Part I: Project Information		Response
GEF ID		10159
Project Title		Resilience of Pastoral and Farming Communities to Climate Change in North Darfur
Date of Screening		8-Dec-19
STAP member Screener		Graciela metternicht
STAP secretariat screener		Guadalupe Duron
STAP Overall Assessment		**Minor issues to be considered during the project design.** STAP welcomes FAO's project in Sudan on "Resilience of Pastoral and Farming Communities to Climate Change in North Darfur". The project seeks to reduce the vulnerability of pastoral and farming communities to climate change along the migratory routes in North Darfur, and to improve their social protection, food security and nutritional status. STAP encourages the project developers to search for innovation and technology transfer beyond the on-going projects. For instance, given the objective is to act as 'incubation of innovation', STAP recommends engaging with start-up companies that are delivering innovative solutions for securing water (e.g. https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2017/04/new-solar-powered-device-can-pull-water-straight-desert-air; https://www.digitaltrends.com/features/h2grow-world-food-programme-hydroponics/ ; https://insight.wfp.org/growing-food-in-the-algerian-desert-28dc89219a9a; https://insight.wfp.org/an-oasis-in-the-dry-plains-ca0a854b7921). STAP also encourages the project proponents to explore climate-smart agricultural solutions for rangelands agriculture, and to describe how climate smart agriculture, as an integrated approach, will contribute to global environmental benefits and adaptation benefits. The project states it will apply two innovative tools: Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT) and Agro-pastoral Field Schools (APFS). However, these tools are no longer innovative, as they are being applied in many other projects. Furthermore, it is unclear how these two approaches will address the key objectives of food security and nutritional status. Therefore, STAP recommends for the project proponents to articulate whether, and how, these tools are the best approaches to tackle the problem. STAP also recommends for the project proponents to apply systems analysis tools, (e.g. Resilience Adaptation Pathways and Transformation Approach (RAPTA) (https://research.csiro.au/eap/rapta/)) to identify the most pressing stressors and risks (affiliated with e.g. climate change, migration, conflict), and to define plausible trajectories that deal with uncertainty and undesired change. Tools like RAPTA are also able to accommodate the VGGT guidelines in case the project proponents believe this approach is valuable in meeting the project objective. In addition, STAP recommends creating sustained field extension services (see the lessons from Tanzania at https://www.learntechlib.org/p/111899/). If APFS is applied, there needs to be an adaptation to local circumstances to ensure the sustainability of extension services beyond the project lifetime.
Part I: Project Information		
B. Indicative Project Description Summary		
Project Objective	Is the objective clearly defined, and consistently related to the problem diagnosis?	Yes. There is a good introduction that identifies drivers, pressures and barriers related to the state of the pastoral and farming communities of the North Dafuer. The project objective responds to the identified barriers, and it appears to articulate well with other national scale issues that interlink with this project objectives. STAP recommends the team to access current maps of land use and land cover that are avaialble through the ESA Climate Change Initiative at: MODIS, 300 spatial resolution. https://www.esa-landcover-cci.org/?q=node/197
Project components	A brief description of the planned activities. Do these support the project's objectives?	A description of 'components' and broad descripton of activities is done. It is not clear how the proposed methodology will address key objectives of food security and nutritional status.
Outcomes	A description of the expected short-term and medium-term effects of an intervention.	
	Do the planned outcomes encompass important global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits?	That is not clear in the project. One could argue tht attaining the objectives of this project will contribute to reduce land degradation, avoiding soil loss and maintaining or improving ecosystem services. The project outcomes can contribute to the country's advancement of several of the SDG targets related to life on land, and food security. However, this needs to be better articulated in the proposal.
	Are the global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits likely to be generated?	The global adaptation benefits are not clear . A good theory of change needs to be developed, identifying the vision, and then defining the methodology and related activities and relevant stakeholders that are needed to deliver the claimed benefits. VGGT is of importnace to this project, but as important is to have in Component 1.1 an appraisal of the current vulnerability to climate change of the different capitals (natural, social, etc); once that is understood, tools like VGGT can be applied in a logical framework of well-designed and 'connected' activities.
