

STAP guidelines for screening GEF projects

Part I: Project Information	Response
GEF ID	10572
Project Title	Integrated Landscape Management Gambia (INLAMAG) Project
Date of Screening	May 5, 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 IFAD’s project “Integrated Landscape Management Gambia (INLAMAG). The project seeks to create an enabling environment in The Gambia to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN). Pursuing a landscape approach will help address the root causes and drivers of environmental degradation (e.g. shifting cultivation, river siltation, overgrazing) and deforestation in the regions of the West Coast, North Bank, and Lower River Bank.</p> <p>STAP is pleased the project will implement a social-ecological systems perspective to understand the project needs. The LDN technical guidelines, supported by STAP, offer guidance to project developers using a systems analysis. This guidance includes managing trade-offs between social, ecological, and biophysical benefits.</p> <p>River flooding and water scarcity pose significant hazards to The Gambia’s sustainability. Therefore, it is essential that project developers account for the climate change implications on the targeted social-ecological systems. This process involves relying on climate information (e.g. modelling and local knowledge), and putting in place early warning systems. To this end, STAP recommends accounting for the different climate stressors related to drought (e.g. how could the increasing frequency and duration of drought affect water and food availability, crop production, fodder, woodlots); flooding (e.g. affect communities, agrosilvopastoral systems); and, possibly to</p>

	<p>storm surge (e.g. groundwater quality, potable water quality) during the design of the project. Acting proactively to deal with uncertainty will lessen the threats to agrosilvopastoral systems.</p> <p>Additionally, STAP proposes relying on a systems-based theory of change. This process can assist with acknowledging the diversity among stakeholders; explore future scenarios; identify climate, and non-climate, stressors, shocks, and uncertainties; and opportunities for key interventions. To this end, STAP recommends applying its Theory of Change Primer.</p> <p>Below, STAP offers recommendations on how to improve the project design.</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?	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?	<p>Yes, the activities support the project objective.</p> <p>For activities related to components #3 and #4 STAP recommends using principles of spatial land use planning, where the 'spatial' component guides the prioritization of areas to be intervened. This facilitates connectivity, an analysis of access to markets, among other factors. STAP recommends the recent Primer on EO as an overall guidance.</p>
Outcomes	<p>A description of the expected short-term and medium-term effects of an intervention.</p> <p>Do the planned outcomes encompass important global environmental benefits?</p>	Yes, the outcomes focus on global environmental outcomes.
	Are the global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits likely to be generated?	<p>The benefits are likely to be generated with careful monitoring.</p> <p>See comments below on the definition of indicators that are locally relevant, to complement the three</p>

		core indicators of the LDN that the project proposes.
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. On page 33, STAP notes the project will “promote agroforestry through the integration of woody perennials into agricultural crops...” STAP encourages the team to use native species in that task, and to rely on prior knowledge synthesized in this recent paper: Félix, Georges F., Johannes MS Scholberg, Cathy Clermont-Dauphin, Laurent Cournac, and Pablo Tittone. "Enhancing agroecosystem productivity with woody perennials in semi-arid West Africa. A meta-analysis." (2018): 57.
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 analysis is well defined. The drivers of degradation and deforestation in The Gambia are described thoroughly. However, it is unclear whether this problem analysis is specific to the project site or to the country. In the final project document, STAP suggests narrowing the problem context to the project sites if this is not already the case. Additionally, STAP recommends describing the climate change projections for the country, or for the target sites if this information is available. Climate information will contribute to describing the context influencing the problems. Some research that could be relevant to that end: Amuzu, J., Jallow, B.P., Kabo-Bah, A.T. and Yaffa, S., 2018. The climate change vulnerability and risk management matrix for the coastal zone of the Gambia. <i>Hydrology</i> , 5(1), p.14. Bojang, Fatou, Seydou Traore, Adama Togola, and Yacouba Diallo. "Farmers Perceptions about

