AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK



PROJECT: PROMOTION OF GENDER-SENSITIVE AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS TO SUPPORT THE AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION SUPPORT PROGRAMME IN MAURITANIA (PCVASG-PATAM)

COUNTRY: ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA (RIM)

PROJECT APPRAISAL REPORT

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ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA

PROMOTION OF GENDER-SENSITIVE AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS TO SUPPORT THE AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION SUPPORT PROGRAMME (PCVASG-PATAM)

APPRAISAL REPORT

RDGN/AHAI/AHFR DEPARTMENTS

September 2021

Translated document

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Currency Equivalents

[June 2021]

Currency: New Mauritanian Ouguiya (MRU)

[UA 1]	=	[MRU 52.12]
[UA 1]	=	[EUR 1.19603]
[UA 1]	=	[USD 1.422293]

Fiscal Year

[1 January – 31 December]

Weights and Measures

1 metre (m) 1 millimetre (mm) 1 kilometre (Km) 1 square kilometre (Km ²) 1 acre (a) 1 hectare (ha) 1 kilogramme (kg) 1 metric ton	= = = = =	3.280 feet 0.03937 inch = 0.62 mile (=1,000 m) 1,000,000 m ² 100 m ² 2.471 acres (= 10,000 m ²) 2.204 pounds 1,000 kg
	=	
1 metric ton	=	2,204 pounds

Acronyms and Abbreviations

Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa
French Development Agency
African Development Bank
Agricultural Sector
Automated System for Customs Data
Agricultural Water Users Association
Banque pour le Commerce et l'Industrie
Central Bank of Mauritania
Crédit Agricole de Mauritanie
Local Consultation Board
Performance Measurement Framework
National Agricultural Research Centre
National Project Coordination Committee
Regional Project Coordination Committee
Directorate of Planning, Statistics, Cooperation and Monitoring-Evaluation
Economic Interest Group
Environmental and Social Management Plan
European Union
United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation
Microfinance Refinancing Fund
Gross Domestic Product
Gender Equity
Guarantee Fund
Government of Mauritania
Irrigation Area
General Inspectorate of Finance
International Monetary Fund
Made in Mauritania Initiative
Islamic Development Bank
Integrated Safeguards System
Integrated Water Resources Management
Young Agricultural Entrepreneurs
Organic Law on the Appropriations Act
Ministry of Agriculture
Ministry of Economic Affairs and Promotion of Production Sectors

MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NA	North Africa
NBM	Nouvelle Banque de Mauritanie
NTF	Nigeria Trust Fund
ONS	National Statistics Agency
PADEL	Livestock Development Support Project
PAHABO	Brakna-Ouest Irrigation Scheme Project
PAFEJ	Youth Training and Employment Support Programme
PAMPEJ	Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Promotion and Youth Employment Support Project
PAP	Project-Affected Persons
PAREDE	Economic Reforms and Economic Diversification Support Programme
PBO	Programme-Based Operations
PMF	Women's Market Gardening Area (Périmètre Maraicher Féminin)
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PROPEP	President's Extended Priority Programme
P2RS	Project to Build Resilience to Food and Nutrition Insecurity in the Sahel
RP	Resettlement Plan
RSF	Risk-Sharing Facility
SCAPP	Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity Strategy
SNIM	Société Nationale Industrielle et Minière de Mauritanie (National Industrial and Mining Company of Mauritania)
SOVI	Impact-Oriented Monitoring
TA	Technical Assistance
TAAT	Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation
UA	Unit of Account
UAA	Useful Agricultural Area
VAT	Value Added Tax
WB	World Bank
ZTAI	Agri-Food Processing Areas

Project Brief	
Client Information	
BORROWER:	Islamic Republic of Mauritania - RIM
	(Ministry of Economic Affairs and Promotion of Production
	Sectors – MAEPSP)

EXECUTING AGENCY: Ministry of Agriculture – MA

Financing Plan

Source	Amount	Instrument
NTF	UA 3.60 million	Loan
Government of Mauritania		Treasury/Own resources
TOTAL COST	UA 4.00 million	

Key AfDB Financing Information

Item	NTF Loan
Loan Currency	Unit of Account (UA)
Interest rate	NA
Disbursement currency	USD
Service charge	0.75% per year on the disbursed loan amount non-
	reimbursed. Payable on the reimbursement dates.
Commitment fee	0.50% per year on the non-disbursed and non- reimbursed portion of the loan, effective 120 days following signature of the Loan Agreement. Payable on the reimbursement dates.
Other fees	None
Maturity	20 years
Grace period	7 years

Timeframe – Main Milestones (expected)

Concept Note approval	March 2021
Project appraisal	June 2021
NTF loan negotiations	July 2021
Project approval	September 2021
NTF loan effectiveness	December 2021
Project completion	December 2025
Last disbursement	December 2026

Executive Summary

I. Project Overview

1.1 This project will support the activities of the Agricultural Transformation Support Programme in Mauritania (PATAM), particularly agricultural production (market gardening) in Brakna-West region as well as strengthen women's inclusion and the development of women's institutions. Overall, it will help to improve food security and the quality of life for the target population through inclusive and sustainable gender-sensitive value chain development. The project is aligned with Mauritania's Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity Strategy (SCAPP), which aims among other things to consolidate the role of the agro-pastoral sector and make it a source of economic diversification and growth. It is in line with (i) the Bank's five strategic priorities (High 5s) and particularly the Feed Africa Strategy (2016-2025); (ii) the Bank's Ten-Year Strategy (2013-2022); (iii) the CSP (2016-2022) for Mauritania (Pillar 1: Support for agricultural transformation); (iv) the Bank's Gender Strategy, 2021-2025; as well as (v) the following Bank flagship initiatives: Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT); the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA); Enable Youth; the Risk-Sharing Facility (RSF); and the Agri-Food Transformation Areas (ZTAI). The project is centred in Brakna-West region, considered as extremely poor.

1.2 The total project cost of 208.5 million new Ouguiyas (MRU), equivalent to UA 4 million, over a period of four years (2022-2025), will be financed by an NTF loan of UA 3.6 million. This is a climate change adaptation project that supports the transition towards inclusive sustainable growth. The project will finance (i) the establishment of irrigation infrastructure (women's market gardening areas over 420 ha and harnessing renewable energy); (ii) the promotion of value chains and women's entrepreneurship and establishment of an inclusive microfinance mechanism (network of locally-managed micro-credit funds complementary to the funding measures planned by PATAM, including the opening of an agricultural guarantee and insurance fund); and (iii) institutional capacity-building and project coordination. It will directly affect 12,500 producers organised in 120 women's cooperatives, with a total target population estimated at 46,000 predominantly smallholders, considered the Bank's privileged target group.

II. Needs Assessment

2.1 Efficient natural resource management has become an imperative in Mauritania, given its severe exposure to the impacts of climate change. The COVID-19 pandemic led the country to recession in 2020 and aggravated food insecurity for many households, particularly in rural areas. It is necessary to diversify the Mauritanian economy to reduce its dependence on extractive industries (particularly iron, accounting for four-fifths of total exports and 30% of budgetary revenue on average) and boost the competitiveness of the agro-pastoral sector through inclusive and sustainable development. The project was initiated to complement the activities of PATAM, support agricultural processing and promote exclusively women-led market gardening value chains since women have expertise accumulated over the years. To capitalise and develop this expertise, the women will need support at all stages and segments of the value chain. In addition, the significant gains of the Brakna-Ouest Irrigation Development Project (PAHABO), centred on production and productivity, need to be strengthened and extended, and the *processing aspect* enhanced for better access to markets (organisation of downstream production and support for post-production activities). The design process followed a concerted systemic approach mobilising all stakeholders concerned, thanks to the integrated participatory approach (IPA).

III. Bank's Value Added

3.1 Cognizant of the good results of PAHABO¹ and the successful launching of PATAM, the Government considers the African Development Bank Group as a multilateral donor of choice capable of supporting the country to address key sector issues such as inclusive and sustainable

¹ The return of more than 1,500 households to the project area is one of the key indicators of the project's success.

development of irrigation and agricultural production, innovative promotion of value chains, gender equality and women's entrepreneurship, in addition to mobilising other development partners. The project is an extension of PAHABO. It builds on the reforms initiated in Phases 1 and 2 of the Economic Reforms and Diversification Support Programme (PAREDE - Phases 1 & 2) and complements PATAM, PAFEJ (Youth Training and Employment Support Programme) and PAMPEJ (Project to Support Micro-, Small and Medium Enterprises and the Employment of Youth). The best practice and achievements that enabled PAHABO to win the President's High 5 (Feed Africa) Award during the Bank's Annual Meetings held in May 2017 in India, have been replicated and the lessons learned reflected in this PCVASG's design. The project will help to build resilience to climate change and COVID 19.

3.2 Through this project, the Bank will prepare women's cooperatives for a possible AFAWA project that could benefit the agricultural sector. The project will support targeted women's cooperatives and accompany their development from small traditional structures to more structured and modern forms geared towards the emergence of high-impact VSME. Hence, the women cooperatives will be accompanied through technical support to enable them to structure, legally establish themselves and grow to the point of accessing AFAWA financing when their capacity and development level would have attained the required level.

IV. Knowledge Building

4.1 The project will modernise irrigation systems, promote agricultural processing and value chains, develop women's entrepreneurship, set up inclusive microfinance and disseminate to its stakeholders the necessary technical and organisational knowledge (use of information systems to be set up, agricultural advice, innovations, etc.). It will help to strengthen the Bank's innovative operations in the agricultural and rural sector. In this sense, the project's contribution will be highly useful for (i) disseminating climate-smart agricultural technologies and practices, (ii) promoting aggregation and PPP initiatives, (iii) the institutional organisation of women farmers and their interactions with other grassroots organisations (water user associations, women's market gardening cooperatives, economic interest groups (EIGs), rice cooperatives, etc.), (iv) the co-empowerment of women and their grassroots organisations and improvement of decision-making, and (v) advisory support to women farmers for better access to markets. These interventions will build institutional stakeholder capacity: administrative entities, inter-professions and beneficiary organisations. The knowledge generated will be disseminated to Mauritania and Bank structures via their websites, as well as through monitoring/evaluation, appraisal, supervision, mid-term review and completion reports, etc. Digitization support initiatives will also be considered, and the African Digital Financial Inclusion (ADFI) will be called in to identify opportunities and support innovative solutions for women and smart agriculture.

