

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: 11 March 2008

Screener: Douglas Taylor, STAP Secretary

Panel member validation by: Meryl Williams

I. PIF Information

GEFSEC PROJECT ID: 3589

GEF AGENCY PROJECT ID: TBD

COUNTRIES: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines

PROJECT TITLE: Coastal and Marine Resources Management in the Coral Triangle: Southeast Asia

GEF AGENCY: Asian Development Bank

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNER(S): Participating government agencies; Inter-governmental agencies; and Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

GEF FOCAL AREAS: Biodiversity, International Waters, Climate Change

GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAM(S): Multifocal -- BD SP2, SP4 and SP8; CC SP8-SPA; IW SP1

NAME OF PARENT PROGRAM/UMBRELLA PROJECT: Coral Triangle Initiative Program.

Full size project GEF Trust Fund

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(ies):
Major revision required

III. Further guidance from STAP

2. Few details of actual project activities are yet available, so it is difficult to comment except on the structure of the overall project. Also, the method of choosing activities is not given, although we may infer that it will be heavily dependent on funding opportunities. The issues, especially those involving reversing overfishing, are immense challenges. Should a TDA be the first step in this project?
3. Facts to check in the project proposal:
 - a. Estimate of the CT value of coral reefs and coastal ecosystem services. \$2.3billion sounds too low.
 - b. The statements of over-exploitation of reef fisheries in the region do not fully convey the extent of degradation that has already taken place for most species, in most countries and localities. See: Silvestre, G, I Stobutzki, M Ahmed, R A Valmonte-Santos, C Luna, L Lachica-Alino, P Munro, V Christensen and D Pauly. *Assessment, management and future directions for coastal fisheries in Asian countries*. Penang, WorldFish Center conference proceedings, Vol.67, 2003; and www.worldfishcenter.org/traul/; or Williams, M. <http://www.lowyinstitute.org/Publication.asp?pid=714>
 - c. Check extent of 1997-98 coral bleaching event.

STAP advisory response	Brief explanation of advisory response and action proposed
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.	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: <ol 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 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.

3. Major revision required	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. 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.
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