		Climate Change, Management Practice and Their On-Farm Adoption Strategies at Rice Fields in Sapu and Kuntaur of the Gambia, West Africa." <i>American Journal of Climate Change</i> 9, no. 01 (2020): 1.
	Are the barriers and threats well described, and substantiated by data and references?	Yes, the PIF describes comprehensively the barriers. The project developers provide examples of how the barriers will prevent meeting the project objective while acknowledging communities' socio-economic realities.
	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, describing on-going, future, and past initiatives which this project will build on, including ROOTS and NEMA.
	Does it provide a feasible basis for quantifying the project's benefits?	Core indicators will be assigned during the project design. The project team rightly identifies in pg 33 - component #4 "...some of the indicators will be process-based". STAP welcomes this idea and encourages to use these indicators as complementary to the three core indicators of LDN. The LDN Conceptual framework (pgs 100-101) makes a point on "...countries using complementary LDN indicators, to be selected for locally relevant ecosystem services that are not covered by SOC, NPP or land cover change."
	Is the baseline sufficiently robust to support the incremental (additional cost) reasoning for the project?	Yes, the baseline is sufficiently robust at this stage.
	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	Partly. In addition to the description of the associated baseline projects, it would be valuable to specify how learning from designing and implementing, as well as the achieved outcomes, of each project will contribute to this GEF project. This applies specifically to the ROOTS and NEMA projects which are more directly linked to this project.
	how did these lessons inform the design of this project?	The PIF states that three broad lessons influenced the design of this project:” i) Scaling up of a watershed/landscape approach, rather than a focus on communities to take into account both lowlands (irrigated rice) and uplands (rain fed crops) and to reduce run off and siltation leading to low soil productivity of both categories; ii) Promote new alternatives in terms of incomes; iii) Contribute to improved knowledge management on LDN and SLM.”
3) the proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project	What is the theory of change?	The PIF includes the following theory of change: “The theoretical logic of this project on which the Theory of Change will be built is that it seeks to create an enabling environment for an integrated landscape approach in support of SLM and LDN mainstreaming and implementation in The Gambia. This is its goal. Working backwards, this goal will be achieved through supporting the creation of an enabling institutional and policy environment for SLM and LDN (building capacities of stakeholders, policy mainstreaming – component 1); implementing SLM and LDN using an Integrated Landscape Management approach (concrete hardware activities such as agroforestry practices, assisted regeneration of socioeconomically valuable species etc – component 2); Livelihoods and food security of land users (concrete hardware activities such as value chains of selected crops); and knowledge management through which lessons will be disseminated to stakeholder to inform scaling up

		and replication of good practices. Since the government led and validated the LDN voluntary targets, and has demonstrated commitment to fight against land degradation through various national policies, the project assumes that there is enough political will to mainstream and implement the LDN agenda and SLM in the country. It is also assumed that communities will support and be involved in the decision-making processes that will lead to the identification and promotion of appropriate SLM practices. Additionally, the project is also cognizant of social, economic, political and environmental risks, which it will duly consider in the course of its development.”
	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?	<p>STAP is pleased that a theory of change narrative and figure, explaining the causal link between the long-term outcomes is provided in the PIF. To manage the risks and barriers to achieving LDN, STAP recommends identifying the assumptions in the theory of change.</p> <p>Furthermore, in support of the landscape planning and multiple benefits resulting from LDN, which The Gambia seeks to achieve, it will be valuable to use systems analysis to identify the cross-scale linkages and connections between sectors (e.g. agriculture, livestock, forestry, and policies) as the theory of change is developed. Refer to the LDN technical guidelines and STAP’s theory of change primer:</p> <p>https://stapgef.org/sites/default/files/publications/LDN%20Technical%20Report_web%20version.pdf</p> <p>https://www.stapgef.org/theory-change-primer</p>

