks. The major barriers and constraints identified in exploratory missions include poor storage and management of pesticide stocks and empty containers (including unsecure, leaking stockpiles in highly populated areas), poor management of contaminate sites (dieldrin-contaminated), illegal trade in banned and substandard pesticides, regulatory/legislative gaps, poor stakeholder awareness of impacts, lack of communication on pesticide regulatory processes, poor data on pesticide use, and lack of strategy in the area of research, development and promotion of alternatives, including endosulfan. The components of the PIF do seem appropriately designed to tackle the problems, with good building on, or complementarity with related projects and initiatives. The project is also mindful of the behaviours of chemicals in the African arid conditions, and there will be effort made to explore locally appropriate, cost-effective technologies to deal with remediation of soils.

STAP's comments:

The exploratory missions that helped in developing this PIF have resulted in a comprehensive document, which appears sensitive to the unique issues and circumstances in Benin, including climate related matters that might affect the project and chemicals behaviour. STAP's comments are therefore brief:

a) The document recognises the important role of women in agriculture. It is hoped that training and outreach activities will take into consideration any gender related sensitivities and targeting of messages as local conditions warrant. For example, men may have had a larger voice in identifying barriers etc that are specific to their specific roles in agriculture, and in chemicals use. However, one can see issues specific to women. Their role in the agricultural cycle may be different from men. For example, they may do more weeding and gathering of crops after pesticide treatments have been carried out, increasing their exposure, and calling for specific guidance on how best to protect themselves, and any juveniles that may accompany them in the fields. This latter comment is only offered as a thought-starter, as the STAP does NOT have a social scientist onboard, and so does not claim authority on gender roles in Benin. Still, extension training should consider these things. Also, the dangers of informal, repurposed use of POPs containing containers should be included in any targeted awareness in communities; and there may be a large gender component to this (eg if women do water collection and other gathering of food etc using repurposed containers).

b) A fuller consideration of climate resilience especially as relates to IPM needs to be considered, as the climate and climate projections for the country are highly variable, and will impact on pest distribution, activity, seasonal appearance, as well as impact on the behaviour of chemicals in the environment. Climate change should also feature in the risk table.

| <i>STAP advisory response</i>      | <i>Brief explanation of advisory response and action proposed</i>  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>1. Consent</b>                  | 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.   |
| <b>2. Minor revision required.</b> | 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Opening a dialogue between STAP and the proponent to clarify issues</li> <li>(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</li> </ul> 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. |
| <b>3. Major revision required</b>  | 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.<br>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.   |