Part I: Project Information		Response
GEF ID		10160
Project Title		Increased resilience and adaptive capacity of the most vulnerable communities to climate change in Forested Guinea
Date of Screening		
STAP member Screener		Graciela Metternicht
STAP secretariat screener		Guadalupe Duron
STAP Overall Assessment		**Minor issues to be considered during project design.** STAP welcomes UNDP's project which aims to reduce the vulnerability of communities in Forested Guinea posed by climate change through the adoption of climate smart agro-sylvopastoral strategies. STAP is satisfied with the scientific and technical quality of the proposal and encourages the proponent to develop it with the same rigor. At any time during the development of the project, the proponent is invited to approach STAP to consult on the design. The proposal addresses the three objectives of the LDCF programme, and STAP has specific suggestions for the team to consider: a) develop a theory of change to guide project design and implementation; b) give due consideration to understanding how to influence farmers' decision-making behavior, and the role of ICT for information dissemination in designing component 1 (output 1.3); c) use the Resilience, Adaptation Pathways and Transformation Approach (RAPTA) https://research.csiro.au/eap/rapta/ in Component 1 of the project; d) consider water harvesting as a CSA agriculture (the project mentions a series of appendices that have shortlisted CSA for the area but these are not part of the documentation); e) consider the publication of UN Women on gender responsive implementation of the UNCCD https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2018/2/towards-a-gender-responsive-implementation-of-the-un-convention-to-combat-desertification as it has several case studies of successful, tailored activities focused on sustainable land management that inter-alia contribute to climate change adaptation. Lastly, STAP notes that in paragraph 26 the UNDP team rightly raises concerns on the future viability of integrated fish-rice farming given the projected shifts of rainfall patterns that will not guarantee being able to irrigate paddy fields in the future. However, in paragraph 27 the team praises the interventions of SOGUIPAH (private sector) in promoting the adoption of fish ponds to contribute to stabilize ground water. STAP recommends for the project developers to carefully analyze the activities to be fostered given the climatic shifts highlighted in paragraph 26. In this regard, the project proponents are encouraged to use a climate risk assessment tool, such as the USAID's methods: https://www.climatelinks.org/sites/default/files/asset/document/Guinea_CRP_Final_0.pdf
Part I: Project Information		
B. Indicative Project Description Summary		
Project Objective	Is the objective clearly defined, and consistently related to the problem diagnosis?	yes
Project components	A brief description of the planned activities. Do these support the project's objectives?	yes
Outcomes	A description of the expected short-term and medium-term effects of an intervention.	yes
	Do the planned outcomes encompass important global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits?	Yes, section 1.5 makes a good bottom up link and narrative on how local benefits scale to global environmental benefits.
	Are the global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits likely to be generated?	The forecasted benefits are very likely to be achieved, and the STAP suggest the preparation of a theory of change to ensure that external and internal factors that may hinder project completion and delivery of expected outcomes are addressed in a timely manner.
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?	Yes, the project makes a coherent description of the products that will underpin the expected outcomes. STAP wishes to highlight that a Theory of change and logic framework can maximise the effectiveness and efficiency of outputs that added up will achieve the desired project objective

Part II: Project justification	A simple narrative explaining the project's logic, i.e. a theory of change.	The project has a basic narrative of what it could be considered a theory of change, though STAP recommends that in addition to establish a vision, the ToC has underlying assumptions (why will doing this will lead to the outcomes); it identifies who will be involved, and what will happen as result of the activities planned. The former will help attaining the long-term strategy for sustainable and climate resilient regional development will be to improve the livelihoods of the most vulnerable communities, who would otherwise be those most threatened and impacted by climate change set by the project.
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?	The team has developed a very sound statement of the problem. STAP recommends that in the future appropriate references are included to back up the arguments.
	Are the barriers and threats well described, and substantiated by data and references?	The barriers to project implementation are duly identified and very well described, though they lack a good support of data and references. STAP recommends that due attention to this shortcoming is given in the project development phase.
	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?	The project makes a very good identification of the baselines scenario and associate baseline projects, though it misses to include Annex F with the complete list of description of the baseline projects cited. The team identifies relevant projects that will complement and enhance the current LDCF.
	Does it provide a feasible basis for quantifying the project's benefits?	There is an estimation of benefit through the number of climate-vulnerable communities whose resilience will be improved as result of this intervention (14,000 households); and a benefit of 10,000 ha of land to be introduced to CSA. The STAP recommends the team to research whether additional indicators could be developed to better quantify the project benefits.
	Is the baseline sufficiently robust to support the additional cost reasoning for the project?	yes.
	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	The proposal includes a good summary of GEF and non-GEF projects that are complementary; mention is also done of outputs that originate from other projects and will be essential to the success of this project. STAP encourages the team to research lessons learned from prior projects in regard to best practice to influence farmers behaviour change. The latter will be essential to revert ingrained practices of farming that are mentioned in paragraph 12 of the proposal, as well as to foster adoption of new CSA (e.g. seed varieties the team mention exist but have not been taken up by farmers).
	how did these lessons inform the design of this project?	It informed the identification of barriers and the design of components that encompass the expected outputs.