	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 project recognizes that adaptive management may be needed, and will be managed through the monitoring and evaluation component. In addition to this text, STAP recommends specifying in the project document that managing for climate risks (floods and droughts) will require adaptations to the project, which is likely to involve different scenarios (or impact pathways) than what is originally conceived.
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, with careful monitoring and a good theory of change.
	LDCF/SCCF: will the proposed incremental activities lead to adaptation which reduces vulnerability, builds adaptive capacity, and increases resilience to climate change?	Does not apply.
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?	<p>Yes, the global environmental benefits are articulated clearly. Indicators will be provided in the final project document.</p> <p>As previously stated, STAP recommends for the assumptions, along with the underlying drivers, and risks to be identified in the theory of change.</p> <p>Planning for the effects of climate hazards (river flooding and water scarcity) is important to the design of the project, particularly for component 2 and 3. STAP recommends planning for climate change in the design of the project, and recognizing that multiple scenarios will be needed to deal with the high risks of uncertainty to the social-ecological systems.</p> <p>The project team is recommended to think about the different climate stressors related to drought (e.g. how could the increasing frequency and duration of drought affect water and food</p>

		availability, crop production, fodder, woodlots) flooding (e.g. affect communities, agrosilvopastoral systems), and possibly to storm surge (e.g. groundwater quality, potable water quality) during the design of the project, and the theory of change.
	Is the scale of projected benefits both plausible and compelling in relation to the proposed investment?	Unclear. Suggest identifying the barriers and enablers to scaling in the theory of change.
	Are the global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits explicitly defined?	Yes, global environmental 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?	Indicators will be provided in the final project document. In addition to listing the GEF core indicators related to sustainable land management (i.e. area under improved management and greenhouse gas mitigation), 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 plans to put in place contingency measures, including multiple scenarios, to deal with the adverse impacts of climate change.
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?	<p>The project is innovative in applying the concept of land degradation neutrality, which on its own is an integrated land use planning approach – a practice that The Gambia strives to implement to tackle degradation and deforestation.</p> <p>To design LDN interventions, STAP would like to draw attention to the technical LDN guidelines from April 2020: https://stapgef.org/sites/default/files/publications/LDN%20Technical%20Report_web%20version.pdf</p> <p>The assumption is that applying LDN (i.e. an integrated landscape approach), combined with capacity building to implement this practice, 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:</p>

		<p>https://www.stapgef.org/achieving-enduring-outcomes-gef-investment; https://www.stapgef.org/theory-change-primer</p> <p>Given the project points that ‘cultural practices are a barrier to women’s access and use of productive land and forests (pg 47), STAP recommends paying attention to activities that could enable scaling deep’ (cultural changes) as part of the project.</p>
	<p>Is there a clearly-articulated vision of how the innovation will be scaled-up, for example, over time, across geographies, among institutional actors?</p>	<p>In addition to scaling up (impacting policies and laws, and scaling out (impacting greater numbers), STAP recommends thinking how to influence rules, decisions, values (among other factors) in the targeted social-ecological systems.</p> <p>To achieve project’s large-scale change, this will involve influencing the complexity and variety that characterize social systems. Thus, considering how to scale deep will be important. The project team can refer to STAP’s durability paper and the theory of change primer for guidance.</p>
	<p>Will incremental adaptation be required, or more fundamental transformational change to achieve long term sustainability?</p>	<p>It is possible that both adaptation and transformational change will be required due to the high risk of river flooding and drought. STAP encourages the project team to consider uncertainty to cope with the level of change that may take place. This requires considering systematically time scales and spatial scales when planning the interventions.</p> <p>The theory of change can do this if it is designed to assess how the targeted social-ecological system functions across scales, while focusing on what is “necessary and sufficient” to achieve the project objective. Refer to STAP’s theory of change primer, which is a good resource for developing a theory of change based on systems analysis: https://www.stapgef.org/theory-change-primer</p>

