

STAP guidelines for screening GEF projects

Part I: Project Information	Response	
GEF ID	10580	
Project Title	Integrated land management, restoration of degraded landscapes and natural capital assessment in the mountains of Papua New Guinea	
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 acknowledges UNEP’s project “Integrated land management, restoration of degraded landscapes and natural capital assessment in the mountains of Papua New Guinea”. The project seeks to achieve biodiversity conservation and land degradation neutrality in two regions of Papua New Guinea: the Southern Highlands and Hela provinces. [NOTE: the PIF refers to the “Momasa regions” (page 34), which is not part of the Southern Highlands or the Hela provinces. The project developers should clarify where the project actually is.]</p> <p>STAP is pleased to see Papua New Guinea build on its LDN targets to achieve global environmental benefits in biodiversity and sustainable land management. As the project is developed, the project team is encouraged to use STAP’s technical guidelines on LDN as a framework to select best approaches to assess natural capital, and manage trade-offs between land restoration and other competing interests (e.g. mining, palm oil production). The latter will require land use planning approaches that are participatory, spatial and ecosystem-based.</p> <p>STAP welcomes the project’s plan to consider different scenarios to tackle climate risks and hazards. STAP encourages multiple scenario planning to deal with uncertainty and complexity, which may affect the project. To support change, arising from uncertainty or planned</p>	

	<p>innovations, the project will need to create governance and learning structures that are flexible and adaptable, and representative of the social-ecological system context. To this end, STAP recommends developing a systems-based theory of change to capture the linkages across sectors and scales; thereby, define how systems function. Furthermore, the theory of change can assist in identifying the best pathways for coordinating the various GEF-7 projects in this geography.</p> <p>Although the project recognizes the need to coordinate across GEF projects operating in the region and addressing this issue in the PPG phase, STAP encourages relying on stakeholder planning, and the development of a theory of change to identify linkages between projects. This will allow the project team to think carefully about how to coordinate efforts across projects so as not to duplicate activities.</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?	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 global environmental benefits?	Yes, the outcomes focus on global environmental outcomes.
	Are the global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits likely to be generated?	The benefits are likely to be generated with careful monitoring. STAP recommends the project team consider the 3 different options for linking LDN tracking to the existing land administration system (explained in Table 4 of the LDN conceptual framework).

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. STAP recommends that adaptive learning (as suggested in the LDN Conceptual framework); STAP also recommends the PPG contains a clear mapping of products and services against the expected outcomes; and that attention is paid to embedding the 'spatial' aspect in land use planning and in ecosystem-based management. Additionally, the land use planning needs to be highly participatory due to the customary land tenure system. STAP provides a list of recommended additional bibliography at the end of this screening document.
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 is analyzed well. The drivers of deforestation and degradation in the highlands are described, which lead to biodiversity loss and land degradation.
	Are the barriers and threats well described, and substantiated by data and references?	Yes, the PIF describes comprehensively the barriers.
	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?	Yes. The problem requires biodiversity conservation measures as well as sustainable land management practices.
2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects	Is the baseline identified clearly?	Yes, the PIF includes a narrative baseline, describing on-going and past initiatives on biodiversity, sustainable forest management, and sustainable agriculture upon which this project will build on. Papua New Guinea participated in the LDN voluntary target setting programme; thus, defining a baseline and identifying a number of

		measures on sustainable land management to reach the LDN target.
	Does it provide a feasible basis for quantifying the project's benefits?	Core indicators will be assigned during the project design. STAP recommends the team design complementary national and sub-national indicators (in addition to the 3 core global indicators of LDN), appropriate for locally-relevant ecosystem services that are not covered by SOC, NPP or Land cover changes (see page 101 of the LDN Conceptual framework)
	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;	See above.
	are the lessons learned from similar or related past GEF and non-GEF interventions described; and	See above.
	how did these lessons inform the design of this project?	Several of these projects provide technical assistance in biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture and natural resource management. Opportunities for linking these activities with the project will be sought, as well as opportunities for scaling biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management.
3) the proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project	What is the theory of change?	<p>A preliminary theory of change could be described as:</p> <p>“The objective of the proposed project is to support the introduction and scaling-up of innovative sustainable land and forest management practices to help achieve PNG’s voluntary LDN targets and improve ecosystem services. The proposed project will create an enabling environment to improve land use planning and biodiversity conservation and by integrating natural capital assessment (NCA), Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes. Natural capital valuations will be</p>

