

Part I: Project Information		Response
GEF ID	10356	
Project Title	Conservation and sustainable management of lakes, wetlands, and riparian corridors as pillars of a resilient and land degradation neutral Aral basin landscape supporting sustainable livelihoods	
Date of Screening	8-Dec-19	
STAP member Screener	Blake Ratner	
STAP secretariat screener	Virginia Gorsevski	
STAP Overall Assessment		Concur: STAP welcomes the project to promote sustainable management of lands, wetlands, and riparian corridors in Uzbekistan. STAP feels it is a well-defined project with very clear rationale for restoration in a region that suffered iconic environmental disaster following unsustainable economic policies. The project includes very good specification of measurable outcomes. In addition, it has a good narrative of an initial theory of change, with important recognition of sequencing and underlying assumptions. The project presents a clear recognition of the need for transformational change and long-term approach, including catalyzing financing for restoration well beyond the period of project implementation. A thorough analysis of lessons from prior initiatives will be essential to the next stage of project development.
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, with good specification of quantitative outcome targets
	Do the planned outcomes encompass important global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits?	Yes, following iconic disaster
	Are the global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits likely to be generated?	Reasonable expectation, given approach and broad partnership
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, well structured
Part II: Project justification	A simple narrative explaining the project's logic, i.e. a theory of change.	
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, with good supporting data
	Are the barriers and threats well described, and substantiated by data and references?	Yes

	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?	Yes, BD and LD objectives clearly integrated
2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects	Is the baseline identified clearly?	Yes, with good reference to broader economic policy context
	Does it provide a feasible basis for quantifying the project's benefits?	Adequate baseline data in other sections of PIF
	Is the baseline sufficiently robust to support the incremental (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;	Yes, indicators well specified with definitions
	are the lessons learned from similar or related past GEF and non-GEF interventions described; and	Not in this section
	how did these lessons inform the design 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?	"The theory of change is based on the assumption that before any significant changes in agricultural practices are deemed economically viable, the inefficiencies should be "fixed" in the water management sector. Once a multisectoral approach to collaborative water management is demonstrated as the only viable scenario, the sectors that depend on irrigation will receive an "inflow" for the reforms that will be driven, inter alia, by the LDN commitments of the country. Without a fundamental change in water management approach, the changes in the sectors that depend on irrigation will hardly be meaningful enough to produce the long-term effects."
	What is the sequence of events (required or expected) that will lead to the desired outcomes?	Change water management approach before realizing shift in irrigation-dependent sectors
	· What is the set of linked activities, outputs, and outcomes to address the project's objectives?	Well described
	· Are the mechanisms of change plausible, and is there a well-informed identification of the underlying assumptions?	Yes, with good recognition of long-term challenges
	· Is there a recognition of what adaptations may be required during project implementation to respond to changing conditions in pursuit of the targeted outcomes?	Yes
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?	Reasonable expectation, with focus of incremental funding well specified at component level
	LDCF/SCCF: will the proposed incremental activities lead to adaptation which reduces vulnerability, builds adaptive capacity, and increases resilience to climate 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?	Yes, with good specification of quantitative outcome targets; also good application of LDN Checklist to confirm approach

	Is the scale of projected benefits both plausible and compelling in relation to the proposed investment?	Yes, with high leverage of co-financing
	Are the global environmental benefits explicitly defined?	Yes
	Are indicators, or methodologies, provided to demonstrate how the global environmental benefits will be measured and monitored during project implementation?	Yes, well specified
	What activities will be implemented to increase the project's resilience to climate change?	Climate resilience measures well integrated
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?	Yes. Integration of conservation and water management approaches innovative in this context. Good elements on grazing management, natural regeneration of forest and fodder, adaptations to high salinity environment.
	Is there a clearly-articulated vision of how the innovation will be scaled-up, for example, over time, across geographies, among institutional actors?	Yes, with domain of potential replication well specified
	Will incremental adaptation be required, or more fundamental transformational change to achieve long term sustainability?	Explicit recognition: "The proposed project calls for a transformational– deep, systemic and sustainable–change in the water and land management pattern within the LADAB landscape of Uzbekistan."
1b. Project Map and Coordinates. Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.		
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?	Well described, including multiple financing bodies and user associations
	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?	Well described
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?	Brief and well described, with reference to production systems and higher-level decision making.

	Do gender considerations hinder full participation of an important stakeholder group (or groups)? If so, how will these obstacles be addressed?	Yes. Various measures identified; to be further detailed during full project development.
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, including economic and institutional factors, as well as climate change risks
	Are there social and environmental risks which could affect the project?	Yes
	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?	Risk considered low; may be underestimated
	· Has the sensitivity to climate change, and its impacts, been assessed?	Yes, initially
	· Have resilience practices and measures to address projected climate risks and impacts been considered? How will these be dealt with?	Yes, well integrated
	· What technical and institutional capacity, and information, will be needed to address climate risks and resilience enhancement measures?	Resilience measures are at the heart of the intervention
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?	Apparently yes
	Is there adequate recognition of previous projects and the learning derived from them?	Brief recognition, notably under KM; more specific analysis of prior lessons required for full project development
	Have specific lessons learned from previous projects been cited?	Briefly, under KM
	How have these lessons informed the project's formulation?	Yes
	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, included as first function of KM plan under PPG

<p>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.</p>	<p>What overall approach will be taken, and what knowledge management indicators and metrics will be used?</p>	<p>KM section refers to retrospective capture of lessons but does not yet specify approaches to future sharing</p>
	<p>What plans are proposed for sharing, disseminating and scaling-up results, lessons and experience?</p>	<p>Not detailed yet in this section, though theory of change gives this strong emphasis, recognizing massive scale of investment required to support transformation.</p>
<p>STAP advisory response</p>	<p>Brief explanation of advisory response and action proposed</p>	
<p>1. Concur</p>	<p>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.</p>	
	<p><i>* 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.”</i></p>	
<p>2. Minor issues to be considered during project design</p>	<p>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>	
	<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>	
<p>3. Major issues to be considered during project design</p>	<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. 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>	