

STAP guidelines for screening GEF projects

Part I: Project Information	Response
GEF ID	10444
Project Title	Development of an integrated system to promote the natural capital in the drylands of Mauritania
Date of Screening	24 May 2020
STAP member screener	Graciela Metternicht
STAP secretariat screener	Guadalupe Duron
STAP Overall Assessment and Rating	<p>Minor issues to be considered during project design</p> <p>STAP welcomes the project on Improving rural communities' livelihoods in the wilayas of Adrar, Inchiri and Dakhlet Nouadhibou in Mauritania through sustainable land restoration and Management. The project seeks to address impacts of land degradation and desertification by applying Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN). STAP welcomes the proposed landscape approach, the strong focus on scaling up rangelands rehabilitation actions, and the focus on inclusion of the private sector in the design of interventions and support for implementation of actions conducive to land degradation neutrality. The project identifies risks, including climate change related (increased droughts and flash floods).</p> <p>STAP recommends that in developing the PPG the team further examines vulnerability to climate change, in terms of how the proposed interventions may contribute to reducing the vulnerability to climate risks; whether proposed interventions may increase vulnerability to climate risks or lead to maladaptation, and measures for preventing this, and —where appropriate— the feasibility, effectiveness, tradeoffs, and co-benefits of the proposed climate risk management options, and its alignment with project objectives and expected outcomes.</p> <p>In regards to LDN, the STAP recommends assessments include mapping the <i>potential of the land</i> for the generation of ecosystem services. Furthermore, STAP</p>

	<p>recommends for the monitoring system to include complementary national and sub-national indicators for locally-relevant ecosystem services of the wilajas that are not covered by SOC, NPP or land cover change indicators of LDN. In this regard, the STAP LDN guidelines can be a useful source to the project team.</p> <p>STAP congratulates the team for supporting local communities through an approach that integrates traditional knowledge with scientific approaches. Below, STAP specifies its guidance further.</p>	
Part I: Project Information B. Indicative Project Description Summary	What STAP looks for	Response
Project Objective	Is the objective clearly defined, and consistently related to the problem diagnosis?	Page 25 states the objective clearly: “to strengthen the resilience of rural communities in the wilayas of Adrar, Inchiri and Daklet Nouadhibou in Mauritania through sustainable land restoration and management” This objective and associated aim are consistent with the problem stated, including the drivers and barriers identified.
Project components	A brief description of the planned activities. Do these support the project’s objectives?	Proposed activities under four components support the project objectives.
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?	The Theory of change (appendix – was missing). However, the overall aims is that planned interventions generate global environmental benefits through the restoration of 70,000 hectares of degraded land and contribute to the sequestration of 245,000 metric tons of CO2. The PIF describes how these outcomes related to global environmental benefits, including MEAs. The project will promote interconnectedness between environmental objectives and the social and economic one.
	Are the global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits likely to be generated?	Yes, the STAP recommends that monitoring systems to be developed as part of outcome 1.2 (setting up of a monitoring and information systems on LDN achievements) includes national

		and sub-national indicators, complementary to the 3 global LDN indicators, as advised in the LDN Conceptual framework (pgs 100-101)
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 describes very well how output services and products connect to outcomes. In regard to output 1.1.2 (90 national and local experts are trained for implementing arid lands assessments) STAP recommends the use of the LDN guidelines for GEF projects (see list of bibliography at the end of this document) In regards to services that will address gaps in technical capacities of implementing partners as well as other relevant stakeholders the project suggests trainings will be delivered under outcome 1 and 2. STAP recommends ICT tools be explored and adopted or training based on blended learning. There are many good practice and lessons coming from building capacity in rural areas of Africa that are taking advantage of ICT (see list of bibliography at the end), and it is worth the executing agency explores those as it can reach more population, some times with higher efficiency and lower costs.
Part II: Project justification	A simple narrative explaining the project's logic, i.e. a theory of change.	STAP could not access the annex of the PIF that contained the Theory of Change, though the narrative provided is clear and STAP recommends revising the ToC as the PPG develops. The current situation: Mauritania root barriers and gaps for restoration and sustainable management of drylands: 1. Limited knowledge of drylands management and of appropriate approaches and interventions for dryland ecosystems 2. Institutional and technical capacity gaps of national and local government to assess drylands ecosystems and to implement appropriate sustainable land restoration and management approaches 3. Weak engagement of actors to leverage enough investment for land restoration and management.

