

How the GEF Secretariat and STAP Screen for Climate Risk



GEF Agency Retreat

Rosina Bierbaum, STAP Chair
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Why this session?

- To exemplify what both the GEF Sec and STAP are looking for in project documents.
- Ensure this is fully understood by the agencies.
- Ensure a consistent approach to climate risk screening.

Climate Risk Assessment

Steps in climate risk assessment



IPCC definitions

- **Risk:** potential for adverse consequences where something of value is at stake and associated with uncertainties.
- **Vulnerability:** propensity to be adversely affected encompassing sensitivity to harm and inability to cope.

Assessing Climate Vulnerability



Projects should:

- Identify current and projected climate vulnerabilities
- Present options for managing climate vulnerabilities to ensure durability of outcomes
- Devise a strategy for monitoring, evaluation, and learning



STAP's Climate Risk Screening Questions

- Has the sensitivity to climate change, and its impacts, been assessed?
- How will the project be affected by climate risks over the period 2020 to 2050, and have the impacts been addressed adequately?
- Have measures to address the risks been considered? How will these risks be dealt with?
- What technical and institutional capacity, and information is needed?

STAP Questions	What to look out for in PIFs and other GEF project documents					
1) Future Climate change impacts?	Range of future expected temperature, precipitation, sea-level rise, flood/droughts heatwaves, etc.?	Changes to natural resources of interest from climate change?	Changes to communities, lifestyles, economics from climate change?	Is climate contributing to problem being addressed?	What might exacerbate future climate risks?	Other considerations? Future Recommendations?
2) Risk to Project outcomes?	How will climate change affect projects' component goals by sector?	How might GEF interventions be amplified or compromised by climate change?	Will planned interventions reduce vulnerability to climate change?	Potential for maladaptation and how to prevent?		Other considerations? Future Recommendations?
3) Measures to address climate impacts?	Proposed climate risk management options?	Details of proposed resilience practices, measures, technologies	How to manage climate risk adaptively?	Feasibility, economic cost, tradeoffs, co-benefits?		Other considerations? Future Recommendations?
4) Future needs to enhance resilience & (Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning)	Technical and institutional capacities needed?	Financial implications of vulnerability management options	Mechanisms to evaluate success. (Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning)			Other considerations? Future Recommendations?

STAP's Question 1

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

are the current and projected climate vulnerabilities at the project location identified?

Information that would be useful includes:

- Historical and projected climatic conditions
- Information on vulnerability to project climatic conditions
- Is climate change a driver of the targeted problem?
- Interactions between climate and non-climate stressors



<https://www.mitchell.com/assessing-climate-sensitivity>

STAP's Question 2

How will the project be affected by climate risks over the period 2020 to 2050, and have the impacts been addressed adequately?

have drivers of the climate vulnerabilities been analyzed for the project and planned interventions?

Information that would be useful includes:

- Expected climate impacts and level of severity on targeted components at project location.
 - Impacts on the efficacy of proposed interventions.
 - Will proposed intervention reduce or decrease climate vulnerability?
 - Potential for maladaptation.
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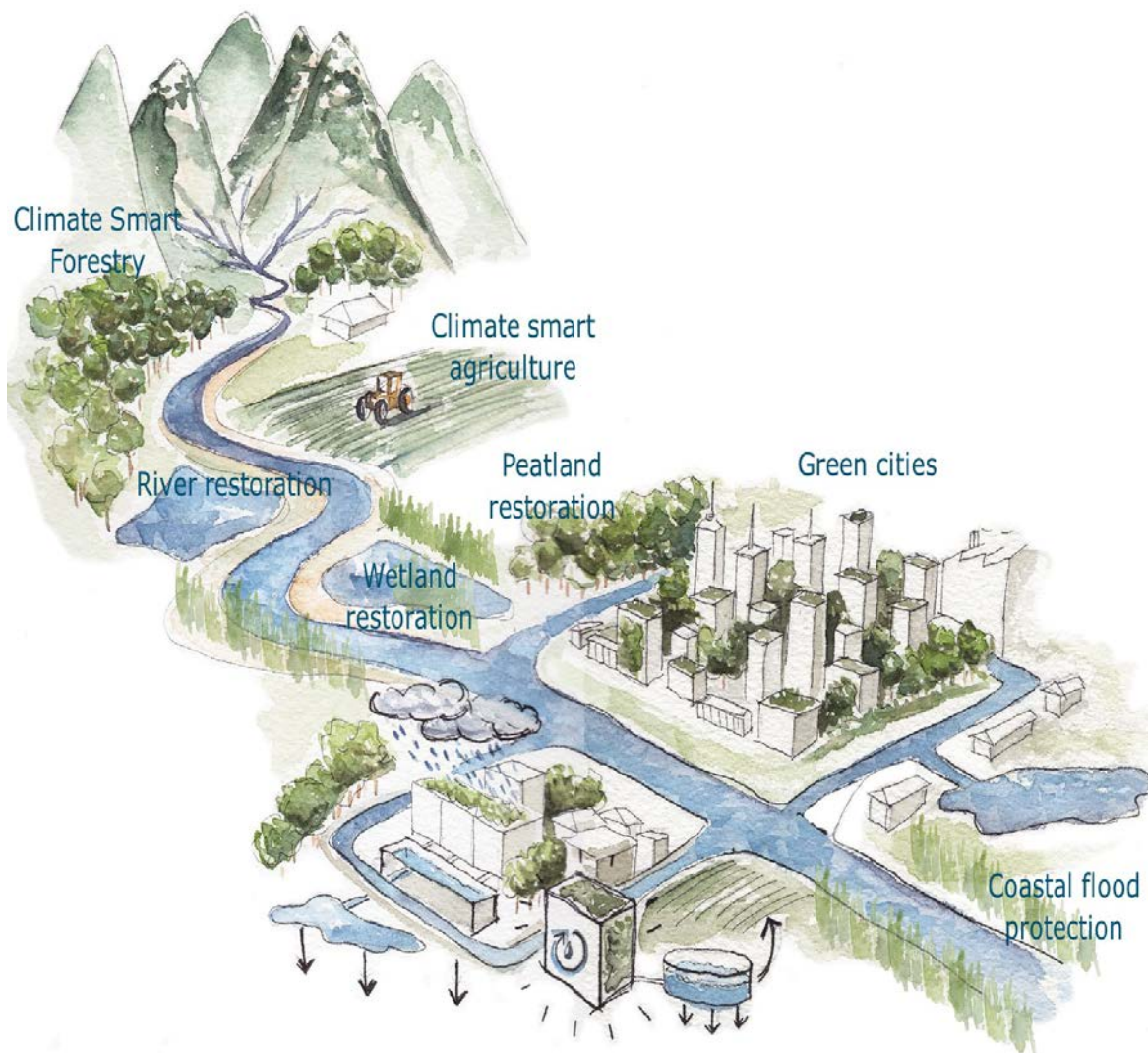
STAP's Question 3

Have measures to address the risks been considered? How will these risks be dealt with?

have options for adaptive management to ensure durability of outcomes been considered?

Information that would be useful includes:

- What are the climate risk management measures?
- How will the measure address the identified vulnerabilities?
- Evaluation of how to manage adaptively
- Feasibility, effectiveness, economic cost, tradeoffs, and co-benefits.



<https://www.wur.nl/en/show-longread/Nature-as-the-inspiration-for-climate-solutions.htm>

STAP's Question 4

What technical and institutional capacity, and information is needed?

is there a monitoring, evaluation and learning strategy for the selected climate vulnerability management options?