Outputs	A description of the products and services which are expected to result from the project. Is the sum of the outputs likely to contribute to the outcomes?	services and products are described. The sum of those outputs is likely to contribute to the project outcome, though better links between activities/outputs/outcomes is needed particularly for judging if the objectives of food security and nutritional status will be achieved.

Part II: Project justification	A simple narrative explaining the project's logic, i.e. a theory of change.	the alternative scenario (ie. vision) is "With financial support from LDCF to cover additionality, the proposed alternative will address this situation by assisting communities to identify and adopt necessary management improvements. The alternative will set in place two innovative and complementary tools that FAO and its partners have developed extensively in recent years: Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT) and Agro-pastoral Field Schools (APFS). Based on past experience in the region, these tools and approaches work to ensure that vulnerabilities are sustainably reduced in rural communities facing issues similar to the North Darfur". For this 'alternative scenario' to realise it is fundamental the team develops a theory of change, in a participatory and inclusive manner, identifying key stakeholders to be involved in different activities, and also 'anticipating' external factors that could affect the delivery of the proposed activites that will conduct to the outputs the team has designed to fulfill the project objective.
1. Project description. Briefly describe:		
1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description)	Is the problem statement well-defined?	yes, it is well defined.
	Are the barriers and threats well described, and substantiated by data and references?	yes, the barriers are identified and well described, particularly those that relate historical ongoing conflicts. The project identifies relevant studies on climate change projections for the study area.
	For multiple focal area projects: does the problem statement and analysis identify the drivers of environmental degradation which need to be addressed through multiple focal areas; and is the objective well-defined, and can it only be supported by integrating two, or more focal areas objectives or programs?	Not applicable.
2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects	Is the baseline identified clearly?	Yes, the project succintly identifies the baseline.
	Does it provide a feasible basis for quantifying the project's benefits?	
	Is the baseline sufficiently robust to support the additional cost reasoning for the project?	Yes, the project description identifies a robust baseline.
	For multiple focal area projects:	
	are the multiple baseline analyses presented (supported by data and references), and the multiple benefits specified, including the proposed indicators;	Not applicable.
	are the lessons learned from similar or related past GEF and non-GEF interventions described; and	Yes, projects that are relevant to the geographic area are identified, and other projects that do not occur in the area but can provide lessons are included as well. STAP recommends to also liaise and explore lessons learned from the project that FAO also coordinates on strenghtening the resilience of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in South Sudan's cross-border areas with Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda (funded by EU).
	how did these lessons inform the design of this project?	It appears the lessons have helped to identify barriers for this project. The project is not specific about how lessons from the projects identified will be used for the design of activities of this project.
3) the proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project	What is the theory of change?	inexistent
	What is the sequence of events (required or expected) that will lead to the desired outcomes?	1. participatory LUP to address climate change adaptation and mitigation, that includes the use of theVGGT and community profiling. This step FAILS TO INCLUDE assessment of vulnerability to CC. The team could use RAPTA or the Climate Change Vulnerability and Impact Assessment (VIA) developed by UNEP https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/report/vulnerability-and-climate-change-impact-assessments-adaptation-module. the project claims that rangeland enhancement tools will be identi ed.angelands. STAP suggesets checking on the LandPKS tool . 2) I identify concrete investments to strengthen the resilience of private producers (i.e. individual enterpreneurs, which are generally family farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, and MSMEs). Again, this can be done well if information is at hand of the vulnerability and impact of CC in the natural, human, etc capitals. 3) capture and upstream lessons learned. there is no innovation in this aspect, the team is encouraged to reach out and engage with 'community of practices' beyond the project area to ensure that the lessons and learnings are maximised across the country and Africa.
	· What is the set of linked activities, outputs, and outcomes to address the project's objectives?	
	· Are the mechanisms of change plausible, and is there a well-informed identification of the underlying assumptions?	Because a theory of change has not been developed, there is no clear underlying assumptions and not clear mechanisms to enact change. The elements are present throughout the proposal, but the team needs to identify the underlying assumption(s) that will drive needed change, then the mechanism will become clearer.