		<p>The vision: to strengthen the resilience of rural communities in the wilayas of Adrar, Inchiri and Daklet Nouadhibou in Mauritania through sustainable land restoration and management.</p> <p>Through using ecosystem-based approaches for drylands governance and restoration the project will strengthen knowledge and capacity for more effective governance to enable sustainable land management by rural populations. Actions will support communal resource management arrangements in areas where resource competition is highest. Stakeholders operating in the area, such as mining concessions, will be consulted to identify safe guards and opportunities for ensuring net positive environmental outcomes.</p> <p>Interventions will work to build government and local communities capacities for implementing arid lands assessments, planning and management; and also will target local communities sustainable land management governance systems in the targeted wilayas. The outcome will be ecosystem-based value chains of dryland products to create incentives and income generation means for local communities. As results of the involvement of the private sector in SLM using a “business and biodiversity” approach, actors will realise profits by protecting the environment and restoring lands.</p>
<p>1. Project description. Briefly describe: 1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description)</p>	<p>Is the problem statement well-defined?</p>	<p>yes</p>
	<p>Are the barriers and threats well described, and substantiated by data and references?</p>	<p>yes</p>

	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?	
2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects	Is the baseline identified clearly?	
	Does it provide a feasible basis for quantifying the project's benefits?	yes
	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;	
	are the lessons learned from similar or related past GEF and non-GEF interventions described; and	STAP congratulates the team that developed the PIF for their clear and concise identification of prior projects (GEF and non-GEF) that provides lessons and good practice that this project plans to apply, adapt and in some cases scale out.
	how did these lessons inform the design of this project?	The section of Coordination describes how lessons from previous projects listed in that section have informed project design. For example, pg 43 describes that the proposed project will benefit from lessons learned and NTFP markets developed by the PGDP, while generating additional knowledge on land restoration, SLM and ecosystem-based adaptation.
3) the proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project	What is the theory of change?	See above
	What is the sequence of events (required or expected) that will lead to the desired outcomes?	See above
	What is the set of linked activities, outputs, and outcomes to address the project's objectives?	See above

	Are the mechanisms of change plausible, and is there a well-informed identification of the underlying assumptions?	The team could work more on developing assumptions as part of the ToC, and to this end the recent STAP's theory of change primer: https://www.stapgef.org/theory-change-primer could be used.
	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 Risk section (pg 38) identifies adaptations (mitigation measures) that may be needed during project implementation.
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?	Yes, however, STAP would appreciate that a clear explanation is provided on the approach adopted to estimate that 70,000 ha of arid landscape will be under improved governance and Drought-Smart Land Management as result of the interventions. It is also unclear how the team concludes that the project contributes to the sequestration of 245,000 metric tons of CO2; and that 9000 ha of terrestrial protected areas will be under improved management for conservation and sustainable use
	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/adaptation benefits, and are they measurable?	Yes, they are and STAP suggests the methods for 'measuring' such GEBs be better described in the PPG.
	Is the scale of projected benefits both plausible and compelling in relation to the proposed investment?	yes
	Are the global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits explicitly defined?	yes
	Are indicators, or methodologies, provided to demonstrate how the global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits will be measured and monitored during project implementation?	Yes, and see earlier comments about the need to include indicators for monitoring that are relevant to the context of the project intervention areas and complementary to the three global indicators of LDN.
	What activities will be implemented to increase the project's resilience to climate change?	The PIF activities to increase resilience to climate change are focused mainly on strengthen ecosystem-based value chains of agricultural and dryland products, and to introduce drought smart land management practices (D-SLM). The project plans to strengthen establishment drylands

		products value chains that will diversify local communities' income generation. STAP recommends that activities planned be screened for vulnerability to climate change (i.e. exposure, sensitivity).
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 is innovative in the implementation of LDN and the strengthening of the LDN enabling environment. STAP appreciates the inclusion of complementary indicators for monitoring LDN (see above) and of experimenting with new modes of delivery of learning and training (e.g. ICT based, considering cultural values and gender perspectives as well as technology access). A list of relevant bibliography with successful case studies in Africa is provided at the end of this document.
	Is there a clearly-articulated vision of how the innovation will be scaled-up, for example, over time, across geographies, among institutional actors?	The PIF articulates very well the way in which they plan to scale up and out the project outcomes. STAP suggests that at PPG stage the team devotes some time to think how to also scale deep (the PIF mentions behavioral change as one area to targeted, yet no indication on how and where this is to be done, and why it will be done)
	Will incremental adaptation be required, or more fundamental transformational change to achieve long term sustainability?	Section 1.a.5 provides a very well written overview of the scenarios with and without GEF interventions. The vision is that the GEF intervention will require transformational changes in the socio-ecological system to be intervened in order to achieve long term sustainability. The focus of the project on strengthening the enabling environment (policy, government) of Mauritania for LDN implementation is a way to ensure that durability of project outcomes, as it is a focus on behavioral change.
1b. Project Map and Coordinates. Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.		STAP could not access the annex that had the map, and checked the areas using Google Earth.

