

Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, administered by UNEP, advises the Global Environment Facility



STAP Scientific and Technical screening of the Project Identification Form (PIF)

Date of screening: 18th May 2009

Screener: Lev Neretin

Panel member validation by: N.H. Ravindranath

I. PIF Information

Full size project **GEF Trust Fund**

GEF Project ID: 3944

Country: The Republic of Liberia

Project Title: Installation of multi purpose mini-hydro infrastructure (for energy & irrigation¹)

GEF Agency: UNIDO

Other Executing partners: Liberia Electricity Corporation, Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy and Environmental Protection Agency

GEF Focal Area: Climate Change

GEF-4 Strategic program: CC-SP3: Promoting Market Approaches for Renewable Energy

Name of parent program/umbrella project: GEF Programmatic Approach on Access to Energy in West Africa

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):
Consent

III. Further guidance from STAP

1. STAP recommends assessing the demand for electricity and cost generation through minigrids and the capacity of installed systems for rural users.
2. Climate risks (e.g., seasonality of water-flow) on power generation capacity have to be considered.
3. Barrier analysis using standard methods should be carried out to identify measures needed to address the barriers.
4. Getting private sector involved in hydro-based minigrids development in Liberia will be a challenge. STAP advises that there should be development of state-supported incentives facilitating private sector engagement. Will there be a commercial demand for electricity for private sector to participate in rural minigrids?
5. The project aims to develop manufacturing base. What is the national demand for this activity?

<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 (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.

¹ The irrigation component will be added on by the Government as per their convenience after the completion of hydro power project.