RESUI	LTS FF	RAME	WORK		
A PROJECT INFORMATION	N				
 PROJECT NAME AND SAP CODE: Gender-Ser Chains Promotion Project to Support PATAM (PCV SAP: P-MR-AAC-012 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE: Cont 	nsitive Agricultı VASG)			//REGION: Maur	
population.					
ALIGNMENT INDICATOR(S):					
- Reduction in the rate of food and nutrition	n security of the	population			
- Reduction in vegetable imports					
African Gender Index RESULTS MATRIX					
RESULTS MATRIX RESULTS CHAIN AND DESCRIPTION OF INDICATORS	CMR/ADOA INDICATOR	UNIT OF MEASURE	BASELINE SITUATION (2021)	TARGET AT COMPLETION (2025)	MEANS OF VERIFICATION
I OUTCOME 1: Sustainable improvement in ve	getable output	and production		(2023)	
OUTCOME INDICATOR 1.1: Sustainable improvement in vegetable yields.		% increase	0	50%	MA reports
OUTCOME INDICATOR 1.2: Additional production of diversified vegetables.		Tons	0	12,920 T	MA reports
I OUTCOME 2: Sustainable development of ma	rket gardening	produce		-	
OUTCOME INDICATOR 2.1: Volume of market gardening products packaged at Bogué.		T/year	0	1,120 T/year	Project reports
OUTCOME INDICATOR 2.2: Proportion of products packaged.		%	0	10%	Project reports
I OUTCOME 3: Empowerment supported and s	trengthened in	the project are	ea		
OUTCOME INDICATOR 3.1: Number of new jobs created.		Number	0	1,200 70% of whom women	Project progress report
OUTCOME INDICATOR 3.2: Number of active self-employed persons.		Number	3,000	12,500, 100% women	Project progress report
I OUTPUT 1: Women-owned vegetable farming	areas laid out	and developed			
OUTPUT 1.1 Additional women market gardening areas (PMF) laid out and ready for development.		ha	0	420	Works completion report
OUTPUT INDICATOR 1.2: Rate of agricultural intensification.		level	1	1.5	Farming season reports
I OUTPUT 2: The agro-pastoral ecosystems of the	he project area	restored			
OUTPUT INDICATOR 2.1: Pastoral reserves regenerated		ha	0	150	Project report
OUTPUT INDICATOR 2.2: Updated ESMP implemented.		Number	0 (2021)	11(2025)	E&S monitoring reports
I OUTPUT 3: Integrated women's entrepreneur	ship and value	chain platform	s functional.		
OUTPUT INDICATOR 3.1: Integrated platforms constructed and equipped.		Number	0	9 (2024)	Works completion report
OUTPUT INDICATOR 3.2: Packaging centre and AVC equipment functional.		Qualitative	N	0	Project report
I OUTPUT 4: The capacity of women's cooperat	tives and VC st	akeholders are	built		
OUTPUT INDICATOR 4.1: A cooperatives training and restructuring plan is adopted and implemented.		Qualitative	N	0	Contractor's reports

OUTPUT INDICATOR 4.2: Resource				Contractor's
persons and officials trained in cooperative	Number	0	600	reports
management, technical routes and nutrition.				reports

I OUTPUT 5: Agricultural value chain infrastru	cture develope	ed						
OUTPUT INDICATOR 5.1: Bogué vegetable market and packaging centre equipped.		Qualitative	Ν	O (2023)	Project reports			
I OUTPUT 6: The entrepreneurship of youth (70	0% girls and 3	0% boys) and w	omen develop	ed				
OUTPUT INDICATOR 6.1: Number of young AVC entrepreneurs financed and supported.		Number	0	60	Project reports			
OUTPUT INDICATOR 6.1: Number of innovative start-ups financed and supported.		Number	0	6	Project reports			
I OUTPUT 7: The inclusive community-based financing system developed								
OUTPUT INDICATOR 7.1: Agricultural savings and loan funds (CECA) established and functional.		Number	0	3	Network reports			
OUTPUT INDICATOR 7.2: Guarantee fund and agricultural insurance schemes operational.		Qualitative	Ν	O (2023)	Project report			
I OUTPUT 8: The project's institutional and coo	ordination cap	acity strengthen	ed					
OUTPUT INDICATOR 8.1: Access of women's cooperatives to information on agricultural markets.		Qualitative	Ν	0	Specific reports			
OUTPUT INDICATOR 8.1: Community supervision team strengthened by rural facilitators and advisers.		Number	0	7	Project reports			

MAURITANIA: GENDER-SENSITIVE AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAINS PROMOTION PROJECT TO SUPPORT PATAM

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE 2021 – 2025



I-STRATEGIC THRUST AND RATIONALE

1.1. Project Linkages with Country Strategy and Objectives

1.1.1 The Gender-Sensitive Agricultural Value Chains Promotion Project (PCVASG) supports the Agricultural Transformation Support Programme (PATAM), which is part of efforts undertaken by the Mauritanian authorities to move from a cash-based to a diversified economy driven by promising production sectors excluding the extractive industries. In 2012, the Government prepared a Rural Sector Development Strategy (SDSR), the key operational reference framework for the sector reflecting Government's desire to ensure better articulation and coordination of action in the agricultural sector to promote a modern, resilient and competitive agriculture by 2025.

1.1.2 The SDSR laid out five strategic areas of support: (1) infrastructure, (2) research, (3) rural advisory services, (4) funding and (5) trade. To operationalise the SDSR, a National Agricultural Development Plan (PNDA) was prepared and approved in 2016. The Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity Strategy (SCAPP 2016-2030) – the reference framework for development, poverty reduction and job creation for Mauritania – confirmed these orientations and adopted the following three pillars: (i) Promotion of robust, inclusive and sustainable economic growth; (ii) Human capital development and access to basic services and (iii) Strengthening of governance in all its dimensions. Also noteworthy recently was the impact of the current pandemic on the country's economy. This difficult situation led the Government to roll out an Emergency COVID-19 Response Plan and launch an Expanded Priority Programme of the President of the Republic (ProPEP), hinged on the following key areas:

- <u>Area 1</u>: Growth support infrastructure (urban mobility; digital infrastructure; rural infrastructure; road maintenance and repair; strengthening of water infrastructure);
- <u>Area 2</u>: Supply of social services and support for demand (Improvement of the living conditions of the disadvantaged, improved supply of health and education services and youth employment);
- <u>Area 3</u>: Production potential and food self-sufficiency (development of the fisheries potential; better harnessing of the agro-pastoral potential);
- <u>Area 4</u>: Support for the private sector;
- <u>Area 5</u>: Reforestation and green job creation (Measures to reduce deforestation and ensure sustainable forest management and restoration; strengthening of the national Great Green Wall initiative; Pollution control and improvement of urban solid waste management and recycling).

1.1.3 Thus, PCVASG buttresses Government's efforts to promote agricultural value chains and empower women. It aligns with the strategic orientations and focus areas announced in the above-mentioned policy documents implemented in the country.

1.2. Rationale for the Bank's Involvement

1.2.1 **PCVASG aims to meet the needs expressed by women's cooperatives. The project complements and further consolidates the outputs of Bank Group operations in the sector in Mauritania.** In this regard, it is worth noting the good performance of the flagship Brakna-Ouest Irrigation Development Project (PAHABO), initially financed by the Bank, which is a reference in rural development in Mauritania. Field visits revealed the project's remarkable socio-economic impacts, reflecting its success, including the creation of new villages, improved housing and reversal of rural exodus with over 1,500 returnee households and young people to West Brakna. These positive impacts are mainly due to the extension of floodplain cultivated areas following the restoration of the natural channels that feed the flood basins. This optimal management model favoured a more inclusive development that benefits a diversified community. It also helped to regenerate ecosystems and improve access to the region. PCVASG is also in line with the actions of the Inclusive Value Chains Development Project (PRODEFI) and the multinational Programme to Build Resilience to Food and Nutrition Insecurity in the Sahel (P2RS). The sustainable gender-sensitive value chain approach adopted for

this project will make it possible to scale up and amplify the achievements, correct social inequalities and help to reduce poverty and insecurity in West Brakna.

Since PCVASG supports PATAM, it is in line with Government (SCAPP-2016/2030 SDSR) and 1.2.2 the Bank's strategic orientations on strengthening food security. Five strategic support areas were set out by SDSR: (i) Infrastructure, (ii) Research, (iii) Rural advice, (iv) Financing and (v) Trade. To operationalize SDSR, a National Agricultural Development Plan (PNDA) was developed and approved in 2016. SCAPP (2016-2030) – the reference framework for Mauritania in terms of development, poverty reduction and job creation – confirmed these orientations and retained the following three pillars: (1) Promotion of robust, inclusive and sustainable economic growth; (2) Human capital development and access to basic services, and (3) Strengthening of governance in all its dimensions The project is also in line with the Bank's five strategic priorities (the High 5s), notably "Feed Africa"; "Improve the quality of life for the people of Africa" and "Industrialise Africa". It is also aligned with (i) the Bank Group's Ten-Year Strategy [2013-2022] (inclusive growth and transition to green growth objectives); (ii) the first pillar of the Bank's Country Strategy Paper, 2016-2020 for Mauritania "Support for agricultural transformation"; (iii) the Bank's Strategy for Agricultural Transformation in Africa: Feed Africa [2016-2025], the COVID-19 Rapid Response Facility, including its Feed Africa strategy; (iv) the Jobs for Youth in Africa Strategy (2016-2025) and (v) the Bank's Gender Strategy focused on Investing in Gender Equality for Africa's Transformation (2021-2025), particularly Pillar I "Empower women through access to financing and markets". Lastly, the project mainstreams the objectives of the Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) Programme, for deploying technologies to increase agricultural productivity and production.

1.3. Aid Coordination

1.3.1 Government ensures agricultural sector development with support from key development partners, including the African Development Bank Group (AfDB), the World Bank (WB), the European Union (EU), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), and bilateral cooperation (Saudi Fund, AFD, GIZ, etc.). Aid is coordinated through thematic groups, including the agriculture thematic group chaired by the Directorate of Planning, Statistics, Cooperation and Monitoring-Evaluation (DPSCSE) of the Ministry of Agriculture. The post-COVID-19 recovery programme that Government presented to TFPs in September 2020 will be the new framework for consultation for the next three years. As PATAM is supported by several partners, a coordination of partners has been instituted with at least one joint supervision each year and regular conference calls.

	Sector or sub-sector*		Scope	
	Sector or sub-sector*	GDP	Exports	Jobs
	[Agriculture]	[23.4%] ⁽¹⁾	[0%]	[30%] ⁽¹⁾
		Stakeholders – Cumul	ative Public Expenditure	
	Government	Donors		[%]
USD	[USD 67.86 million]	[USD 461.96 million]	WB	[34.2%]
%	[13 %]	87 %]	EU IFAD	[20.4%] [17.9%]
			Saudi Funds	[7.4%]
			IsDB	[6.4%]
			AFESD	[4.7%]
			AFD	[2.9%]
			AfDB GIZ	[2.6 %] [1.3 %]
		Aid Coord	ination Level	
	Existence of thematic working	g groups		[Yes]
	Existence of a global sector pr	ogramme		[Yes]
	AfDB role in aid coordination	**		[M]***

*the most appropriate** for this sector or subsector *** L: Lead; M: Member (non-lead): None: No role

 Including stockbreeding

II – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 **Project Requirements**

2.1.1The Agricultural Transformation Support Programme in Mauritania (PATAM) is gaining momentum. This major programme which received initial support from the Bank Group for 5 years (2019/2023) was approved in December 2018. It features: (i) the construction of transformative (opening of a women market garden farming area (PMF) of 200 ha, development of basins over 3,300 ha to promote flood recession agriculture, rehabilitation/consolidation of the 63 km of dyke-track); (ii) promotion of value chains and entrepreneurship among young people and women (support for market gardening, rice growing, flood recession agriculture, food processing, access to markets, etc.) and establishment of inclusive and innovative agricultural sector financing mechanisms (guarantee funds, agricultural insurance, etc.); and (iii) institutional capacity-building and coordination of PATAM. This transformative programme is off to a good start and the main development works are underway. The final design studies of MFPs for PATAM are being conducted as planned. Those for this project will continue as soon as the loan is approved but will be available before end-2021. They are co-financed in parallel by several technical and financial partners. In addition to ADF's UA 7 million and NTF's UA 6 million already approved, additional financing has been mobilised and approved. IsDB has provided EUR 33 million (to support the rice sector); GEF USD 2 million (being prepared: to manage waste and reduce pollution from agricultural sources); Green Fund's financing to be mobilised to mitigate the effects of climate change and strengthen environmental protection; and GIZ financing to support agricultural and rural entrepreneurship.

