

Part I: Project Information**GEF ID****Project Title****Date of Screening****Screeners****Panel Member****STAP Overall Assessment:****Concur****Response**

10103

Climate change adaptation and livelihoods in three arid regions of Mauritania

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STAP welcomes UN Environment's proposal "Climate change adaptation and livelihoods in three arid regions of Mauritania". The project aims to strengthen capacity to improve the climate resilience of arid ecosystems and livelihoods in three wilayas of Adrar, Inchiri and Trarza. STAP is pleased the project plans to contribute to the evidence of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) in arid ecosystems. In doing so, STAP recommends defining the scientific and technological gaps of EbA for arid systems, citing references as needed. STAP welcomes the opportunity to draw learning from the SCCF EbA project in Mauritania on semi-arid ecosystems. STAP encourages the project team to consider the risks affiliated with the proposed EbA technologies, and to set out these possibilities (as social and environmental risks) in the risk section. Additionally, it would be useful for the project team to explain how the knowledge stemming from the successes and failures of the water conservation/adaptation measures will be applied in the project to enable continuing learning. STAP encourages the project team to develop a theory of change, develop an EbA plan, consider the effects of projected climate change over the period 2020-2050, assess risks comprehensively, and develop monitoring, evaluation and learning to track progress and facilitate adaptive management. STAP provides an advisory response of concur. Further recommendations by STAP are provided below.

Part I: Project Information**B. Indicative Project****Description Summary**

Project Objective

What STAP looks for

Is the objective clearly defined, and consistently related to the problem

Response

Yes. The objective is defined clearly, and it is supported by the problem analysis.

Project components	A brief description of the planned activities. Do these support the	Yes. The components support the project objective.
Outcomes	A description of the expected short-term and medium-term effects of Do the planned outcomes encompass important global	Yes. The outcomes reflect important adaptation benefits.
Outputs	Are the global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits likely A description of the products and services which are expected to	Yes, the adaptation benefits are likely to be generated. STAP encourages the project team to identify indicators to measure and assess progress in delivering the The project is expected to strengthen adaptive capacity of the communities in the arid wilayas of Adrar, Inchiri and Trarza through the introduction of ecosystem-
Part II: Project justification	A simple narrative explaining the project's logic, i.e. a theory of	
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? Are the barriers and threats well described, and substantiated by For multiple focal area projects: does the problem statement and	Partially. The problem statement is referenced and provides socioeconomic data and details on land use. The agroecological context and drivers of degradation resulting from climate change in Adrar, Inchiri and Trarza are described. However, the climate change projections appear incomplete. The time period that covers the projections is not provided. It also is unclear whether the projections are at the national level, regional, or at another scale. No. The section describing the barriers is very brief. STAP recommends setting out the barriers in the project document to plan how their impact may be minimized. Non-applicable.
2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline	Is the baseline identified clearly? Does it provide a feasible basis for quantifying the project's benefits? Does it provide a feasible basis for quantifying the project's benefits? Is the baseline sufficiently robust to support the incremental (additional) For multiple focal area projects:	The baseline narrative is clear. For the project document, STAP encourages UNEP to identify indicators to measure and monitor the adaptation benefits. No. The baseline narrative is provided, but it is not a feasible basis for quantifying the project's benefits. Yes. However, STAP recommends providing the baseline. Indicators need to be identified, and references added to support the description of the baseline
	are the multiple baseline analyses presented (supported by data and are the lessons learned from similar or related past GEF and non-GEF	Non-applicable. Non-applicable.

<p>3) the proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project</p>	<p>how did these lessons inform the design of this project?</p>	<p>Non-applicable.</p>
	<p>What is the theory of change?</p>	<p>The proposed theory of change stated in the document is as follows: "The negative effects of climate change are threatening the livelihoods of local communities across the arid regions of Mauritania, including the wilayas of Adrar, Inchiri and Trarza. These effects are predicted to become more frequent and severe in the future. In the alternative scenario, the proposed LDCF project will increase the capacity of local, regional and national institutions, as well as local communities, to plan and implement climate change adaptation interventions in arid ecosystems. These interventions will restore arid ecosystem functioning and reduce the vulnerability of communities to climate change impacts. Capacity-building of both national and regional government institutions will complement on-the-ground implementation of climate change adaptation interventions. This capacity-building will strengthen the ability of the Government of Mauritania to identify, plan and implement climate change adaptation interventions throughout the arid regions of the country. Furthermore, under the alternative scenario, the project will</p>
	<p>What is the sequence of events (required or expected) that will lead to the desired outcomes?</p>	<p>The project aims to assess the vulnerability of communities to climate change in the wilayas of Adrar, Inchiri and Trarza. It will identify climate change impacts and the appropriate adaptation strategies for each community. The adaptation measures will strengthen the resilience of communities and ecosystems to the effects of drought, desertification and dune migration. Climate action plans at the community level will be instrumental in selecting the adaptation measures. Enhancing knowledge on EbA and its impact on dry ecosystems will also be a major intervention to catalyze adaptation outcomes.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · What is the set of linked activities, outputs, and outcomes to · Are the mechanisms of change plausible, and is there a well-informed identification of the underlying assumptions? 	<p>See above.</p> <p>The mechanisms of change are plausible if a theory of change is developed and revised as needed to respond to barriers, assumptions and on-going learning. The two elements in a theory of change that need to be strengthened are: 1) identifying the causal relationships between the outcomes; and, 2) defining the assumptions that must occur in order for the project's logic to hold true.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Is there a recognition of what adaptations may be required during 	<p>Yes. Adaptation scenarios for each component are detailed.</p>

5) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected	GEF trust fund: will the proposed incremental activities lead to the LDCF/SCCF: will the proposed incremental activities lead to	Non-applicable. Yes, if the adaptation benefits and theory of change are closely monitored.
6) global environmental benefits (GEF trust fund) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)	Are the benefits truly adaptation environmental benefits, and are they measurable? Is the scale of projected benefits both plausible and compelling in Are the adaptation benefits explicitly defined?	Yes. However, the project team may want to rephrase the wording to capture better the adaptation benefit. For example, the benefit on "reducing soil erosion" could be amended to "reduced carbon sequestration to improve agricultural productivity and ecosystem services". Yes. Yes. The PIF details the adaptation activities and benefits that will increase the climate resilience of the baseline. In the complete project document, STAP recommends including indicators, or describing a methodology on how the benefits will be measured and monitored.
	Are indicators, or methodologies, provided to demonstrate how the What activities will be implemented to increase the project's resilience to climate change?	No. STAP encourages UNEP to provide the indicators in the project document. The project will implement three activities to increase the climate resilience of the wilayas of Adrar, Inchiri and Trarza: 1) strengthen institutional capacity to implement climate adaptation strategies in arid ecosystem; 2) increase the resilience of the communities and ecosystems to climate change through improved
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? Is there a clearly-articulated vision of how the innovation will be scaled- Will incremental adaptation be required, or more fundamental transformational change to achieve long term sustainability?	Yes. The project aims to increase the evidence base of ecosystem-based adaptation in arid regions. The project will design the interventions in a systematic way to enable monitoring of the impact of the proposed EbA technologies, and extract the learning for future projects on arid ecosystems. STAP encourages the project team to provide in the project document the methodologies that will be used to measure and monitor the impact of the technologies on adaptation benefits. In addition, STAP proposes a structured approach to learning based on the evidence Yes. STAP is pleased to note that learning uptake on the proposed technologies will occur between the SCCF EbA South Project. Yes. The project aims at a transformational change by introducing EbA to build climate resilience. To assess the scale of change required, UNEP can conduct a resilience assessment using the Resilience, Adaptation Pathways, and Transformation Assessment (RAPTA) or Wayfinder: http://www.stapgef.org/rapta-

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:

Have all the key relevant stakeholders been identified to cover the complexity of the problem, and project implementation barriers? What are the stakeholders' roles, and how will their combined roles

Partially. STAP recommends for the project team to say more about stakeholders by defining their roles in relation to the project components, and specifying their comparative advantages. In addition, it would be useful to provide participatory methodology mentioned in the PIF.

Unclear. STAP recommends providing this information in the project document.

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. Please briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender

Have gender differentiated risks and opportunities been identified, and were preliminary response measures described that would address these differences?

Partially. STAP is pleased the project will include gender indicators in the results/logical framework. STAP encourages the project team to consider EbA in the context of gender inclusive approaches. This could include gender differentiation in the development of the adaptation measures proposed in component 2, as well as analyzing the impact of these technologies through a gender lens.

Do gender considerations hinder full participation of an important

No.

5. Risks. Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible,

Are the identified risks valid and comprehensive? Are the risks specifically for things outside the project's control?

Partially. A range of risks is identified at various levels (national, local). The list seems to be valid. However, STAP encourages the project team to consider the risk that the EbA technologies may not succeed in improving the climate resiliency of the targeted ecosystems, and in improving agricultural productivity. Additionally, it would be useful for the project to say how the project's knowledge (successes and failures) will be managed so that the project is constantly being improved based on learning.

Are there social and environmental risks which could affect the project?

Yes, the project specifies risks on unwillingness to cooperate, limited capacity, and unwillingness to accept adaptation interventions. However, STAP proposes that the project team analyze further the risks to livelihoods and ecosystems. A tool that could be used to analyze the risks (as well as to plan the interventions) is Alive:

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

Unclear. STAP encourages UNEP to use Alive, or a similar tool, that enables the project team to describe the projected climate change in the target areas. This should include an analysis of how the objective, or outputs, will be affected by climate risks over the period 2020 to 2050.

- Has the sensitivity to climate change, and its impacts, been

No. STAP encourages the project team to assess the sensitivity to climate change as suggested above.

- Have resilience practices and measures to address projected

No. See above.

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

The project will strengthen capacity on EbA for arid ecosystems, and livelihoods. In addition to this capacity strengthening, the project should consider training communities in the application of EbA tools (e.g. Alive or another tool) for project design, monitoring and learning. Doing so, will also increase communities' capacity for documenting observed, and projected, climate change and its effects on the targeted sites.

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. As mentioned above, STAP is pleased to note that learning uptake on the proposed technologies will occur between the SCCF EbA South Project in Inchiri and Trarza, and other projects in the target regions mentioned in the baseline narrative.

Is there adequate recognition of previous projects and the learning	Yes.
Have specific lessons learned from previous projects been cited?	Yes. However, STAP recommends that the project team provide further lessons when designing the project.
How have these lessons informed the project's formulation?	Unknown.
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. The intention to learn from earlier projects is indicated but the mechanism is not specified. The knowledge management component should be developed further to ensure the lessons from previous projects are embedded in this project. Similarly, component 3 should explain how learning from this project will be embedded in this project to take advantage of continuous learning.

8. Knowledge management. Outline the "Knowledge	What overall approach will be taken, and what knowledge	The project will implement a knowledge management approach that extracts and builds upon the lessons generated from component 1 and 2. Also, the project will
What plans are proposed for sharing, disseminating and scaling-up results, lessons and experience?	What plans are proposed for sharing, disseminating and scaling-up results, lessons and experience?	Through component 3, the project will collate lessons learned and best practices and share them with stakeholders through various means. In order to systematically collect and disseminate information and knowledge, as well as take-up learning for adaptive management purposes, STAP recommends a knowledge management and learning plan as part of component 3.

STAP Notes