

# 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: October 04, 2016  
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:	9294
PROJECT DURATION:	5
COUNTRIES:	Mauritania
PROJECT TITLE:	Integrated Ecosystem Management Program for the Sustainable Human Development in Mauritania
GEF AGENCIES:	FAO
OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS:	Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable
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 "Integrated ecosystem management program for the sustainable human development in Mauritania". The project seeks to improve sustainable development in southern Mauritania through an integrated management of ecosystems. Through this approach, the project aims to reduce land degradation, improve water conservation, and livelihood options. The approach will be based on the socio-ecological features of the targeted agro-pastoral systems, and focus on ecological, or territorial, units. STAP believes this is an appropriate approach to use based on the drivers of degradation identified in initial scoping of the project. STAP appreciates the ecosystem-based participatory approach, and the intention to generate sustainable bioenergy sources.

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

1. As the project states, it is important to focus on the multi-functionality of the landscape to achieve ecosystem services and improve livelihoods. STAP recommends applying a framework that facilitates this: developing a theory of change underpinned by evidence and assumptions; identifying impact pathways for environmental and social benefits along with the possible trade-offs in achieving the proposed benefits; embedding adaptive management in the monitoring and assessment of ecosystems, biodiversity, and socio-economic development. STAP recommends for Mauritania and FAO to consider applying the Resilience, Adaptation Pathways, and Transformation Assessment (RAPTA) Framework. RAPTA focuses on the sustainability of the system and assesses whether incremental change, or transformation, will be needed to achieve this goal. RAPTA guidelines can be downloaded at: <http://www.stapgef.org/the-resilience-adaptation-and-transformation-assessment-framework/>

In addition, the project developers may wish to refer to the following paper on the adaptive management of multi-functional landscapes: Hodbod, J. et al. "Managing adaptively for multifunctionality in agricultural systems". Journal of Environmental Management. (2016). 1-10.

2. Detail further the climate adaptation strategies as well as provide climate projection data for the target sites if this information is available. In the project design, Mauritania and FAO may wish to use the following paper to inform stakeholders' assessment of climate vulnerability, and identification of climate adaptation measures: Kienberger, S. et al. "Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment in Mauritania: Reflections on Data Quality, Spatial Scales, Aggregation and Visualizations". *GI Forum Journal*, 2016, 1, pp.167-175.

3. For the development of biodiversity friendly value chains, the project developers may wish to consult the OECD-FAO publication "OECD-FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains, 2016. <http://www.oecd.org/daf/inv/investment-policy/rbc-agriculture-supply-chains.htm>

4. Provide further detail on which degraded ecosystems will be rehabilitated, or restored in component 1, and how the selection to focus on these ecosystems was achieved based on the capability to achieve global environmental benefits and improve livelihoods. For those areas with irrigation potential, it also would be useful to detail water conservation and management strategies so that groundwater levels are not further depleted, and risks of soil salinity are managed. In addition, the project developers may wish to consider the following paper that considers the potential of irrigated sorghum and cowpea for animal fodder, and the impact on small-holders livestock management and incomes. El Moctar Isselmou, M. et al "Irrigated sorghum and cowpea after wet-season rice as a pathway out of subsistence agriculture in the Senegal River Valley in Mauritania". *African Journal of Agricultural Research*. Vol. 11(20), pp. 1824-1835, 19 May, 2016. DOI: 10.5897/AJAR2016.10876

5. If Mauritania is participating in the UNCCD's Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme (LDN TSP) it would be mutually beneficial to develop linkages with that programme, particularly in relation to land rehabilitation interventions.

6. Consider the need for innovative approaches to fund conservation of agricultural biodiversity. This includes defining market incentives encouraging access to agro-biodiversity crops, and financial incentives facilitating agro-biodiversity use and conservation. In addition, STAP recommends providing further detail on "professionalization of production chains" (page 15), and describing how learning from the baseline project, ProLIPRAV, on value chains will influence the design of component 3 on agro-biodiversity value chains. Mauritania and FAO may wish to consult the following source on valuing agro-biodiversity conservation: "Agrobiodiversity – the key to food security, climate adaptation and resilience", GIZ. 2015; <https://www.giz.de/fachexpertise/downloads/giz2015-en-agrobiodiversity-factsheet-collection-incl-mappe.pdf> "Adding value to agrobiodiversity". GIZ. 2015. <http://agriwaterpedia.info/images/4/4f/06-giz2015-en-adding-value-to-agrobiodiversity.pdf>

<i>STAP advisory response</i>	<i>Brief explanation of advisory response and action proposed</i>
<b>1. Concur</b>	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.
<b>2. Minor issues to be considered during project design</b>	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>(i) Open a dialogue with STAP regarding the technical and/or scientific issues raised.</p> <p>(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>
<b>3. Major issues to be considered during</b>	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><b>project design</b></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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