Concept, Rationale and Recommended Approach: This project fits into the PATAM framework as 2.1.2 it is consistent and well-articulated with the orientations of this strategic programme, which mobilises several partners. It continues and consolidates the gains of the Brakna-Ouest Irrigation Development Project (PAHABO), a successful operation. Its activities are complementary with those of the first PATAM project currently underway. They will reinforce the ongoing value chain development activities, focused specifically on empowering women in West Brakna region, who find themselves disadvantaged despite their drive and strong commitment to agricultural development. The current COVID-19 pandemic has exposed several vulnerabilities and difficulties amplified by confinement and closure of borders, particularly regarding access to care and food. The challenges and stakes are even higher at the local level where communities lack adequate socio-economic infrastructure and production facilities. Consequently, urgent measures are needed to support the people's food security. This project is in line with the post-COVID-19 economic recovery initiated by Government, the Bank-supported COVID-19 Response Support Programme (FAREC) and the Bank's strategic priorities in Mauritania. In this context, a participatory approach was adopted from the start of project preparation by organising grassroots consultations with local stakeholders, mostly women's cooperatives. Based on these consultations, needs were prioritised, with the creation of vegetable farming areas and integrated platforms (multipurpose women promotion centres) topping the list. The selected activities were jointly validated in December 2020 at participatory workshops organised in the project area. The project has adopted a holistic approach to value chains (relationship between the various value chain segments and stakeholders from production to distribution). Thus, it advocates women's access to productive resources to ensure their effective empowerment. In this regard, the project will ensure the regularisation and eventual allocation of land titles to women's cooperatives operating market garden areas. There are also plans to set up and equip integrated platforms to undertake all women advancement activities in a single dedicated space equipped with community day-care centres. Here, in addition to value chain management, emphasis will be placed on training, improved nutrition and maternal and child health. These equipped platforms will enable women to come together to optimise income-generating activities (IGAs), reduce their workload and free up time for other activities. Furthermore, access to agricultural and financial services will be improved through capacity-building, as envisaged by the project for all value chain (VCs) stakeholders and opening of savings and credit banks. At the extended VC level, the project will support the start-up of the vegetable processing centre and establishment of vegetable markets in Bogué to ensure the economic viability of the VCs.

2.2 **Project Objectives**

2.2.1 The sector objective is to contribute to improve the food and nutrition security and quality of life of the target population. The project's specific objective is to support increase in productivity, the development of agricultural products and women's autonomy.

2.3 **Project Components**

2.3.1 To achieve the set objectives, PCVASG - which is complementary to PATAM - will have the same components as the latter with special emphasis on the economic empowerment of women: (i) Transformative irrigation schemes; (ii) Promotion of value chains, youth/women's entrepreneurship; and (iii) Capacity-building and project coordination.

N°	Component Name	Cost Estimates	Description of Components
I	Transformative irrigation infrastructure	UA 2.46 million (61.6%)	 Laying out and development of 120 women market gardening areas (PMF) over 420 ha through a California-type irrigation system with buried pipes (60 PMFs along the river/flooded tributaries and 60 PMFs in the Diéri high ground area), due to constraints linked to the availability of water, the latter being supplied by solar pumping fed from mini-boreholes; Establishment of fodder reserves by fencing off 150 ha. Support measures: Monitoring and control of works and the PATAM ESMP updated by incorporating MFP works and implementation of NIES.
Π	Promotion of value chains and youth and women's entrepreneurship	UA 1.34 million (33.6%)	 Construction and equipment of nine (9) integrated platforms (multipurpose centre for the promotion of women's activities) of 420 m² comprising two offices; one (1) equipped training room, one (1) sewing room with a set of sewing machines; one (1) technical room, one (1) community shop; one (1) exhibition room and one (1) store; as well as a community day care centre with a play area for children; Strengthening of the technical and management capacity of women's cooperatives (training of 600 leaders of 120 cooperatives, 6 trainers and 12 relay farmers; provision and use of high quality seeds; advice on the choice of suitable crops and good crop planning to avoid overcrowding and overproduction of the same product and consequently price falls; training in crop diversification and intensification; Dissemination of best irrigation practices and climate-smart agriculture, technical guides (200 copies) for the main crops and sectors, resulting from CNRADA research, available and translated into national languages, and structuring of cooperatives, 6 MSEs and inter-professional organisations in the market gardening sector; Support for the implementation of an efficient MFP management system; Information Education and Information on nutrition and reproductive health, prevention of COVID 19 and sensitisation of communities on prevention and fight against gender-based violence including female genital mutilation, early marriages, sexual and reproductive of the Bogué vegetable market and vegetable processing centre, and the establishment of a system for contracting cooperatives with this centre (support for the aggregation process); Support for the promotion of youth and women's entrepreneurship and innovations in market gardening (value addition for local products, aromatic plants /Labelling of Bogué Mint/Nanaa; marketing, promotion of a guarantee mechanism and an agricultural insurance scheme (synergy with PATAM). Support for the establishment of three (3) savings and m

 Table 2.2: Project Components

			•	Support for marketing (setting up e-commerce, solidarity markets, involvement of interprofessional groups, support for digitisation and new technologies, etc.);
Ш	Capacity- building and project coordination	UA 0.19 million (4.8%)	-	Strengthening of supervisory staff (supervisor, AVB, advisors and facilitators) Market information system made available to cooperatives Support for monitoring/evaluation, communication project coordination by PATAM.

2.4 Technical Solutions Selected and Alternatives Explored

2.4.1 The PCVASG project has adopted a participatory and holistic approach to sustainable value chain development by mobilising all stakeholders in the market gardening sector and segments of the extended VC (from production to distribution). The proposed solutions are based on consultations with stakeholders during the preparatory mission and on lessons learned from small-scale irrigation projects in Mauritania in the area of vegetable crops, particularly from PAHABO and VISA (Development of Irrigation for Food Sovereignty) Projects and, in general, from the Bank's experiences in the Sahel.

2.4.2 The guiding principle adopted is to shift towards viable, simple facilities that are affordable for the population and easy to maintain. The technical solution recommended for the proposed works is to use an efficient irrigation system and competitive eco-friendly agriculture that contribute to climate change mitigation. The proposed choice is for small market gardening areas (from 1 to 5 ha) with a Californian network system (buried PVC pipes), supplied by motor pumps along watercourses or by solar pumps from mini boreholes in *Diéris* (high ground areas). The pumps supplied will suit the specific context of each site, mindful of convenience and costs. The Californian system has the advantage of being easy to deliver and operate. Moreover, development costs can reduce significantly after scaling up and wider dissemination of this technology in the country.

2.4.3 **Market gardening is being proposed for value chain promotion due to its financial viability and women's proficiency in cultivation practices**. Establishing integrated platforms will make it possible to revitalise women organisations and create a favourable environment for the revival of socio-economic activities in West Brakna and technological innovation. For greater coherence and complementarity, PCVASG activities will be coordinated by the PATAM team in place. This solution's added advantage is that transaction costs are lower.

ALTERNATIVES	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	REASONS FOR REJECTION
Gravity irrigation by open channels	Irrigation system with buried pipes (Californian network) adapted to small farms and to light-textured soils for market gardening	System is less economical, less effective, less water efficient and more expensive for this type of soil
Solar pumping of PMF over 5 ha	Motor-driven pumping of 5 ha of MFPs along the watercourses	More expensive due to the high costs and constraints linked to the construction of water towers and large- capacity reservoirs for areas over 2 ha
Supply by motor pump unit	Solar photovoltaic pumping of one to two hectares of MFPs in the <i>Diéri</i> , supplied from mini boreholes	Not suitable for high pumping heights, thus leading to exorbitant MFP operating costs
Creation of a new project management and coordination unit	Integration of the CVSG project within the structures of the agricultural transformation support programme (PATAM)	Higher management and transaction costs, which can lead to huge coordination difficulties

Table 2.3: Project Alternatives Explored and Reasons for their Rejection

2.5. Project Type

2.5.1 The project is a sector investment operation; its specificity is that it focuses on gender promotion and women's empowerment using a participatory approach that sustainably integrates all market gardening value chain (VC) segments.

2.6. Project Cost and Financing Mechanisms

2.6.1 Project implementation will span four years (from 2022 to 2025). The overall project cost, net of taxes and customs duties, is estimated at UA 4.00 million, equivalent to MRU 208.49 million. Physical and financial contingencies are estimated at 10% of the base cost. The Government is contributing UA 0.40 million, equivalent to MRU 20.85 million, representing approximately 10% of the total project cost. This counterpart contribution covers the cost of setting up and equipping (4) integrated platforms and part of the costs of strengthening the supervisory staff and promoting young *agripreneurs*. The detailed project costs by component are presented as annex. The NTF loan is estimated at UA 3.60 million (i.e. 90% of project costs).

2.6.2 The project cost is summarised in Tables 2.4 and 2.5 below

	i	n MRU Millio	n	in UA Million			%	%
COMPONENTS	Foreign Exchange	Local Currency	TOTAL	Foreign Exchange	Local Currency	TOTAL	Foreign Exchange	Base Cost
Component A: Development of transformative irrigation infrastructure	91.64	25.05	116.69	1.76	0.48	2.24	79%	62%
Component B: Promotion of VCs and entrepreneurship	49.00	14.65	63.65	0.94	0.29	1.23	77%	34%
Component C: Capacity building and project management	3.35	5.84	9.19	0.06	0.11	0.17	36%	5%
Total base cost	143.99	45.54	189.53	2.76	0.88	3.64	76%	100%
Physical contingencies	7.20	2.28	9.48	0.14	0.04	0.18	77%	5%
Price escalation	7.20	2.28	9.48	0.14	0.04	0.18	77%	5%
Total Cost	158.39	50.10	208.49	3.04	0.96	4.00	76%	110

<u>Table 2.4</u>: Cost Estimates by Component [in MRU Million and UA Million]

Note: The exchange rates used are indicated in the introduction to the report [page (i)]

 Tableau 2.5: Sources of Financing [in MRU Million and UA Million]

	MRU Million						
Sources of Financing	Foreign Exchange	Local Currency	Total	Foreign Exchange	Local Currency	Total	% Total
NTF Loan	144.86	42.78	187.64	2.78	0.82	3.60	90%
Mauritanian Government	13.53	7.32	20.85	0.26	0.14	0.40	10%
Total	158.39	50.10	208.49	3.04	0.96	4.00	100%

2.6.3 The breakdown of financing by expenditure category and expenditure schedule are presented in Tables 2.6 and 2.7 below.

