

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

Project Title

Date of Screening

Screener

Panel Member

Response

10083

Sustainable Natural Resources Management Project: Focus on IDP-NRM
Nexus, Climate-Resilient Technologies, and Malaria Control

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STAP Overall Assessment: Minor revision

STAP welcomes the World Bank's multi-trust proposal "Sustainable Natural Resources Management Project". STAP is pleased that Sudan will apply its first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to implement Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN). Through LDN, Sudan intends to meet its NDC goals to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change by increasing carbon stocks in biomass and soils, and by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. LDN has the potential, therefore, to achieve multiple benefits on sustainable land management, climate adaptation, climate mitigation, sustainable forest management, and biodiversity conservation. STAP recommends assigning greater prominence to LDN in the theory of change. LDN will: (i) increase the resilience of communities and ecosystems to climate variability, and to the impacts of climate change; and, (ii) address the drivers of land degradation and desertification. STAP recommends applying UNCCD's Scientific Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality to develop interventions on sustainable natural resource management and climate adaptation measures – namely, component 2. The Scientific Conceptual Framework will assist the project team formulate an integrated approach to managing sustainably rangelands, forests and land, while simultaneously implementing climate adaptation measures. STAP also recommends that the project team apply the Checklist for Land Degradation Neutrality Transformative Projects and Programmes. Additionally, the project team is encouraged to be clearer about the assumptions and causal relationships in the theory of change. This will help in identifying the challenges and success factors required for scaling-up best practices and innovations from this project. Sustainable natural resource management practices tend to be location specific, and require time and commitment to achieve results. STAP provides an advisory response of "Minor issues to be considered during 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?	Partly. The objective is tied to the problem analysis. However, there should be a reference to improving the climate resilience of ecosystems and livelihoods in the project objective. Currently, the objective is missing a connection to climate resilience. The stated objective is: to increase the adoption of sustainable land and water management practices in targeted landscapes.
Project components	A brief description of the planned activities. Do these support the project's objectives?	Yes. However, STAP recommends amending the title of component 2 to include livelihoods, and adding the activity on climate-induced diseases (including malaria), by piloting irrigation and water management strategies, to component 2. Currently, this activity is tied to Component 1 which focuses on strengthening institutional and policy frameworks. (See the PCN/GEF Data Sheet)
Outcomes	A description of the expected Do the planned outcomes Are the global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits likely to be generated?	Yes. Yes, if a theory of change is provided which recognises the underlying assumptions, and the causal relationships between the outcomes.
Outputs	A description of the products and services which are	Yes.
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	Is the problem statement well-	Partially. The barriers or threats to the project appear absent. STAP
	Are the barriers and threats	The barriers appear not to be described in the PID, Addendum to PID, or
	For multiple focal area projects: does the problem statement and analysis identify the drivers of	Non-applicable.
2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects	Is the baseline identified clearly? Does it provide a	The PIF does not include a quantifiable baseline at this stage. STAP recommends defining indicators to measure and monitor the GEBs and the

Does it provide a feasible basis for quantifying the project's benefits?

See above.

Is the baseline sufficiently robust to support the incremental (additional cost) reasoning for the project?

The baseline is not yet defined. With regard to the incremental reasoning (GEBs), STAP recommends that the World Bank: 1) set out the business as usual scenario (what would happen without GEF funding from the LD portfolio); and, 2) define the GEBs. For adaptation benefits, STAP recommends strengthening the additional cost reasoning by: 1) describing what is the likely baseline development for the targeted land and water sectors without LDCF investment?; 2) describing the climate change vulnerabilities in relation to the targeted communities and ecosystems.

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;

Non-applicable.

are the lessons learned from similar or related past GEF and non-GEF interventions described; and how did these lessons inform the design of this project?

Partially. STAP suggests that the World Bank to describe current and previous GEF and non-GEF initiatives on which this project will build. Currently, the PID only details current World Bank NRM activities that the project will build on (e.g. grassland and rangeland rehabilitation). The lessons recognize the need for climate adaptive technologies to complement natural resource management.

3) the proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project

What is the theory of change? The PID states the theory of change as: the project's aims are structured around two systemic change pillars: (i) strengthen vulnerable poor and displaced persons' resilience, and reduce vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change, supporting Sudan's efforts to enhance adaptive capacity; (ii) address drivers of land degradation and desertification and promote Land Degradation Neutrality. This will be achieved through four overarching approaches: (i) mainstream climate change adaptation and resilience into policy and planning for systemic impact; (ii) reduce vulnerability and resilience through innovation and technology transfer for climate change adaptation; (iii) reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses and increase resilience in the wider landscape; and (iv) maintain or improve agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods through sustainable land management.

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?

These outputs are missing from the GEF data sheet. STAP recommends setting out a results framework in the project document.

- Are the mechanisms of change plausible, and is there a well-informed identification of the underlying assumptions?

