

INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET CONCEPT STAGE

Report No.: ISDSC12597

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I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country:	Tunisia	Project ID:	P151030
Project Name:	TUNISIA: Forest and Rangeland Ecosystems Co-Management project (P151030)		
Task Team Leader(s):	Taoufiq Bennouna		
Estimated Appraisal Date:	14-Sep-2015	Estimated Board Date:	15-Jun-2017
Managing Unit:	GENDR	Lending Instrument:	Investment Project Financing
Sector(s):	Forestry (60%), Public administration- Agriculture, fishing and forestry (30%), General agriculture, fishing and forestry sector (10 %)		
Theme(s):	Other environment and natural resources management (30%), Biodiversity (20%), Climate change (20%), Environmental policies and institutions (15%), Decentralization (15%)		
Financing (In USD Million)			
Total Project Cost:	50.00	Total Bank Financing:	50.00
Financing Gap:	0.00		
Financing Source		Amount	
Borrower		0.00	
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development		50.00	
Total		50.00	
Environmental Category:	B - Partial Assessment		
Is this a Repeater project?	No		

B. Project Objectives

The development objective of the project is to improve integrated management of forests and rangelands in targeted areas in Tunisia.

Targeted geographical areas will be more precisely identified during preparation phase, through more in-depths and participatory discussions with representatives of ministerial departments and local governments' authorities as well as other stakeholders. In general, the team plans to target watersheds and agro-pastoral areas that are critical for the provision of goods and services to local communities, the Tunisian society and global community. These will be selected based on specific criteria, such as number of forest and rangeland users, poverty level, environmental degradation, downstream impacts /externality (e.g. water reservoirs serving major users, desertification and silting of roads and other infrastructures).

C. Project Description

Project rationale. Poor management of forest and rangeland ecosystems leads to significant (18 percent) reduction of benefits for poor local communities and society as a whole. Better governance of these ecosystems through co-management and participation based on an integrated landscape approach is vital to restore their benefits and improve the welfare of the people depending on them. A detailed project conceptual framework (CF) will be developed during the preparation phase to illustrate the key sectors, sub-sectors, inter linkages, and critical leverage points that the proposed project components will target. . This will be aligned with the national strategy for sustainable development of forest and rangelands. The proposed project activities will include climate smart actions and gender dimension to the greatest extent possible

CP1. investment interventions in targeted areas

CP1.1 Strengthening the capacities of selected local communities. This sub-component will provide adequate support to initiatives aimed at better sensitizing and informing local communities in targeted areas about key principles of sustainable management of silvo-pastoral resources and about land use-related laws and regulations, and providing appropriate training to community leaders on environmental functions and services. These initiatives will particularly highlight issues related to gender equality, women's rights and economic opportunities, and women's participation in decision-making. The project will support (i) capacity building initiatives for local silvo-pastoral resource users; (ii) the revision, formulation, and implementation of participatory plans for afforestation / reforestation and replanting of forests and rangelands; and (iii) and the adoption, at all levels, of key principles of good governance (namely, participation, inclusion, transparency, and accountability).

The key results of the proposed sub-component are:

- Local Forest management organizations established in targeted areas
- Integrated forest and rangeland co-management plans implemented in targeted areas

CP1.2. Development of mechanisms for forest and rangeland sustainable development. This sub-component will support mechanisms to ensure that the restoration activities are sustainably managed. Activities will explore measures such as (i) compensation of local populations for the loss of earnings during the period of prohibited access (mise en repos) of forest plantations and rangelands; (ii) payments for environmental services (PES) as an instrument for adopting sustainable practices that reduce environmental degradation and provide adequate income to farmers; and (iii) Public-Private Partnerships to support productive chains.

The key results of the proposed sub-component are:

- Forest and rangeland value chains created desegregated by NTFP, timber, Alfa, and dairy products
- Payment mechanisms to local communities operational according to defined criteria

(desegregated by mise en defens, concessions and PES)

- Number of micro-enterprises established in forest and rangeland areas

During the preparation phase, a set of criteria and indicators will be developed and used to ensure that proposed ‘reward’ and ‘compensation’ schemes for environmental services will be effective, efficient, sustainable as well as equitable and impact poverty reduction. These compensation mechanisms will be developed and discussed with key stakeholders which will voluntarily agree on the nature and level of ‘deliverables’ in reward agreements. These voluntary transactions will include clear exit strategies for either of the contractors and for fair procedures for conflict resolution. Guidelines will developed to assess the degree of ‘free and prior informed consent’ for individual members of local communities involved in these mechanisms.

