

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 12, 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:	9293
PROJECT DURATION:	5
COUNTRIES:	Mali
PROJECT TITLE:	Scaling up a Multiple Benefits Approach to Enhance Resilience in Agro- and Forest Landscapes of Mali's Sahel Regions (Kayes, Koulikoro and Ségou)
GEF AGENCIES:	AfDB
OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS:	Ministry of Rural Development; other: CILSS, Association La Voix de la Nubienne
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 the African Development Bank's project "Scaling up a multiple benefits approach to enhance resilience in agro- and forest landscapes of Mali's Sahel regions" in Mali. STAP is pleased with the logic of the project focused on identifying an integrated approach (component 1), defining activities to support landscape sustainability (component 2), and embedding knowledge and learning throughout the project (component 3). The links between the components are well articulated. STAP also is pleased to see knowledge management as a core component of the project. The project will rely on adaptive management to reconcile trade-offs between stakeholders' multiple objectives and needs, and a well-developed knowledge/learning component is important in achieving adaptation. STAP values the quality of the PIF, including the map of the target regions and agro-ecological zones. In this regard, STAP encourages the AfDB to develop the project with the same scientific and technical rigor, and clarity, as it did with the PIF.

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

1. STAP appreciates the strong integration between land and forest management, and sustainable chemicals management, as an approach for identifying and managing the trade-offs between these sectors, and enhancing synergies through coordination. The project has a strong focus on multi-stakeholder engagement, which will be important throughout the project implementation to deal with trade-offs between multiple sectors and development needs, address risks, and identify opportunities for learning. STAP appreciates the attention to enhancing resilience, and suggests that the AfDB could consider applying the Resilience, Adaptation Pathways, and Transformation Assessment (RAPTA) Framework. RAPTA is based on integration principles, including the iterative engagement of multi-stakeholders, to assess the resilience of social-ecological systems, and identify the need to adapt, or transform, based on the risks and shocks (e.g. environmental, economic, social) that may affect the system. STAP would be pleased to advise on the

application of the RAPTA in the project design and implementation. The RAPTA guidelines can be found at: <http://stapgef.org/rapta-guidelines>

2. STAP applauds the focus on the landscape, and suggests that this aspect could be further enhanced. For example, it would be valuable to identify indicators that are related to the multi-functionality of the approach. This would contribute to the evidence for the approach, including documenting benefits and identifying gaps in terms of monitoring and assessing progress. Often the indicators of a landscape approach are sectoral, which limit the understanding of feedback loops, and capacity to apply adaptive management. STAP recommends for the AfDB to consider the following paper that supports building evidence on "how the landscape approach has been applied, how progress has been measured, and evidence generated to support the outcomes": Reed, J. et al. (2016). Integrated landscape approaches to managing social and environmental issues in the tropics: learning from the past to guide the future. *Global Change Biology*. 22. 2540-2554.
3. STAP notes that the project is intended to contribute to Mali's LDN target, and suggests that this component could be strengthened. Planning for LDN planning could be integrated into Component 1. STAP recommends that the AfDB use the conceptual framework on LDN developed by UNCCD's Science Policy Interface: <http://knowledge.unccd.int/knowledge-products-and-pillars/land-degradation-neutrality-ldn-conceptual-framework/land> to inform the project. The framework describes the scientific basis and principles for implementing and monitoring LDN.
4. In addition to complementing the projects mentioned on page 22, STAP recommends that the AfDB look for synergies with the Food Security Integrated Approach Pilot (FSIAP) Program. The FSIAP country projects have similar objectives to this project in Mali, and there are opportunities for cross-fertilization, including on the application of an integrated approach.
5. STAP suggests that the AfDB could consider a wider range of technology options for beneficial use of organic wastes, including high efficiency combustion for heat and electricity, or pyrolysis which can produce heat plus biochar for use as a soil amendment. The appropriate technology depends on the characteristics of the biomass, and the context (energy needs, soil constraints).
6. STAP would like the project to detail the assumptions, or conditions, that need to be in place in order to meet the objective. This would further strengthen the impact pathways proposed in the project, and lead to better planning and implementation. In this vein, STAP would like to see more evidence that the bioclimatic structures are accepted, and sustainable, in similar agro-climatic zones as the project site.
7. STAP is pleased to note that the AfDB intends to apply the EXACT tool to refine the carbon sequestration estimates, because there appear to be some inaccuracies in the calculations presented.

<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	STAP proposes significant improvements or has concerns on the grounds of specified major

to be considered during project design	<p>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>
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