Partially. To complete the theory of change, STAP recommends: 1) defining the causal relationships between the outcomes; and, 2) detailing the assumptions that need validation for the outcomes to be achieved. In addition, STAP recommends making LDN a more central part of the theory of change figure (Annex 2). In designing and implementing the project, LDN considers ways to increase resilience to climate variability and the impacts of climate change and other shocks and stressors. The LDN framework provides steps on how "to build natural and social capital to increase the capacity of ecosystems and communities to cope with drought and other extreme weather events that are recognized as major factors contributing to land degradation, and adapt to the anticipated impacts of climate change." (https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/documents/2017-08/LDN_CF_report_web-english.pdf)
- Is there a recognition of what adaptations may be required during project implementation to respond to changing conditions in pursuit of the targeted outcomes?

A brief description of the projected mean temperature between 2020 and 2050 was provided in the PID addendum. STAP encourages the World Bank to describe further the observed and projected climate change (temperature and annual precipitation) between 2020

<p>5) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEF trust fund, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing</p>	<p>GEF trust fund: will the proposed incremental activities lead to the delivery of global environmental benefits?</p>	<p>Unclear. STAP recommends that the project team provide further details on the global environmental benefits and adaptation benefits associated with sustainable land management. STAP also recommends that the project team apply the Scientific Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality: https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/documents/2017-08/LDN_CF_report_web-english.pdf and the LDN checklist: https://www.thegef.org/documents/checklist-land-degradation-neutrality-transformative-projects-and-programmes-draft STAP also recommends identifying indicators to measure and monitor the progress in achieving the desired global environmental benefits. Additionally, the social and environmental risks associated with the project are high. Mitigation strategies need to be identified and their implementation closely monitored.</p>
	<p>LDCF/SCCF: will the proposed incremental activities lead to adaptation which reduces vulnerability, builds adaptive capacity, and increases resilience to climate change?</p>	<p>The incremental activities can be achieved if a theory of change is fully developed (e.g. assumptions and causal relationships are defined), and robust monitoring, evaluation and learning is put in place.</p>
<p>6) global environmental benefits (GEF trust fund) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)</p>	<p>Are the benefits truly global environmental benefits, and are they measurable? Is the scale of projected benefits both plausible and compelling in relation to the proposed investment?</p>	<p>Global environmental benefits need to be defined, and the indicators identified to assess their progress.</p> <p>Unclear. STAP proposes to develop a theory of change and the assumptions on which it is based. The project team is encouraged to consider the barriers and success factors required to scale up best practices, policies, and innovation across institutions and sectors. STAP recommends applying its guidance on integration for designing and implementing the project: http://stapgef.org/sites/default/files/publications/STAP%20Report%20on%20integration.PDF</p>

Are the global environmental benefits explicitly defined? No. See above.

Are indicators, or methodologies, provided to demonstrate how the global environmental benefits will be measured and monitored during project implementation? No. See above.

What activities will be implemented to increase the project's resilience to climate change? The PID states the following: implementing sustainable land and water management within climate vulnerable landscapes to: (a) rehabilitate degraded grasslands and rangelands, (b) establish demonstration farms to showcase climate resilient farming, shelterbelts and high economic value trees, (c) promote climate-resilient alternative livelihoods for the most vulnerable people, and (d) develop management and zoning plans for grazing and rangeland areas.

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 team aims to: "...pioneer climate change adaptation in the health sector specifically in North Kordofan, by assisting Sudan in applying a sustainable natural resources management approach to studying how irrigation and water harvesting facilities can be protected from becoming larval breeding grounds for vector-borne diseases such as Malaria." STAP welcomes this activity, and encourages the project team to set out the evidence and knowledge gaps (citing references) the project will address by improving water management techniques to reduce the incidence of malaria. It would also be useful to explain how addressing these gaps and implementing an integrated approach to malaria, will strengthen the climate resiliency of the targeted communities and ecosystems. STAP encourages citing studies and reports to validate scientifically and technically the assumptions.

Is there a clearly-articulated vision of how the innovation will be scaled-up, for example, over time, across geographies, among institutional actors?

Partially. The project details how successful natural resource management activities will be scaled up to support climate adaptation technologies. The technologies are described although further information about the ecosystems, projected and observed climate in the target areas, would be useful to understand their selection. And, further information would be valuable on the barriers and the conditions necessary to achieve scaling horizontally (across sectors, climate change, land management, sustainable forestry), and vertically (local and national scales). The project team may wish to refer to the following document for advice on scaling up sustainable land management/natural resource management practices: Thomas, R.J. et al (2017). "Scaling up sustainable land management and restoration of degraded land": https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5694c48bd82d5e9597570999/t/5996c27ef7e0aba0564ee740/1503052415896/Scaling+Up+SLM_R_Thomas+et+al.pdf

Will incremental adaptation be required, or more fundamental transformational change to achieve long term sustainability?

