

# 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 04, 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:** 4862

**PROJECT DURATION :** 4

**COUNTRIES :** China

**PROJECT TITLE:** Reduction of POPs and PTS Release by Environmentally Sound Management throughout the Life Cycle of Electrical and Electronic Equipment and Associated Wastes in China

**GEF AGENCIES:** UNDP

**OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS:** Ministry of Environmental Protection, Foreign Economic Cooperation Office

**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 project states as its objective: "Reduction and elimination of POPs and PTS releases associated with E-Waste processing through implementation of a life cycle Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) management system based on extended producer responsibility (EPR), and application of BAT/BEP processing technology". It seeks to build on the country's own national WEEE management system that has involved promotion of the development of a formal processing sector employing environmentally sound technologies. However, past efforts did not adequately address ways to incorporate the current informal sector, which is a source of significant POPs and PTS release through its environmentally unfriendly practices. The main areas of work are to be: the development and implementation of a national EPR system for WEEE; demonstration and development of market based WEEE processing; and upgrading of informal WEEE processing and its integration into the EPR system.

STAP welcomes this initiative and notes that the PIF reflects a very comprehensive approach to the task, with a thorough breakdown of the steps needed for successful completion of each component of work. Baseline is considered well, and thought is given to maximising global environmental benefits generated through the concomitant elimination of PCBs, ODS and other substances contained in WEEE. Stakeholder and risk analysis is quite complete.

STAP, however, would suggest that gender be more explicitly considered, particularly when addressing how financial flows from the EPR system reach local collectors in particular. It is acknowledged that the transition of WEEE processing from the informal to formal sector will cause some socio-economic changes as individuals and communities adjust to more structured systems. The contribution of women in general to economic activity is often greater in the informal sector setting; and in male-centric societies female contribution and activity is often marginalised from the formal economy. STAP urges careful consideration of this in the course of the project.

An assumption included in the project notes that internationally sourced e-waste is on the decline in China, and that domestic supplies are on the rise and are expected to continue rising for the foreseeable future. STAP concurs with this assessment, however suggests that quantifiable evidence in this regard would be useful to measure change over time. It is proposed, therefore, that a materials flow analysis be included in the proposed methodology - particularly with regard to component 4.

<i>STAP advisory</i>	<i>Brief explanation of advisory response and action proposed</i>
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<i>response</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>	<p>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:</p> <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> <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>
<b>3. Major revision required</b>	<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>