Table 2.6:	Proiect Cost by E	Expenditure Category	[in MRU Million and UA Mil	llion1

		MRU Million	n		UA Million				
Expenditure Category	Foreign Exchange	Local Currency	TOTAL	Foreign Exchange	Local Currency	TOTAL	% Foreign Exchange	% Base Cost	
Works	97.76	25.23	122.99	1.88	0.48	2.36	79%	65%	
Goods	19.03	1.38	20.41	0.36	0.03	0.39	93%	11%	
Services	27.08	13.72	40.80	0.52	0.26	0.78	66%	22%	
Operation	0.12	5.21	5.33	0.00	0.11	0.11	2%	3%	
Base Cost	143.99	45.54	189.53	2.76	0.88	3.64	76%	100%	
Physical contingencies	7.20	2.28	9.48	0.14	0.04	0.18	77%	5%	
Price escalation	7.20	2.28	9.48	0.14	0.04	0.18	77%	5%	
Total	158.39	50.10	208.49	3.04	0.96	4.00	76%	110	

Table 2.7:

Expenditure Schedule by Component [in UA Million]

Components	2022	2023	2024	2025	TOTAL
1. Development of transformative irrigation infrastructure	1.13	1.09	0.02	0.00	2.24
2. Promotion of VCs and entrepreneurship	0.48	0.42	0.18	0.15	1.23
3. Capacity-building and project coordination	0.08	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.17
Base Cost	1.69	1.54	0.23	0.18	3.64
Physical contingencies	0.08	0.08	0.01	0.01	0.18
Price escalation	0.08	0.08	0.01	0.01	0.18
TOTAL PROJECT COST	1.86	1.69	0.26	0.19	4.00

%	47%	42%	6%	5%	100%

2.7. Project Area and Beneficiaries

2.7.1 **The Brakna-West region – the project area – comprises the three districts of Dar El Barka, Dar El Avia and Ouled Birom and the western part of Bogué district.** The population of the area in 2020 was estimated at 46 000, of which 52% women. Despite the outputs and impacts of PAHABO which revived the local economy and even reversed the rural exodus, the region remains characterised by pockets of extreme poverty and vulnerability to vagaries of the weather. A coherent development plan integrating irrigation and improved flood recession crops is being implemented. The main socio-economic activities practised in the area are agro-pastoral (43% agriculture, 14% livestock, 10% trade, 3.5% fishing, etc.). Cereals dominate with irrigated rice and flood recession sorghum improved by PAHABO. Women play a predominant role in agricultural activities. In addition to household chores, they contribute more than 60% of the working time in rice production and are very active in vegetable production during the wet season. The land area currently used for market gardening remains small (474 ha for 128 women's vegetable farms run by 12,500 members who are the project's direct beneficiaries), with very small plots (379 m2 on average per farm). As women's difficulties in accessing land persist, the project will help to secure of land for them and plans to eventually grant land titles to MFP farmers.

2.7.2 The existing farmers' organisations are structured as follows: three economic interest groups (EIGs) for women cooperatives and three users' associations, one of them for the vegetable farms and Bogue vegetable packing centre, and the other two for the upkeep and maintenance of production and access infrastructure. Since these rural institutions lack the required technical and organisational capacity to fully play their role, the project will focus on building their capacity to enable them to tap the full potential of value chain development and help to meet the growing demand for vegetables, particularly in the capital Nouakchott.

2.7.3 It will be recalled that in 2018, vegetable imports from Morocco and Senegal reached a significant level of 105,000 tons. Therefore, there are opportunities to substitute imports and meet the national demand for vegetables in the long term. PCVASG project will seize and exploit these opportunities. The preparatory mission noted that several hundred young graduates in search of jobs and financing had registered at the ANAPEJ/TECHGHIL office in Bogué. The project will support the promotion of young entrepreneurs and finance innovative initiatives.

2.8. Participatory Approach to Project Design and Implementation

2.8.1 The design of PCVASG to support PATAM was done with the sustained involvement of the stakeholders concerned. The selected project activities are based on the needs expressed and proposals made by women cooperatives and stakeholders met by the preparatory mission. The following needs were identified during the workshops: Development of women's vegetable farms; Women's access to land, securing and regularising of land tenure; Construction and equipment of multipurpose centres for women's advancement with a day-care centre for children; Income-generating activities (small-scale livestock farming, handicrafts, etc.); Fodder reserves; Community fodder reserves and fencing of perimeters; Women's access to financing (lines of credit to the microfinance network, support for the creation of savings and loan associations, provision of working capital for the acquisition of inputs); Capacity building for women (training, functional literacy, legal support, training in associative life; recruitment of an operator to support cooperatives and other rural institutions in the areas of management, financial statements and auditing; Support for the processing of agricultural products (training and equipment with dryers and mills, etc.); Support for the Bogué vegetable packaging and conservation centre and for the vegetable and fruit markets in Bogué and Nouakchott; and Farmers' access to information on agricultural markets.

2.8.2 In this context, the preparation mission organised participatory workshops in December 2020 to diagnose the current situation of women's cooperatives. The results of these workshops were reflected in the project activities. The proposed actions were returned to the cooperatives and then jointly validated. The

project was also presented to national directors during a meeting held in the Ministry's Directorate of Strategy, Cooperation and Monitoring/Evaluation.

2.9. Bank Group Experience and Lessons Reflected in Project Design

2.9.1 **The Bank's portfolio in Mauritania as of 30 June 2021 comprises 19 operations for a total UA 256.4 million.** The non-sovereign portfolio accounts for about 64.8% of the Bank's commitments in Mauritania (2 projects with SNIM and one [1] line of credit to a local bank). There are 16 public sector operations totalling UA 90.2 million, including three multinational projects. The Bank's main operational areas in the public sector are agriculture (29.6%), transport (27.7%), governance (15%), water and sanitation (15.1%), and the social sector (12.7%). The overall portfolio disbursement rate is 67.7% and the performance of the national active public sector portfolio is rated satisfactory with a score of 3 on a scale of 1 to 4. The sovereign portfolio has an average age of 3.77 years with a disbursement rate of 38.9%. There are no problematic projects (PP) or potentially problematic projects (PPP) in the portfolio. Furthermore, Mauritania's compliance with loan and grant conditions is improving. In the Bank's previous operation in the agriculture sector (PATAM approved in December 2018), conditions precedent for effectiveness were fulfilled within 6 months while those for first disbursement were fulfilled after one year.

2.9.2 **Although the quality of the portfolio is considered satisfactory, implementation problems persist**. These include (i) start-up delays due to poor beneficiary ownership of projects; (ii) delays in the procurement process; and (iii) weak project implementation capacity. Measures to address these challenges include (i) improve quality at entry by establishing project management bodies prior to project approval; (ii) establish more rigorous and realistic procurement plans; and (iii) assess implementation capacity issues and build the capacity of executing agency staff. All these lessons are captured in the project design.

2.9.3 **The Bank's rich and diverse experience in small-scale irrigation development, particularly in the agro-pastoral sector in Mauritania and the Sahel, was taken into consideration**. The formulation of the project made it possible to initiate a process of consultation with women's cooperatives and other stakeholders once the priority actions had been identified and prioritized, to ensure proper project ownership. The Bank's experience suggests that simple options that are easily manageable by beneficiaries should be retained, as they are a factor of success and sustainability of investments. If the detailed studies available and being carried out as part of PATAM are used, this will ensure good preparation and quality at entry. The project design was based on these principles and guidelines.

2.9.4 This project consolidates the outputs and highly satisfactory outcomes of the Bank's previous interventions in the sector in Mauritania and West Brakna region. It is part of a plan for the coherent development and optimal management of rural areas in West Brakna. The Bank's experiences, lessons and strategic approaches in the value chains (VCs) and gender sectors are well reflected in the project design. Its comprehensive gender-sensitive VC approach also enhances PATAM. The GSAVC is a powerful leverage for sustainable and more inclusive local development.

2.9.5 Through this project, the Bank will prepare women's cooperatives for a possible AFAWA project that could benefit the agricultural sector. The project will support targeted women's cooperatives and accompany their development from small traditional structures to more structured and modern forms geared towards the emergence of high-impact VSME. Hence, the women cooperatives will be accompanied through technical support to enable them to structure, legally establish themselves and grow to the point of accessing AFAWA financing when their capacity and development level would have attained the required level. The project and the AFAWA initiative will synergise through the EUR 10 million line of credit to *Banque pour le Commerce et l'Industrie* (BCI) in Mauritania approved by the Bank in July 2021 in support of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with an active interest in gender, women's enhancement (women business managers) and called specially to finance agricultural sector transformation.

2.10. Key Performance Indicators

2.10.1 **The project's key performance indicators are**: (i) the area developed in hectares and improvement of women's vegetable farms (FMGs); (ii) the level of agricultural intensification of FMGs; (iii) the average vegetable yields obtained by FMGs; (iv) the additional vegetable production; (v) the number of women farmers benefiting from FMGs; (vi) the number of rural institutions and women's market garden cooperatives in operation and the number of women members. The main impact indicators are: (a) improvement of the agricultural income of the target populations; (b) contribution to food security; (c) contribution to the improvement of nutritional status; (d) contribution to lower food imports (in tons of market garden produce); and (e) contribution to the creation of decent and sustainable employment. The main data sources for monitoring these indicators are PCU, DPSCSE, ONS (National Statistics Agency), CSA (Food Security Commission), CILSS harmonised framework (CH), BCM (Central Bank of Mauritania) and ASYCUDA (Customs). This data will be supplemented by field surveys and targeted analyses, with ad hoc support from technical assistance as needed. Useful data will be collected and processed, and the results made available via the results-based monitoring and evaluation system already set up by PATAM.

III - PROJECT FEASIBILITY

3.1. Economic and Financial Performance

3.1.1 The transformative infrastructure to be put in place (hydraulic works, mini boreholes) and the developments to be carried out in the market gardening areas located on the riverbanks and those located in the *Diéri* will enable the 120 women's cooperatives and women to have new plots ready for farming (with land titles, good soil quality and access to irrigation water). The 300 ha land along the river will be divided into 2 to 5 ha, while the 120 ha located in the *Diéri* and irrigated from 60 equipped boreholes will be of 1 to 2 ha each. Operations for wet off-season market gardening will involve onions, potatoes, carrots and tomatoes, and for dry off-season gardening pepper, watermelons, sweet potatoes and mint.

3.1.2 At full development, the project's estimated impact will be a total production of 16,765 tons of vegetables (11,600 tons in wet off-season and 5,165 tons in dry off-season) and construction of the Bogué packaging centre, thanks to which 1,120 tons of vegetables will be processed and packaged yearly. This will avoid losses of fresh products and reduce imports from two neighbouring countries, Senegal and Morocco. The three savings and loan banks that will be operational in this area will grant women short-term loans to meet their working capital needs. When built and equipped, the 9 integrated platforms will provide the community with dedicated spaces to organise training and other activities, display certain products and care for children, thereby making it easier for women to work to produce more and earn more money. This new form of scheme management consisting in granting land titles to women and their cooperatives will be an incentive, helping to empower women to generate decent income, take charge of their lives and escape poverty. The 123 women's cooperatives and 3 economic interest groups will help to organise women farmers, thereby facilitating market access and negotiation of funding agreements with the 3 savings banks. The intensification of vegetable farming activities will have direct significant impacts on 12,500 women, particularly in terms of increased production, improved income for women, job creation and fostering entrepreneurship.

3.1.3 The exploitation of vegetable farmlands by women will have beneficial outcomes and positive impacts, especially at the following levels: social (local jobs created, reduced rural exodus, population anchored in the rural environment, reduced poverty, etc.); economic (higher income, improved production and productivity, enhanced value of agricultural products, fewer imports, etc.) and environmental (adverse effects of climate change mitigated, use of river water, use of renewable energy, especially solar power, etc.). The project's main beneficial outcomes are assessed through the following key indicators:

Indicators	Total Project
Farmed surface at the level of plots along the river (ha)	300
Farmed surface at the level of the <i>Diéri</i> plots (ha)	120
Vegetable production in 2027 (year of full output) (ton)	16,765
 Production of wet off-season vegetables in year of full output (tons) 	11,600
 Onion production (tons) 	2,700
Carrot production (tons)	3,115
 Potato production (tons) 	2,670
Tomato production (tons)	3,115
 Production of off-season vegetables in a full output year (tons) 	5,165
Sweet potato production (tons)	1,610
✤ Watermelon production (tons)	1,575
 Pepper production (tons) 	880
 Fresh mint production (tons) 	1,100
Total value of production in year of full output (MRU 000)	278,830
Jobs created in year of full output (2027) (number of permanent positions) (1)	1,200
Calculated net present value (at 12% rate and in MRU '000)	141,023,000
Drilling units using renewable energy	60
Indicators	Per farm
Average production of vegetables per farm/woman (in tons)	1.3
Value of production in year of full output (MRU 000)	22.306

Table 3.1: Project's Economic and Financial Performance Indicators

3.1.4 **The economic rate of return (ERR) of PCVASG is estimated at 18.5%.** The sensitivity tests conducted on production and/or investments corroborate the project's profitability, which is significant. A 10% increase in investments gives an ERR of 17.4% and a 10% drop gives an ERR 15.1%. Together, the two outcomes give an ERR of 14%. Net present value calculated at the rate of 12% stands at MRU 141 million.

