

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 08, 2012

Screener: Thomas Hammond

Panel member validation by: Thomas Lovejoy

Consultant(s): Margarita Dyubanova; Brian Huntley

I. PIF Information *(Copied from the PIF)*

FULL SIZE PROJECT GEF TRUST FUND

GEF PROJECT ID: 5058

PROJECT DURATION : 5

COUNTRIES : South Africa

PROJECT TITLE: Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Land Use Regulation and Management at the Municipal Scale

GEF AGENCIES: UNDP

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS: Department of Environmental Affairs, South Africa National Biodiversity Institute

GEF FOCAL AREA: Biodiversity

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

STAP welcomes this project 'To mitigate multiple threats to biodiversity by increasing the capabilities of authorities and land owners to regulate land use and manage biodiversity in threatened ecosystems at the municipal scale'.

The project builds on the solid foundation of mainstreaming interventions and experience developed in response to the STAP workshop and proposals on 'Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Production Landscapes convened in South Africa in 2004. It is also supported by considerable experience in the initiation and management of large, multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional programmes that South Africa has developed over the past three decades, most especially those receiving support from the GEF Biodiversity portfolio over the past decade.

The project framework is logical, coherent and the objectives, outcomes, indicators and outputs are clearly stated and in many cases quantified. They are realistic in both breadth and depth, and achievable within the funding available from GEF and the strong government buy-in through co-financing.

The project responds directly to national priorities and has the promise of being a model response to Aichi Targets, specifically Target 2: (Biodiversity values integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems by 2020); and, Target 7: (Areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity by 2020).

The focus on a selected set of municipalities in regions of high biodiversity and socio-economic relevance will provide good tests of the mainstreaming models recommended. The selection of municipalities that support biodiversity is well covered by geographical regions and are located between globally recognized hot spots, which should support maximum success. This is the first project of its kind in the region to target municipal level planning, socio-economic growth and biodiversity and ecosystem services interconnections in a strategic approach with high site-level investment.

STAP commends the strong scientific and technical analysis that supports the proposal. The level of detail is impressive, well researched and includes references to published sources both in peer-reviewed and policy documents.

The description of baseline situation, barriers and risks are all comprehensive and well presented. Risks inherent in working at the municipal level, especially where capacities are weak and where political tensions exist, are realistically stated and the responses proposed to these challenges are pragmatic.

In all respects, this is a well conceived, innovative and well documented proposal. The level of national and local support and the overall capacities available suggest a high potential for success.

[Note: Brian Huntley was the principle screener on this PIF]

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