

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: 18 September 2009

Screener: David Cunningham

Panel member validation by: Brian Huntley & Paul Ferraro

I. PIF Information

Full size project **GEF Trust Fund**

GEFSEC PROJECT ID: 3941

GEF AGENCY PROJECT ID: 4242

COUNTRY: India

PROJECT TITLE: Mainstreaming Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Conservation into Production Sectors in the Malvan Coast, Maharashtra State, India

GEF AGENCY: UNDP

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS: Union Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) and Maharashtra Department of Environment and Forests

GEF FOCAL AREA: Biodiversity

GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAM: Biodiversity SP4: Strengthening the Policy and Regulatory Framework for Mainstreaming Biodiversity

NAME OF PARENT PROGRAM/ UMBRELLA PROJECT: Programme for Mainstreaming Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Conservation into India's Production Sectors

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:
Minor revision required

III. Further guidance from STAP

2. STAP welcomes this proposal to promote conservation of biodiversity of the Malvan coast beyond the existing marine wildlife sanctuary, in particular through an ecosystem approach to fishing and closer integration of land use decisions and management of marine areas. This is the second of two projects under the India GEF Coastal and Marine Program (IGCMP) or Programme for Mainstreaming Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Conservation into India's Production Sectors (PFD3661)¹.
3. Regarding the proposal to develop certification of fishing production, STAP's guidance document on whether and how certification can lead to ecosystem use changes correlated with environmental services and biodiversity will be available in late 2009². The project design should take these guidelines into account if possible since neither the PIF nor the PFD for the umbrella program refer to any scientific evidence for certification being likely to be effective.
4. The need to strengthen understanding of the links between terrestrial and marine ecosystems and land use practices, especially the impact of agricultural run-off, is noted in paragraph 10 of the PIF. The full project document should provide detail on how these links will be evaluated within the project (or program).

<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	STAP has identified specific scientific/technical suggestions or opportunities that should be discussed with the proponent as

¹ The first project is located at the Godavari River Estuary in Andhra Pradesh State, <http://gefonline.org/projectDetailsSQL.cfm?projID=3936>.

² See STAP work program at

http://stapgef.unep.org/docs/Activities/STAPWPDocs/GEF_C.35_Inf.11%20STAP%20Work%20Program%20FY10.pdf.

<p>required.</p>	<p>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>
<p>3. Major revision required</p>	<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>