3.1.5 **Impact on Employment.** During the first four years of investment, the construction of infrastructure will create over 20,000 working days. During the operational phase, the project will actively occupy 12,500 women.

3.2. Environmental and Social Impact

3.2.1 On this basis, the project is classified in category 2 according to the ISS, validated on 12 December 2021. The risks and negative impacts deemed minor to medium and limited in time and space are also manageable if best practices are adopted and an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) implemented. The project was subject to an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) accompanied by an ESMP, and an Environmental and Social Impact Notice (ESIN) to comply with national regulations and the Bank's ISS².

3.2.2 The project is designed to enhance the positive impacts of the PATAM project and will allow for (i) better management and development of the irrigation potential; (ii) solid understanding of small-scale irrigation techniques; and (iii) water and soil conservation for the benefit of women. The positive social impacts of the project's activities mainly concern (a) the improvement of agricultural production techniques and systems; (b) the improvement of income and marketing conditions; (c) a broader range of products and enhancement of production through processing; and (d) the sharpening of the skills of the various stakeholders involved in the market gardening sector. The impacts on the people's living environment will concern the contribution to food security and nutrition; the fight against famine; and the creation of jobs.

² ESIA/ESMP/ESIN published on 16/07/2021

3.2.3 In terms of identified risks and negative impacts, the works planned and in particular the construction of platforms can cause impacts inducing nuisances in the direct vicinity of the construction zone(s). Additionally, impacts on hygiene, safety and the environment will limit the presence of workers and some construction machines. The development of farmlands will mostly induce the clearing of small areas, involving the felling of 1,018 trees spread in Dar El Barka, Bogué and Ouled Birom districts (140 ha in all). During the operational phase, possible negative impacts are soil and water pollution stemming from the poor management of pesticides and fertilisers. The consultations held at operations headquarters from 9 to 20 May 2021 and with the cooperatives concerned revealed social risks linked to possible conflicts between farmers and herders due to livestock encroachment in the irrigated areas and the damage this may cause.

3.2.4 The project design reflected these concerns by integrating fodder reserves to offset the reduction in pasture after the wintering period and securing of vegetable farmland with wire fences. The ESMP has been developed to also include other mitigation measures including the drawing up of a pesticides management plan, a best agricultural practice manual, training, awareness-raising and the implementation of periodic monitoring.

3.2.5 To build PMU's technical capacity, an Environmental Specialist and a Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist will be recruited for a 4-year period covering the duration of works (2 years) and the start of the operational phase (2 years). The control mission will supervise and monitor the implementation of the E&S measures featuring in the BDs. The PMU will submit to the Bank a synthetic monthly report summarising the key implementation indicators of PATAM ESMP activities, in addition to the quarterly report already operational.

3.2.6 All of these items were budgeted and included in the ESMP cost, estimated at MRU 8,680,000 (split into MRU 4,680,000 for the construction phase and MRU 3,940,000 for the operational phase). This was included in the project cost. An Environmental and Social Compliance Note has been prepared for the project and is appended to this report.

3.3 Climate Change Adaptation

3.3.1 The project *per se* is a climate change adaptation operation. It will build the resilience of the beneficiaries to shocks and production will be less subject to climatic hazards thanks to water management and the development of renewable energy sources (solar pumps). In terms of the assessment of its vulnerability to the risks of climate change, the project is expected to have positive impacts on climate change mitigation. The following activities are planned and integrated in the project components: (i) development of irrigated vegetable farming areas; (ii) the introduction of innovative technologies for optimal water management; (iii) the promotion of climate-smart agricultural practices; (iv) the promotion of small livestock rearing, including goats and sheep, which also fertilises the soil; and (v) the implementation of reforestation actions along the perimeter fences. Funding is expected from GEF and the Green Fund.

3.4 Gender

3.4.1 The GSAVC promotion project strengthens the human development efforts made in Mauritania to bridge gender disparities and empower women. Rural women are key actors of development (representing 52% of the population) and agriculture is their main economic activity, employing more than 90% of the female labour force. Market gardening is essentially a female activity (90%) which occupies virtually all active rural women. Apart from farming, rural women are involved in agricultural product processing and handicrafts (weaving, wool work, etc.). However, two major challenges remain: access to land and financing. Women's cooperatives specialised in food crops have small plots of land and because of this, they cannot access credit to increase their production. In addition, women's access to agricultural inputs is limited because of their low level of education and poor access to information. They continue to have a triple function (reproduction. production, and social responsibility), requiring that they find ways to lighten their workload.

3.4.2 The Project to Promote Gender-Sensitive Agricultural Value Chains (GSAVC) targets gender promotion and women's economic empowerment. All project activities aim at the economic and social transformation of the living conditions of rural women and young people through (i) the improvement of 420

hectares of irrigated MFPs to benefit 120 women's cooperatives; (ii) the construction and equipment of integrated platforms; (iii) capacity-building for women's cooperatives; (iv) improved nutrition; (v) improved access to credit for women's cooperatives through the opening of a savings and agricultural credit fund; and (vi) change of attitudes and behaviour towards the prevention of, and fight against, gender-based violence, including female genital mutilation, early marriages, and sex/reproductive education including family planning. The project is classified in Category 1 under the Gender Marker System (GMS) since its objectives, outcomes and outputs contribute to the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment.

3.5 Forced Resettlement

3.5.1 The **Project does not involve the displacement or resettlement of people from the project area,** nor does it require the procurement of land. The land needed for the construction of integrated platforms is the property of the women's cooperatives.

IV-PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

4.1. Implementation Arrangements

4.1.1 Executing Agency: The project is embedded in the structures of PATAM, which is currently being implemented under the technical supervision of the Directorate of Planning, Statistics, Cooperation and Monitoring-Evaluation (DPSCSE) of the Ministry of Agriculture (MA). PATAM's management and coordination is entrusted to an autonomous unit located in Bogué within the SONADER Regional Directorate. The Project Coordination Unit (PCU) is functional and comprises 13 experienced managers with the requisite profiles³ capable of executing the project's main tasks: (i) construction of infrastructure and development of flood-recession farmlands, land enhancement, farmers' advisory, training, agricultural extension services, and support for project activities; (ii) project planning, programming and administrative and financial management; and (iii) project coordination, monitoring/evaluation and control. Specifically, it will be responsible for the following tasks: (1) preparation and implementation of the PATAM annual work programme and budgets (AWPBs); (2) preparation and monitoring of bidding documents, works execution, goods and services contracts and disbursement requests; (3) internal monitoring of the programme; and (4) preparation of financial statements and progress reports. Targeted technical assistance missions (monitoring/evaluation, environmental monitoring) and certain technical departments (the Directorate of Agricultural Sub-Sectors/DDFCA, the National Agricultural Research Centre/CNRADA, the National Agricultural Extension and Training School/ENFVA, the Rural Producers' Training Centre/CFPR, The Directorate of Rural Development/DAR, the National Youth Employment Promotion Agency /ANAPEJ/TECHGHIL, the Directorate of Nature Protection, DPN/MEDD, etc.) will support the PCU. The team will be reinforced by an Environmental Specialist in view of the increased workload.

4.1.2 **Institutional Arrangements**: To maintain the integration and coherence of the Agricultural Transformation Programme in Mauritania, the project will be implemented by the current PATAM Coordination Unit team located in the premises of the SONADER Regional Directorate in Bogué (DRB). The management staff in the project area will be strengthened at the base. The steering, management, audit and monitoring/evaluation mechanisms are in place. The same institutional arrangements for PATAM will be continued and monitored by the PCVASG project, which will be imbedded in this system. The PATAM National Steering Committee (NSC) and local consultation committee tasked with monitoring and organising activities in the area are also in place and will support this project. The NSC's role is to guide and supervise implementation. The committee is chaired by the Secretary-General of MA and membership is drawn from project stakeholders: MAEPSP, DPSCSE, DPN-MEDD, ANAPEJ/TECHGHIL, the PATAM Coordinator (Secretary) and two representatives of beneficiaries (including one woman). It is suggested that the steering

³ The Coordinator, Rural Engineer, Agronomist, Procurement Specialist, Monitoring-Evaluation Specialist, Gender and Communication Specialist, Administrative and Financial Officer (AFO), Accountant.

committee be strengthened with a representative of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Early Childhood and the Family.

4.1.3 **Institutional Anchoring and Conventional Arrangements**: PATAM is currently attached to the DPSCSE of MA while PAHABO (implemented successfully) was attached to SONADER. The current anchoring will not ensure the sustainability of PATAM actions at project completion, particularly in terms of advisory support, the upkeep/maintenance of transformative facilities, and sustaining infrastructure and equipment. Therefore, it is recommended that this mechanism be reviewed at the PATAM mid-term and that the SONADER DRB, which is currently being restructured, be associated and involved in all project activities. PATAM is designed based on the sub-contracting principle. It has a coordination and partnership charter, under which several agreements are already being implemented (DDFCA, CNRADA, ENFVA/CFPR, DAR, ANAPEJ/TECHGHIL, DPN/MEDD, etc.). Actions planned by the project concerning youth/women's training and entrepreneurship will be taken into account in the agreements with CFPR and ANAPEJ/TECHGHIL. A new collaboration agreement with UNMICO for the establishment of CECA will be implemented.

Procurement Arrangements (Works, Goods and Services)

Applicable Procurement Policy and Framework: All goods (including non-consultancy services), 4.1.4 works and consultancy services funded with Bank resources shall be procured in accordance with the Procurement Policy for Bank Group-funded Operations ("ADB Procurement Policy"), October 2015 edition, and the provisions set out in the Financing Agreement. Pursuant to this policy and following various assessments conducted, it was agreed that all procurement listed in paragraph B.4.3.1 of Technical Annex B.4 will be done in accordance with the country's procurement system ("National System") embodied in Law 2010-44 of 22 July 2010 and Decree No. 2020/122/PM/M.A.E.P.S.P/M.F/ amending and supplementing certain provisions of Decree No. 2017-126 of 02 November 2017, repealing and replacing the provisions of the decrees implementing Law No. 2010-044 on the Public Procurement Code (CMP), while all other procurement listed in paragraph B.4.3.2 of the same annex shall be awarded in accordance with the Bank's procurement methods and procedures, using the Bank's solicitation documents. The use of the National System allows for improved efficiency through, among others, the following actions: (i) better ownership of the procurement system to be used by the executing agency; and (ii) time saving with the absence of a second check (after the national entities) that represents the Bank's ex ante review. However, the Bank reserves the right to require the borrower to revert to the use of the Bank System if (a) the legal framework for public procurement changes to a system that is not satisfactory to the Bank; (b) the executing agency failed to comply with the provisions in force; or (c) the appropriate risk mitigation measures included in the risk assessment action plan were not complied with.

4.1.5 *Procurement Risk and Capacity Assessment:* Procurement arrangements including risk assessment, appropriate risk mitigation measures, procurement capacity including procurement implementation details and associated control mechanisms are detailed in Annex B.4.

