STAP guidelines for screening GEF projects

Part I: Project Information	Response	
GEF ID	10516	
Project Title	Improving the climate resilience of agro-sylvo-pastoral production systems in Burkina Faso	
Date of Screening	April 27, 2020	
STAP member screener	Ed Carr	
STAP secretariat screener	Guadalupe Duron	
STAP Overall Assessment and Rating	**Minor issues to be considered during project design.** STAP welcomes FAO's project "Improving the climate resilience of agro-sylvo-pastoral production systems in Burkina Faso". The project seeks to mainstream climate change adaptation into local governance and institutional frameworks, while strengthening land management for climate resilient agro-sylvo-pastoral systems. STAP is pleased with the project's logic, scientific and technical grounds. In this regard, STAP welcomes the various references to literature, as well as the annexes with the theory of change figure and climate screening information. As the project is developed, STAP recommends revisiting the theory of change's logic emphasizing a systems-based approach, and detailing the assumptions about causal links, and risks – internal and external risks to the project. This process will facilitate an assessment of resilience for the targeted agro-sylvo-pastoral system, as well as enable transformational scaling. Given the potential for risks and opportunities from long term changes (e.g. weather and climate events, increased [or prolonged] displacement of individuals), the project team is strongly encouraged to address these changes in the narrative and figure of the theory of change. Additionally, STAP recommends building thoroughly into the project design what is known about the potential long-term trends in the frequency, or intensity, of the hydro-meterological hazards identified by the FAO team. This	

	will enable planning for durable outcomes. The project also presents an opportunity to increase understanding on the role of climate change in driving migration. The project team may wish to consider structuring assumptions that can be tested on the direct, and indirect, impacts of climate change on the agro-sylvo-pastoral system. Below, STAP provides suggestions on how to strengthen the project design.	
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?	Yes, the objective is defined clearly, and consistently linked to the problem statement.
Project components	A brief description of the planned activities. Do these support the project's objectives?	Yes, the activities support the project objective
Outcomes	A description of the expected short-term and medium-term effects of an intervention. Do the planned outcomes encompass important adaptation benefits?	Yes, the outcomes focus on adaptation benefits.
	Are the global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits likely to be generated?	The benefits are likely to be generated with careful monitoring.
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, outputs are likely to contribute to outcomes.
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. The problem context is described thoroughly, including risks arising from conflict and pressure on natural resources resulting from internally displaced populations. Additionally, climate information is provided along with a description of projected climate change and its impact on agro-sylvo-pastoral systems and livelihoods.
	Are the barriers and threats well described, and substantiated by data and references?	Yes, the PIF describes barriers and threats resulting from climate change on agro-sylvo-pastoral systems. The PIF also describes comprehensively

		the potential links between climate change and: natural resource management; governance; conflict; community cohesion; and livelihoods. Changes in transhumance practices and their impact on water resources and grasslands are also described as a threat. Literature is cited to support these statements on transhumance practices. Resources to assist the project team design interventions that probe, and contribute to understanding on, the links between environmental factors in migration, include: De Longueville, F., et al. "Direct and indirect impacts of environmental factors on migration in Burkina Faso: application of structural equation modelling." Popul Environ 40, 456–479 (2019). https://doi.org/10.1007/s11111-019-00320-x Rater, B. et al. "Environmental security: dimensions and priorities". 2018. http://stapgef.org/sites/default/files/publications/52103%20STAP%20Report_WEB.PDF
	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?	Does not apply.
2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects	Is the baseline identified clearly?	Yes, the PIF includes a narrative baseline.
	Does it provide a feasible basis for quantifying the project's benefits?	Indicators are provided (metadata annex) consistent with the adaptation programme.
	Is the baseline sufficiently robust to support the incremental (additional cost) reasoning for the project?	Yes, the baseline is strong enough to support the adaptation cost reasoning on strengthening resilience; reducing vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change; and enhancing adaptive capacity.