<p>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.</p>	<p>Have all the key relevant stakeholders been identified to cover the complexity of the problem, and project implementation barriers?</p>	<p>Yes, page 34 provides a list of relevant stakeholders identified and consulted in the preparation of the PIF and STAP is satisfied this mapping and identification exercise can help in the PPG phase to decide who is to be consulted, when, what for, and who is going to be responsible for what actions/reporting/interventions.</p>
	<p>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?</p>	<p>Stakeholders have different roles in the approach and interventions envisaged. Those roles are explained in the PIF and STAP suggest that in the knowledge management section the UNCCD Knowledge Hub be included as a stakeholder to help in global dissemination of the project outputs (products and services, particularly those related to training).</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>Have gender differentiated risks and opportunities been identified, and were preliminary response measures described that would address these differences?</p>	<p>The project clearly recognizes that the solutions to the current problem need to be Gender-sensitive requiring that both men and women, and marginalized members of community contribute to sustainable management of dryland and equitably share the benefits derived from.</p> <p>Page 35 (gender equality and women empowerment) that during PPG gender analysis will be conducted as part of baseline development with gender-disaggregated data in order to complete the understanding of gender-relevant barriers and opportunities and to lay to ground for</p>

<p>empowerment? Yes/no/tbd.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Will the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators? yes/no/tbd</p>		<p>the gender-sensitive project design. The consultations with different gender groups will be organized in a way to ensure that women are able to raise their concerns and contribute effectively to the fine-tuning of project design and its results framework. This might involve consultation in separate gender groups. They plan to include participation targets for the project's training and awareness-raising activities as well as for socio-economic benefits. Emphasize on the involvement of youth will be made as well . The preparation phase will be guided by GEF Gender policy and guidance</p>
	<p>Do gender considerations hinder full participation of an important stakeholder group (or groups)? If so, how will these obstacles be addressed?</p>	<p>See above</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>Are the identified risks valid and comprehensive? Are the risks specifically for things outside the project's control? Are there social and environmental risks which could affect the project?</p> <p>For climate risk, and climate resilience measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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? • Has the sensitivity to climate change, and its impacts, been assessed? • Have resilience practices and measures to address projected climate risks and impacts been considered? How will these be dealt with? • What technical and institutional capacity, and information, will be needed to address climate risks and resilience enhancement measures? 	<p>The section of risks is very thorough and valid. STAP appreciates that when developing the PPG attention is given to the feasibility, effectiveness, tradeoffs, and co-benefits of the proposed climate risk management options, and its alignment with project objectives and expected outcomes. Furthermore, the team is encouraged to evaluate the possibility that the proposed interventions increase vulnerability to climate risks or lead to maladaptation, and measures for preventing this.</p>
<p>6. Coordination. Outline the coordination with other</p>	<p>Are the project proponents tapping into relevant knowledge and learning generated by other projects, including GEF projects?</p>	<p>This PIF describes very well prior projects that will be sourced to tap into relevant knowledge and</p>

relevant GEF-financed and other related initiatives		learning and it also recognizes the learning derived from previous projects.
	Is there adequate recognition of previous projects and the learning derived from them?	
	Have specific lessons learned from previous projects been cited?	
	How have these lessons informed the project's formulation?	
	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 methodological approach proposed is an effective way to feed lessons learned from previous projects.
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 way the team proposed to manage knowledge is very suitable for the context of Mauritania, and it will strengthen the ‘hub for drylands of Mauritania’ -CNOEZA- capacities, and among those capacities are the collection and dissemination of evidence-based knowledge. CNOEZA will be equipped with knowledge management platform that the project will support to create. Because the knowledge management system will develop and implement a monitoring and information system on LDN achievements using LDN indicators (output 4.1.3), STAP recommends using the LDN guidelines (see bibliography) and the LDN Scientific Conceptual Framework (see bibliography) and develop indicators complementary to the 3 global LDN (SOC,NPP and landcover/land use change) which relevant to the socio-ecological context of Mauritania. See earlier comments and the suggested literature.
	What plans are proposed for sharing, disseminating and scaling-up results, lessons and experience?	The PIF details the plans for upscaling results and lessons, and STAP recommends including the UNCCD Knowledge Management Hub in addition to the many relevant platforms already mentioned for sharing, disseminating results.