3) the proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project	What is the theory of change?	A long-term strategy for sustainable and climate resilient regional development will improve the livelihoods of the most vulnerable communities, who would otherwise be those most threatened and impacted by climate change. That vision requires land-use and socioeconomic activities that are more productive and sustainable under current climate-change scenarios. The main way to accomplish this is through the large-scale adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture as the dominant approach to a resilient rural economy. Activities are therefore grouped under: a) Component 1 for development and implementation of such innovative agrosylvo-pastoral technologies; b) Components 2 and 3 to enable implementation of activities under component 1. Component 2 to enable the necessary financial mechanisms for climate-specific investments that are needed to mainstream climate change adaptation into the rural economy of Forested Guinea; and c) Component 3 to mainstream climate risks and adaptation options into planning tools and decision-making.
	What is the sequence of events (required or expected) that will lead to the desired outcomes?	The sequence of events is well described under 'expected outcomes and compoentnat of the project'. STAP recommends the preparation of a ToC (see above) to idenfy any potential hicaps in the implementation (e.g. crucial deliverables from complementary projects that are needed for this LDCF)
	· What is the set of linked activities, outputs, and outcomes to address the project's objectives?	Activities are grouped under 'components' which are linked to the outputs that satisfy the expected outcome.
	· Are the mechanisms of change plausible, and is there a well-informed identification of the underlying assumptions?	The proposed mechanisms to encourage transformative change are described and the project would benefit greatly from having underlying assumptions clearly stated as mentioned previously.
	· Is there a recognition of what adaptations may be required during project implementation to respond to changing conditions in pursuit of the targeted outcomes?	Under 'risks' the project describes some initiatives that could be applied to respond to changing conditions. The preparation of a Theory of Change would strengthen this early work. STAP recommends that due attention is given to adaptations that may be needed for dissemination of knowledge and uptake of CSA. Due consideration of the local context and understanding of the prevailing ways that farmers source information and the trust they pose on the 'information channels' is an important adaptation aspect to consider.
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.
6) global environmental benefits (GEF trust fund) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)	Are the benefits truly global environmental benefits, and are they measurable?	As previously mentioned, the team has done a good job in linking local benefits to global environmental benefits. The team is encouraged to research indicators and metrics that could be added to the current narrative to strengthen the 'measurability' of the said global benefits.
	Is the scale of projected benefits both plausible and compelling in relation to the proposed investment?	yes
	Are the adaptation benefits explicitly defined?	Yes, the team has done a very good job in defining the benefits arising from implementation of CSA practices.
	Are indicators, or methodologies, provided to demonstrate how the adaptation benefits will be measured and monitored during project implementation?	The current description is very good at stating 'what will be done' to achieve the set objectives. However, 'how' (method/techniques) will it be done is sometimes less clear, though STAP is confident that necessary level of detail will be added in the next phase of the project design. STAP reiterates the importance of considering RAPTA, behavioural change practices, the influence of ICT for dissemination and adoption of new practices, and due attention to the design of indicators that can enable measuring and monitoring adaptation benefits DURING the project implementation. STAP suggest the team considers designing 'activity-based' indicators that can be linked to 'outcome-based' indicators to facilitate tracking progress during project implementation.