		The term “safety drivers” seems unclear (page 28). Suggest rewording this term in the final project document, or adding a footnote to define the term.
	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;	Does not apply.
	are the lessons learned from similar or related past GEF and non-GEF interventions described; and	Does not apply.
	how did these lessons inform the design of this project?	Does not apply.
3) the proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project	What is the theory of change?	A preliminary theory of change can be described as: “The project seeks to strengthen the resilience of agro-sylvo-pastoral communities and mitigate the risks of land-use conflicts in three regions of the Sudano-Sahelian zone of Burkina Faso, in a context of climate change. Climate change poses a direct and significant risk on agricultural production and livelihoods, potentially causing major food production systems to collapse and therefore significantly influencing climate migration patterns. Rural livelihoods may be disrupted not only by climate change, but also by increasing anthropic pressure from internal migrations to flee insecurity, and transhuming pastoralists seeking more favorable conditions for their cattle. The project will address these climate-induced dynamics, and anticipate potential future scenarios by developing value chains, disseminating sustainable agro-ecological practices, and elaborating landscape management plans while strengthening relevant governance bodies.

		STAP notes that the project seems to describe a slightly different problem, one where climate change poses a direct and significant risk on agrarian livelihoods in Sudano-Sahelian Burkina Faso, likely having negative impacts on agricultural production and disrupting existing livestock production efforts. The likely displacement of livestock production into stressed agricultural areas has the potential to disrupt major food production systems and therefore further influence climate migration patterns.
	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?	Partly. Some of the assumptions are described in the PIF, while others are not. For example, the theory of change rests on an assumption that increasing stress on pastoral and agricultural livelihoods will lead to greater conflict, and attributes existing trends in conflict to such stress, but in some contexts such pressure produces greater cooperation. STAP suggests writing a theory of change narrative to accompany the theory of change figure, which lists the assumptions. Here are some resources for the project team to rely on while designing the interventions: Tubi, A., Feitelson, E., 2016. Drought and cooperation in a conflict prone area: Bedouin herders and Jewish farmers in Israel's northern Negev, 1957–1963. Polit. Geogr. 51, 30–42. Gemenne, F., Barnett, J., Adger, W.N., Dabelko, G.D., 2014. Climate and security: Evidence, emerging risks, and a new agenda. Clim. Change 123, 1–9. doi:10.1007/s10584-014-1074-7

		Ide, T., Schilling, J., Link, J.S.A., Scheffran, J., Ngaruiya, G., Weinzierl, T., 2014. On exposure, vulnerability and violence: Spatial distribution of risk factors for climate change and violent conflict across Kenya and Uganda. Polit. Geogr. 43, 68–81. doi:10.1016/j.polgeo.2014.10.007
	Is there a recognition of what adaptations may be required during project implementation to respond to changing conditions in pursuit of the targeted outcomes?	There is a recognition of problems stemming from possible maladaptations (e.g. transhumance practices). However, the assumption is that strengthening governance efforts on resilience will not necessitate adaptation measures. STAP recommends applying systems thinking and developing further the theory of change. These processes will enable to identify opportunities and risks from long term changes (e.g. climate, demographic, social). STAP's theory of change primer could be useful to the project developers as they refine the theory of change to reflect systems thinking: http://www.stapgef.org/theory-change-primer
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?	Does not apply.
	LDCF/SCCF: will the proposed incremental activities lead to adaptation which reduces vulnerability, builds adaptive capacity, and increases resilience to climate change?	Yes, if the adaptive capacity of the system is assessed to cope with risks, known and unknown, and opportunities, as well as cross-scale linkages (as described in the project context) are acted upon to build resilience, adaptation and transformation. RAPTA 2 provides useful guidance on how to assess for a system's resilience: https://research.csiro.au/eap/rapta/
6) global environmental benefits (GEF trust fund)	Are the benefits truly global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits, and are they measurable?	Yes, the adaptation benefits are articulated clearly, and the selected indicators coincide with the adaptation program. Furthermore, STAP is pleased