List of bibliography STAP recommends to be considered in the design of the PPG:

Gender and LDN:

UN WOMEN, GLOBAL MECHANISM OF THE UNCCD AND IUCN (2019). A Manual for Gender-Responsive Land Degradation Neutrality Transformative Projects and Programmes http://catalogue.unccd.int/1223_Gender_Manual.pdf
Global Mechanism of the UNCCD. 2019. Land Degradation Neutrality Interventions to Foster Gender Equality. Bonn, Germany http://catalogue.unccd.int/1222_UNCCD_gender_briefing_note.pdf

LDN Guidelines, LDN scientific conceptual framework and recent lessons on LDN:

Cowie (2019) Guidelines for Land Degradation Neutrality A report prepared for the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility. https://stapgef.org/sites/default/files/publications/LDN%20Technical%20Report_web%20version.pdf

UNCCD-SPI. Scientific Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality. A report of the Science-Policy Interface. <https://www.unccd.int/publications/scientific-conceptual-framework-land-degradation-neutrality-report-science-policy>

Cowie, A.L., Orr, B.J., Sanchez, V.M.C., Chasek, P., Crossman, N.D., Erlewein, A., Louwagie, G., Maron, M., Metternicht, G.I., Minelli, S. and Tengberg, A.E., 2018. Land in balance: The scientific conceptual framework for Land Degradation Neutrality. *Environmental Science & Policy*, 79, pp.25-35.

Global Mechanism of the UNCCD. 2019. Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting: Initial findings and lessons learned. Bonn, Germany. http://catalogue.unccd.int/1217_newLDN_TSP_Initial_Findings_191108.pdf

P.H. Verburg, G. Metternicht, C. Allen, N. Debonne, M. Akhtar-Schuster, M. Inácio da Cunha, Z. Karim, A. Pilon, O. Raja, M. Sánchez Santivañez, and A. Şenyaz. 2019. *Creating an Enabling Environment for Land Degradation Neutrality and its Potential Contribution to Enhancing Well-being, Livelihoods and the Environment*. A Report of the Science-Policy Interface. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Bonn, Germany. http://catalogue.unccd.int/1210_UNCCD_SPI_2019_Report_1.2.pdf

A. Reichhuber, N. Gerber, A. Mirzabaev, M. Svoboda, A. López Santos, V. Graw, R. Stefanski, J. Davies, A. Vuković, M.A. Fernández García, C. Fiati and X. Jia. 2019. *The Land-Drought Nexus: Enhancing the Role of Land-Based Interventions in Drought Mitigation and Risk Management*. A Report of the Science-Policy Interface. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Bonn, Germany. http://catalogue.unccd.int/1211_03EP_UNCCD_SPI_2019_Report_2.pdf

Theory of Change and scaling for sustainability

STAP's theory of change primer: <https://www.stapgef.org/theory-change-primer>

Scaling: <https://www.stapgef.org/achieving-enduring-outcomes-gef-investment>;

Climate change risk screening:

STAP's screening guidelines: <https://www.stapgef.org/sites/default/files/documents/GEF%20AGENCY%20RETREAT%20Mar-Apr%202020.pdf>

World Bank Climate Change Knowledge Portal: <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/>

U.S. Agency for International Development Climate Risk Screening and Management Tools: <https://www.climatelinks.org/resources/climate-risk-screening-management-tool>

Design of activities and processes that are participatory and inclusive:

David, Soniia, and Christopher Asamoah. "Video as a tool for agricultural extension in Africa: a case study from Ghana." *International Journal of Education and Development using ICT* 7, no. 1 (2011): 26-41.

Debesai, Menghistab Ghebreselassie, Tesfai Tsegai Kidane, Woldeselassie Ogbazghi, Woldeamlak Araia, Simon Measho, and Semere Amlesom. "Understanding Drought Coping Mechanisms in Smallholder Farm Households: Evidence from Dry Lands of Eritrea." *Journal of Agricultural Economics* 5, no. 1 (2019): 548-554.