		<p>done in biodiversity priority areas. The proposed project will also pilot an integrated approach to sustainable land and forest management in the Highlands region to revert land degradation and prevent further deforestation through shifting agriculture.</p> <p>The results of this project will enable scaling-up sustainable land management (SLM) and sustainable forest management (SFM) approaches across the country to help PNG achieve its LDN targets and conserve its natural capital.”</p>
	What is the sequence of events (required or expected) that will lead to the desired outcomes?	See above; not clear at present and it is expected a Theory of Change with a proper narrative and infographics will help to that end.
	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>Unsure as an explicit theory of change and assumptions appear to be lacking in the PIF. STAP suggests developing a theory of change, a figure and accompanying narrative, during the project development to describe the causal logic and assumptions. A theory of change will assist in planning for LDN and biodiversity conservation interventions.</p> <p>The project has clear outcomes and outputs, though it is weak in specifying ‘how’ and ‘who’ will develop what activities. This is of concern given the multiplicity of parallel projects with related scope that are cited in the baseline. Therefore, it will be valuable to use systems analysis to identify the cross-scale linkages and connections between actors (including parallel projects operating in the region), sectors (e.g. agriculture, mining, gas, social and economic sectors) as the theory of change is developed. Refer to STAP’s theory of change primer: 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?	Yes – the project identifies the possibility of climate hazards affecting the project. The project plans to develop climate mitigation measures during the project design.
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 and with careful institutional coordination and inter-agency coordination to avoid duplication of activities among the many contributions that are named in the baseline.
	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. 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>During the project design, STAP recommends addressing the following issues that will reinforce achieving global environmental outcomes:</p> <p>In component 1, STAP recommends using the LDN technical guidelines to assist with capturing natural capital values into landscape management. The guidelines offer how to assess land potential of which natural capital is a component. The guidelines can be found at: https://stapgef.org/sites/default/files/publications/LDN%20Technical%20Report_web%20version.pdf</p> <p>For mapping land use planning and monitoring LDN interventions, the project team may wish to refer to STAP’s primer on remote sensing, which specifies how earth observation systems can complement qualitative research methods: https://www.stapgef.org/earth-observation-and-gef</p>

		<p>STAP is pleased with the project's restoration activities defined in component 2. To support with "testing" of restoration techniques (e.g. contour bunds, mulching, conservation agriculture), and innovative techniques (e.g. agroforestry systems), STAP encourages the project team to identify assumptions and barriers (as well as enablers) to achieving short-outcomes (e.g. farmers adopt contour bunds) in the theory of change. Indicators should be assigned to the short-term outcomes to facilitate their monitoring.</p> <p>Furthermore, it will be valuable to link the theory of change with the monitoring and evaluation plans developed under component 3. This linkage will enable the dual monitoring of short-term outcomes with the global environmental outcomes (where change is slower and harder to detect) identified in section B. The project team is recommended to consult STAP's primer on the theory of change: https://www.stapgef.org/theory-change-primer</p> <p>STAP also recommends linking the project's knowledge with WOCAT's global database on sustainable land management: https://www.wocat.net/en/global-slm-database</p>
	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 biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management, STAP suggests identifying indicators to monitor and track progress of the causal links in the theory of change. As aforementioned, STAP encourages the project

		team to identify indicators appropriate for locally-relevant ecosystem services that are not covered by SOC, NPP or land cover changes (see page 101 of the LDN Conceptual framework).
	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 defining its landscape management interventions for biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management based on Papua New Guinea's LDN voluntary target setting programme. Additionally, the project will assess the value of natural capital through established accounting tools, including The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB). The project's also will pilot sustainable financing mechanisms for sustainable land and forest management.</p> <p>The assumption is that these efforts, combined with capacity building for these technologies and approaches, 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: https://www.stapgef.org/achieving-enduring-outcomes-gef-investment; https://www.stapgef.org/theory-change-primer</p>
	Is there a clearly-articulated vision of how the innovation will be scaled-up, for example, over time, across geographies, among institutional actors?	STAP welcomes the project's activities on scaling by trialing LDN, sustainable land and forest management practices. As mentioned previously, STAP encourages the project team to identify the barriers and enablers to scaling, as well as other assumptions required to achieve the desired change.
	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 risks, such as flooding and

		<p>droughts which the target areas are susceptible to being impacted. 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. 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 Papua New Guinea's socio-economic development is provided. Suggest providing the coordinates for the project sites in the final project document, as well as land uses. 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</p>	<p>Have all the key relevant stakeholders been identified to cover the complexity of the problem, and project implementation barriers?</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>STAP notes the extensive experience of Australia with the setting of biodiversity offset mechanisms (one way the project proposes to offset impacts of development mechanisms). The PPG team is strongly encouraged to learn from that experience and transfer and adapt to the PNG context.</p>

<p>civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the project preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement.</p>		<p>Other relevant, documented, knowledge that could be useful for planning and optimizing engagement with the different stakeholders are:</p> <p>New Guinea Create a National Protected Area System: The Case of the Porgera Joint Venture Mine." <i>Corporate Biodiversity Management for Sustainable Growth: Assessment of Policies and Action Plans</i> (2020): 113-126.</p> <p>Blazey, Patricia and Perkiss, Stephanie. The empowerment of Papua New Guinea's tribespeople: Overcoming the challenges of foreign investment projects [online]. <u><i>Australasian Journal of Regional Studies</i></u>, <u>The</u>, Vol. 22, No. 2, 2016: 206-224. Availability: <u>https://search.informit.com.au/documentSummary;dn=328274131852564;res=IELHSS</u> ≥ ISSN: 1324-0935. [cited 21 May 20].</p> <p>Nordhagen, Stella, Unai Pascual, and Adam G. Drucker. "Feeding the household, growing the business, or just showing off? Farmers' motivations for crop diversity choices in Papua New Guinea." <i>Ecological economics</i> 137 (2017): 99-109.</p> <p>Anderson, Tim. "On the economic value of customary land in Papua New Guinea." (2019).</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>See above.</p>

