

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: June 04, 2018
Screener: Guadalupe Duron
Panel member validation by: Annette Cowie
Consultant(s):

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

FULL-SIZED PROJECT	GEF TRUST FUND
GEF PROJECT ID:	10034
PROJECT DURATION:	5
COUNTRIES:	Equatorial Guinea
PROJECT TITLE:	Promoting Community-Based Forestry for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Livelihoods in Equatorial Guinea.
GEF AGENCIES:	FAO
OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS:	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forests and Environment
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 FAO's project "Promoting Community-Based Forestry for Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Livelihoods in Equatorial Guinea". STAP is pleased the project will apply proven methods for community forest management, building on the existing evidence base, to enhance project success, sustainability and scale-up. To contribute to this evidence, STAP encourages the project proponents to identify Indicators that can track and assess the economic and productivity outcomes of sustainable forest management by communities, as well as the other innovation priorities (e.g. creating technical capacities that can be transferred) described in the document. In addition, STAP recommends implementing its advice on community forest management (CFM) to design the project, and contribute to the improve effectiveness of using CFM to generate global environmental benefits and improve livelihoods. STAP's recommendations on CFM project design are detailed below. Additionally, STAP encourages the project developers to detail how the project will enable community-based forestry based on the priorities identified through global research (as suggested in section 1.6). This will help strengthen the project's innovativeness.

To strengthen the project during its design, STAP recommends addressing these aspects, and the points listed below.

1. Once the project sites are determined, STAP recommends detailing the changes that are occurring to the forest in these locations, their drivers and planned responses. This includes changes to the forest resulting from biophysical, social, or economic factors. The project developers may find it helpful to categorize the social and economic responses in two classes: responses addressing immediate pressures (e.g. agricultural expansion, infrastructure development – component 3), and responses addressing the underlying drivers (e.g. policies and institutions – component 1 and 2).
2. STAP appreciates the use of maps to illustrate land use, and changes in deforestation and degradation between 2004-21014 in Equatorial Guinea. STAP also encourages the project developers to use global data

to monitor land use change and land condition in the project site. Possible tools include Collect Earth (<http://www.openforis.org/tools/collect-earth.html>), and Trends.Earth (<http://trends.earth/docs/en/>)

3. Component 3 states that communities will set up their governance structures in the development of forest and land management plans. STAP welcomes this activity, and encourages the project proponents to apply an environmental governance framework for developing this component. The literature suggests that analyzing the underlying causes (e.g. policies) of forest degradation and deforestation can be challenging due to governance, institutional arrangements, and stakeholder power dynamics that are difficult to measure. An environmental governance framework can be valuable in this regard. This paper may assist in devising a framework, and analyzing the causes of deforestation: Samndong, R. A., Bush, G., Vatn, A., & Chapman, M. (2018). Institutional analysis of causes of deforestation in REDD+ pilot sites in the Equateur province: Implication for REDD+ in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Land Use Policy.

4. STAP recommends detailing the climate projections for Equatorial Guinea at the sub-national level if the data are available. Projections indicate a significant downward trend in annual rainfall in West Africa. This decline in annual rainfall may impact agricultural production, forests, and livelihoods. Climate modeling also demonstrate increases in temperature in West and Central Africa. These trends may influence the capacity of the forest to regulate the global climate, and its ability to continue serving the economic needs of the local populations. The following sources may be useful:

[http://sdwebx.worldbank.org/climateportal/index.cfm?page=country_historical_climate&ThisCCCode=GNQ](http://sdwebx.worldbank.org/climateportal/index.cfm?page=country_historical_climate&ThisCCCode=GNQ;);
<https://resourcewatch.org/data/explore/Climate-Change-Impacts-on-Crop-Production>;
<https://www.climatewatchdata.org/ndcs/country/GNQ/full?query=2.1&searchBy=target>;

The following papers also provides information on the potential effects of climate change on Central African forests: Arétouyap, Z., Bisso, D., Nouck, P. N., Yembe, S. J., & Diab, D. A. (2018). The equatorial rainforest of Central Africa between economic needs and sustainability requirements. Journal of environmental management, 206, 20-27.; Nicholson, S. et al. (2018). Rainfall over the African continent from 19th century to the 21th century. Global and Planetary Change 165: 114-127.

5. The climate projections can be used to plan for climate change, and to consider the project's adaptation, and/or transformation needs. The Resilience, Adaptation Pathway Transformation Assessment Framework (RAPTA) can be useful for assessing the resilience of the social-ecological system that the project will target, and devising adaptation pathways. RAPTA guidelines can be downloaded at: <http://www.stapgef.org/rapta-guidelines>

6. STAP recommends that the project developers apply advice from STAP's advisory document "The Evidence Base for Community Forest Management as a Mechanism for Supplying Global Environmental Benefits and Improving Local Welfare". STAP's advice focuses on: i) designing community forest management (CFM) interventions in a manner that threats to their effectiveness are reduced, such as the displacement of forest exploitation from CFM forests to other forests; ii) defining a theory of change that details the impact pathways through which CFM will lead to global environmental benefits (e.g. climate change mitigation), and local benefits (sustainable livelihoods); and, iii) selecting non-CFM sites and CFM sites for monitoring, so that the effects of CFM can be distinguished from other factors. Further details about these recommendations can be found in the STAP's advisory document:

<http://www.stapgef.org/sites/default/files/publications/Evidence-Base-for-Community-Forest-Management.pdf>

<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. (ii) Set a review point at an early stage during project development, and possibly agreeing to terms of

	<p>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>