4.1.6 *Financial Management*: The project's administrative, financial and accounting management will be discharged under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture by the PATAM Coordination Unit (PCU) located in Bogué within the SONADER Regional Directorate. The PCU already has an administrative, financial and accounting procedures manual and an integrated accounting and financial management software. However, the procedures manual should be reviewed and revised to reflect the constraints linked to the multiple projects managed by the PCU. It will have to include the specificities of each project, in particular the analytical and budgetary plan according to each project's components, categories and activities. The revised manual should be submitted to the Bank for approval. The PCU's integrated accounting and financial management software will be used for this operation. It will require a new configuration to keep distinct accounts for the various projects implemented by the PCU and produce full annual summary financial statements without recourse to manual reprocessing. The capacity of the financial management staff will be built to use the software and procedures manual. The project accounts will be kept on an accrual basis on the integrated

software customised for the management of development projects. The chart of accounts will be prepared based on Mauritania's national standards.

4.1.7 The PCU will produce an annual work programme and budget (AWPB) each year as well as quarterly financial management reports based on its implementation. These reports shall be attached to the quarterly progress reports transmitted to the Bank within forty-five (45) days of the close of the quarter in review. During PATAM's appraisal, the **overall fiduciary risk was deemed significant**. The recommended mitigation measures being implemented are detailed in the technical annex.

4.1.8 *Disbursement Arrangements*: Bank resources will be disbursed pursuant to the rules and procedures of the Bank's Disbursement Manual (March 2020 edition) using three payment methods: direct payment, special account and reimbursement.

4.1.9 *Accounts Audit*: Project accounts will be audited by an independent audit firm recruited based on terms of reference agreed with the Bank and according to its rules and procedures. The audit contract will be for three fiscal years at most and the auditor will be required to submit his/her report within six months of the close of the fiscal year to which the mission relates.

4.2. Monitoring and Evaluation

4.2.1 The project will adopt a results-based approach and impact-oriented monitoring (IOM). In this regard, a performance measurement framework (PMF) was prepared during PATAM's appraisal. The project will fit into the same monitoring and evaluation arrangement. Internal monitoring will be conducted by the M&E Officer at the PATAM Coordination Unit (PCU) and will serve as the basis for assessing project performance. Monitoring at the central level will be carried out jointly by the Directorate of Planning, Statistics, Cooperation and Monitoring-Evaluation (DPSCSE) of MA and the General Directorate of Public Investments and Economic Cooperation (DG/IPCE) of MAEPSP.

4.2.2 Activities scheduled under the project are summarised in the following table:

Period	Stages	Monitoring Activities/Feedback Loop
March 2021	Project Concept Note approval	Approval by the Bank
April 2021	Project pre-appraisal	Bank mission
June 2021	Project appraisal	Bank appraisal mission
July 2021	Loan negotiations	Loan negotiations: Government/Bank Group
September 2021	Project approval	Approval by the Bank Board of Directors
October 2021	Signing of Loan Agreement	Letter of invitation to the Borrower
November 2021	Drafting and update of	Involvement of the following stakeholder: Land Service/MDR,
	partnership conventions	ANAPEJ/TECHGHIL, UNMICO
February 2022	Project launching	Start-up workshop jointly organised with Government (Bank start-up mission)
2022 - 2025	Equipment	Publication of BDs and bid evaluation (PCU and associated partners); Signing of contracts (PCU/MA)
	Works and services	Works execution (Contractors); Works control and supervision; Launching of DP and bid evaluation; Signing of TA contracts; TA coordination and supervision (transformative works component); etc.
2022 - 2025	Project supervision	Loan administration, supervision of project activities, field supervision (two missions yearly)
January 2024	Mid-term review	Bank review mission
December 2025	Project completion	Mission to prepare the completion report by the Bank Group

Table 4.2: Project Schedule and Key Stages

4.3. Governance

4.3.1 Government has continued to work to improve governance. Nevertheless, reforms in that direction remain inadequate. In 2018, Mauritania was classified 40^{th} out of 54 African countries on the

Ibrahim Index on African Governance (IIAG). Its score under Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index (IPC) also remains low on the global ranking (137th out of 180 countries in 2019, 143rd in 2017 versus 112th in 2015).

4.4. Sustainability

4.4.1 The sustainability of investments depends on strong beneficiary ownership of the project, the security of their land and an increase in income earned from various value chain segments thanks to higher vegetable yields and production. Women's cooperatives have been involved in the project since its design phase. Activities selected by the project are mostly aimed at addressing their concerns. This participatory approach will be pursued during project implementation, development of vegetable farmlands and operation of integrated platforms and vegetable packaging and preservation centres. The project will ensure land tenure security for women's cooperatives by granting them property certificates. The capacity of farmer's organisations will be built. Rural institutions (cooperatives and users committees) will be better organised and structured to stimulate and boost the development of promising sectors to generate more added value for producers.

4.4.2 The maintenance cost of structures and pumping equipment in vegetable farms will be covered by income earned from the farms. As this involves simple maintenance, the cooperatives can afford the necessary costs. Apart from maintenance, a mechanism will be put in place to collect fees to enable the renewal of pumping equipment. It will be aligned with the opening of savings and loan funds. The PCU and SONADER will negotiate a collaboration agreement with cooperatives and users' committees in which the role and responsibilities of the parties will be defined. Terms of reference will then be signed for each project before the actual start of work.

4.5 Risk Management

4.5.1 Certain risk factors that might affect project implementation and the achievement of its objectives have been identified. They are: (i) health conditions due to COVID-19; (ii) recurrent drought and production highly subjected to vagaries of the weather; (iii) little or no protection of the national vegetable market; (iv) land tenure insecurity and women's difficult access to land; (v) weak institutional capacity of women's cooperatives and other stakeholders; (v) lack of financial inclusion and limited access to financing and credit; and (v) poor upkeep/maintenance of irrigation facilities that can affect the sustainability/viability of investments.

4.5.2 The risk assessment concludes that the overall risk is moderate. The differentiated ratings are presented in Table 4.3 below. Detailed risk analysis and mitigation measures is attached as Technical Annex B1.13

Table 4.3: Integrated Risk Assessment Summary					
Risk	Rating				
Land tenure insecurity	Moderate				
Lack of protection of the national vegetable market	Moderate				
Vagaries of the weather, recurrent drought	Moderate				
Weak capacity of women's cooperatives	Moderate				
Women's poor access to credit	Moderate				
Lack of maintenance of women's vegetable farmlands	Moderate				
Other risk: health conditions linked to COVID-19 pandemic	Significant				
Overall Risk	Moderate				

4.6 Knowledge Building

4.6.1 PCVASG's implementation will help to develop knowledge on irrigation techniques (Californian system), yield enhancement, promotion of market gardening and high value-added crops, management and saving of water resources, and mitigation of the effects of climate change. The main knowledge acquired and lessons learned will be reflected in the project's periodic and completion reports filed in the Bank's archiving system and posted on the websites of the Ministries and institutions concerned (MAEPSP, MA, MEDD, SONADER, CNRADA and ANAPEJ/TECHGHIL, etc). The training and information sessions envisaged by the project for the provision of agricultural advice on irrigation techniques and farming practices to both men and women farmers are good channels for knowledge dissemination. This knowledge will be systematically captured and recorded in best practice manuals and project supervision mission monitoring/evaluation and periodic reports that will be shared in Mauritania and at the Bank. The main knowledge gained and lessons learned will also be reflected in the project completion report filed in the Bank's archiving system and posted on the websites of the Ministries and stakeholders concerned.

V-LEGAL FRAMEWORK

5.1 Legal Instrument

The financing instrument selected is a Loan Agreement between AfDB as administrator of the Nigerian Trust Fund (NTF) and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania (RIM).

5.2 Conditions Associated with the Bank's Intervention

5.2.1 <u>Conditions Precedent to Effectiveness</u>: The effectiveness of the NTF Loan Agreement shall be subject to the Borrower's fulfilment of the conditions set out in Section 12.01 of the General Conditions for the Loan Agreements and Guarantee Agreements of the AfDB, to the Bank's satisfaction.

5.2.2 <u>Conditions Precedent to First Disbursement of the Loan</u>: Apart from effectiveness of the Loan Agreement, the first disbursement of the NTF Loan resources shall be subject to fulfilment of the following conditions, to the Bank's satisfaction:

- Provide evidence to the Bank (as Administrator of the NTF) of the decision attaching the project to the current PATAM project coordination unit placed under the technical supervision of the Directorate of Planning, Statistics, Cooperation and Monitoring-Evaluation (DPSCSE) in the Ministry of Agriculture;
- Submit supporting documentation satisfactory in form and substance to the Bank on the assignment of the entire Project Coordination Unit (PCU) team previously established under the PATAM Project to implement this Project, including: (i) The Coordinator, (ii) the Rural Engineer, (iii) the Agronomist, (iv) Procurement Specialist, (v) the Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, (vi) the Gender and Communication Specialist, (vii) the Administrative and Financial Officer (AFO), (viii) an Environmental Specialist, and (ix) an Accountant, all with qualifications and experience acceptable to the Bank;
- Submit a certified copy of the Coordination Charter and of each of the partnership agreements initially signed as part of the PATAM Project and amendments signed under this Project between the Coordination Unit and (i) the Unit in charge of land tenure, (ii) the National Agency for Youth Employment (ANAPEJ/TECHGHIL), (iii) the Management of the National Union of Mutual Investment and Credit in Oasis and Rainy Areas (UNMICO) and (iii) the Directorate of Environmental Protection (DPN), the

National Centre for Agricultural Research and Development (CNRADA), the Directorate of Sector Development and Agricultural Advice (DFCA), the National School for Agricultural Training and Extension (ENFVA) and the Rural Producers' Training Centre (CFPR), whose terms and conditions would have been deemed satisfactory by the Bank;

- Submit satisfactory evidence of the inclusion of the counterpart contribution in the State budget for the year 2022 and of opening the corresponding annual budgetary appropriation.
- 5.2.3 <u>Other Conditions</u>: Furthermore, the Borrower shall:
 - Submit to the Bank within three months of the first disbursement, evidence of the establishment of: (i) the National Steering Committee (NSC) chaired by the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Rural Development, reinforced by a second representative of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Promotion of Production Sectors, a representative of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Early Childhood and the Family, and whose membership is deemed satisfactory by the Bank; and (ii) the Local Consultation Committee (LCC) chaired by the prefect (*Hakem*) of the Bogué District (*Moughatâa*) and whose membership would have been deemed satisfactory by the Bank;
 - Latest 31 December 2023, submit to the Bank a note on the measures adopted to ensure the protection of the national vegetable market;
 - By 31 December 2023, transmit to the Bank evidence of the regularisation and securing of women's vegetable farmland and integrated women's advancement platforms; and
 - Latest on 31 January of each year, provide the Bank with evidence of the inclusion of the counterpart contribution in the State budget for the relevant year and of opening of the related annual budget votes;
 - Within six months following loan effectiveness, transmit to the Bank the revised PATAM procedures manual in terms and conditions satisfactory to the Bank to reflect the specificities of this project, in particular the analytical and budgetary plan in line with project components, categories and activities; and
 - Within six months following loan effectiveness, forward to the Bank evidence of updating the accounting software used under PATAM by creating separate accounts for the project.

5.2.4 Commitments

(i) The Borrower undertakes to comply with the project objectives. In this regard, the Borrower shall implement the Project and ensure that the Executing Agency, its contractors and/or agents implement the Project in accordance with the provisions of the Loan Agreements and Article IX (*Project Implementation* - Cooperation and Information) of the General Conditions.

(ii) The Borrower undertakes to associate and involve SONADER, which is being restructured as the State's delegated project manager, in all project activities to ensure the sustainability of post-project actions, particularly advisory support, the upkeep/maintenance of transformative infrastructure and the sustainability of PATAM's infrastructure and equipment.

