

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 08, 2011

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

FULL SIZE PROJECT GEF TRUST FUND

GEF PROJECT ID: 4680

PROJECT DURATION : 5

COUNTRIES : Regional (Central African Republic, Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria, Chad)

PROJECT TITLE: LCB-NREE Lake Chad Basin Regional Program for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Energy Efficiency (PROGRAM)

GEF AGENCIES: AfDB

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS:

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): **Major revision required**

III. Further guidance from STAP

STAP notes that the proposed Program builds on the previous Lake Chad project (GEF ID 767, Reversal of Land and Water Degradation Trends in the Lake Chad Basin Ecosystem) which produced a transboundary diagnostic analysis and a draft Strategic Action Program (SAP), while the Terminal Evaluation reviewed the progress made towards implementation of the SAP. The present Program document (PFD) notes that the principal lessons learnt from the previous project are discussed in the barriers to implementation section. In the light of the lessons learnt and STAP's screening of the present Program, significant strategic and operational concerns are noted by STAP which therefore requests a major revision of the Program document prior to its endorsement by the CEO.

The hydrologic changes are the driving forces for the natural resources associated with the lake i.e. fisheries, recession cultivation on the lake floor and green vegetation for livestock. During last years, cycle of the natural resources has become fairly predictable in the southern basin, but vulnerability has much increased in the northern basin (Lemoalle, Jacques, Bader, Jean-Claude, and Leblanc, Marc (2008) The variability of Lake Chad: hydrological modelling and ecosystem services. Proceedings of the 13th IWRA World Water Congress 2008 In: 13th IWRA World Water Congress 2008, 01-04 September 2008, Montpellier, France). In the southern basin, the water is permanent in the center of the basin and in some pools of the archipelago, while northern basin is often inundated. These conditions significantly impacted by climate variability and change make management of natural resources in the basin particularly challenging and requires very high level of coordination and co-operation between riparian countries where conservation demands may often be in conflict with the livelihoods functioning.

From a scientific and technical perspective STAP has used the 2008 TDA and SAP (available via IWLearn) to inform itself of the major concerns and possible interventions. It is encouraging to note that the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) Executive Secretariat through the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Implementation of Projects will monitor and evaluate the projects. However, at strategic level the principal observation to be made is that without the LCBC having increased delegated executive authority over decisions affecting relevant catchment management in all participating countries, the potential for success of the Program remains in question. Indeed the PFD appears not to address sufficiently the issue of the adequacy of the mandate and enforcement powers of the LCBC, acknowledged to be amongst the root causes for lack of action since the LCBC's formation. STAP advises that no amount of scientific and technical information will result in achievement of the environmental targets set without more explicit political support for the LCBC to take difficult decisions regarding for example, water, livestock and agricultural management,

and advises the Program proponent to clarify the role and powers of the LCBC and measures to be taken to address any shortfall in its executive authority.

There is a tendency throughout the PFD to imply that in all cases of environmental management whether for use of water, biodiversity or other natural resources there are always win-wins, whereas in fact hard decisions may be necessary to negotiate and to enforce tradeoffs regarding natural resource exploitation. For example, regarding hydrology, the Program envisages an enhanced water observation network, including more piezometers etc. in order to assemble sufficient information to inform decisions about water allocations/management. However, the PFD in places appears to pre-empt acquisition of an adequate information base regarding use of groundwater. For example, in section F the statement Use of ground water through pumping will enable livestock to access water without having to graze in the wetlands presupposes that surface/groundwater interactions are favourable. They may not be and experience from other basins in Africa indicates that groundwater extraction has both short term seasonal and long term decadal consequences on surface water availability. For the five priority Ecosystem Quality and Water Resource (EQWRO) objectives arising from the SAP and the additional objectives taken from the NAPA and other convention-related instruments the proponents are advised to review their assumptions concerning the causal chain and therefore priorities assigned to the proposed projects envisaged under the Program. This is important to enable interventions that can sensibly be conducted in parallel, such as reforestation, cookstove technology, improving power distribution, to proceed, but others such as increased use of irrigation, sustained fishing effort, review of existing dams, are inter-dependent and require a more structured approach.

The PFD contains indirect references to targets and indicators in the TDA and SAP documents, but includes in the PFD Results Framework not a single quantifiable target, yet in Annex 2 some specific targets are given not clearly consistent with the Framework. STAP therefore advises that progress will be hard to monitor without well thought out actions to be developed from the existing SAP and other strategic plans and documented regarding interventions and targets. Barriers noted from the Terminal Evaluation Report of the previous project include the lack of an Action Plan which was to be developed from the SAP. Although this barrier is stated in the PFD surprisingly there is no mention of a Program component that will address this barrier. STAP requests that the Program be revised to include the production of an Action Plan which will include the necessary logical framework with indicators necessary to organize the work stated in the Program Result Framework. STAP further requests that the necessary SAP Action Plan be peer reviewed as a pre-condition for its implementation.

<i>STAP advisory response</i>	<i>Brief explanation of advisory response and action proposed</i>
1. Consent	STAP acknowledges that on scientific/technical grounds the concept has merit. However, STAP may state its views on the concept emphasising any issues that could be improved and the proponent is invited to approach STAP for advice at any time during the development of the project brief prior to submission for CEO endorsement.
2. Minor revision required.	STAP has identified specific scientific/technical suggestions or opportunities that should be discussed with the proponent as early as possible during development of the project brief. One or more options that remain open to STAP include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Opening a dialogue between STAP and the proponent to clarify issues (ii) Setting a review point during early stage project development and agreeing 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 revision required	STAP proposes significant improvements or has concerns on the grounds of specified major scientific/technical omissions in the concept. If STAP provides this advisory response, a full explanation would also be provided. Normally, a STAP approved review will be mandatory prior to submission of the project brief for CEO endorsement. 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.