	· Is there a recognition of what adaptations may be required during project implementation to respond to changing conditions in pursuit of the targeted outcomes?	The risks identified and the way to deal with them are in a way a form 'recognition of adaptation that may be required'.
5) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEF trust fund, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing	GEF trust fund: will the proposed incremental activities lead to the delivery of global environmental benefits?	Not applicable.
	LDCF/SCCF: will the proposed incremental activities lead to adaptation which reduces vulnerability, builds adaptive capacity, and increases resilience to climate change?	Yes, provided the project prepares a good theory of change
6) global environmental benefits (GEF trust fund) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)	Are the benefits truly global environmental benefits, and are they measurable?	No. The project has not identified global environmental benefits, neither indicators that could be used to assess whether the benefits are achieved.
	Is the scale of projected benefits both plausible and compelling in relation to the proposed investment?	see above.
	Are the adaptation benefits explicitly defined?	yes
	Are indicators, or methodologies, provided to demonstrate how the adaptation benefits will be measured and monitored during project implementation?	a theory of change and good logic framework needs to be developed to identify the best set of indicators and to monitor projec implementation.
	What activities will be implemented to increase the project's resilience to climate change?	Component 2 describe the activities. See earlier comments about the need to streghten the methodology to design activities that increase resilience to CC (eg. use RAPTA in component 1, consider vulnerablity assessment of capitals (human, natural, etc).
7) innovative, sustainability and potential for scaling-up	Is the project innovative, for example, in its design, method of financing, technology, business model, policy, monitoring and evaluation, or learning?	Innovation is the weakest point of this project. The team is encouraged to look beyond the 'business as usual' tools. There are experiences of successful business models, of new forms of building capacity that need to be considered in this project.
	Is there a clearly-articulated vision of how the innovation will be scaled-up, for example, over time, across geographies, among institutional actors?	Partly, the project identifies linkages with other projects that are being implemented in the study area and there is a good section on KM. A good theory of change would help to streghten this vision.
	Will incremental adaptation be required, or more fundamental transformational change to achieve long term sustainability?	Given the socio-political situation of the country, increemental adaptation is required to achieve long term sustainability.
1b. Project Map and Coordinates. Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.		the project area coordinates, geogrpahic names and a map are provided.
2. Stakeholders. Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase: Indigenous people and local communities; Civil society organizations; Private sector entities.If none of the above, please explain why. In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the project preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement.	Have all the key relevant stakeholders been identified to cover the complexity of the problem, and project implementation barriers?	There is a good listing and description of stakeholders, although more detail needs to be provided on the private enterprises and livestock producers given the project claims they are to be one of the main beneficiaries.
	What are the stakeholders' roles, and how will their combined roles contribute to robust project design, to achieving global environmental outcomes, and to lessons learned and knowledge?	there is an initial identification of roles and contributions of stakeholders. The preparation of a theory of change would enable more clarity on the 'inputs' (stages of the implementation), and responding to who is to do what and when.

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. Please briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis). Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment? Yes/no/ tbd. If possible, indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality: access to and control over resources; participation and decision-making; and/or economic benefits or services. Will the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators? yes/no /tbd	Have gender differentiated risks and opportunities been identified, and were preliminary response measures described that would address these differences?	yes they have been differentiated, and the team is encouraged to identify how activities designed will contribute to gender mainstreaming. Particularly given the statement "Women in the mobile pastoralist communities (one of the two target communities of this Project) are traditionally very reserved. The project looks forward to addressing this highly complex challenge". To this end STAP suggests using UN Women publication https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2018/2/towards-a-gender-responsive-implementation-of-the-un-convention-to-combat-desertification
	Do gender considerations hinder full participation of an important stakeholder group (or groups)? If so, how will these obstacles be addressed?	The Project will acknowledge gender differences, it will assess and comprehensively understand them, and it will then design and implement activities that promote women's empowerment and gender equality. The Project will seek to lessen the impact of climate change on women and other particularly vulnerable groups and contribute to women's empowerment and gender equality. A
5. Risks. Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design	Are the identified risks valid and comprehensive? Are the risks specifically for things outside the project's control?	Yes. Risks have been identi ed with preliminary mitigation measures. Risks will be reviewed comprehensively, and mitigation measures will be strengthened during the PPG phase
	Are there social and environmental risks which could affect the project?	the risks identified are mostly political (and rightly so). Environmental risks (animal epidemics) are identified as well. The weakest consideration is given to risks assocaited to increasing climatic extreme events.