Gumucio, Tatiana, James Hansen, Sophia Huyer, Tiff van Huysen, and Saroja Schwager. "Identifying pathways for more gender-sensitive communication channels in climate services." (2018).

King, Elizabeth G., Ryan R. Unks, and Laura German. "Constraints and capacities for novel livelihood adaptation: lessons from agricultural adoption in an African dryland pastoralist system." *Regional Environmental Change* 18, no. 5 (2018): 1403-1410.

Kpadonou, Rivaldo A. Baba, Tom Owiyo, Bruno Barbier, Fatima Denton, Franck Rutabingwa, and Andre Kiema. "Advancing climate-smart-agriculture in developing drylands: Joint analysis of the adoption of multiple on-farm soil and water conservation technologies in West African Sahel." *Land Use Policy* 61 (2017): 196-207.

Maredia, M. K., Reyes, B., Ba, M. N., Dabire, C. L., Pittendrigh, B., & Bello-Bravo, J. (2018). Can mobile phone-based animated videos induce learning and technology adoption among low-literate farmers? A field experiment in Burkina Faso. *Information Technology for Development*, 24(3), 429-460.

McCormack, Caitlin, 2018. *Key factors in the use of Agricultural Extension Services by women farmers in Babati District, Tanzania : the role of societal gender norms*. Second cycle, A2E. Uppsala: SLU, Dept. of Urban and Rural Development I also find that current measures within AES to target women farmers do not comprehensively address gender norms and there is an apparent lack of gender capacity amongst institutions and staff involved in providing AES

Medhi-Thies, Indrani, Pedro Ferreira, Nakull Gupta, Jacki O'Neill, and Edward Cutrell. "KrishiPustak: a social networking system for low-literate farmers." In Proceedings of the 18th ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work & Social Computing, pp. 1670-1681. 2015.

Mutsvangwa-Sammie, Eness P., Emmanuel Manzungu, and Shephard Siziba. "Key attributes of agricultural innovations in semi-arid smallholder farming systems in south-west Zimbabwe." Physics and Chemistry of the Earth, Parts A/B/C 105 (2018): 125-135.

Ninsiima, D. (2015, May). " Buuza Omulimisa"(ask the extension officer) text messaging for low literate farming communities in rural Uganda. In *Proceedings of the Seventh International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development* (pp. 1-4).

Oguge, N. O. (2019). Building resilience to drought among small-scale farmers in Eastern African drylands through rainwater harvesting: technological options and governance from a food–energy–water nexus perspective. In *Current Directions in Water Scarcity Research* (Vol. 2, pp. 265-276). Elsevier.

Shalander, Kumar, A. M. Whitbread, and K. P. C. Rao. "Innovation platforms as vehicle to strengthen stakeholders capacity to innovate for improved livelihoods in drylands in Asia and Sub Saharan Africa." (2017).

Stakeholder participation: IAP2 public participation spectrum. <https://i2s.anu.edu.au/resources/stakeholder-participation-iap2-public-participation-spectrum/>

Tesfamariam, Yordanos, and Margot Hurlbert. "Gendered adaptation of Eritrean dryland farmers." *International Journal of Climate Change Strategies and Management* (2017).

Drought-smart interventions:

Davies, J., Ogali, C., Laban, P., & Metternicht, G. (2015). Homing in on the range: enabling investments for sustainable land management. Technical brief, 29(01), 2015.

UNCCD-SPI (2019). Drought Impact and Vulnerability Assessment: A Rapid Review of Practices and Policy Recommendations. <https://www.unccd.int/publications/drought-impact-and-vulnerability-assessment-rapid-review-practices-and-policy>

UNCCD (2019) Drought Resilience, Adaptation and Management Policy Framework: Supporting Technical Guidelines. <https://www.unccd.int/publications/drought-resilience-adaptation-and-management-policy-framework-supporting-technical>

GEF-STAP (2016). Designing Projects In A Rapidly Changing World. Guidelines for embedding resilience, adaptation and transformation into sustainable development projects (Version 1.0) A STAP Advisory Document.

<https://stapgef.org/sites/default/files/publications/RAPTA%20Guidelines%20-%20Low%20Resolution.pdf>

Notes

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 <i>“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>
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.