

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 18, 2010

Screener: David Cunningham

Panel member validation by: Sandra Diaz
Consultant(s): Brian Huntley

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

FULL SIZE PROJECT GEF TRUST FUND

GEF PROJECT ID: 4201

PROJECT DURATION :

COUNTRIES : Yemen

PROJECT TITLE: Leopards and Landscapes: Using a Flagship Species to Strengthen Conservation in the Republic of Yemen

GEF AGENCIES: World Bank

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS: Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), Save Yemen Flora and Fauna (SYFF) with the Foundation for the Protection of the Arabian Leopard in Yemen (FPALY)

GEF FOCAL AREA: Biodiversity

GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAMS: BD-1;BD-3;BD-4;

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): **Minor revision required**

III. Further guidance from STAP

This proposal targets a 'flagship species' at the edge of local extinction, in an area with limited conservation traditions, and where strong disincentives to protect a predator exist. It is therefore a high risk undertaking, requiring strong local community support. The positive and negative aspects of the proposed employment of ex-poachers as field guides and project assistants should be explained.

Reference to a 'national livestock insurance scheme' is made in the project framework, but no further detail is given. Similarly, links with Project Snow Leopard is mentioned in the project Framework, but no further reference is made. Further, the baselines for various objectives - such as reducing poaching by 80% - are not indicated, nor is it likely that these can be established with any confidence. The 'end of project' evaluation of success or failure will therefore be difficult if not impossible to undertake.

In general the proposal is poorly motivated in terms of Global Biodiversity Benefits, local context and operational design. Given its high levels of risk, it might need strengthening through consultation with experience - and project design - from the many other endangered predator projects supported by IUCN, WWF and other conservation organisations during the past several decades.

A minor revision is recommended to demonstrate that the proposal will learn from the related projects and experience describe above.

<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 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: (i) Opening a dialogue between STAP and the proponent to clarify issues

	<p>(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.</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. 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>