	What activities will be implemented to increase the project's resilience to climate change?	The core of the project is to foster the adoption of climate smart agricultural practices, which account for resilience. The STAP encourages the team to adopt aspects of the RAPTA methodology to identify early in the project the 'resilience of the socio-economic system' that is the Forested Guinea
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?	The project provides innovation in the way that elements of CSA are proposed and will be integrated to fulfil the objective of increased resilience and adaptive capacity of the most vulnerable communities to climate change in Forested Guinea. The STAP recommends that innovation be 'proofed' against the local context and that careful selection of CSA practices to be promoted is done after an initial assessment of the 'Forested Guinea socio-ecological system' for its resilience.
	Is there a clearly-articulated vision of how the innovation will be scaled-up, for example, over time, across geographies, among institutional actors?	The project establishes a good pathway for scaling up and out the outputs and in that way achieve outcomes that are durable. The STAP recommends the team look into 'scaling deep' (that is through promotion of behaviour change, challenging ingrained perceptions and values of farmers). The team can consult the STAP document http://www.stapgef.org/achieving-enduring-outcomes-gef-investment
	Will incremental adaptation be required, or more fundamental transformational change to achieve long term sustainability?	incremental adaptation as described in the project document.
1b. Project Map and Coordinates. Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.		yes; the team is encouraged to source relevant land use and land cover information for the study area from the national agencies and or the ESA Climate Change Initiative (land cover maps at 300 meters spatial resolution).
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?	Yes, the project has identified initial core/relevant stakeholders. The STAP recommends the team conducts a stakeholder analysis to identify key stakeholders to be involved in the different phases of the project and to ensure that beneficiary groups are not excluded. A power/influence diagram is good to provide a 'whole picture' of the landscape of stakeholders. It can also help to anticipate who can help in addressing implementation barriers.
	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?	The project describes in a generalised manner the different roles that main stakeholders will take in the project. STAP recommends that more thought is given to the identification of stakeholders that can help in enduring project outcomes. For instance, other stakeholders may be relevant to ensure an open and equalitarian access to the CSA platform to be developed. How to ensure that potential beneficiaries not currently associated to the IRAG-GF could access to the tools the CSA platform will contain? How could higher education institutions (Universities) help to ensure that in the future training (via extension services) can be provided even if the project funding ceases?
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 the project has given a good thought to gender equality, and a list of measures are mentioned to that end. STAP recommends the team considers UN Women's publication on the design of gender-sensitive interventions for addressing land degradation, as it has many good cases studies of successful implementation of activities that empower women. https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2018/2/towards-a-gender-responsive-implementation-of-the-un-convention-to-combat-desertification . As well the consideration of the GEF documentation on gender mainstreaming.
	Do gender considerations hinder full participation of an important stakeholder group (or groups)? If so, how will these obstacles be addressed?	This aspect has been initially addressed and see above activities and publications that STAP suggest to ensure that women and other vulnerable groups are consdired.

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, there is a good description of political and social risks and measures to address them.
	Are there social and environmental risks which could affect the project?	STAP suggest the project revisits the risk section to ensure that all potential socio-economic risks are considered.
	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 describes the climate change challenges of the Forested Guinea and that includes projections of future patterns of climatic variability. The adoption of CSA practices (main focus of the project) addresses these risks.
	· Has the sensitivity to climate change, and its impacts, been assessed?	The team cites complementary projects that will provide this information. STAP recommends that the team considers conducting a Vulnerability impact assessment using the UNEP methodology https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/report/vulnerability-and-climate-change-impact-assessments-adaptation-module , or similar.
	· Have resilience practices and measures to address projected climate risks and impacts been considered? How will these be dealt with?	yes, that is the core of the project.
	· What technical and institutional capacity, and information, will be needed to address climate risks and resilience enhancement measures?	The project identifies the technical and institutional capacities needed to address climate risks and measures to enhance resilience. The STAP agrees with the team's plan of using the preparation phase to identify, cost and assess the feasibility of the many CSA measures that are proposed these days so that the most effective for the project area are selected.
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?	not specifically
	How have these lessons informed the project's formulation?	not mentioned specifically
	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?	The baseline of each component identifies relevant complementary projects that will furnish data and information relevant to the project. Furthermore component 3 describes pathways for mainstreaming adaptation into local practices. STAP recommends the team explores the relevance of ICT (mobile phones, apps) to disseminate, in a user friendly manner, agro-meteorological services and products that will be of importance for the farmers to implement the CSA practices. The team is encouraged to explore cooperation with global platforms like WOCAT and the UNCCD Knowledge Hub (which has now a platform for drought exclusively) to maximise the dissemination of lessons learned in this project. And likewise, liaise with Universities of the country explore the design of short courses focused on extension services for CSA, and/or the introduction of CSA practices from this project in degrees of agricultural sciences.
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?	The baseline of each component identifies relevant complementary projects that will furnish data and information relevant to the project. Furthermore component 3 describes pathways for mainstreaming adaptation into local practices. STAP recommends the team explores the relevance of ICT (mobile phones, apps) to disseminate, in a user friendly manner, agro-meteorological services and products that will be of importance for the farmers to implement the CSA practices. The team is encouraged to explore cooperation with global platforms like WOCAT and the UNCCD Knowledge Hub (which has now a platform for drought exclusively) to maximise the dissemination of lessons learned in this project. And likewise, liaise with Universities of the country explore the design of short courses focused on extension services for CSA, and/or the introduction of CSA practices from this project in degrees of agricultural sciences.

	What plans are proposed for sharing, disseminating and scaling-up results, lessons and experience?	Section 1.6 details the activities envisaged for scaling up and out project outcomes and section on stakeholders describes some of the roles of some stakeholder groups in this tasks. See earlier comments of STAP in regards to scaling deep (changing perceptions, values) of the project outputs for endurance of outcomes.
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:	
	(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.	