

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: @@@@ @@, @@@@
Screener: Sarah Lebel
Panel member validation by: Anand Patwardhan
Consultant(s):

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

FULL-SIZED PROJECT	LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FUND
GEF PROJECT ID:	8033
PROJECT DURATION:	4
COUNTRIES:	Mauritania
PROJECT TITLE:	Continental Wetlands Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change
GEF AGENCIES:	IUCN
OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS:	Mauritania National Great Green Wall Agency, Direction des Aires Protégées et du Littoral
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):
Minor issues to be considered during project design

III. Further guidance from STAP

STAP welcomes the IUCN proposal "Continental wetlands adaptation and resilience to climate change". The project proposes an ecosystems-based approach to adaptation, by restoring and rehabilitating unique inland wetlands in Mauritania. These wetlands have not only great importance for biodiversity, but also for pastoralist livelihoods. While STAP believes that overall the PIF is scientifically and technically sound, there are aspects that STAP recommends should be addressed during project development:

1. Given that the project builds on the baseline of the Great Green Wall it offers an important opportunity to bring climate change considerations into the baseline project, which already includes elements related to supporting pastoralists and sustainable land management. However, addressing future climate risks is not as clearly and strongly developed in the PIF as might be expected, and STAP encourages IUCN to address this aspect more fully during project development. For example, will future climate projections be used to create scenarios for water availability and stress, and used to inform selection of case study sites? (See, for example, Mbaye, Mamadou Lamine, et al. "Assessment of climate change impact on water resources in the Upper Senegal Basin (West Africa)." *American Journal of Climate Change* 4.01 (2015): 77.
2. The creation of a geographic information system and database will be a great addition to the knowledge base for wetlands in Mauritania. It will be essential to put measures in place to safeguard the data, as well as implementing an open access policy, because communication and monitoring of results are central to the project.
3. STAP commends the inclusion of concerned stakeholders in the project development and implementation. However, it is important to take into consideration which stakeholders are really concerned with each step of the project, and involve them in an appropriate manner. Not all stakeholders are likely to be involved at all stages of the project, and where areas of conflict may arise, bringing in strong facilitators should be considered.
4. With regard to the community level interventions and livelihood support, multiple-use systems are found to out-perform single-use systems based on annual production values, when opportunity costs and the replacement costs of wetland resources are taken into account. The results also show that the multi-use

systems are better adapted to a highly variable climate than single-use arable systems that are highly vulnerable to rainfall fluctuations (Shine, Tara, and Beth Dunford. "What value for pastoral livelihoods? An economic valuation of development alternatives for ephemeral wetlands in eastern Mauritania." *Pastoralism* 6, no. 1 (2016): 1-18.)

<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	<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. (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>
3. Major issues to be considered during project design	<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>