CP 1.3. Cover expansion and value-added enhancement in selected forests and rangelands areas

This sub component will focus on (i) Afforestation/reforestation and plantation of forests and rangelands in public and state domain, and promotion of agro-forestry; (ii) the development of forest and rangeland production chains; and (iii) the improvement of the productivity of Tunisian forests and rangelands.

The key results of the proposed sub-component are:

- Area restored or re/forested (ha) (Core Indicator)
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CP 1.4. Safeguarding and improving the environmental functions and services of the forest and rangeland resources

This sub-component will support the (i) implementation of a surveillance or monitoring system for the prevention and protection of forests against fires, pests and diseases; (ii) improvement of the prevention and protection infrastructures; and (iii) the consolidation of the management of protected areas and conservation of biodiversity.

Key result of the proposed sub-component is:

- Improved environmental functions and services of silvo-pastoral resources
- Forest protection system operational according to defined criteria: data intervals and quality

Component 2. Institutional and legal reforms

This component will finance activities that strengthen the institutional and legal framework related to management of forests and pastoral lands, such as:

CP 2.1. Revision of legislation. The sub-component will support activities aimed at: (i) revising the Forest Code - notably with regard to submission to the forest and rangelands regime, policing offences, access to resources, forest concessions – the proposed project actually playing a key catalytic role in harmonizing and integrating a number of on-going fragmented initiatives. This revision is more sector-specific and has to do with updating of an obsolete code (i.e forests). [This revision has nothing to do with the national EIA legislation ; (ii) providing guidelines related to co-management and concessions of forests by the local forest populations and other partners; (iii) developing a legislation targeted to rangelands (e.g. “rangelands code” or “act”); (iv) improving the statute of forest technicians and organizing the careers of foresters.

Key result of the proposed sub-component is:

- Revised Forest Code submitted to Cabinet

CP 2.2 Institutional strengthening. The sub-component will: (i) restructure the Forestry Administration so as to gain appropriate autonomy and coherent organization; (ii) improve the capacity of the Forestry Administration in planning, coordination, monitoring and evaluation; (iii) strengthen the national information systems on forests and rangelands, by updating inventories, maps, and developing an inclusive database open to all stakeholders; (iv) develop and implement a platform for Budget Management by Objective (BMO), a human resources development plan and a communication strategy.

The key result of the proposed sub-component are:

- A new forestry authority operational according to defined criteria (signing of co-management plans, allocation of forest use permits, reports and annual assessment of forests and rangelands)
- Government institutions provided with capacity building support to improve management of forest (number) (Core Indicator)

CP 2.3 Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system: this sub-component envisages the creation of a Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system for the implementation of REDD+ mechanism and the update of existing forest management plans in accordance with the most recent inventory data.

Key result of the proposed sub-component is:

- Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system operational according to defined criteria (annual data collection, quality of data, GHG ...)

Project funding and Collaboration with other development partners

The GoT requested USD 50 million IBRD lending to support this operation. The Bank and DGF engaged deep dialogue to involve other technical and financial. Extensive meetings were held with GIZ and FAO which confirmed their interest to support the project and will provide technical assistance. Their specific contribution and role will be better discussed and clarified during the project preparation phase. The team also considers the involvement of IFAD, AFD and JICA. Discussion and collaboration with these other development partners are still evolving and in some cases ongoing. For now, the Bank safeguards policies and guidelines applies. When the other partners commitment have been firmed up, the team shall evaluate their environment and social policies and systems and see the complementarity with Bank policies.

Finally, a formal request has been sent from the DGF to the Tunisia GEF focal point to benefit from the GEF6 STAR resources and the team supported Tunisia to express its interest to receive FIP support and become a FIP pilot country. In case of a positive outcome, the FIP or GEF investments will be blended with the IBRD loan. Also, as the project goal is to support the national strategy, the project scope will not differ from the existing one, whether expected additional resources are mobilized, or not.

D. Project location and salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)

The project will be implemented in different sites throughout the country. The project sites will be identified during project preparation, according to different criteria, such as poverty, environmental

degradation, food insecurity, vulnerability to severe weather conditions and the willingness and adherence of local population and private stakeholders to promote sustainable participative management approach and innovative economic activities. The main activities will focus on developing added value chains and restoring degraded forests and rangelands. It will be prepared in complementarity with the upcoming irrigation project

E. Borrowers Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies

The project executing agency is the General Directorate of Forestry (DGF) of the Ministry of Agriculture, water resources and Fisheries. DGF coordination activities will include, among others, the management of staff and equipment, the organization of the work of national and international consultants, procurement, organization of joint supervision missions, etc. Dedicated staff in the Ministry of Agriculture will be appointed to help with project implementation.

