

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: May 14, 2017
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:	9580
PROJECT DURATION:	4.5
COUNTRIES:	St. Vincent and Grenadines
PROJECT TITLE:	Conserving Biodiversity and Reducing Land Degradation Using a Ridge-to-Reef Approach
GEF AGENCIES:	UNDP
OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS:	Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Transformation, Forestry, Fisheries and Industry
GEF FOCAL AREA:	Multi Focal Area

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 UNDP's project "Conserving biodiversity and reducing land degradation using a Ridge-to-Reef approach" in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The project will focus on strengthening protected area systems, including marine protected areas, applying an integrated watershed management approach to reduce environmental degradation in protected areas (terrestrial and marine), and setting-up a knowledge management system to capture experiences and learning.

To further strengthen the project during its design, STAP recommends addressing these points:

1. STAP recommends applying the Resilience, Adaptation Pathways and Transformation Assessment (RAPTA) Framework. RAPTA is a tool designed to support the application of resilience concepts during project planning and implementation. Using an integrative approach and close stakeholder engagement, RAPTA will assist the project proponents to describe and assess the social-ecological systems, and identify the need to adapt, or transform, based on the risks and shocks (e.g. climate risks) that may affect the system. STAP would be pleased to advise on the application of RAPTA in the project design and implementation. The RAPTA guidelines can be found at: <http://stapgef.org/rapta-guidelines>
2. STAP also recommends for the project developers to work with stakeholders to evaluate alternative options and devise pathways for project implementation, including identification of indicators for key outputs and outcomes. RAPTA provides guidance on developing implementation pathways.
3. STAP notes that St. Vincent and the Grenadines will set Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets. STAP encourages UNDP to link this project with St. Vincent and the Grenadines LDN planning. STAP suggests that UNDP take note of the LDN framework recently completed by the Science-Policy Interface of the UNCCD, which describes the scientific basis and principles for implementing LDN:

<http://knowledge.unccd.int/knowledge-products-and-pillars/land-degradation-neutrality-ldn-conceptual-framework/spi-publication>

4. STAP suggests including a map of St. Vincent and the Grenadines depicting the ridge to reef sites, the watershed(s) of interest, protected areas, and the different land use types. This would aid in visualizing the ridge-to-reef project area.

5. Please describe the criteria that were used for selecting the three watershed sites to pilot the ridge-to-reef approach in the Central Mountain Forest Reserve.

6. It would be useful to draw from UNDP's project experience in applying a ridge-to-reef approach in Grenada: <http://www.bb.undp.org/content/barbados/en/home/presscenter/articles/2017/04/07/ridge-to-reef-project-presents-grenada-fisheries-division-with-workboat.html>

7. In addition, the project should draw from the GEF's ridge-to-reef program in the Pacific: <http://www.pacific-r2r.org/> In particular, it would be useful to draw from this program's experience, or others, for the monitoring and assessment of the watersheds and coral reefs. For example, what indicators, or data, are needed to monitor stressors, such as sediment and pollutants? UNDP may wish to refer to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) tools to monitor ecosystems for coral reefs at the watershed level: https://www.coris.noaa.gov/activities/uscrtf_watershed_tools/

8. An integrated approach that UNDP may wish to consider is STAP's upcoming report "Conceptual Framework for Governing and Managing Key Flows in a Source to Sea Continuum". The approach offers a theory of change that can guide governance and management responses in a source-to-sea system. The paper will be available by June 2017 on STAP's website: <http://www.stagef.org/publications>

9. In addition, STAP encourages UNDP to draw from the experience and learning of the research program "Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security" (CCAFS) <https://ccafs.cgiar.org/> to develop the components. CCAFS's tools may also be valuable for the project. This includes the CSA programming and indicator tool: <https://ccafs.cgiar.org/csa-programming-and-indicator-tool#.WP-KZvnyuUk>

10. In project preparation STAP suggests to provide further detail of the shade structures and their application and purpose (it is not clear what they are shading, why they would be impervious to rainfall (they are stated as collecting water). Could shade trees be an effective alternative?

11. The project developers could consider biochar as a potential soil improver on the calciferous Grenadine soils to enhance water- and nutrient-holding capacity.

<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 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	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

during project design	<p>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>
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