

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: August 25, 2014
Screener: Kristie Ebi
Panel member validation by: Anand Patwardhan
Consultant(s):

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

FULL SIZE PROJECT	LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FUND
GEF PROJECT ID:	5432
PROJECT DURATION:	4
COUNTRIES:	Angola
PROJECT TITLE:	Integrating Climate Resilience into Agricultural and Agropastoral Production Systems through Soil Fertility Management in Key Productive and Vulnerable Areas Using the Farmers Field School Approach
GEF AGENCIES:	FAO
OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS:	Minist�rio do Ambiente (MA), Minist�rio da Agricultura e do Desenvolvimento Rural e das Pescas (MINANDER), Governo provincial do Bie, Governo provincial do Huambo, Governo provincial de Malanje, Governo provincial de Huila
GEF FOCAL AREA:	Climate Change

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):
Concur

III. Further guidance from STAP

STAP welcomes the FAO proposal "Integrating climate resilience into agricultural and agropastoral production systems through soil fertility management in key productive and vulnerable areas using the Farmers Field School approach." The proposal aims to address the need for a more integrated approach to adaptation in the agropastoral production system of the central plateau of Angola.

To further strengthen the project, STAP recommends addressing the following.

1. In the full proposal, STAP recommends providing documentation, from local or regional data, on how climate variability and change are affecting agricultural production and food security in Angola. The PIF states that production is being affected, but not how and through which mechanisms. When providing that documentation, it would be helpful to be clear on climate variability vs. climate change. For example, changing rainfall patterns in 2011 and 2012 would be expressions of climate variability not demonstrations of climate change.
2. Component 1 states that incorporating climate risks into activities requires provision of systematic information on climate change vulnerabilities and risks, so the component will support modelling work on crops and land suitability. Further information is needed on what is envisioned for the modelling, the extent to which the models will take into consideration a range of possible climate and development (e.g. possible demographic change and changes in land use) scenarios, the temporal and spatial scale of the modelling,

and other relevant factors. The framing of the components suggests that the modelling may be more focused on seasonal forecasts. In that case, it would be possible to build on some of the considerable on-going efforts by a variety of organizations to provide seasonal forecasts. Further understanding is needed of the project plans.

3. Component 2 would build on recent efforts to improve agricultural production by upscaling practices through farmer field schools. STAP suggests including in this component an activity to evaluate the extent to which current practices could be resilient to a range of possible future climate and development scenarios. While reducing current vulnerability to climate variability is very important, projects also should consider what a changing climate could mean for particular practices as changes in temperature and precipitation patterns potentially further alter soil moisture. These changes may mean that some current practices may not be effective in a future climate.

4. In Component 3, STAP would appreciate further specification of who will undertake the proposed activities and the plan for how these activities will be accomplished. Further, FAO may want to give consideration to the implicit assumption that the year in which farmers attend the school is a "normal" year.

5. Section B indicates the project will have four components, with the fourth on project monitoring and dissemination of results. Both are important to a successful project. However, the PIF does not provide any description of this component beyond what is that section.

6. STAP welcomes the focus on women and other vulnerable groups and hopes the gender aspects will be further developed and specified in the full proposal.

7. In considering appropriate stakeholders to consult for the project, the Ministry of Health could provide important perspectives on ensuring the proposed activities also promote human health.

8. In the section on sustainability, STAP suggests incorporating information on how the proposed activities will promote managing the future risks of climate change.

9. STAP welcomes the discussion of the potential for scaling up. It would be helpful to understand whether the plan is to use seasonal forecasts and the source of those forecasts.

10. In sections A.2 and A.4, another source for climate forecasts for Africa is CORDEX, based at the University of Cape Town.

11. The full proposal should provide specific information on how the proposed project would coordinate and collaborate with the GEF/UNDP project on sustainable land management capacity building in Angola, along with other relevant projects noted in the PIF.

12. While not discussed, medium to longer-term adaptation options require consideration of projected changes in climate change, including extreme weather and climate events, and consideration of how development patterns could alter vulnerability. UNEP could consider developing regional scenarios including emission pathways (RCPs) and shared socioeconomic pathways (SSPs) that can inform identifying adaptation options robust against a range of future climates and societal changes. Further information on the development of these new climate scenarios can be found at <http://www2.cgd.ucar.edu/research/iconics>

<i>STAP advisory response</i>	<i>Brief explanation of advisory response and action proposed</i>
1. Concur	In cases where STAP is satisfied with the scientific and technical quality of the proposal, a simple "Concur" response will be provided; the STAP may flag specific issues that should be pursued rigorously as the proposal is developed into a full project document. At any time during the development of the project, the proponent is invited to approach STAP to consult on the design prior to submission for CEO endorsement.
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.

	<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>
<p>3. Major issues to be considered during project design</p>	<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.</p> <p>The GEF Secretariat may, based on this screening outcome, delay the proposal and refer the proposal back to the proponents with STAP's concerns.</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>