

STAP Response:

<b>GEF ID</b>	10085
<b>Project Title</b>	Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation criteria in sectoral and inter-sectoral public policies and programs to safeguard threatened wildlife in Argentina
<b>Country</b>	Argentina
<b>GEF Agency</b>	UNDP
<b>STAP Overall Assessment</b>	Minor issues to be considered during project design

STAP agrees with the general premise of the proposed project, but there is insufficient technical substance and quantitative analysis of the problem in the narrative. For example, the project would be improved if the negative impact of wind turbines and roads on wildlife was quantified, and if a technical description and back-of-the-envelope costing was provided to show how this could be resolved, and a rough indication of the expected global environmental benefits (GEBs). The link between infrastructure and Argentina's biodiversity is not clearly drawn.

The proposal claims that wildlife is "decimated by poaching and illegal trade" without insufficient substantiation to understand the scope of the problem. The basic issue in Argentina is the disappearance of public wildlife on private land, and this fundamental mismatch is not addressed in the PIF. Indeed, much of the hunting in Argentina is of exotic, introduced species (e.g. water buffalo, red stag) because laws do not generally allow hunting of wild species, which are consequently replaced. In this respect, the sustainable use of vicuña in some South American countries may provide some useful lessons for Argentina.

Given the generic nature of this proposal, it is difficult to determine how it will add value, and the evidence suggests that writing new rules can be more difficult than expected, with less impact than hoped for.