(iii) <u>Institutional Provisions</u>: The Borrower undertakes to act as follows, to the Bank's satisfaction:

• The main tasks of the PATAM Coordination Unit selected for this project will be to ensure (i) the construction of infrastructure to professional standard and development of women's market gardening areas and integrated platforms, their optimum management, facilitation, training, extension and support for project activities; (ii) Project planning, programming and administrative and financial management; and (iii) Coordination, monitoring and evaluation and supervision of project activities; (iv) Preparation and implementation of the project's annual work programmes and budgets (AWPB); (v) Preparation and monitoring of bidding documents, works execution, goods and services contracts and disbursement requests; (vi) internal monitoring of the programme; and (vii) preparation of financial statements and progress reports.

• The National Steering Committee (CNP) is chaired by the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Agriculture, and its vice-chair one of the two representatives of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Promotion of Production Sectors. Its current membership includes one representative of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Promotion of Production Sectors, four representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture; one representative of ANAPEJ/TECHGHIL, one representative of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and two farmers' representatives. A second representative of the Ministry of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Childhood (MASEF) will be appointed subsequently. The committee will be in charge of guiding, orientating and supervising project implementation, notably through the review of the annual work programme and budget submitted by the PCU and the assessment of the project implementation status.

(iv) <u>Environmental and Social Safeguards</u>: The Borrower shall undertake and ensure that the Executing Agency, each of its contractors. sub-contractors and workers also undertake to:

- (a) Implement the Project in accordance with the ESMP, the Bank's safeguards policies and the applicable national legislation in a manner satisfactory to Bank, in substance and form;
- (b) Prepare and submit to the Bank, as part of the Project Report, monthly reports on the implementation of the combined PATAM and PCVASG ESMPs, including identified weaknesses and corrective action taken;
- (c) Refrain from any action that would prevent or hinder the implementation of the ESMP, including any modification, suspension, waiver and/or cancellation of any provision related thereto, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of the Bank;
- (d) Cooperate fully with the Bank in the event that the implementation of the Project or any change in its scope results in unforeseen people displacement and/or resettlement; and undertake to commence works in the project area only after project-affected persons (PAPs) are compensated and/or resettled in accordance with the Resettlement Plan (RP) prepared.

(v) <u>Integrity</u>: The Borrower shall implement the Project and ensure that the Executing Agency and each of its contractors and/or workers implement the Project in accordance with the provisions of the Anti-Corruption Policies.

5.3 Compliance with Bank Group Policies

The project complies with all applicable Bank policies.

VI – CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

6.1 In conclusion, the Gender-Sensitive Agricultural Value Chains Promotion Project (PCVASG), an innovative operation for women's empowerment, leverages the development of vegetable value chains in Mauritania. It will boost activities geared towards the empowerment of rural women and income generation within integrated platforms dedicated to women's advancement. It will contribute to support the transformation of women's solidarity-based agriculture in Mauritania. With it, it is possible to look forward in 2026 to additional yields of 16,765 tons of various vegetables for more than 12,500 women farmers organised in 120 women's cooperatives and to ensure better access to profitable markets. The project will build the capacity of women producers and stakeholders in the vegetable sector from production to marketing. Rural organisations (cooperatives and users committees) equipped with packing centres and vegetable markets will be better structured and functional to meet the growing demand from the national market, improve food and nutrition security and thus reduce vegetable imports.

6.2 Management recommends that the Board of Directors approve the proposal to grant an **NTF** loan not exceeding **UA 3.6 million** to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to finance the Gender-Sensitive Agricultural Value Chains Promotion Project in support of PATAM, under the conditions set out in this report.

Annex I

Country's Comparative Socio-Economic Indicators

Mauritanie

INDICATEURS SOCIO-ECONOMIQUES COMPARATIFS

	Année	Mauritanie	Afrique du Nord	Afrique	Pays en Dévelop- pement	
Indicateurs de Base						RNB par Habitant \$EU
Superficie ('000 Km ²)	2019	1 031	6 784	30 067	94 797	
Population totale (millions)	2019	4,5	202,9	1 306,3	6 384,0	2500
Population urbaine (% of Total)	2019	56,1	55,9	43,3	50,3	
Densité de la population (au Km²)	2019	4,4	30,0	44,5	69,2	
Revenu national brut (RNB) par Habitant (\$ EU)	2019	1 660	3 232	1 843	5 102	
Participation de la Population Active *- Total (%)	2019	45,9	45,2	63,2	60,7	500
Participation de la Population Active **- Femmes (%)	2019	28,9	21,0	54,6	45,8	
Rapport de Masculinité (hommes pour 100 femmes) Indice de développement humain (rang sur 189 pays)	2019 2018	100,8 161	101,2	99,8	107,1	2019 2018 2017 2015 2014 2013 2008
Population vivant en dessous de 1,90 \$ par Jour (%)	2018	6,0	2,0	 35,6	 11,9	
	2007-10	0,0	2,0	55,0	11,3	
Indicateurs Démographiques						
Taux d'accroissement de la population totale (%)	2019	2,8	1,8	2,7	1,2	
Taux d'accroissement de la population urbaine (%)	2019	4,3	2,1	3,6	2,3	The second se
Population âgée de moins de 15 ans (%)	2019	39,9	31,3	40,6	27,6	Taux de croissance démographique (%)
Population âgée de 15-24 ans	2019	19,1	16,0	19,3	16,4	
Population âgée de 65 ans et plus (%)	2019	3,2	6,0	3,5	7,2	0.4
Taux de dépendance (%)	2019	75,6	59,5	78,7	54,6	
Population féminine de 15 à 49 ans (%)	2019	24,4	25,3	24,2	25,2	0.2
Espérance de vie à la naissance - ensemble (ans)	2019	64,9	74,0	63,5	70,8	0.2
Espérance de vie à la naissance - femmes (ans)	2019	66,5	75,9	65,3	73,0	0.1
Taux brut de natalité (pour 1000)	2019	33,3	23,4	33,0	20,2	0.1
Taux brut de mortalité (pour 1000) Taux de mortalité infantile (pour 1000)	2019	7,1	5,5	8,0	7,3	0.0
Taux de mortalité des moins de 5 ans (pour 1000)	2018 2018	51,5 75,7	19,3 23,0	48,7 70,2	31,3 42,0	2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012 2012 2007
Indice synthétique de fécondité (par femme)	2018	4,5	23,0	4,4	42,0	ω Γ α τι 4 ω α Γ δ
Taux de mortalité maternelle (pour 100000)	2013	766,0	76,1	432,3	2,0	Nov Ny.
Femmes utilisant des méthodes contraceptives (%)	2019	20,8	62,2	39,1	61,7	I
Indicateurs de Santé et de Nutrition Nombre de médecins (pour 100000 habitants) Nombre d'infirmières et sages-femmes (pour 100000 habitants) Naissances assistées par un personnel de santé qualifié (%) Personnes utilisant au moins des ser. de base en eau potable (% Pc Personnes utilisant au moins des ser. de base d'assainissement (% Pourcent. d'adultes de 15-49 ans vivant avec le VIH/SIDA	2010-18 2010-18 2010-18 2017 2017 2017 2018	18,7 92,5 69,3 70,7 48,4 0,2	87,2 192,0 88,7 94,9 90,8 0,1	33,4 107,8 62,9 66,3 40,3 3,4	121,8 240,8 79,4 87,7 68,5 	Espérancee de vie à la naissance (ans)
Incidence de la tuberculose (pour 100000)	2018	93,0	43,9	202,3	154,0	20 10
Enfants vaccinés contre la tuberculose (%)	2018	90,0	96,3	81,4	84,9	
Enfants v accinés contre la rougeole (%)	2018	78,0	91,4	76,1	85,2	2018 2017 2015 2014 2013 2012 2007 2000
Insuffisance pondérale des moins de 5 ans (%)	2010-17	24,9	5,8	17,5	14,5	
Prévalence de retard de croissance Prévalence de la malnutrition (% de pop.)	2010-17 2017	27,9	18,4	34,0	23,6	
Dépenses de santé courantes (en % du PIB)	2017	10,4 4,4	4,28 5.7	18,49 5.6	12,3 5,4	
	2017	4,4	5,1	5,0	5,4	
Indicateurs d'Education						
Taux brut de scolarisation au (%)						
Primaire - Total	2010-19	99,9	108,6	100,1	103,6	Terry de mestelli (la familia
Primaire - Filles	2010-19	102,8	107,9	98,1	102,4	Taux de mortalité infantile (Pour 1000)
Secondaire - Total	2010-19	36,8	87,9	52,4	71,9	
Secondaire - Filles Personnel enseignant féminin au primaire (% du total)	2010-19	37,1	87,7	50,3	71,4	90 80 +
Alphabétisme des adultes - Total (%)	2010-18 2010-18	33,4 53,5	63,8 74,2	48,6 66,9	62,9 84,0	70 +
Alphabetisme des adultes - Total (%)	2010-18	46,2	81,6	70,8	88,2	
Alphabetisme des adultes - Femmes (%)	2010-18	40,2	67,5	60,0	79,8	
Dépenses publiques d'éducation (% du PIB)	2010-18	2,6	6,2	4,7	4,0	30 +
Indicateurs d'Environnement	20.0 10	2,0	5,2	.,,	1,0	
Terres arables (en % de la superficie totale)	2016	0,4	3,5	8,0	11,4	2018 2017 2018 2017 2018 2014 2008 2008
Terres agricoles (% superficie des terres)	2016	38,5	20,8	38,2	38,3	5 6 N 4 5 6 7 6
Forêts (en % pourcentage de la superficie totale)	2016	0,2	1,4	13,2	31,9	
Emissions du CO2 par habitant (tonnes métriques)	2014	0,7	2,7	1,2	3,5	

Source : Base des données du Département des Statistiques de la BAD;

dernière mise à jour: Octobre 2020

Banque Mondiale WDI; ONUSIDA; UNSD; OMS, UNICEF, PNUD, Rapports nationaux. Notes: n.a. Non Applicable; ...: Données non disponibles. * Participation à la population active, total (% de la population totale âgée de 15+) ** Participation à la population active, femmes (% de la population féminine âgée de 15+)

ANNEX II: Status of the Bank's Active Portfolio in Mauritania – 1 March 2021										
Department	Project Name	Source of Financing	Approval Date	Signature	Completion Date	Amount Approved (UA)	Amount Disbursed (UA)	Disbursemen t Rate		
	SOVEREIGN OPERATIONS									
Finance										
PIFD	Line of Credit - <i>Banque Populaire de Mauritanie</i> - SME Programme	AfDB	20-May-16	10-Nov- 16	9-Nov-21	5,031,482.71	5,031,482.71	100.00%		
			ndustry and M	1						
PISD	SNIM-GUELB II Extension Project	AfDB - Non sovereign	16-Sept-09	01-Dec- 09	31-Dec-13	125,787,067.65	125,787,067.65	100.00%		
		1	Infrastructur	re						
PISD	SNIM DREDGING PROJECT	AfDB - Non sovereign	22-Nov-17	28-Jun-18	01-Jan-26	35,330,000.00	7,066,000.00	20.00%		
3	TOTAL Private Sector - Non-Sovereign					166,148,550.36	137,884 ,50.36	82.99%		
		I	PUBLIC SECT	OR						
			Transport							
PICU	ROSSO (SENEGAL) BRIDGE DE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT	ADF/Multina tional loan	09-Dec-16	12- March-17	30-Nov-22	25,000,000.00	355,000.00	1.42%		
		1	Agriculture	T						
RDGN2	EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE FLOOD VICTIMS OF THE GUIDIMAKHA WILAYA	FSU/Grant	28-Oct-19	22-Jan-20	30-Jun-21	650,153.92	0.00	0.00%		
AHFR0	MAURITANIA - AFRICAN DISASTER RISK FINANCE PROGRAMME	ADF 15 / Grant	16-Sept-20	05-Oct-20	31-Dec-22	1,500,000.00	516,450.00	34.43%		
RDGN2	Programme to Build Resilience to Food and Nutrition Insecurity in the Sahel (P2RS)	ADF/ Multinational loan	15-Oct-14	11-Dec- 14	30-Dec-21	11,500,000.00	7,682,000.00	66.80%		
RDGN2	AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION SUPPORT PROJECT IN MAURITANIA	ADF 14 / Loan	12-Dec-18	25-Jan-19	31-Dec-24	7,000,000.00	1,238,300.00	17.69%		
	(PATAM)	NTF/ loan	12-Dec-18	25-Jan-19	31-Dec-24	6,000,000.00	600.00	0.01%		
			Social Sector	-						
RDGN2		ADF /Loan	21-Sept-16	4-Nov-16	30-Jun-22	2,624,000.00	1,393,344.00	53.10%		

