

Part I: Project Information		Response
GEF ID	10401	
Project Title	Establishing a circular economy framework for the plastics sector in Ghana	
Date of Screening	4-Dec-19	
STAP member Screener	Jamidu Katima	
STAP secretariat screener	Sunday Leonard	
STAP Overall Assessment		<p>Minor issues to be considered during project design</p> <p>The project intends to implement a circular economy framework to address plastic leakage into oceans and waterways and facilitate sustainable plastics management. The ultimate aim is to mitigate marine plastic pollution and reduce the unintentional emissions of POPs (u-POPs). The project will undertake the following activities: establish an enabling framework for a circular economy in plastics management; capacity building of different stakeholders; pilot projects and technology transfer; and put in place a monitoring and evaluation process.</p> <p>The PIF presents a good description of the problems, barriers and baseline scenario backed with relevant literature and data from the targeted country. It is commendable that the project is not only focusing on end-of-pipe solutions but also targeting the upstream side of plastic production. This is a good indication that the holistic aspects of the circular economy are being considered.</p> <p>STAP recommends:</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •STAP welcomes the concept of the circular economy; however, the business and finance model that will be used to implement the concept need more elaboration. The issue of business and finance models for the circular economy has been of interest in the private and public, as well as in the academic arena. STAP refers the project proponents to some relevant resources on the topic: The EIB Circular Economy Guide (https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/sites/default/files/the_eib_circular_economy_guide.pdf); Goovaerts et al. 2018 Financing innovation and the circular economy (https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007%2F978-3-319-66981-6_47.pdf); and Circular economy finance guidelines (https://www.ing.com/web/file?uuid=bb60f278-9508-440f-b5f5-f4568f50a789&owner=b03bc017-e0db-4b5d-abbf-003b12934429&contentid=43933). •Achieving a holistic and sustainable result in the plastic sector will require the incorporation of the three strategies of achieving circular economy transformation as proffered in the New Plastic Economy publication. These include: focusing on fundamental redesign and innovation; encouraging significant reuse; and promoting recycling in the plastic sector. STAP recommends that the project should focus on all three strategies. •The project has the potential to generate Global Environment Benefits (GEBs) beyond the chemicals and waste and international waters focal areas. The project can achieve climate change benefits (through mitigation of greenhouse emissions from the burning of plastics). The increase in the reuse and recycling of plastics expected from the project would also mitigate greenhouse gas emissions associated with plastic production. STAP recommends that a detailed analysis of the climate co-benefits from this project should be carried out at the PPG stage and the final interventions designed in such a way to maximize them. Furthermore, STAP recommends that a detailed analysis of how the estimated chemicals and waste and international waters GEBs were arrived at should be presented at the PPG stage.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Output 1.1.5 will focus on the creation of “a secretariat/national commission for plastic pollution.” While the current funds from this project may be sufficient for creating the secretariat, it is unclear how the secretariat will be sustainably funded after the end of the project. A model for achieving this is important for the sustainability of the project. •Paragraph 95 in the PIF indicates that the pilot project will build on previous and current plastic waste and marine litter efforts in Ghana. Several examples of plastic waste management abound in Ghana, and all of these should be considered, and relevant actors and stakeholders in these efforts should be included in this project. Two examples include the University of Ghana Plastic Recycling Project - http://www.iess.ug.edu.gh/projects/institutional/university-ghana-plastic-recycling-project-ugprp; and the recycling of plastic into pavement blocks - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEb6ihZBoeg •Scaling up and replication is crucial to the durability of project outputs. The proposal mentions some elements of scaling up, but these need to be further elaborated. STAP recommends that the project proponents refer to relevant publications on scaling-up, such as the nine steps for developing a scaling-up strategy (https://www.who.int/immunization/hpv/deliver/nine_steps_for_developing_a_scalingup_strategy_who_2010.pdf); thinking systematically about scaling up (http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTARD/Resources/335807-1338987609349/ARD13_DP_Scaling_Up_web.pdf); and scaling up in development cooperation - practical guidelines (https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Learning-and-Networking/sdc_km_tools/Documents/GIZ-Scaling-up-in-development-cooperation.pdf). •Risks: The proposal presents a good preliminary analysis of the potential risks to the success of the project. STAP particularly appreciates that climate risk such as flooding was recognized and included in the preliminary risk analysis. However, mitigation measures are not clear. Furthermore, the identified risks were not ranked. STAP recommends that more rigorous risk analysis, including a climate risk assessment, should be conducted when the project is further prepared.
Part I: Project Information	What STAP looks for	Response
B. Indicative Project Description Summary		
Project Objective	Is the objective clearly defined, and consistently related to the problem diagnosis?	Yes
Project components	A brief description of the planned activities. Do these support the project's objectives?	Yes
Outcomes	A description of the expected short-term and medium-term effects of an intervention.	Yes
	Do the planned outcomes encompass important global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits?	Yes
	Are the global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits likely to be generated?	

