

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: February 21, 2014

Screeener: Douglas Taylor

Panel member validation by: Sandra Diaz

Consultant(s):

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

FULL SIZE PROJECT GEF TRUST FUND

GEF PROJECT ID: 5552

PROJECT DURATION : 5

COUNTRIES : Niue

PROJECT TITLE: R2R Application of Ridge to Reef Concept for Biodiversity Conservation, and for the Enhancement of Ecosystem Service and Cultural Heritage

GEF AGENCIES: UNDP

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS: Department of Environment (lead), DAFF, Education, Cultural Affairs, Public Works

GEF FOCAL AREA: Multi Focal Area

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

1. STAP welcomes this well researched project containing a precise baseline assessment indicating clear drivers of biodiversity and ecosystem degradation, and concrete species and ecosystem-level indicators that can serve as a basis for monitoring of the success of the proposed interventions. STAP also highlights the value of the intention to empower local communities and build on their cultural heritage, and the outline of a useful set of interim expected outputs and indicators. The GEF MSP addressing land degradation, 'Capacity Building for Sustainable Land Management in NIUE' (GEF ID 3213), together with the proposed project is capable of providing a good balance of support to Niue.

2. STAP notes that the present project is the first full size GEF project proposed for Niue and that it is a child project under the regional ridge to reef Program (GEF ID 5395), which should enable Niue to obtain targeted expert support for ridge to reef actions. STAP also appreciates the references in the PIF to coordination and linkage to the other regional GEF-supported projects on adaptation to climate change and IWRM, and to the commitment to cross fertilize lessons and good practices between projects within the ridge to reef Program and Niue.

3. In the screening reports on the parent Program and support projects (GEF IDs 5395 and 5404) STAP made strategic recommendations regarding regional support for capacity building and learning exchanges as well as the potential for the CBD-supported Marine Spatial Planning (MSP). In this regard the intention to apply ridge to reef concepts to adjacent terrestrial and near shore marine areas and immediate catchments would be compatible with the more holistic contextual approach offered by MSP, therefore the full project brief should consider STAP's advice in this regard.

4. STAP notes that the indicators for success of the community-empowering aspects are less well defined than the biophysical indicators. It also calls the attention to the fact that, under the risks of global environmental change, there is no mention of coral bleaching associated to warming and decreased colony accretion rate as a result of ocean acidification. Although the country does not lie on the areas of the ocean where these phenomena have been projected to be the most critical, they should be addressed in a project where the protection of high-diversity reefs plays an important part.

<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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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.
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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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.