

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: November 14, 2017
Screener: Guadalupe Duron
Panel member validation by: Michael Anthony Stocking
Consultant(s):

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

FULL-SIZED PROJECT	GEF TRUST FUND
GEF PROJECT ID:	9806
PROJECT DURATION:	5
COUNTRIES:	Algeria
PROJECT TITLE:	Rehabilitation and Integrated Sustainable Development of Algerian Cork Oak Forest Production Landscapes
GEF AGENCIES:	FAO
OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS:	Directorate-General for Forests (DGF), Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries (MADRP)
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 FAO's project "Rehabilitation and integrated sustainable development of Algerian cork oak forest production landscapes" in Algeria. The project objective seeks to sustainably manage, conserve and sustainably harvest Algeria's globally significant cork oak forest ecosystems. It is supported by three components focused on piloting sustainable forest management and conservation planning, strengthening markets and value chains for non-timber forest products (NTFPs), and developing replication and upscaling approaches for sustainably harvesting cork products. STAP welcomes the use of references to support various statements in the documents, and encourages FAO to continue with this practice when developing the proposal. STAP also is pleased with the description of the criteria for the site selection. The illustration of the pilot project sites also is useful, and STAP recommends that FAO includes maps in the project document. Below, STAP offers further advice when developing the project:

1. STAP notes that Algeria participated in the UNCCD's LDN pilot target setting approach, and is currently participating in the UNCCD's LDN target setting program. Algeria is well-placed to draw from its LDN target setting efforts to pursue integrated approaches on land use planning, as well as to identify land management indicators. Doing so will strengthen the global environmental benefits on land degradation. The "Scientific conceptual framework on LDN" can assist the project developers identify the appropriate land indicators: http://www2.unccd.int/sites/default/files/documents/2017-08/LDN_CF_report_web-english.pdf
2. STAP appreciates the comprehensive problem and barrier analysis, and the strategies to address them so the outcomes can be achieved. This information is presented in a clear and succinct manner (page 20-21). STAP recommends defining the assumptions associated with the expected results, or citing references that validate the information. For example, it would be valuable to support statements in the table that suggest that improved value chains for NTFPs and payment forest ecosystem services will increase stakeholders' appreciation for forests, and thereby lead to improved forest conservation.

3. STAP also appreciates the intention of the project to undertake stakeholder analysis (Output 2.2.2). It would be best if the analysis traces not only beneficiaries of the cork oak forest but also stakeholders with decision-making and advisory roles, in order to map convincingly the interconnections, power and role of all relevant stakeholders. This may also include gender differentiation and the role of indigenous technical knowledge. One of the objectives of stakeholder analysis should also be to assess the strength of economic incentives – see ODI Forestry Bulletin (May 2003) 'Economic Stakeholder Analysis' for Participatory Forest Management, by Michael Richards, Jonathan Davies and Gil Yaron. See <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/810.pdf>

4. STAP recognizes the project's effort in strengthening the value of forests. STAP proposes that FAO and Algeria consider natural capital accounting, or similar valuation approaches, for documenting the value of forests. This would facilitate methods for valuing forest ecosystems, mainstreaming forest management and planning in Algeria's economic accounts, and the development of policies across ministries to support forests' contributions to the economy and livelihoods. STAP recommends considering efforts made by the UN Statistical Commission of the System for Environmental and Economic Accounts (SEEA) to develop a methodology for capturing forest values (e.g. NTFPs): <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/default.asp>

5. STAP also is cognizant of the need to improve the evidence base of the value provided by forests in order to influence policy-making. The following paper on estimating the economic benefits of NTFPs may benefit the design of the project, in particular on how to collect, monitor and assess data so it strengthens the evidence base on NTFP's impacts on biodiversity conservation and livelihoods: Wahlen, C. (2017). "Opportunities for making the invisible visible: Towards an improved understanding of the economic contributions of NTFPs". *Forest Policy and Economics* 84 (2017) 11–19.

6. In addition to the participatory processes when the project will implement the assessment of the social-ecological context of each site, STAP encourages the project proponents to consider embedding policies and arrangements on governance. Governance will influence management, harvesting, trade and use of NTFPs. Governance is essential for creating win-win outcomes for NTFP production, biodiversity conservation, and improved forest livelihoods. In addition, STAP encourages FAO to monitor the effectiveness of NTFP governance in order to draw lessons and identify learning for the stakeholders involved, as well as for broader application beyond the project. STAP recommends this book as a resource on NTFP governance: Laird, et al. 2010. *Finding policies that work for non-timber forest products*. Earthscan.

<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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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>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	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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>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>
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