

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 15, 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:	9903
PROJECT DURATION:	6
COUNTRIES:	Sierra Leone
PROJECT TITLE:	Sustainable and Integrated landscape management of the Western Area Peninsula
GEF AGENCIES:	UNDP
OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS:	Environment Protection Agency Sierra Leone (EPA-SL), Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Affairs (MOTCA), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFFS)
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 proposal "Sustainable and Integrated Landscape Management of the Western Area Peninsula". The project aims to strengthen landscape management in the Western Area Peninsula National Park, to strengthen biodiversity conservation, and sustainable land management, and to improve ecosystem services. STAP appreciates the clear and succinct descriptions of the issues and the proposed approach, which tackles the underlying drivers of unsustainable land management. STAP is pleased to see the emphasis on knowledge sharing through the open-access spatial planning system with an objective to strengthen decision making for landscape management. STAP looks forward to the platform becoming functional in the medium-term. It encourages UNDP to continue developing knowledge outputs that enhance learning among project stakeholders, and also non-GEF project stakeholders.

To strengthen the project further, STAP recommends considering the following issues during the design:

1. STAP recommends defining links between the spatial planning system and other databases on land use planning. This includes the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies which is focused on innovation and decision-making processes on land management: <https://www.wocat.net/>

Furthermore, STAP recommends defining the geo-referenced methods that will be used in the spatial planning system. The spatial and time scale also should be detailed, as well as how the project proposes to ground-truth the geo-referenced data. Additionally, it is not clear whether the project intends to train stakeholders on the use of geo-referenced data, or how UNDP proposes that the open access platform continue operate beyond the project's lifetime.

2. There appears to be some redundancy in the way that component 1 and 2 are described in the project description summary (section b). Both components state that national plans will be developed and

strengthened for managing the Western Area Peninsula through landscape approaches. It would be useful to distinguish that component 2 will focus on promoting land management practices in the protected area buffer zone.

3. STAP notes that there is a strong focus on measures to address biodiversity conservation, with much less detail of the land use planning and SLM approaches related to agricultural land. STAP recommends strengthening these aspects, detailing the strategy that will be applied to identify suitable land uses and SLM practices. STAP notes that the project is intended to support the implementation of Land Degradation Neutrality in Sierra Leone, and refers the proponents to the UNCCD's "Scientific Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality" (Orr et al., 2017). The LDN framework provides guidance to inform identification of target areas for SLM and rehabilitation activities, and monitoring of land-based ecosystem services. The LDN framework emphasizes integrated land use planning at landscape scale, so will readily complement the approach proposed in the PIF. The conceptual framework recommends land use planning based on land potential, which is determined by inherent factors such as soil type and landscape position, that determine productivity and risk of land degradation. The framework can be accessed at: <http://knowledge.unccd.int/knowledge-products-and-pillars/land-degradation-neutrality-ldn-conceptual-framework/land>.

4. For component 3, STAP recommends applying the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) as an approach to valuing the ecosystem services provided in the Western Area Peninsula: <https://seea.un.org/>

5. It is unclear whether the project will draw from the knowledge and learning produced by UNEP's GEF full-sized project "Evolution of protected area systems with regard to climate change in the West Africa region": <http://parcc.protectedplanet.net/en>
STAP recommends using the document "Sierra Leone Gap Analysis and Spatial Conservation Planning" in the project design. The analysis focused on protected area planning taking into consideration climate change projections: http://parcc.protectedplanet.net/system/comfy/cms/files/files/000/000/051/original/PARCC_DICE_National_Planning_Systems_Report_Sierra_Leone_EN.pdf

6. In addition to establishing a mangrove protective program, STAP encourages the project proponents to consider collecting data on the biophysical properties of mangroves, and the socio-economic characteristics of the populations dependent on them. This information can be used to inform management decisions, and the sustainability of the mangrove ecosystem. Furthermore, the proponents should consider strengthening the legal and institutional policies and regulations on mangroves under component 1. Evidence suggests that mangroves are not being properly managed in West Africa (including Sierra Leone) partly due to the multiplicity of institutions and decentralization of management responsibilities. This evidence and other management and use data on mangroves in Sierra Leone are available in this paper: Feka, Z., et al. (2015). "Sustainable management of mangrove forests in West Africa: A new policy perspective?" *Ocean & Coastal Management* 116 (2015) 341-352.

<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</p>

	full project brief for CEO endorsement.
3. Major issues to be considered during project design	<p>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> <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>