<p>1b. Project Map and Coordinates. Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.</p>		<p>A map of the target sites is provided. Suggest specifying the location with stakeholders during the project design. STAP’s guidance on earth observation systems can assist during project preparation in delineating boundaries and learning how to use data (e.g. land use cover) for LDN monitoring: https://stapgef.org/sites/default/files/publications/Earth%20Observation%20and%20the%20GEF%20primer_0_0.pdf</p>
<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>STAP is pleased with the detailed description of how stakeholders were involved in the pre-design of the project. Stakeholders revealed conflicting interests, or trade-offs, (e.g. “...developing the agricultural sector but at the same time managing sustainability landscapes and ecosystems...”), which should be taken into account in the project design. The technical LDN guidelines emphasize how to manage trade-offs in the design and implementation of 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>Some key stakeholders have been identified while others will be defined once a stakeholder mapping takes place. Stakeholders’ roles and responsibilities in relation to achieving the global environmental outcomes will be provided in the final project document.</p>
<p>3. Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment. Please briefly include below any gender dimensions</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 will address barriers to women’s access to and use of productive land and forests. These barriers (and enablers) should form part of the theory of change, as well as other gender</p>

<p>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.</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>constraints that inhibit reaching the project objective, and scaling.</p> <p>STAP recommends the project explores the use of ICT and peers (particularly women) for building capacity and technology transfer (refer to page 47). Recent literature suggests that, for instance, farmers of West Africa <i>rely heavily on personal experiences and fellow farmers to adopt technologies</i>. Zossou, Espérance, Aminou Arouna, Aliou Diagne, and Rita Afiavi Agboh-Noameshie. "Learning agriculture in rural areas: the drivers of knowledge acquisition and farming practices by rice farmers in West Africa." <i>The Journal of Agricultural Education and Extension</i> (2019): 1-16.</p> <p>Likewise, emerging evidence point to the potential of ICT for empowering rural populations in terms of access to knowledge and information. Examples are:</p> <p>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</p> <p>Tijjani, A. R., Anaeto, F. C., & Emerhirhi, E. (2017). Analysis of the Roles of Information and Communications Technologies in Rural Women Farmers' Empowerment in Rivers State, Nigeria. <i>Library Philosophy & Practice</i>.</p> <p>Gumucio, Tatiana, James Hansen, Sophia Huyer, Tiff van Huysen, and Saroja Schwager. "Identifying pathways for more gender-sensitive communication channels in climate services." (2018).</p>
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		Lawal, A., Alabi, O. and Oladele, A., 2017. Elements of Rural Economics: Access to Agricultural Information among Rural Women Farmers in Abuja, Nigeria. Journal of Agricultural Sciences–Sri Lanka, 12(2).
	Do gender considerations hinder full participation of an important stakeholder group (or groups)? If so, how will these obstacles be addressed?	Unsure. During the process of assessing gender issues, STAP recommends considering whether the full participation of an important stakeholder group is hindered as a result, and describing how will the project address these obstacles.
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>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 PIF summarizes the risks the project may face, including risks from climate change, inadequate private sector engagement, political risks, COVID-19 risks to the project design, among others.</p> <p>In addition to the climate risks identified in the PIF, STAP recommends addressing the climate resilience measures described to the left. STAP also encourages the project developers to continually test causal links, assumptions, and risks in the theory of change. This process will enable the project team to assess for the resilience of the system – identify how, and where, the system is weak, or strong, in its capacity to deal with disturbances.</p> <p>Additionally, the project team may find it useful to look at the following resources: STAP’s screening guidelines: https://www.stagef.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</p>

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, lessons from other projects will be used to develop this proposal.
	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. The theory of change can also serve as a monitoring tool.
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 monitoring component will be used to generate knowledge. STAP recommends considering knowledge management metrics, and specifying how the knowledge generated will influence scaling of results. In addition, it would be valuable to link the knowledge strategy to the 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. Detailed plans will be described in the project document.

Notes

STAP advisory response	Brief explanation of advisory response and action proposed
<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>* 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></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>

(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.