

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: 20 May 2009

Screener: David Cunningham

Panel member validation by: Paul Ferraro

I. PIF Information

GEFSEC PROJECT ID: 2820

GEF AGENCY PROJECT ID:

COUNTRY(IES): Cameroon, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Senegal and South Africa

PROJECT TITLE: Supporting the Development and Implementation of Access and Benefit Sharing Policies in Africa

GEF AGENCY: UNEP

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNER(S): GTZ, UNU-IAS, MINEF, NEMA, MINENVEF, MCAA, MEPN, DEAT

GEF FOCAL AREA: Biodiversity

GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAM: BD-SP8

NAME OF PARENT PROGRAM/UMBRELLA PROJECT:

II. STAP Advisory Response *(see table below for explanation)*

1. Based on this PIF screening, STAP's advisory response to the GEF Secretariat and GEF Agency:
Consent

III. Further guidance from STAP

2. STAP welcomes and strongly supports this proposal for the GEF to support the development of genetic resources access and benefit sharing in Africa, noting that very few GEF projects have addressed ABS to date.
3. The full project document should expand on the Global Environmental Benefits that are likely to be achieved through this project. The PIF emphasises benefit sharing and potential economic benefits which are expected to create incentives for conservation. However, as with the UNEP proposal to develop ABS frameworks in India (GEFID 3801), access and non-monetary benefits are also important for both national and global environmental benefits. Potential non-monetary benefits that may be achieved include "Access to scientific information relevant to conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, including biological inventories and taxonomic studies."¹
4. The Bonn Guidelines also note that "Taxonomic research, as specified in the Global Taxonomy Initiative, should not be prevented, and providers should facilitate acquisition of material for systematic use and users should make available all information associated with the specimens thus obtained."² Will the proposed technical assistance build capacity for ABS frameworks to facilitate access and benefit sharing for this type of research, having noted (Part II.A., p.5) that in many African countries, the capacity to inventory biological and genetic resources has been identified as a capacity building issue?
5. STAP encourages UNEP to include in the full project brief an explanation of how lessons learnt could be made available to other countries developing ABS frameworks, including through the CBD's Clearing House Mechanism and databases on ABS Capacity Building and ABS Measures.

¹ See Appendix II of the Bonn Guidelines, <https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=7198>

² Bonn Guidelines, paragraph 11, I.

<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.	<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"> (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 <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>