and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)		with the components, in particular on landscape management (component 2). STAP appreciates the links the project will make between the local biophysical and socio-economic contexts and the scientific literature on land restoration, biodiversity conservation and adaptation strategies to climate variability. landscape management (component 2).
	Is the scale of projected benefits both plausible and compelling in relation to the proposed investment?	Yes, especially if the theory of change is used to guide impact and long-term scaling of this impact. In this regard, STAP suggests identifying the barriers and enablers to scaling and building these into the theory of change.
	Are the global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits explicitly defined?	Yes, adaptation benefits are defined.
	Are indicators, or methodologies, provided to demonstrate how the global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits will be measured and monitored during project implementation?	Yes, indicators are provided. Suggest articulating the methods that will be used to monitor the indicators. In addition to listing the indicators aligned with the results-based framework of the LDCF strategy, STAP suggests identifying indicators to monitor and track progress of the causal links in the theory of change.
	What activities will be implemented to increase the project's resilience to climate change?	The project will focus on landscape management and adaptation strategies to strengthen agro-sylvo-pastoral systems and reduce climate vulnerability.
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 on landscape management techniques and facilitating governance reform by strengthening local institutions. The assumption is that these efforts will generate the knowledge and institutional conditions to scale across temporal and spatial scales. STAP recommends its paper on durability and theory of change - where it lists principles that need attention to achieve scaling: http://www.stapgef.org/achieving-enduring-outcomes-gef-investment; http://www.stapgef.org/theory-change-primer

	Is there a clearly-articulated vision of how the innovation will be scaled-up, for example, over time, across geographies, among institutional actors?	See above.
	Will incremental adaptation be required, or more fundamental transformational change to achieve long term sustainability?	It is possible that both adaptation and transformational change will be required due to climate stressors, and changes in population (e.g. internal migration due to conflict, or transhuman pastoralism). STAP encourages the project team to consider uncertainty to cope with the level of change that may take place; therefore, consider systematically different time scales, as well as spatial scales. STAP's theory of change primer is a good resource for developing a theory of change using systems analysis: http://www.stapgef.org/theory-change-primer The project team may wish to consider applying RAPTA – an approach for designing, implementing and evaluating interventions under highly uncertain decision contexts. See: https://research.csiro.au/eap/rapta/
1b. Project Map and Coordinates. Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.		Several geo-referenced maps are provided - all of which have useful information (e.g. land use types, land use change)
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.	Have all the key relevant stakeholders been identified to cover the complexity of the problem, and project implementation barriers?	Some key stakeholders have been identified while others will be defined once a stakeholder mapping takes place. When a stakeholder mapping, and plan, are developed, STAP recommends describing the actors' roles in relation to how they will contribute (individually and collectively) to achieving the adaptation outcomes.

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.		
	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?	See above.
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	Have gender differentiated risks and opportunities been identified, and were preliminary response measures described that would address these differences?	A gender assessment for each site will be conducted once the PIF is approved. STAP welcomes this assessment. When it goes through the process of assessing gender issues, STAP recommends considering whether this analysis identifies situations where the full participation of an important stakeholder group is hindered, and describing how the project will address these obstacles.

framework include gender-sensitive indicators? yes/no /tbd		
	Do gender considerations hinder full participation of an important stakeholder group (or groups)? If so, how will these obstacles be addressed?	See above.
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? Are there social and environmental risks which could affect the project? 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? • 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?	The project summarizes the risks the project may face, including social and climate risks. To minimize the impact of these risks, the theory of change should continually test its logic, assumptions, and risks – identifying what is within the scope of the project. This process will enable the project team to assess for the resilience of the system – that is, identify how, and where, the system is weak or strong, in its capacity to deal with disturbances. In terms of climate risks, STAP is pleased with the climate risk screening information provided by FAO. STAP suggests adding the climate information to the project document, as well as approaches, methods, mentioned in the screening (e.g. PICSA) that will be used to facilitate stakeholders' decisions on weather and climate. Additionally, the project team may find it useful to look at the following resources: STAP's screening guidelines: http://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
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, the project will build on the knowledge of other projects based on the baseline projects listed in the PIF, and described in the coordination section.

	Is there adequate recognition of previous projects and the learning derived from them?	See above.
	Have specific lessons learned from previous projects been cited?	Yes, these lessons focus mainly on the learning generated in applying farmer field schools. During the PPG phase, the project will coalesce lessons on climate adaptation and land management.
	How have these lessons informed the project's formulation?	See above.
	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, the project includes a component on monitoring and a theory of change.
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 project foresees continual learning from projects and programs in the target sites. This process will be coordinated with the operational focal point in Burkina Faso. The monitoring component also will be used to generate knowledge. STAP recommends considering knowledge management metrics, and specifying how the knowledge generated will influence scaling of results. The knowledge strategy should be linked to component 4, and to the project's theory of change.
	What plans are proposed for sharing, disseminating and scaling-up results, lessons and experience?	The project describes several methods to disseminate results and lessons.

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 ***"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.