

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: September 19, 2014

Screeener: Guadalupe Duron

Panel member validation by: Annette Cowie
Consultant(s):

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

FULL SIZE PROJECT **GEF TRUST FUND**

GEF PROJECT ID: 6947

PROJECT DURATION : 5

COUNTRIES : Belarus

PROJECT TITLE: Forestry Development Project

GEF AGENCIES: World Bank

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS:

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):
Minor issues to be considered during project design

III. Further guidance from STAP

STAP welcomes the World Bank's proposal "Belarus Forestry Development Project", which is closely aligned with Belarus's Country Partnership Strategy. STAP rates the proposal as minor revision due to the absence of global environmental benefits and incremental reasoning as indicated in the GEF Secretariat review sheet, and the comments/responses matrix to the project concept note. STAP believes these aspects are fundamental to the design of a GEF proposal. STAP is encouraged that the project developers will address these points in the final project document, and welcomes a dialogue with the World Bank during the design of the project if it wishes to receive further input in addition to the comments provided below.

1. Detail further the project components and their outcomes in the project description summary. Currently, this information is not presented clearly.
2. STAP recommends identifying and describing the approaches that will be applied to assess sustainability, noting that FSC and PEFC certification are not designed to address sustainability issues for forests harvested for bioenergy. There will be increased risk of nutrient depletion, soil carbon loss, decline in biomass carbon and biodiversity loss if harvest intensity is increased, particularly where slash is removed. STAP suggests that the sustainability criteria developed by the Round Table on Sustainable Biomaterials could be applied to assess sustainability of the modified forest management regime.
3. Provide a description of the socio-economic characteristics of the target area, and how the components will strengthen the socio-economic conditions of the target populations. Additionally, it will be useful to explain further the relationship between increased employment opportunities and the generation of global environmental benefits in the project sites. This information will help focus the components so they support further the project objectives.
4. Describe in further detail the biodiversity in the target area. Additionally, detail what are the potential risks to biodiversity conservation from increased activity that supports maximizing energy from the forestry sector. The full proposal also should include measures that address these risks in its design. (See comment #2)
5. Specify further the stakeholders' roles in relation to the project components. Additionally, please detail the different roles of the stakeholders, and how their combined roles will contribute to reporting on the multiple global environmental outcomes, and knowledge management.

<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.