

# 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: 27 March 2008

Screener: Guadalupe Duron

Panel member validation by: Michael Stocking

### I. PIF Information

**GEFSEC PROJECT ID:** 3665

**GEF AGENCY PROJECT ID:**

**COUNTRY(IES):** Vietnam

**PROJECT TITLE:** Sustainable Forest Land Management Project

**GEF AGENCY(IES):** World Bank,

**OTHER EXECUTING PARTNER(S):**

**GEF FOCAL AREA (S):** Land Degradation, Biodiversity

**GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAM(S):** Land Degradation-SP2, Biodiversity-SP4 and SP5

**NAME OF PARENT PROGRAM/UMBRELLA PROJECT:** Country Program Framework for Sustainable Forest Land Management

**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

STAP welcomes this project proposal under the CPF for Sustainable Forest Land Management in Vietnam. Vietnam has multiple challenges in delivering both global environmental benefits and human development targets, especially poverty eradication and human health, in the context of its remaining forested land which is under intense pressure.

In Part II of the PIF STAP would like to see completion of the section headed "**STATE THE ISSUE, HOW THE PROJECT SEEKS TO ADDRESS IT, AND THE EXPECTED GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS TO BE DELIVERED**". The project components as currently proposed are broad and the targets as Outcomes unspecified. Therefore, it would be good to see some indication as to the expected GEBs and how they may be sustainably linked to co-benefits for the communities that live in and around the forests. STAP notes that there are important linkages between sustainable forest land management and local communities, on which there is little mention in the PIF. For example, under 'Risks', there is no discussion of the acceptance of the project components by local people, and the interaction of forest activities with adjacent land use of rainfed agriculture and irrigation. In addition, STAP would like to see mention of how key indicators related to GEBs will be measured and tracked in the project, so that the impact of the project may be assessed.

<i>STAP advisory response</i>	<i>Brief explanation of advisory response and action proposed</i>
<b>1. Consent</b>	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.
<b>2. Minor revision required.</b>	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Opening a dialogue between STAP and the proponent to clarify issues</li> <li>(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</li> </ul> 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.
<b>3. Major revision</b>	STAP proposes significant improvements or has concerns on the grounds of specified major scientific/technical omissions in

<b>required</b>	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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