	Project to Support the Promotion of Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, and Youth Employment (PAMPEJ)	ADF /Grant	21-Sept-16	4-Nov-16	30-Jun-22	521,360.00	521,360.00	100.00%
RDGN2	Youth Training and Employment Support Project (PAFEJ)	ADF/Grant	28-Nov-14	11-Dec- 14	30-Jun-21	2,000,000.00	1,738,800.00	86.94%
AHHD	SUPPORT PROJECT FOR G5 SAHEL MEMBER COUNTRIES TO COMBAT THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC	ADF 14 / Regional grant	9-Jun-20	5-Aug-20	30-Apr-23	3,324,552.06	2,952,534.68	88.81%
		•	Governance					
RDGN1	Financial Infrastructure Modernisation Support Project	ADF 14 / Loan	15-Dec-17	11-Feb-18	31-Dec-22	3,600,000.00	454,320.00	12.62%
RDGN1	Supplementary Loan to the Financial Infrastructure Modernisation Support Project	ADF 14 / Loan	1-Apr-20	02-Jul-20	31-Dec-23	400,000.00	0.00	0.00%
ECGF	Project to Support Governance for Inclusive Growth (PAGOCI)	ADF /Grant	17-Nov-14	11-Dec- 14	31-Aug-21	2,000,000.00	1,706,000.00	85.30%
ECGF	PROGRAMME TO SUPPORT THE COVID-19 CRISIS RESPONSE	ADF 15 / Grant	22-Jul-20	27-Jul-20	30-Jun-22	7,500,000.00	7,500,000.00	100.00%
		W	ater and Sanita	ation				
		ADF / Loan	7-Dec-12	12-Feb-13	31-Dec-21	3,052,000.00	2,645,473.60	86.68%
RDGN2	National Integrated Rural Water Sector	ADF /Grant	7-Dec-12	12-Feb-13	31-Dec-21	2,448,000.00	2,224,987.20	90.89%
KDON2	Project (PNISER)	RWISSI Grant	7-Dec-12	12-Feb-13	31-Dec-21	2,882,034.22	2,614,293.24	90.71%
RDGN2	Project to Strengthen the Climate Resilience of Water Sector Investments	Global Environment Fund (GEF) / Grant	8-Jul-16	11-Oct-16	31-Dec-21	4,564,273.60	215,890.14	4.73%
RDGN2	STUDY PROJECT FOR INCLUSIVE SANITATION IN FIVE CITIES IN MAURITANIA	Africa Water Facility Fund	05-Nov-20		31-Dec-22	667,834.46	0.00	0.00%
15	TOTAL Public Sector					87,234,208.26	33,759,352.86	38.70%
18	TOTAL					253,382,758.62	171,643,903.22	67.74%

Annex III.

List of Main Projects Financed by Development Partners in the Agricultural Sector

Project Name	Co-financing	Implementation Period	Loan Amount	Comments
Programme for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, Equipment of Councils and Structuring of Rural Producers (PROGRES)	IFAD	2020-2025	USD 23.7 million	Being implemented
Inclusive Sub-Sectors Development Project – PRODEFI	IFAD	2018-2025	USD 48 million	Being implemented
Project for the Development of Resilience Against Recurrent Food Insecurity in Mauritania (PDRIANSM)	IsDB	2016-2021	USD 17.05million	Being implemented (sub-regional- CILSS/IsDB)
RIMRAP Programme	EU	2016-2021	EUR 24 million	Being implemented
RIMDIR Programme	EU	2018-2022	EUR 35 million	Being implemented
RIMFIL Programme	EU	2019-2023	EUR 22 million	Being implemented
Capacity-Building to Combat Food Insecurity	IsDB	2015-2020	USD 21.73 million	Being implemented
Development West R'KIZ Basin and Transition Area (3,500 ha)	Saudi Fund	2016-2020	USD 34 million	Being implemented
Agricultural Transformation Support Project in Mauritania (PATAM) – IsDB Component	IsDB	2019-2024	EUR 33.82 million	Being implemented
Programme to Build Resilience to Food and Nutrition Insecurity in the Sahel - P2RS	ADF	2015-2021	UA 11.5 million	Sub-regional project being implemented (CILSS)
PGIRE Project – 2	World Bank	2014-2021	USD 73 million	Being implemented
Sahel Irrigation Initiative Support Project – PARIIS	World Bank	2017-2021	USD 25 million	At the launching stage
Regional Sahel Pastoralism Support Project – PRAPS	World Bank	2016-2021	USD 45 million	Being implemented
Project to Develop and Rehabilitate Village Farming Areas in Gorgol and Guidimakha	AFD	2019- 2024	EUR 11.5 million	Being implemented
Cleaning Project over 36 km in Koundi	IsDB	2019 -2021	USD 5 million	Being implemented
Improvement of Agro-pastoral Resilience through Improvement of Goat and Sheep Yields	AECID	2019-2021	MRU 30 million— EUR million	Being implemented
Support Project for Small Vegetable Farmers in Trarza	AECID	2019-2020	EUR 0.4 million	At the launching stage
Promotion of Employment and Professional Integration in Rural Areas (PELIMIR)	GIZ	2017-2021	EUR 5.5 million	Being implemented. Executed in partnership with the Mauritanian Ministry of Employment (MEFPTIC),

				PELIMIR plans to create 1,000 jobs by 2022 in the wilayas of Brakna and Assaba .
Women's Empowerment Programme – SWEDD	World Bank	2016-2019	USD 14.84 million Mauritania Component	Multinational Programme: Executing Agency for certain components – United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA): six countries namely: Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad.

Annex IV



Map of the Project Area

NOTE DE CONFORMITÉ ENVIRONNEMENTALE ET **SOCIALE (NOCES)**



GROUPE DE LA BANQUE AFRICAINE DE DEVELOPPEMENT

A. Information de base ¹								
Nom du Projet : Projet de Promotion des Chaînes de Valeurs Agricoles Sensibles au Genre ''Code SAP'' du projet : P-MR-AA0-012								
en Appui au PATAM	en Appui au PATAM							
Pays : Mauritanie	Pays : Mauritanie Instrument de financement ² : IDX IF AB PE GU APR PP FAR							
Secteur Responsable du Projet : Agriculture Chargé du Projet : Rafãa MA								
Date de la mission d'évaluation ex-ante : 29/06/2021 Date prévue de présentation pour Appre					obation : 21/09/2021			
Spécialiste en sauvegarde environn	emental	e : Beya I. BCHIR						
Spécialiste en sauvegarde sociale : 2	XX							
Catégorie environnementale et sociale : 2 Date de catégorisation : 11/02/2021 Type d'opération : 0					OS 🛛 ONS 🗌 OBP 🗌			
Ce projet est-il préparé dans un contexte de réponse d'urgence à une crise ou catastrophe ?					Oui 🗌 Non 🖂			
Ce projet est-il préparé sous dérog	Oui 🗌 Non 🖂							

B. Publication et Suivi de la Conformité						
B.1. Publication obligatoire						
Evaluation Environnementale et Sociale/Audit/Système/Autres (spécifier : EIES incluant une NIES)						
Le (s) document (s) a-t-il / ont-ils été publié (s) avant l'évaluation ex-ante ?	Oui 🗌 Non 🛛 NA 🗌					
Date de publication dans le pays, par l'emprunteur/client	16/07/2021					
Date de réception, par la Banque, de l'autorisation de publier	14/07/2021					
Date de publication par la Banque	14/07/2021					
Cadre de Politique/Plan d'Action de Réinstallation/Autres (spécifier :)					
Le (s) document (s) a-t-il / ont-ils été publié (s) avant l'évaluation ex-ante ?	Oui 🗌 Non 🗌 NA 🖂					
Date de publication dans le pays, par l'emprunteur/client	[Date]					
Date de réception, par la Banque, de l'autorisation de publier	[Date]					
Date de publication par la Banque	[Date]					
Cadre de Gestion/Plan d'Action pour les Groupes Vulnérables/Autres (spécifier :)					
Le (s) document (s) a-t-il / ont-ils été publié (s) avant l'évaluation ex-ante ?	Oui 🗌 Non 🗌 NA 🖂					
Date de publication dans le pays, par l'emprunteur/client	[Date]					
Date de réception, par la Banque, de l'autorisation de publier	[Date]					
Date de publication par la Banque	[Date]					
Si la publication dans le pays, de n'importe lequel des documents cités ci-dessus, n'est pas possible, bien vouloir fournir les raisons						
légales : NA.						

B.2. Indicateurs de suivi de la Conformité	
Est-ce qu'un budget et un calendrier appropriés, ainsi que des responsabilités institutionnelles claires, ont été préparés pour la mise en œuvre des mesures environnementales et sociales ?	Oui 🛛 Non 🗌 NA 🗌
Est-ce que les coûts liés aux mesures environnementales et sociales, y compris le mécanisme de gestion des plaintes ont été intégrés au coût total du projet ?	Oui 🛛 Non 🗌 NA 🗌
Le montant total pour la réinstallation des personnes affectées, tel qu'intégré dans le coût total du projet , est-il <i>entièrement mobilisé et disponible</i> ?	Oui 🗌 Non 🗌 NA 🖂
Est-ce que le système de suivi-évaluation du projet inclue le suivi des impacts et mesures de sauvegarde environnementale et sociale ?	Oui 🛛 Non 🗌 NA 🗌
Est-ce que les arrangements institutionnels adéquats ont été convenus avec l'emprunteur/client, puis intégrés correctement dans les accords juridiques du projet ?	Oui 🛛 Non 🗌 NA 🗌

C. Approbation

Le projet est-il en conformité avec les exigences de sauvegarde environnementale et sociale de la Banque, et peut donc être soumis à l'approbation du Conseil d'Administration ? Oui Oui Non

Préparée par :	Nom	Signature	Date
Spécialiste en Sauvegarde Environnementale :	Beya I. BCHIR		16/07/2021
Spécialiste en Sauvegarde Sociale :	-		
Chargé du Projet :	Rafâa MAROUKI		16/07/2021
Soumise par :			
Directeur sectoriel :	Martin FREGENE	mars Judans	19/07/2021
Approuvée par :			
Directeur SNSC :	Maman-Sani ISSA	Sacaretas	21/07/2021

¹ Note : Cette NOCES doit être en annexe du Rapport d'Evaluation ex-ante présenté à la Haute Direction puis au Conseil d'Administration. ² ID=Investissement Direct ; IF=Intermédiaire Financier ; AB=Appui Budgétaire ; PE=Prêt Entreprise ; GU=Garantie ; APR=Accord de Participation au Risque ; PP=Prise de Participation ; FAR= Financement axé sur les Résultats.