

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 04, 2012

Screeners: 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: 5109

PROJECT DURATION : 3

COUNTRIES : Malawi

PROJECT TITLE: Pesticide Risk Reduction in Malawi

GEF AGENCIES: FAO

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS:

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, remediation of contaminated soils, strengthening life cycle management for pesticides (with attendant institutional strengthening and capacity building), improvement of management of empty pesticide containers, and promotion of alternatives to POPs pesticides (including IPM promotion). The agricultural sector is of great socio-economical significance, employing about 82% of the workforce, accounting for 80% of exports, and 35% GDP. The majority of farming is done on smallholdings of 0.5 to 1 ha, but estate agriculture of high value cash crops is also important. Disease and pest outbreaks account for significant crop losses (40%) in an already food insecure country. Pesticide misuse and related pest resistance is widespread, and there is illegal trafficking of POPs, and poor storage practices. Cumulatively, there is poor pesticide management, and environmental contamination. The components of the PIF do appear to be appropriately designed to tackle the problems, with good building on, or complementarities with, related projects and initiatives.

STAP's comments:

The PIF is quite comprehensive and appears sensitive to the unique issues and circumstances in Malawi. Some points worth mentioning:-

a) Admirably, the document recognises the role of women in agriculture, and the repurposing of pesticide containers for domestic uses. It also notes that women will be critically targeted in Farmer Field School and other activities, and the STAP is pleased to see this being carefully taken up in the project approach.

b) Given dependence on rainfall, as well as other climate change impacts on pest species (eg. their prevalence and range of impact at any given time), these and other such elements that might be affected by climate change need to be carefully considered in designing IPM. Also, are extreme El Nino and La Nina events indicators for the likelihood of locust invasions? Elements such as this need consideration during formulation of the project, to build resilience into the national IPM systems created for the country.

<i>STAP advisory response</i>	<i>Brief explanation of advisory response and action proposed</i>
1. Consent	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.

	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.
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:</p> <p>(i) GEF Agency should discuss the issues with STAP to clarify them and possible solutions.</p> <p>(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:</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(ii) In its request for CEO endorsement, the Agency will report on actions taken in response to STAP concerns.</p>