Unsure. STAP recommends that a theory of change be developed which considers the need for incremental adaptation to achieve more fundamental transformational change of the social-ecological system. Resilience thinking is also valuable to help focus efforts where interventions will be most effective by considering multiple scales (and sectors), the drivers of change, vulnerabilities, and possible thresholds in the system. The World Bank may wish to consider applying the Resilience, Adaptation Pathways, and Transformation Assessment (RAPTA), Wayfinder, or other tools that assess the capacity of social-ecological systems to cope with anticipated, and unexpected, shocks and stresses, including those related to climate change, and conflict. RAPTA and Wayfinder can be accessed at: <http://www.stapgef.org/rapta-guidelines>
<https://wayfinder.earth/>

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?

It is unclear from the documents which stakeholders will work on the activity related to studying the effects of improved irrigation and water management on vector-borne diseases.

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?

This information is provided in the portal. However, STAP recommends describing the roles of each stakeholder and how will they contribute to the outcomes.

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?

Partially. STAP notes that the project team will conduct a gender gap analysis during project design and implementation.

Do gender considerations hinder full participation of an important stakeholder group (or groups)? If so, how will these obstacles be addressed?

STAP suggests that the project team consider obstacles that may hinder the participation of an important stakeholder group when applying gender sensitive methods in the design and implementation of the project.

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 - the PID identifies in detail the environmental and social risks associated with the project. STAP is pleased that a safeguards specialist has been hired to design and monitor the safeguards. In addition to the safeguard analysis that the World Bank will conduct, STAP recommends that the World Bank apply the recommendations in STAP's document "Environmental Security: dimensions and priorities": <http://stapgef.org/environmental-security-dimensions-and-priorities>

Are there social and environmental risks which could affect the project?
For climate risk, and climate resilience measures:

Yes - there are extensive social and environmental risks which the World Bank identified. STAP welcomes the summary of the environmental and social safeguards to address risks.

· 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?

A brief description of the projected mean temperature between 2020 and 2050 was provided in the PID addendum. STAP encourages the World Bank to describe further the observed and projected climate change (temperature and annual precipitation) between 2020 and 2050. The World Bank may wish to draw further from the paper modeling Siddig, K. et al (2018) "Climate Change and Agriculture in the Sudan: Impact Pathways Beyond Changes in Mean Changes in Rainfall and Temperature". Working Paper 13, IFPRI.

· Has the sensitivity to climate change, and its impacts, been assessed?

No. STAP encourages the project team to assess how climate change will affect the target sites, and whether the proposed interventions are robust enough to deal with projected and observed climate change. The PID states that climate predictions demonstrate that "humid agro-climate zones will shift southwards agriculture rendering areas of the North increasingly unsuitable for agriculture..." STAP recommends that the project team explain how this assessment (and others that the project may draw from) will be applied in the design and implementation of the project, in particular for the identification of climate adaptation technologies.

· Have resilience practices and measures to address projected climate risks and impacts been considered? How will these be dealt with?

The project is proposing climate adaptation measures to enhance the resilience of ecosystems and communities. It also is proposing to embed resilience in policy and planning processes across institutions for a systemic impact.

· What technical and institutional capacity, and information, will be needed to address climate risks and resilience enhancement measures?

STAP encourages applying systems thinking to address inter-connected environmental, social, economic, and governance challenges across sectors with an eye towards resilience and transformational change. Capacity to assess resilience, describe risks (foreseen and unforeseen, including risks resulting from conflict and climate change), and identify the need for adaptation, or transformational change will be needed. The World Bank may refer to STAP's integration paper, and the RAPTA guidelines:
<http://stapgef.org/integration-solve-complex-environmental-problems>
<http://www.stapgef.org/rapta-guidelines>

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?

Partially. The project document indicates a limited number of projects that this project will tap into for knowledge and learning.

Is there adequate recognition of previous projects and the learning derived from them?

Partially. STAP encourages a more detailed description of the baseline context, and what lessons this project will apply in scaling up from the other initiatives described in the document.

Have specific lessons learned from previous projects been cited?

Partially - there is limited information on lessons learned. The Great Green Wall Initiative is mentioned, but the experiences and how these are relevant to the components in this project are not described comprehensively. STAP encourages the project team to explore the relevance of other LDCF and GEF projects in Sudan to help achieve the project's objective. A list of GEF and LDCF projects can be accessed at:
<https://www.thegef.org/country/sudan>

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?

Partially. STAP recommends that the project team include learning in component 3. This involves describing a learning plan, i.e. learning will be used to foster creativity and innovation. The World Bank is encouraged to look at RAPTA: <http://www.stagef.org/rapta-guidelines>

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?

STAP encourages the World Bank to consider STAP's knowledge management paper, "Managing knowledge for a sustainable future": <http://stagef.org/managing-knowledge-sustainable-future> STAP also recommends that the World Bank identify indicators and metrics for monitoring and evaluating knowledge management.

What plans are proposed for sharing, disseminating and scaling-up results, lessons and experience?

Under component 3, STAP encourages the project team also to detail a knowledge management plan that details how lessons will be disseminated and results scaled-up.

STAP Notes