

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 01, 2011

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Consultant(s):

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

FULL SIZE PROJECT **GEF TRUST FUND**

GEF PROJECT ID: 4614

PROJECT DURATION : 5

COUNTRIES : Vietnam

PROJECT TITLE: Hospital Waste Management Support Project

GEF AGENCIES: World Bank

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS: Vietnam Health Environment Management Agency, Ministry of Health (VIHEMA)

Sub-executing Agency: Vietnam Environmental Administration, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (VEA)

GEF FOCAL AREA: POPs

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): **Consent**

III. Further guidance from STAP

This proposal seeks to reduce environmental degradation and potential risks for human health through the improved management of health care wastes in Vietnam's hospitals. Activities will include, inter alia: (i) pilot applications of BAT/BEP at facilities, (ii) assessment of threats of POPs/PTS releases to human and environmental health, (iii) strengthening and integration of policy, legal and institutional frameworks for management of POPS and PTS releases in the healthcare sector; (iv) execution of mercury inventories and establishment of a risk management mechanism to help reduce mercury releases from the health care sector. The project recognises that besides infectious waste, the health care sector also has to deal with disposing of equipment and supplies containing mercury as well as other Persistent Toxic Substances, both organic and inorganic, comprising antibiotics, invalid drugs, genotoxic, and other chemicals from laboratories.

According to the GEF project database, Vietnam is also part of the ongoing UNDP global project "Demonstrating and promoting Best Techniques and Practices for Reducing Health-Care Waste to avoid Environmental Releases of Dioxins and Mercury (Global: Argentina, India, Lebanon, Latvia, Philippines, Senegal, Tanzania, Vietnam)". The WHO is also involved in execution of this project, and the aim is to come up with WHO-supported, standardised guidelines for health care waste handling and disposal, with attention to mercury and dioxins. This older project should be yielding useful outputs that might feed directly into this new proposed project. At a minimum, this ongoing older project should be able to provide some baseline information from inventory activity and other useful information on capacity needs should be available from this project, and perhaps some useful work has already begun to identify and demonstrate locally appropriate BAT/BEP techniques.

At this time, the STAP is in the process of finalising a guidance document (for November Council 2011) on POPs Disposal Technology in GEF projects, with a focus on what exactly constitutes environmentally sound disposal of POPs, and what disposal technologies can achieve it. This follows initial contributions from the GEF (through the STAP) in 2003/2004 in relation to available non-combustion technologies for POPs disposal; and apart from this, the Basel Convention, acting in concert with the Stockholm Convention, has issued and periodically updates technical guidelines on POPs management. This guidance includes disposal requirements and listings of technologies that may be applicable. To date, these guidelines have been generally adopted by the Stockholm Convention as the standard reference. There have also been comprehensive reviews of technologies which are periodically published, and on-line libraries of technology data sheets are maintained by the Basel Convention and supporting organizations. The Fifth Conference of the Parties (COP-5) to the Stockholm Convention invited the Basel Convention to continue this work, specifically with respect to establishing the levels of destruction and irreversible transformation of chemicals to ensure

POPs characteristics are not exhibited; considering methods that constitute environmentally sound disposal; defining low POP-content in wastes; and updating general technical guidelines as well as preparing or updating specific technical guidelines for environmentally sound waste management (SC-5/9). Likewise, in its decision SC-5/20, COP-5 further encourages the GEF and parties in a position to do so to facilitate the transfer of appropriate technologies to developing countries and countries with economies in transition (CEITs).

The findings of the soon-to-be-published STAP document state, inter alia, that:

"... the destruction or irreversible transformation of POPs in an environmentally sound manner is not limited by the availability of appropriate technology—there are a number of such technologies. Rather, it is limited by the practical ability to assemble and apply them—particularly in developing countries and CEIT's - in a manner that is environmentally effective, timely, and cost effective.... Destruction cannot be addressed in isolation. The application of POPs disposal technology should be viewed as one part of an overall POPs management process or system. This system includes steps taken in advance of the actual disposal or destruction to identify, capture, secure, and prepare POPs stockpiles and wastes for disposal. It also includes post-destruction steps to manage emissions, by-products and residuals. The management process depends upon high-quality information regarding POPs stockpiles and waste, and the effectiveness of the institutional and regulatory framework under which POPs management is undertaken."

Taking into consideration all of the above, the recommendation, therefore, is that in preparing the project document, there be:-

- a) To avoid duplication of effort, and ensure best use of GEF funding, this project should be developed with close consultation and examination of the outputs of the ongoing UNDP project.
- b) Though perhaps insinuated, there is no discussion of handling of destruction residues in the PIF. The project should be developed with an eye to also addressing potentially toxic residues from health care waste destruction.

<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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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.