

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

Screeener: 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: 4641

PROJECT DURATION : 3

COUNTRIES : Cameroon

PROJECT TITLE: Disposal of POPs and Obsolete Pesticides and Strengthening Sound Pesticide Management

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 (IPM promotion for cocoa and coffee), and supportive institutional and regulatory frameworks. The population of Cameroon is heavily dependent on agriculture (with large involvement of the female population), and there are up to 40% crop losses annually, poor storage and management of pesticide stocks and empty containers (including domestic repurposing of containers and intoxications), poor management of contaminated sites (with evidence of stocks already impacting soil and groundwater), regulatory/legislative gaps, weak technical and institutional capacities for sound management of pesticides throughout their life cycle, poor stakeholder awareness of impacts, and a lack of coordinated strategy in the area of development and implementation of alternatives, including IPM. The components of the PIF do seem appropriately designed to tackle the problems, with good building on, or complementarity with related projects and initiatives.

STAP's comments:

The PIF have is quite comprehensive and appears sensitive to the unique issues and circumstances in Cameroon. However, there are a few things that should explicitly be dealt with:-

a) The document recognises the role of women in agriculture, and the repurposing of pesticide containers for domestic uses. It also goes the extra mile in saying that men AND women will be targeted in Farmer Field School activities. The STAP also hopes that care will be taken to identify specific difference in the roles of men and women in the crop cycle, and related chemicals use. For example, men may administer the pesticides to crops, and be recipient of safety equipment, but women 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 children that may accompany them in the fields. Noting that the STAP does NOT have a social scientist on board, and is certainly not an authority on gender roles in Cameroon, this latter comment is only offered to prompt thinking on possible gender role differentiation as relates to the various steps in the crop cycle, and hopes that extension training 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) FAO certainly has ample experience and good track record inputting together IPM strategies, as well as the site remediation work, and the STAP hopes that FAO will wherever possible highlight in the project document how

seasonality and climate vulnerability are taken into consideration . This would be of benefit for generation lessons learned for the POPs portfolio,

c) Mention is made of upgrading a National laboratory. STAP suggests that this laboratory be used to identify polluted sites and to prioritize these for intervention as part of Component 1, and to monitor success of site remediation.

<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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Opening a dialogue between STAP and the proponent to clarify issues (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 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 revision required	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. 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.