Outputs	A description of the products and services which are expected to result from the project. Is the sum of the outputs likely to contribute to the outcomes?	Yes
Part II: Project justification	A simple narrative explaining the project's logic, i.e. a theory of change.	No theory of change provided but the logical path to achieving the GEBs was provided in the project description
1. Project description. Briefly describe:		
1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description)	Is the problem statement well-defined?	Yes
	Are the barriers and threats well described, and substantiated by data and references?	The barriers are described and the data is provided where needed
	For multiple focal area projects: does the problem statement and analysis identify the drivers of environmental degradation which need to be addressed through multiple focal areas; and is the objective well-defined, and can it only be supported by integrating two, or more focal areas objectives or programs?	Yes
2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects	Is the baseline identified clearly?	Yes
	Does it provide a feasible basis for quantifying the project's benefits?	Yes but should be further elaborated
	Is the baseline sufficiently robust to support the incremental (additional cost) reasoning for the project?	
	For multiple focal area projects: are the multiple baseline analyses presented (supported by data and references), and the multiple benefits specified, including the proposed indicators;	Yes, although limited for the international waters focal area
	are the lessons learned from similar or related past GEF and non-GEF interventions described; and how did these lessons inform the design of this project?	
3) the proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project	What is the theory of change?	Implementation of circular economy in plastics management
	What is the sequence of events (required or expected) that will lead to the desired outcomes?	
	· What is the set of linked activities, outputs, and outcomes to address the project's objectives?	
	· Are the mechanisms of change plausible, and is there a well-informed identification of the underlying assumptions?	
	· Is there a recognition of what adaptations may be required during project implementation to respond to changing conditions in pursuit of the targeted outcomes?	
5) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEF trust fund, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing	GEF trust fund: will the proposed incremental activities lead to the delivery of global environmental benefits?	
	LDCF/SCCF: will the proposed incremental activities lead to adaptation which reduces vulnerability, builds adaptive capacity, and increases resilience to climate change?	
6) global environmental benefits (GEF trust fund) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)	Are the benefits truly global environmental benefits, and are they measurable?	Yes, multifocal project with GEBs in Chemicals and Waste and International Waters. However, there is potential to generate Climate Change Mitigation benefits and this needs to be accounted for.
	Is the scale of projected benefits both plausible and compelling in relation to the proposed investment?	
	Are the global environmental benefits explicitly defined?	
	Are indicators, or methodologies, provided to demonstrate how the global environmental benefits will be measured and monitored during project implementation?	

	What activities will be implemented to increase the project's resilience to climate change?	
7) innovative, sustainability and potential for scaling-up	Is the project innovative, for example, in its design, method of financing, technology, business model, policy, monitoring and evaluation, or learning?	Circular Economy business model is proposed which should be innovative; however more elaboration is needed
	Is there a clearly-articulated vision of how the innovation will be scaled-up, for example, over time, across geographies, among institutional actors?	Scaling up is mentioned to be through circular economy business model, but it is not clear on how this will be achieved.
	Will incremental adaptation be required, or more fundamental transformational change to achieve long term sustainability?	
1b. Project Map and Coordinates. Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.		Yes
2. Stakeholders. Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase: Indigenous people and local communities; Civil society organizations; Private sector entities. If none of the above, please explain why. In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the project preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement.	Have all the key relevant stakeholders been identified to cover the complexity of the problem, and project implementation barriers?	Yes
	What are the stakeholders' roles, and how will their combined roles contribute to robust project design, to achieving global environmental outcomes, and to lessons learned and knowledge?	
3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. Please briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis). Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment? Yes/no/ tbd. If possible, indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality: access to and control over resources; participation and decision-making; and/or economic benefits or services. Will the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators? yes/no /tbd	Have gender differentiated risks and opportunities been identified, and were preliminary response measures described that would address these differences?	
	Do gender considerations hinder full participation of an important stakeholder group (or groups)? If so, how will these obstacles be addressed?	
5. Risks. Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design	Are the identified risks valid and comprehensive? Are the risks specifically for things outside the project's control?	See detail comments under STAP's overall assessment
	Are there social and environmental risks which could affect the project?	
	For climate risk, and climate resilience measures:	
	· How will the project's objectives or outputs be affected by climate risks over the period 2020 to 2050, and have the impact of these risks been addressed adequately?	See detail comments under STAP's overall assessment
	· Has the sensitivity to climate change, and its impacts, been assessed?	
	· Have resilience practices and measures to address projected climate risks and impacts been considered? How will these be dealt with?	
	· What technical and institutional capacity, and information, will be needed to address climate risks and resilience enhancement measures?	

6. Coordination. Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF-financed and other related initiatives	Are the project proponents tapping into relevant knowledge and learning generated by other projects, including GEF projects?	
	Is there adequate recognition of previous projects and the learning derived from them?	
	Have specific lessons learned from previous projects been cited?	
	How have these lessons informed the project's formulation?	
	Is there an adequate mechanism to feed the lessons learned from earlier projects into this project, and to share lessons learned from it into future projects?	
8. Knowledge management. Outline the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, and how it will contribute to the project's overall impact, including plans to learn from relevant projects, initiatives and evaluations.	What overall approach will be taken, and what knowledge management indicators and metrics will be used?	
	What plans are proposed for sharing, disseminating and scaling-up results, lessons and experience?	
STAP advisory response	Brief explanation of advisory response and action proposed	
1. Concur	STAP acknowledges that on scientific or technical grounds the concept has merit. 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.	
	* In cases where the STAP acknowledges the project has merit on scientific and technical grounds, the STAP will recognize this in the screen by stating that <i>"STAP is satisfied with the scientific and technical quality of the proposal and encourages the proponent to develop it with same rigor. At any time during the development of the project, the proponent is invited to approach STAP to consult on the design."</i>	
2. Minor issues to be considered during project design	STAP has identified specific scientific /technical suggestions or opportunities that should be discussed with the project proponent as early as possible during development of the project brief. The proponent may wish to:	
	(i) Open a dialogue with STAP regarding the technical and/or scientific issues raised;	
	(ii) Set a review point at an early stage during project development, and possibly agreeing to 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 issues to be considered during project design	STAP proposes significant improvements or has concerns on the grounds of specified major scientific/technical methodological issues, barriers, or omissions in the project concept. If STAP provides this advisory response, a full explanation would also be provided. The proponent is strongly encouraged to:	
	(i) Open a dialogue with STAP regarding the technical and/or scientific issues raised; (ii) Set a review point at an early stage during project development including an independent expert as required. 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.	