Information that would be useful includes:

- What are the needed technical and institutional capacities?
 - Financial implications of climate vulnerability management options.
 - Mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation and learning.
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Looking ahead to GEF-8

- Integrating climate risk into project design
- Nature-based Solutions
- Behavior Change, Multi-stakeholder Dialogue, and Mainstreaming Biodiversity



Relevant STAP Resources

STAP guidelines for screening GEF projects

The screening guidelines for GEF projects were developed by STAP, and follow the structure of the GEF's Project Identification Form (PIF). The guidelines answer the question, "what does STAP look for when it screens projects?", and provide prompts for project proponents to address scientific and technical issues that are important for designing projects. For example, the guidelines assist with the problem analysis, and help develop an impact pathway (theory of change) to achieve the project objective. To help plan for change in the project's social-ecological system, the guidelines assist with developing intervention options and alternative pathways to deal with the change required (incremental or transformational change) to achieve resilience.

<http://stapgef.org/stap-guidelines-screening-gef-projects>

STAP guidance on climate risk screening

A STAP Document

June 2019

STAP SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY PANEL
An independent group of scientists that advises the Global Environment Facility



<http://stapgef.org/stap-guidance-climate-risk-screening>

GEF AGENCY RETREAT: guidance on climate risk screening of GEF projects

1. Background

In June 2019, STAP released a guidance document on climate risk screening¹ that presents a common standard for the screening of GEF projects for potential climate risks. The guidance proposed that the climate risk screening of GEF projects should include at least four steps that will help identify, rank, and develop management options for potential climate risk. The IPCC defines risk as the "potential for adverse consequences where something of value is at stake and where the occurrence and degree of an outcome is uncertain"², and is due to the interaction of a combination of possible hazards, the exposure of affected systems, and the vulnerabilities of the exposed systems.³ However, in the most recent IPCC report vulnerability is defined as, "the propensity or predisposition to be adversely affected. Vulnerability encompasses a variety of concepts and elements including sensitivity or susceptibility to harm and lack of capacity to cope and adapt"⁴, which STAP thinks is a better descriptor for this purpose.

Increasingly, climate change is a lens through which all GEF projects and programs should be viewed. STAP thinks that climate thinking should be 'mainstreamed' into the earliest stages of project design, e.g., considering the durability of the choice of interventions to implement Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in the face of climate change right up front as the Project Information Form (PIF) is developed. STAP has therefore been encouraging GEF agencies to evaluate how climate change could affect defined project goals and develop contingency plans.

STAP notes that the Council has been pushing for climate risk screening for a decade; all the agencies now think it is important and most have begun their own screening. Implementing STAP's current guidance will, with practice, help to promote more transformational thinking about climate mainstreaming in future work programs. This paper focuses on what STAP and the GEF Secretariat will screen for when reviewing projects using STAP's June 2019 screening guidance.

The GEF Secretariat and STAP will look for evidence that PIFs have evaluated the role climate change may play in achieving desired outcomes, to ensure that PIFs have: identified the current and projected range of climate vulnerabilities at the project location, as well as to the planned project interventions/components, based on credible scientific and salient information; presented options for managing climate vulnerability to ensure the durability of the expected project outcomes; and devised a strategy for monitoring and evaluating the selected climate vulnerability management options.

¹ STAP, 2019. STAP guidance on climate risk screening. A STAP Document. <http://www.stapgef.org/stap-guidance-climate-risk-screening>

² IPCC, 2014: Annex II: Glossary (Working Group II, S. Djobssi and C. von Stechow (eds.)), in: Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Core Writing Team, R.K. Pachauri and L.A. Meyer (eds.)]. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland, pp. 117-130.

³ Based on IPCC, 2012, Determinants of risk: exposure and vulnerability. In: Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation. A Special Report of Working Groups I and II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK, and New York, NY, USA, pp. 65-108; and IPCC, 2014: Summary for policymakers. In: Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Part A: Global and Sectoral Aspects. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA, pp. 1-32.

⁴ Ibid: IPCC, 2014.

<http://stapgef.org/sites/default/files/documents/GEF%20AGENCY%20RETREAT%20Mar-Apr%202020.pdf>

STAP Secretariat contact: Sunday Leonard (sunday.leonard@un.org)