The DGF is responsible for applying the forest code and for managing, protecting and developing the state forests and rangelands submitted to the country's forest regime. This administration is also responsible for (i) Improving sand dune stabilization techniques; (ii) Formulating adapted forest and rangelands management plans; (iii) Organizing the sustainable exploitation of wildlife; (iv) Organizing and developing hunting, and (v) Protecting nature and creating national parks and natural reserves.

Throughout its very decentralized organization and experience in managing national and international projects, the DGF is highly qualified to execute the project, especially since it is co-implementing the 'Ecotourism and Desert Biodiversity Conservation Project' and other projects with IFAD, AFD, FAO, GIZ and JICA. Moreover, the DGF staffs are fully familiar with Bank safeguard policies, having participated in various Bank safeguards training undertaken by Bank safeguards specialists, and have overseen the environmental and social issues related to these aforementioned projects.

F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Africa Eshogba Olojoba (GENDR)

Markus Friedrich Vorpahl (GSURR)

II. SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	Yes	The project is likely to result in overall positive impact through increased carbon sequestration and enhanced ecosystem services flows. Some specific activities may have adverse environmental impacts if not implemented with due caution (small-scale physical investments within targeted areas including habitat, roads, gravel roads ...). For now, the specific sites have not been identified and discussions on project activities are also evolving with the authorities. An Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF) will be prepared by the Government for identifying and addressing compliance with relevant Bank and National

		Environment Policies. The ESMF will be disclosed in-country and at the Infoshop prior to appraisal. However, if in the cause of project preparation, specific sites and detailed activities are determined, site specific ESMPs will be prepared, approved and disclosed in-country and at the infoshop prior to appraisal. This will be in addition to the ESMF that covers the overall project.
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	Yes	The project activities are likely to yield positive outcomes, and enhance the environmental quality as the objective is to improve ecosystem services and natural resource management. Activities would not be carried out within the protected areas so impacts on critical habitats are not foreseen. The project will support the protection of natural habitats. The ESMF will provide information on the location and ecosystem types (including estimated hectares in the project areas), and any potential impacts will be detailed in the mitigation measures in the ESMP. Further, the site specific EMPs during the implementation phase will contain necessary information on the ecosystem types including areal extent and locations.
Forests OP/BP 4.36	Yes	OP 4.36 is triggered for ensuring that activities in forests and rangelands are aligned with their management/working plans and do not result in any significant adverse impacts on forest and rangeland quality. Bulk of the project investments are aimed at enhancing forest quality and introducing sustainable forest management practices to improve ecosystem services.
Pest Management OP 4.09	No	Pesticides or spraying equipment are unlikely to be procured under the project. In addition, there is no possibility that project activities would affect the existing pest management practices in the country.
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	No	Physical and cultural resources, if located in the project areas, will not be impacted. There is no heavy excavation planned and any large infrastructure under the project.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	No	This policy is not triggered.
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	Yes	The project does not involve land expropriation, land acquisition, or relocation or loss of shelter, for project interventions. The project would also not accept voluntary land donation at an individual level. The project will finance some rehabilitation of

		prevention and protection infrastructure. The rehabilitation will not include construction of new facilities and therefore use only existing land. While there is no displacement or loss of tangible assets, local populations may lose earnings during a certain period of time (mise en repos). Whether voluntary or involuntary, local populations will need to be compensated for the loss of livelihoods. For precautionary purpose, a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) will be prepared to address land related or compensation issues during project implementation as and when they occur. In addition, a Process Framework (AF), which will include proposed compensation mechanisms will be developed with a structured methodology, consultation processes, mitigation planning, and M&E. The RPF and PF will be prepared, reviewed, approved and disclosed in-country and at the InfoShop prior to appraisal.
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	The project does not support the commissioning or construction and/or operations related to dams.
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	No international waterways are involved.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	The project is not located in any disputed areas.

III. SAFEGUARD PREPARATION PLAN

A. Tentative target date for preparing the PAD Stage ISDS: 29-Jan-2016

B. Time frame for launching and completing the safeguard-related studies that may be needed.

The specific studies and their timing¹ should be specified in the PAD-stage ISDS:

ESMF, PF and RFP will be prepared by the DGF with Bank support and finalized by end of October 2015.

IV. APPROVALS

Task Team Leader(s):	Name: Taoufiq Bennouna	
Approved By:		
Safeguards Advisor:	Name: Nina Chee (SA)	Date: 19-Jun-2015
Practice Manager/ Manager:	Name: Benoit Paul Blarel (PMGR)	Date: 19-Jun-2015

¹ Reminder: The Bank's Disclosure Policy requires that safeguard-related documents be disclosed before appraisal (i) at the InfoShop and (ii) in country, at publicly accessible locations and in a form and language that are accessible to potentially affected persons.