	For climate risk, and climate resilience measures:	
	· How will the project's objectives or outputs be affected by climate risks over the period 2020 to 2050, and have the impact of these risks been addressed adequately?	the project will support the completion and implementation of a comprehensive sustainable land use management framework focused upon improving private producers and enterprises capacity to address climate change impacts. The framework will consist of comprehensive land use planning and management agreements designed to support financial coping strategies.
	· Has the sensitivity to climate change, and its impacts, been assessed?	Partly. This needs improvement (see earlier comments)\
	· Have resilience practices and measures to address projected climate risks and impacts been considered? How will these be dealt with?	STAP recommends using RAPTA in component 1 of the project to account for resilient practices and mesaure to address projected climate risks.
	· What technical and institutional capacity, and information, will be needed to address climate risks and resilience enhancement measures?	not clear
6. Coordination. Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF-financed and other related initiatives	Are the project proponents tapping into relevant knowledge and learning generated by other projects, including GEF projects?	yes
	Is there adequate recognition of previous projects and the learning derived from them?	yes
	Have specific lessons learned from previous projects been cited?	yes
	How have these lessons informed the project's formulation?	that step is explained, and the team is encouraged to consider other projects (see earlier comments).
	Is there an adequate mechanism to feed the lessons learned from earlier projects into this project, and to share lessons learned from it into future projects?	yes, explained in the PIF. See comments below to improve it.

8. Knowledge management. Outline the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, and how it will contribute to the project's overall impact, including plans to learn from relevant projects, initiatives and evaluations.	What overall approach will be taken, and what knowledge management indicators and metrics will be used?	"FAO will take a lead in disseminating knowledge projects regionally and globally. Knowledge management will be an integral part of the project, enabling institutional memory, promoting learning and continuous improvement, generating documents for up-scaling of lessons and best practices.The broader dissemination of experience and lessons learnt generated by the project will be also pursued though engaging national and regional technical and educational institutions, and regionally and internationally through South-South cooperation mechanism". STAP recommends the team reaches out to other KM platforms like the UNCCD Knowledge Hub, and those specific to climate change adaptation and to drylands, and other African platforms for the dissemination of knowledge. It would be good if Higher Education Institutions of Sudan like the University of Khartoum, the Sudan University of Science and Technology, the International University of Africa are engaged in the project, as they can become repositories of knowledge and information that remains in the country and can impact a much larger population than that of the project area.
	What plans are proposed for sharing, disseminating and scaling-up results, lessons and experience?	Plans are identified at state, national and global level for disseminating and scaling up. See above STAP recommendations.
STAP advisory response	**Brief explanation of advisory response and action proposed**	
1. Concur	STAP acknowledges that on scientific or technical grounds the concept has merit. 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.	
	* In cases where the STAP acknowledges the project has merit on scientific and technical grounds, the STAP will recognize this in the screen by stating that *"STAP is satisfied with the scientific and technical quality of the proposal and encourages the proponent to develop it with same rigor. At any time during the development of the project, the proponent is invited to approach STAP to consult on the design."*	
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 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:	The LCDC programme is to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience to CC. As such the component 1 should conduct an assessment of the adaptive capacity, vulnerability to CC and resilience of the current system (formed by social capital, human and natural capitals). VGGT are guidelines, not a methodological approach to assess the current vulnerability of the system and its adaptive capacity. VGGT are highly relevant to the social and governance situation of Dafur, and could be integrated with approaches like the RAPTA. The project needs to develop a theory of change and it needs to identify the global environmental benefits it will deliver, and associate indicators to those foreseen benefits.
	(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. 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.	