<p>3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. Please briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis). Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women 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>Have gender differentiated risks and opportunities been identified, and were preliminary response measures described that would address these differences?</p>	<p>A gender assessment and action plan will be developed after the PIF is approved.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>STAP recommends due consideration of these publications:</p> <p>UN Women, Global Mechanism of the UNCCD and IUCN (2019). A Manual for Gender-Responsive Land Degradation Neutrality Transformative Projects and Programmes http://catalogue.unccd.int/1223_Gender_Manual.pdf</p> <p>Global Mechanism of the UNCCD. 2019. Land Degradation Neutrality Interventions to Foster Gender Equality. Bonn, Germany http://catalogue.unccd.int/1222_UNCCD_gender_briefing_note.pdf</p>
	<p>Do gender considerations hinder full participation of an important stakeholder group (or groups)? If so, how will these obstacles be addressed?</p>	<p>See above.</p>
<p>5. Risks. Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that</p>	<p>Are the identified risks valid and comprehensive? Are the risks specifically for things outside the project's control? Are there social and environmental risks which could affect the project?</p>	<p>The PIF summarizes the risks the project may face, including risks from climate change, trade-offs between incentivizing stakeholders to apply restoration initiatives or engage in productive</p>

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>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>sector activities (e.g. mining and palm oil production); lack of capacity to undertake landscape management, 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.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</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.

Additional literature STAP recommends for the preparation of the PPG:

Investigation of opportunities for improving women’s engagement in beekeeping in PNG, Solomon Islands and Fiji

https://www.aciar.gov.au/sites/default/files/project-page-docs/final_report_ls-2017-100_0.pdf

Lau, J. D., Cinner, J. E., Fabinyi, M., Gurney, G. G., & Hicks, C. C. (2020). Access to marine ecosystem services: Examining entanglement and legitimacy in customary institutions. *World Development*, 126, 104730.

Raymond, Christopher M., Brett A. Bryan, Darla Hatton MacDonald, Andrea Cast, Sarah Strathearn, Agnes Grandgirard, and Tina Kalivas. "Mapping community values for natural capital and ecosystem services." *Ecological economics* 68, no. 5 (2009): 1301-1315.

Phillips, Peter M., and Elsa João. "Land use planning and the ecosystem approach: An evaluation of case study planning frameworks against the Malawi Principles." *Land Use Policy* 68 (2017): 460-480.

Putting ES into practice Edited by Luis Inostroza, Hannes König, Lin Zhen, Brian Pickard. Volume 26, Part B, Ecosystem Services Journal. Pages 303-482 (August 2017) Of note is the paper on Integrating spatial valuation of ecosystem services into regional planning and development

Goldstein, J. H., G. Caldarone, C. Colvin, T. Ka`eo Duarte, D. Ennaanay, K. Fronda, N. Hannahs, E. McKenzie, G. Mendoza, K. Smith, S. Wolny, U. Woodside, and G. C. Daily (2010) *TEEB case: Integrating ecosystem services into land-use planning in Hawai'i, USA*. available at: www.TEEBweb.org.

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

Notes

STAP advisory response	Brief explanation of advisory response and action proposed
1. Concur	STAP acknowledges that on scientific or technical grounds the concept has merit. The proponent is invited to approach STAP for advice at any time during the development of the project brief prior to submission for CEO endorsement.
	* In cases where the STAP acknowledges the project has merit on scientific and technical grounds, the STAP will recognize this in the screen by stating that <i>“STAP is satisfied with the scientific and technical quality of the proposal and encourages the proponent to develop it with same rigor. At any time during the development of the project, the proponent is invited to approach STAP to consult on the design.”</i>
2. Minor issues to be considered during project design	STAP has identified specific scientific /technical suggestions or opportunities that should be discussed with the project proponent as early as possible during development of the project brief. The proponent may wish to:
	(i) Open a dialogue with STAP regarding the technical and/or scientific issues raised;
	(ii) Set a review point at an early stage during project development, and possibly agreeing to terms of reference for an independent expert to be appointed to conduct this review.
	The proponent should provide a report of the action agreed and taken, at the time of submission of the full project brief for CEO endorsement.
3. Major issues to be considered during project design	STAP proposes significant improvements or has concerns on the grounds of specified major scientific/technical methodological issues, barriers, or omissions in the project concept. If STAP provides this advisory response, a full explanation would also be provided. The proponent is strongly encouraged to:

	(i) Open a dialogue with STAP regarding the technical and/or scientific issues raised; (ii) Set a review point at an early stage during project development including an independent expert as required. The proponent should provide a report of the action agreed and taken, at the time of submission of the full project brief for CEO endorsement.
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