

Part I: Project Information		Response
GEF ID	10374	
Project Title	IW:LEARN 5: Supporting Portfolio Coordination Within and Beyond the International Waters Focal Area, particularly in Small Island Developing States, Through Knowledge Sharing, Information Management, Partnership Building and Programmatic Guidance Services	
Date of Screening	5-Dec-19	
STAP member Screener	Blake Ratner	
STAP secretariat screener	Virginia Gorsevski	
STAP Overall Assessment		<b>Minor issues to be considered during project design:</b> STAP welcomes the project from UNEP and UNDP to support portfolio coordination within and beyond the International Waters Focal area through IW:Learn. Overall, STAP feels that the project design is well articulated, with clearly defined components, and evidence of building upon earlier phases. There is an appropriate selection of new areas of thematic emphasis. However, further work is needed to specify quantifiable outcomes and pathways to achieving these, along with recognition of substantial barriers in the broader context, especially regarding policy and private investment.
Part I: Project Information		
B. Indicative Project Description Summary		
Project Objective	Is the objective clearly defined, and consistently related to the problem diagnosis?	Yes; this is an investment in cross-cutting support to enhance the overall performance of the IW portfolio
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; covers full IW portfolio, with a particular emphasis on SIDS
	Do the planned outcomes encompass important global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits?	Yes; aligned with IW focal area goals
	Are the global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits likely to be generated?	Yes, though magnitude of benefits depends on quality of the planned services
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?	Clearly defined
Part II: Project justification	A simple narrative explaining the project's logic, i.e. a theory of change.	
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; describes past achievements and clearly identified challenges, including private sector scaling pathway
	Are the barriers and threats well described, and substantiated by data and references?	Adequately with reference to global policy frameworks; would be good to reference particular outcome assessments and regional analyses for full project development

	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?	n/a
2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects	Is the baseline identified clearly?	Adequate with reference to SDGs; for full project development would be good to describe science base on status of transboundary marine and freshwater resources
	Does it provide a feasible basis for quantifying the project's benefits?	Only at output level; additional work required to provide basis for quantifying contribution to outcomes, e.g., global awareness of results, improved management of transboundary resources, replication of successes. In sum, need to show how the contribution of IW:Learn activities towards scaling will be measured.
	Is the baseline sufficiently robust to support the incremental (additional cost) reasoning for the project?	Adequate for PIF stage
	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;	
	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?	Combination of knowledge sharing, training, joint communication, targeted support, and efforts to mobilize public and private partnership will enhance overall IW portfolio impact, including replication and sustainability (durability of impact).
	What is the sequence of events (required or expected) that will lead to the desired outcomes?	Sequencing not well defined; links among the components implied.
	· What is the set of linked activities, outputs, and outcomes to address the project's objectives?	Clearly structured
	· Are the mechanisms of change plausible, and is there a well-informed identification of the underlying assumptions?	Assumptions need to be made explicit
	· Is there a recognition of what adaptations may be required during project implementation to respond to changing conditions in pursuit of the targeted outcomes?	Notes adaptations from past phases
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?	Good reference to related global initiatives / investments
	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 global, but meaningful measurement is lacking.

	Is the scale of projected benefits both plausible and compelling in relation to the proposed investment?	Difficult to evaluate, because of lack of specification on measurement of outcomes
	Are the global environmental benefits explicitly defined?	yes, in reference to IW focal area goals; but meaningful measurement of actual advances in transboundary management would be much more convincing
	Are indicators, or methodologies, provided to demonstrate how the global environmental benefits will be measured and monitored during project implementation?	not explicitly
	What activities will be implemented to increase the project's resilience to climate change?	noted among challenges
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?	Good reference to independent evaluations. Shows signs of evolution of approach, notably with emphasis on private sector.
	Is there a clearly-articulated vision of how the innovation will be scaled-up, for example, over time, across geographies, among institutional actors?	Mechanisms and measures for private and public sector scaling need to be defined.
	Will incremental adaptation be required, or more fundamental transformational change to achieve long term sustainability?	Transformation required but barriers to achieve this need development.
1b. Project Map and Coordinates. Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.		
<b>2. Stakeholders.</b> 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?	Very generic. Scoping required to assess key CSOs, research institutes, and private sector networks / platforms.
	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?	Poorly addressed.
<b>3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.</b> 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?	Recognition of importance of measures addressing empowerment and inclusion, complementing sex-disaggregated measurement of outcomes (the latter is a bare minimum expectation).

	Do gender considerations hinder full participation of an important stakeholder group (or groups)? If so, how will these obstacles be addressed?	
<b>5. Risks.</b> 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?	Inadequate. Risks are identified related to direct implementation but these should be supplemented by risks addressing the wider environment in which scaling needs to occur. These include barriers to scaling of impact related to policies, private investment, etc.
	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?	
	· Has the sensitivity to climate change, and its impacts, been assessed?	No
	· 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?	Needs addressing.
<b>6. Coordination.</b> 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?	Well integrated
	Is there adequate recognition of previous projects and the learning derived from them?	Yes
	Have specific lessons learned from previous projects been cited?	Yes
	How have these lessons informed the project's formulation?	New areas of emphasis
	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?	Key focus
<b>8. Knowledge management.</b> 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?	Key focus, multiple approaches
	What plans are proposed for sharing, disseminating and scaling-up results, lessons and experience?	
<b>STAP advisory response</b>	<b>Brief explanation of advisory response and action proposed</b>	
<b>1. Concur</b>	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.	

	<p>* 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 <b><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></b></p>	
<b>2. Minor issues to be considered during project design</b>	<p>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:</p>	
	<p>(i) Open a dialogue with STAP regarding the technical and/or scientific issues raised;</p>	
	<p>(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.</p>	
	<p>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.</p>	
<b>3. Major issues to be considered during project design</b>	<p>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:</p>	
	<p>(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.</p>	